



Council Overview Board
18 January 2017

Budget Scrutiny Overview

Purpose of the report: Scrutiny of Services and Budgets

This report provides a brief context to the budget scrutiny work undertaken by the Scrutiny Boards.

Introduction

In September 2016, the Chairman of Council Overview Board agreed with the Leader, Chief Executive and Director of Finance an outline of the scrutiny function's role in the Council's budget planning process this year.

Subsequently the Cabinet paper of 20 September 2016 recommended that to explore the robustness of the proposals developed by Cabinet Members and officers, scrutiny boards test the assumptions within proposals during the period from October to Christmas 2016.

As a result the scrutiny boards requested information from services and finance officers to cover the following in private sessions:

- Details of the cash envelope scenario for each service
- Savings plans as identified in the Medium Term Financial Plan with, where possible, detail on these proposals including any service changes
- Brief notes on future plans and forward thinking for each service

Activity

Table 1 – Summary of scrutiny board budget meetings

Board	Council Overview Board	Economic Prosperity, Environment and Highways Board	Education and Skills Board	Resident Experience Board	Social Care Services Board	Wellbeing and Health Scrutiny Board
Dates of Meetings	6 October, 23 November 18 January	7 July, 17 November, 12 January	21 October, 12 December 12 January	5 September, 7 November, 12 January	17 October, 29 November, 12 January	21 November, 12 December

All of the Scrutiny Boards, except for the Council Overview Board, appointed Performance & Finance sub-groups to meet in private with their respective Cabinet Members, Strategic Directors and Finance Officers to review progress against the MTFP savings and consider the plans developed to meet the financial challenge presented by this year's financial settlement from central government.

All of the Scrutiny Boards will complete their budget scrutiny work by 12 January 2017. Reports from the Boards will be made available as a supplementary paper to this agenda for the Council Overview Board to scrutinise.

Recommendations

- I. That the Council Overview Board consider its own budget scrutiny activity and outcomes, reviews the final feedback from the other Scrutiny Boards and formulates recommendations from the scrutiny function as a whole to Cabinet.
- II. That the Council Overview Board considers the future role of Scrutiny Boards in relation to the budget process after the Council meeting of 7 February 2017.

Next steps

The Council Overview Board reports its and the other Scrutiny Boards' findings and recommendations to the Cabinet meeting of 31 January 2017.

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Sources/background papers: