

Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Friday 18 November 2016

Electoral Division affected: None;

Budget Scrutiny Working Group

Contact for further information:

Josh Mynott, Tel: (01772) 534580, Democratic and Member Services Manager,

josh.mynott@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

The Budget Scrutiny Working Group has the responsibility for considering budget proposals and issues on behalf of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees. This report sets out the proposed approach for the budget proposals due to be considered by Cabinet in December 2016.

Recommendation

That the Committee agree the approach to be taken by the Budget Scrutiny Working Group as set out in the report

Background and Advice

The Budget Scrutiny Working Group (BSWG) was established in 2013 to ensure that there was effective and co-ordinated oversight of budget proposals and issues by Overview and Scrutiny.

In 2016, Full Council agreed a comprehensive two year budget for the council. This means that it is anticipated that there will only be a limited set of further proposals coming forward from Cabinet in for Full Council in February 2017.

However, it is important that the BSWG has the opportunity to fully discharge its responsibilities. In order to ensure this is the case, it is proposed that initially two meetings of the BSWG are arranged. The first meeting will take place following the Government's Autumn Statement on 23 November but in advance of the ESC and Cabinet meetings in December to provide the overall background and context for the budget.

A second meeting in January will allow the BSWG to scrutinise the specific proposals made by Cabinet in depth and report back before Cabinet makes its final proposals to Full Council.

Consultations

Discussions have taken place with the Director of Financial Resources and the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

No significant risk implications

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

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A