

Internal Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Friday, 20 July 2018

Electoral Division affected: None

Establishment of a Budget Scrutiny Review Panel

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

This report sets out a proposal to establish a Budget Scrutiny Review Panel to further enhance the scrutiny of budget proposals under consideration by Cabinet. Appendix 'A' sets out the suggested terms of reference.

Recommendation

The Internal Scrutiny Committee is requested to approve the establishment of the Budget Scrutiny Review Panel.

Background and Advice

In January 2018, a budget report was tabled and considered at each of the scrutiny committees with a view to identifying areas of potential risk relating to budget savings proposed by Cabinet. Areas identified were then included in the work plan for each of the committees for further scrutiny during 2018.

Following a series of meetings with officers and with member input, a review of the effectiveness of budget scrutiny in its current format was undertaken. It was concluded that in order to facilitate a more effective budget scrutiny process a new Budget Scrutiny Review Panel be established.

The suggested terms of reference for the Budget Scrutiny Review Panel is set out at Appendix 'A'.

If approved, the Review Panel will report on its activities to the Internal Scrutiny Committee. It should be noted that the Review Panel's role will not be to lead on the management of the budget or to set a budget, but to review savings proposals from Cabinet during budget development cycles.

Nominations for membership will be politically balanced meaning that four Conservatives, two Labour, one Liberal Democrat and one Independent would be

appointed on nomination by their group. It is suggested that where possible each Group establish a pool of substitutes with knowledge of local authority finance, should temporary replacements be required to attend in place of a member of the Review Panel.

The Internal Scrutiny Committee is requested to approve the establishment of the Budget Scrutiny Review Panel.

Consultations

NA

Implications

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

This report has no significant risk implications.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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NA

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

NA