

**BUDGET SCRUTINY PANEL
8TH JANUARY 2020**

PRESENT: The Chair (Councillor Parsons)
Councillors Baines, Bolton and Miah

Chief Executive
Strategic Director of Corporate Services
Democratic Services Officer (LS)

APOLOGIES: None

The Chair stated that the meeting would be recorded and the sound recording subsequently made available via the Council's website. He also advised that, under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, other people may film, record, tweet or blog from this meeting, and the use of any such images or sound recordings was not under the Council's control.

15. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 4th December 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed.

16. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY AND PERSONAL INTERESTS

No disclosures were made.

17. DECLARATIONS - THE PARTY WHIP

No declarations were made.

18. QUESTIONS UNDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE PROCEDURE 11.17

No questions had been submitted.

19. PANEL REPORT

Considered, a draft report of the Panel, compiled in consultation with all members of the Panel (see Budget Scrutiny Panel Minute 14, 4th December 2019), with a view to agreeing a final version for submission to the Scrutiny Commission at its meeting on 13th January 2020 (item 6 on the agenda supplement filed with these minutes). The Commission would be requested to recommend the Panel's report to the Cabinet at its meeting on 13th February 2020.

Assisting with consideration of this matter: The Chief Executive and the Strategic Director of Corporate Services.

Summary, key points of discussion:

- (i) The Chair thanked members and officers for their contribution to this year's budget scrutiny. He hoped that members of the Panel would wish to continue in future years, also that some new members would wish to take part.
- (ii) Members of the Panel did not wish to make any further comment on or amendment to the draft report at this meeting.
- (iii) The Strategic Director requested clarification on some of the recommendations set out in the report, to ensure that useful officer responses could be provided when the report was submitted to the Cabinet in due course. That clarification was provided. There was brief discussion of some of the issues raised by the Panel in its report and the actions being taken in those respects.
- (iv) The Chief Executive wished to thank the Panel for its report, including the helpful foreword by the Chair of the Panel.
- (v) The Chair briefly outlined some of the observations made in last year's Budget Scrutiny Panel report. There was brief discussion regarding whether those matters had progressed, changed or remained an issue, with updates provided by the Chief Executive and the Strategic Director.

RESOLVED that the report of the Panel be submitted to the Scrutiny Commission at its meeting on 13th January 2020.

Reason

To enable the Scrutiny Commission to consider the report, with a request that it be recommended to the Cabinet at its meeting on 13th February 2020.

NOTES:

1. No reference may be made to these minutes at the Council meeting on 24th February 2020 unless notice to that effect is given to the Democratic Services Manager by five members of the Council by noon on the fifth working day following publication of these minutes.
2. These minutes are subject to confirmation as a correct record at the next meeting of the Budget Scrutiny Panel.