

Corporate Scrutiny Committee

7 July 2025

Report of the Director of Governance

Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy Scrutiny, Task and Finish Group

Summary

1. This report presents the information in relation to a planned Task and Finish Group into the Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) Scrutiny. Members should consider and decide whether or not to endorse the proposal contained at Annex A.

Background

2. Following a budget proposal report which was brought to Corporate Scrutiny in June 2025, Members resolved to instigate a Task and Finish Group.
3. The group is to provide financial scrutiny of both budget setting and the MTFS.
4. Membership of the Task and Finish Group is yet to be determined.

Aim

5. The aim of the review is to make recommendations as to how the council and partners can most effectively make use of limited financial resources.

Objectives

6. It is proposed that the Task & Finish Group seeks to scrutinise the Council's finances from budget development and planning to the delivery and oversight of that budget in year to:
 - Ensure there are clear links between budget setting and strategic plans
 - Challenge how resources are allocated, used and their impact.

- Identify evidence-based options for reducing costs, generating income or introducing new models of delivery.
- Evaluate how the budget is allocated to achieve strategic and operational objectives and service planning.
- Ensure targets on performance are aligned within the budget available to deliver them.
- Provide additional and transparent challenge to the Executive's management of Council's finances.

Consultation and Methods

7. There will be some initial desk-based research to ensure that members of the Task & Finish Group are familiar with financial scrutiny best practice.
8. This will be followed by interviews with officers and relevant Executive Members.
9. There will need to be engagement with residents.

Timeframe

10. A review of the outcomes of the public consultation and recommendations to Executive should be completed by the Corporate Scrutiny meeting, 17 January 2026.

Options

11. Members should consider the following options:
 - a. Endorse the draft remit, objectives and timeframe as proposed;
 - b. Amend the draft remit, objectives or timeframe;
 - c. Add further objectives the Committee agrees are relevant.

Analysis

12. There is no analysis at this stage.

Council Plan

13. The MTFS aims to ensure that, as far as possible, resources are aligned to the Council's priorities.

Implications

14. There are no implications to be addressed at this stage in the process. Any relevant implications will be identified by the Task & Finish Group during their review.

Risk Management

15. Any identified risks associated with the findings from this review will be included in the draft final report arising from this review.

Recommendations

16. The Committee is asked to:
- i. To consider and agree the membership of the Task and Finish Group.
 - ii. Consider and endorse the proposed remit, objectives, and timeframe for a Task and Finish scrutiny review of the budget setting process and MTFS.

Reason: To enable the Task and Finish Group to proceed with work on the agreed review in line with scrutiny procedures.

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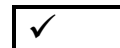
**Report
Approved**



Date 27 June 2025

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: [Report to Corporate Scrutiny, 09 June 2025, Budget Setting Process and Scrutiny](#)

Annexes: Annex A: Task and Finish Group proposal for the budget setting process and MTFS.