

Report to:	TOURISM, ECONOMY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Chris Kelly, Senior Democratic Governance Adviser
Date of Meeting	25 October 2017

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 Last year the Committee established a dedicated Budget Scrutiny Panel to undertake an in-depth scrutiny review of the required budget savings and the likely impact on services of any proposals. The establishment of the Panel enabled an improved level of challenge to the Council's budget setting process. It is proposed that a Panel be established again to consider the 2018/2019 budget 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 (scheduled to be Tuesday, 12 December 2017), 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 in February 2018.

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.