

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Scrutiny Committee
Date: 22 September, 2015
Report of: Democratic & Performance Services Manager

Report Title

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF THE EXECUTIVE'S DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2016/17 – PROCESS AND TIMESCALES

Summary

This report sets out details of proposed arrangements for Scrutiny to review the Executive's budget proposals for 2016/17 and provide feedback.

Recommendation(s)

1. That the approach to budget scrutiny be endorsed and that arrangements be circulated to Members when more information is available.
2. That authority to finalise the Budget Scrutiny Report be delegated to the Democratic & Performance Services Manager in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of this Committee.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Chris Gaffey
Extension: x2019

Background Papers: None.

Purpose

The purpose of the report is to agree the approach to budget scrutiny for 2016/17. The budget proposals will be considered by Scrutiny Members, to identify any particular issues of concern or uncertainty, so that these can be communicated to the Executive and taken account in developing its final proposals to be considered by Executive and Council in February 2016. It will maximise the scope for Scrutiny to influence the development of the budget if its observations can be forwarded to the Executive as early as possible.

Process

The budget consultation will begin in November and it is recommended that the Leader be invited to give a presentation to the Scrutiny Committee on the proposals prior to the final arrangements for scrutiny being put in place.

The initial budget consultation exercise is based on six themes and it is suggested that the budget scrutiny be organised along these lines. It is envisaged that two or three Scrutiny sessions be undertaken, prior to mid-December.

The detailed arrangements for the groupings will be determined by the Chairman and Vice Chairman once there is more detail about the proposals and dates will be notified in due course.

Issues arising from these sessions and not immediately resolved in discussions with the Executive Members will be incorporated into a feedback report to be shared with the Executive, as set out above.

Personnel

As in previous years, all Members of Scrutiny and Health Scrutiny Committees are invited to be involved in the budget scrutiny process.

The Scrutiny sessions, depending on Members' availability, will have as their Chairmen / Vice-Chairmen Members selected from the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the Scrutiny Committees by agreement.

Budget Scrutiny Report

Unresolved issues and concerns arising from the Scrutiny sessions will be incorporated in a Budget Scrutiny report. In order to allow this to be forwarded as early as possible to the Executive, delegated authority is requested as set out above to finalise this report. It will then be formally presented to the Executive in January 2016, thus allowing maximum scope for it to be considered and to influence the Executive's final proposals which will then be brought to Executive / Council in February.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

To secure agreement for, and to progress arrangements for, the Budget Scrutiny 2016/17 exercise.