

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>TOURISM, ECONOMY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	14 November 2018

## **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 For the previous two years the Committee has 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 2019/2020 budget proposals.

### **5.2 Proposals and Scope for the Panel**

5.2.1 Membership of the Panel will be requested from the membership of all three Scrutiny Committees to try and ensure that there is representation from across Committees as well as across political parties. This will ensure that Members who have acquired specialist knowledge on service areas will be in attendance and able to ask questions regarding the budgets for those service areas.

5.2.2 Following approval of the establishment of the Panel, the Leaders of the three political parties will be requested to nominate representatives from across the Committees: six Labour (proposed to be two from each Committee), three Conservative (proposed to be one from each Committee) and one Blackpool Independent Residents Association.

5.2.3 The aim for the Panel would be to complete the review in one meeting to be held on 18 December 2018, commencing at 6.00pm.

5.2.4 The Panel will work through the budget and savings proposals by directorate with the relevant Cabinet Member/ senior officers in attendance and provide comments and recommendations on the proposals and also consider the impact of any identified savings.

5.2.5 The scrutiny response to the budget will be forwarded to the Executive directly from the Panel, in time for the first Executive budget meeting in February 2018.

5.2.6 The Budget consultation process has been amended for 2019/2020 and as a result the Committee's meeting with the Trade Unions and NNDR will be replaced with an alternative format.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

#### **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.