

Report for: Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 21 July 2016

Item number: 10

Title: Medium Term Financial Strategy (Budget Scrutiny Planning)

Report authorised by : Tracie Evans, Chief Operating Officer

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Ward(s) affected: N/A

**Report for Key/
Non Key Decision:** N/A

1. Describe the issue under consideration

1.1 To consider the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017/2018 to 2021/2022 Planning Timetable (attached).

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Committee consider the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017/2018 to 2021/2022 Planning Timetable (attached at Appendix A), including the Budget Scrutiny process for 2017/18.

3. Background information

3.1 The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Constitution, Part 4, Section G) state: "The Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall undertake scrutiny of the Council's budget through a Budget Scrutiny process. The procedure by which this operates is detailed in the Protocol covering the Overview and Scrutiny Committee".

3.2 In previous years OSC has tasked individual Scrutiny Panels with reviewing and providing comments on budget proposals relevant to their areas, with the full OSC taking a lead role for those areas not covered by a specific panel and overarching comments to Cabinet on the draft budget proposals. However, following approval of the Council's three year Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) in February 2015, OSC considered its role in October 2015.

3.3 It was agreed that scrutiny of the 2016/17 budget, part of the approved MTFS 2015-2018, would be undertaken only by OSC. This took place in January 2016.

3.4 In order to cover the period of business rate devolution, work commenced on a new five year MTFS in May 2016. This will use the last year of the currently approved MTFS (2017/18) and will add a further four years (2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22). As a result, this will result in a new range of proposals

for the latter four years being initially approved by Cabinet in December 2016.

- 3.5 With this in mind, and in view of the Scrutiny Protocol, a request has been made for a clear timetable to be provided to the Committee, in relation to the budget setting process for 2017/18. The attached document outlines the timescale for scrutiny input to ensure activity in this area can be co-ordinated as part of the process for developing the overall scrutiny work programme for 2016/17.

4. Contribution to strategic outcomes

- 4.1 The Budget Scrutiny process for 2017/18 will contribute to strategic outcomes relating to “Outstanding for All”, “Clean and Safe” and “Sustainable Housing, Growth and Employment” (Haringey Corporate Plan 2015-18).

5. Statutory Officers comments

Finance

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. Should any of the work undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny generate recommendations with financial implications then these will be highlighted at that time.

Legal

- 5.2 There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report.
- 5.3 In accordance with the Council’s Constitution (Part 4, Section G), the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should undertake scrutiny of the Council’s budget through a Budget Scrutiny process. The procedure by which this operates is detailed in the Protocol covering the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Equality

- 5.4 The Council has a public sector equality duty under the Equalities Act (2010) to have due regard to:
- Tackle discrimination and victimisation of persons that share the characteristics protected under S4 of the Act. These include the characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex (formerly gender) and sexual orientation;
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not;
 - Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.

5.5 The Panel should ensure that it addresses these duties by considering them within its work plan, including budget scrutiny. This should include considering and clearly stating;

- How specific savings / policy issues impact on different groups within the community, particularly those that share the nine protected characteristics;
- Whether the impact on particular groups is fair and proportionate;
- Whether there is equality of access to services and fair representation of all groups within Haringey;
- Whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people, are being realised.

5.6 The Panel should ensure that equalities comments are based on evidence. Wherever possible this should include demographic and service level data and evidence of residents/service-users views gathered through consultation.

6. Use of Appendices

6.1 Appendix A

- Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017/2018 to 2021/2022 Planning

7. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

N/A