

Report to:	TOURISM, ECONOMY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Chris Kelly, Acting Scrutiny Manager
Date of Meeting	27 October 2016

BUDGET SCRUTINY PANEL

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 The Committee to consider the establishment of a Budget Scrutiny Panel.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To approve the recommendation to establish a Budget Scrutiny Panel.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 The establishment of a Budget Scrutiny Panel would enable improved scrutiny of budget proposals, with a particular focus on the budget savings by directorate and their likely impact.

- 3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

- 3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

- 3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

To not approve the establishment of a Budget Scrutiny Panel.

4.0 Council Priority:

- 4.1 The relevant Council Priority is 'The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool.'

5.0 Background Information

- 5.1 It is considered that the current approach to Budget scrutiny could be improved through the establishment of a dedicated Budget Scrutiny Panel to undertake an in-depth scrutiny review of the budget savings and the likely impact on services of any proposals.

5.2 Proposals and Scope for the Panel

- 5.2.1 The Panel would consist of nine non-Executive Members, with six Labour Group Members and three Conservative Group Members, to be appointed by the Group Leaders.
- 5.2.2 The aim for the Panel would be to complete the review in a day on a date identified in December or early January, with an additional meeting to be scheduled later in January if required, to follow-up on unanswered queries.
- 5.2.3 The Panel would work through the savings proposals by directorate with the relevant Cabinet Member/ senior officers in attendance and provide comments and recommendations on the savings proposals, after considering the impact of the savings.
- 5.2.4 The meeting will be timetabled for effectiveness and the scrutiny response will be forwarded to the Executive directly from the Panel, in time for the first Executive budget meeting on 6 February 2017.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

- 5.2.5 **List of Appendices:**
None.

6.0 Legal considerations:

- 6.1 None.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

- 7.1 None.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

- 8.1 None.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 None.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None.