

# OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION

**Agenda Item 69**  
Brighton & Hove City Council

**Subject:** Scrutiny Panel on 2012- 2013 Budget Proposals

**Date of Meeting:** 31 January 2012

**Report of:** The Strategic Director of Resources

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**Wards Affected:** All

## FOR GENERAL RELEASE

### 1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report details the findings of the Scrutiny Panel established to examine the 2012-2013 Budget Proposals.
- 1.2 The Scrutiny Panel's report is re-printed as **Appendix 1** to this report.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That members:

Endorse the Budget Scrutiny Panel report and agree to refer the report recommendations to the council's Executive.

### 3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The scrutiny panel was chaired by Cllr Ken Norman and comprised Councillors Mears, Mitchell, Pissaridou, Summers and Sykes, with Jo Martindale representing the community and voluntary sector.
- 3.2 The panel agreed that it would seek:
- To provide cross-party challenge to the budget proposals brought forward by the administration
  - To understand the cumulative affect of budget cuts across the council and city, for service users and providers

- To begin looking at public service budgets across the piece – fire, police, health
- To make recommendations to Cabinet as to how to improve the budget

3.3 The panel heard from each Cabinet Member supported by senior officers. This is the first time each member of the Cabinet has been cross-examined by scrutiny members in this way which adds to the accountability of the budget process.

#### **4. CONSULTATION**

4.1 No formal consultation was undertaken in preparing this report, although some of the witnesses who gave evidence to the panel were asked for their comments on drafts of the report, and these comments have been used to inform the final version.

4.2 The list of witnesses and timetable of meetings is included in the report.

#### **5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

##### Financial Implications:

5.1 OSC's decisions in relation to this report (i.e. whether to endorse the Scrutiny Panel report and refer its recommendations to the council's Executive for consideration) have no direct financial implications.

However, members should bear in mind that the implementation of some of the Scrutiny Panel's recommendations might have significant financial implications for the council, and that any Executive decision in relation to these matters will need to be made with reference to these costs.

Finance Officer Consulted: James Hengeveld Date: 24 January 2012

##### Legal Implications:

5.2 If OSC endorses the Panel's report and accepts its recommendations, it is required to prepare a formal report and submit it to the Chief Executive for consideration by Cabinet or the relevant Cabinet Member.

If OSC cannot agree on one single final report, up to one minority report may be prepared and submitted, alongside the majority report, for consideration by the Cabinet or Cabinet Member.

##### Equalities Implications:

5.3 None directly in relation to this report.

Sustainability Implications:

5.4 None directly in relation to this report.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

5.5 None directly in relation to this report.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

5.6 None directly in relation to this report.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

5.7 None directly in relation to this report.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Appendices:**

1. Scrutiny Panel report

**Documents in Members' Rooms:**

None

**Background Documents:**

1. None (other than those listed in the Scrutiny Panel report)

