

Signed off by	Interim Head of Finance
Author	Marie Crabtree, Democratic Services Officer
Telephone	01737 276657
Email	marie.crabtree@reigate-banstead.gov.uk
To	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date	Thursday, 13 October 2022
Executive Member	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance

Key Decision Required	N
Wards Affected	(All Wards);

Subject	Constitution of Budget Scrutiny Panel 2022/23
----------------	---

Recommendations
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To agree the membership of the Budget Scrutiny Review Panel and the timetable for scrutiny of the Budget for 2023/24 as set out in the report. 2. To agree the scope of the Budget Scrutiny Panel's work during 2022/23.
Executive Summary
To consider the membership, timetable, and scope of work of the Budget Scrutiny Review Panel during 2022/23.

Background
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Executive at its meeting on 24 March 2022 considered the Committee's request in the Overview & Scrutiny Committee's annual work programme 2022/23 for the Budget Scrutiny Review Panel to be re-established for 2022/23. Following further consultation with the Leader and the Executive, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee's annual work programme was agreed at Council on 7 April 2022. 2. The Committee is therefore requested to agree activity for the Panel for the year 2022/23. This will focus on consideration of the draft budget proposals for 2023/24.

Membership

3. The Budget Scrutiny Review Panel is a 7 Member panel. The political proportionality requirements do not apply to scrutiny panels; however, the Committee has always sought to apply the principles.

Group Leaders are asked to put forward nominations for panel membership and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee determines the membership. Members of the Budget Scrutiny Panel should be members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

This year's membership is proposed as follows:

- Conservative 4
 - Green 1
 - Liberal Democrat 1
 - Residents' Association 1
4. The Committee is asked to consider the nominations for Membership of the Panel, and the following nominations have been received:
- Conservative Party - TBC
 - Green Party - TBC
 - Liberal Democrats – Councillor Elbourne
 - Residents; Association – Councillor Harrison

The remaining nominations will be confirmed at the meeting.

5. The Committee is requested to approve the nominations made.
6. The Chair of the Panel will be elected at the beginning of the Budget Scrutiny Panel meeting.
7. Meetings of the Panel are open to any Councillor to attend.

Timetable

8. The indicative timetable for development of budget proposals for the coming year is as follows:

Date	Meeting
Thursday 17 November	Executive meeting to approve draft budget for 2022/23 for formal consultation
Tuesday 29 November	Budget Scrutiny Panel Meeting to consider and review the draft budget proposals and review Members' Advance Questions and written responses.
Thursday 8 December	Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting to receive the report of Budget Scrutiny Panel
Thursday 15 December	Executive meeting Including receiving O&S Budget scrutiny report and recommendations
Thursday 26 January	Executive meeting To approve the Proposed Budget for 2023/24 and Council Tax for recommendation to Full Council.

Thursday 9 February	Council meeting Council to consider the Budget and Council Tax recommendations from the Executive for 2023/24
----------------------------	---

Role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

9. The Panel’s activity focuses on considering and responding to the draft budget proposals for 2023/24 published by the Executive at its meeting on 17 November. As in previous years this is expected to focus on providing an opportunity for Panel members to review the draft budget proposals, raise questions, receive written responses, and have an opportunity to meet to discuss them.
10. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will consider the report of the Budget Scrutiny Review Panel at its meeting on Thursday 8 December and make recommendations on the draft budget for 2023/24, for consideration by the Executive in line with the Council’s Policy Framework and Budget Procedure Rules.

Legal Implications

11. There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications

12. There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations set out in 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.

Equalities Implications

13. The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:
 - Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
 - 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.
14. The three parts of the duty applies to the following protected characteristics: age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy/maternity; race; religion/faith; sex and sexual orientation. In addition, marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty.
15. The Committee, and the Review Panel, should ensure regard is given to these duties by considering them through the course of its work. This should include considering:
 - How budget proposals impact on different groups within the community, particularly those that share the 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 the Borough;
 - Whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people, are being realised.

Background Papers

[Overview and Scrutiny Annual Work Programme Report 2022/23](#)

[Annex 1 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Work Programm 2022/23](#)