

## Scrutiny Commission Referral Form

**Referral from:**  
Overview and Scrutiny  
Management Board (OSM)

**To:** Mayor and Cabinet

**Date of meeting / referral:** OSM Board – 15<sup>th</sup> June 2016

**Contact Officer:** Lucy Fleming, Scrutiny Co-ordinator

**Subject:** Mayor's Forward Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan

### **Detail / reasons for referral:**

The OSM Board believes the Mayor's Forward Plan is fundamental to the Council's decision making and the involvement of back bench members in the scrutiny process.

To be effective, the Forward plan needs to be populated with accurate information of both regular reports, such as the quarterly monitor, annual policy statements and key decisions.

The Board recognises that when there is a change in administration, there will be a period of adjustment, but all decisions should be capable of scrutiny which means they must be in the Forward Plan with sufficient notice. For example, two items brought to the new Mayor's first Cabinet were not on the last administration's last forward plan, so scrutiny could not have examined them before the decision was taken.

However, the role of scrutiny in policy development is key and that requires the plan to be forward thinking. Ideally, with the Full Council and Mayor in place for the next 4 years, the forward plan would identify key decisions that need to be taken over the next 4 years.

For OSM to effectively plan the scrutiny work programme, it would be helpful if the forward plan could be fully updated for the next 12 months, within the next month, and provisionally updated for the next 4 years by the end of August.

There is also one specific issue which is key to our scrutiny role. As the new Mayor has already indicated, the medium term financial plan is going to involve major decisions. Could we have an early indication of the time frame in which these proposals will be available for scrutiny?

**Recommendations:**

That the Mayor and Cabinet;

1. Fully update the forward plan for the next 12 months, within the next month, and provisionally update it for the next 4 years by the end of August.
2. As soon as possible, confirm the timeframe in which the Medium Term Financial Plan will be available for consideration by Scrutiny.

**Accompanying papers:**

Not applicable