

Report To: Corporate Governance Committee

Date of Meeting: 22 May 2013

Lead Member/Officer: Lead Member for Finance and Assets/
Head of Finance and Assets

Report Author: Head of Finance and Assets

Title: The Role of the Corporate Governance
Committee in the Budget Setting Process

1. What is the report about?

1.1 The report outlines the proposed budget setting process for 2014/15 and the role that the Corporate Governance Committee should play.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

2.1 To seek the Committee's views on their role in the revised budget setting process.

3. What are the Recommendations?

3.1 That the Committee considers the contents of the report and comments on the proposed changes.

4. Report details.

4.1 A revised budget setting process was proposed at the Council Briefing session in March. This reduced the number of members involved in the budget challenge process, but also proposed that the Corporate Governance Committee took an overview role for the process.

4.2 The Corporate Governance Committee already has oversight of the Council's audit, treasury management and statement of accounts production and this seems a logical progression for the committee. It also avoids the need to set up a new group and timetable additional meetings.

4.3 The committee needs to play a number of roles within the process:

- Overview of the process and ensure it is on track to deliver savings
- Preview proposals ahead of workshops, gain clarity and understanding of proposals
- Give an initial steer as to any issues
- Ensure feedback from workshops is acted upon
- Review of process once the budget has been set

4.4 Members of the committee also have a role to play in ensuring that their respective groups are briefed about proposals ahead of workshops so that issues can be considered beforehand.

4.5 The appendix shows the broad outline for each of the workshops and these would form the basis for the Corporate Governance reports.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

5.1 Delivery of the Corporate Plan is reliant on identifying funds to pay for the schemes contained in it.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

6.1 There are no cost implications from the proposals

7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment undertaken?

No EQIA has been undertaken as this is not relevant. EQIAs will be undertaken on specific proposals where appropriate.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

This proposal was discussed at a previous Council briefing session

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

It is important that the Council has a robust budget setting process and that there is appropriate member scrutiny of the proposals.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

10.1 These proposals are designed to reduce the risk of problems arising during the budget setting process.

11. Power to make the Decision

11.1 Under section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council must make appropriate arrangements for the proper management of its finances.

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