

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

9th February 2017



Report of: Anna Klonowski, Interim Strategic Director of Business Change

Title: Feedback Regarding the Budget Process

Ward: City Wide

Officer Presenting Report: Andrea Dell, Service Manager, Policy, Scrutiny, Research and Executive Support

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Recommendation

That the Board share their reflections on the process regarding the budget setting process for 16/17.

Summary

At the meeting on 19th January 17, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board considered Bristol City Council's Corporate Strategy 2017-2022 as well as the Savings and Investment Proposals, which form the basis of the Council's Revenue Budget for 2017/18 and Capital Programme for 2017 – 2022. Members made a number of comments regarding the process – details overleaf – and asked that a further discussion take place at the next OSM meeting.



Comments to Cabinet from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board regarding the budget setting process;

- a. Members commented on the process to date for setting the budget, acknowledging that it had been a very complex task for all parties to gather the relevant information, particularly due to the levels of savings that needed to be identified.
- b. The Board suggested that scrutiny could be a useful forum for developing any proposals that require more work for this budget.
- c. Concern was expressed about the timescales and rapidly changing nature of proposals and it was suggested that lessons could be learnt from this process for the future.
- d. The Board agreed that scrutiny would like to play more of an active role in setting future budgets and hoped they could work with the Mayor, Cabinet and senior officers to improve the level of engagement and information flow in subsequent years particularly with communities and external partners.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers: None.