

## REPORT FOR:

# OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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**Date of Meeting:**

18<sup>th</sup> November 2014

**Subject:**

The Funding Challenge – Saving £75m from the Council's Budget Challenge Panel

**Responsible Officer:**

Alex Dewsnap  
Divisional Director, Partnership Development and Performance

**Scrutiny Lead****Member area:**

- Cllr Pamela Fitzpatrick (Chair)
- Cllr Kiran Ramchandani
- Cllr Barry Macleod-Cullinane
- Cllr Chris Mote
- Cllr Manji Kara
- Cllr Primesh Patel
- Cllr Aneka Shah

**Exempt:**

No

**Wards affected:**

All

**Enclosures:**

Scope for The Funding Challenge – Saving £75m from the Council's Budget Challenge Panel

## Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

Enclosed in this report is the scope for the The Funding Challenge – Saving £75m from the Council's Budget Challenge Panel.

**Recommendations:**

Councillors are asked to:

- Consider and agree the scope for the challenge panel.

## **Section 2 – Report**

### **Introductory paragraph**

For the 2014/15 municipal year members of the Overview and Scrutiny Leadership group decided that they would like to look at the council's budget setting process including budget consultation and effective scrutiny of the budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy. The main objective of this work is to generate recommendations for developing these processes in the future, to enable the council to find the savings needed in the next three years in the most effective way possible.

Councillor Pamela Fitzpatrick has been nominated as the Chair for the challenge panel. The challenge panel will be held in mid-late December 2014 and will hear evidence from Council officers and portfolio holders.

Written submissions will be invited from voluntary sector organisation, other councils, trade unions representing Council employees, and organisations with expertise relating to public sector budget planning processes. A small number of witnesses may be invited to attend the Challenge Panel based on the content of their submissions.

Any submissions from challenge panel members (or other Councillors) from their own research/ experience/ knowledge will also be considered.

### **Financial Implications**

The costs of delivering this project will be met from within existing resources.

### **Performance Issues**

There are no specific performance issues associated with this report.

### **Environmental Impact**

There are no specific environmental impacts associated with this report.

### **Risk Management Implications**

The review will consider how risk has been approached within the budget setting and related processes. This could include the quality of risk assessments for budget proposals and/or the 'risk appetite' of decision-makers (whether they are taking on too much, or are too risk averse).

### **Equalities Implications**

The review will consider during the course of its work, how equality implications have been taken into account in current policy and practice and the possible equality implications of any changes it recommends.

This could include looking at the Equalities Impact Assessment for the draft budget (which will try to estimate cumulative impact) and the 'Take Part' consultation, and reflecting on what these tell us about the budget-setting and related processes.

### Council Priorities

This review relates to all four of the Corporate Priorities 2014/15, including:

- Making a difference for the most vulnerable
- Making a difference for communities
- Making a difference for families
- Making a difference for local businesses

### Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name:..... <input type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: .....	
Name: ..... <input type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: .....	

<b>Ward Councillors notified:</b>	N/A
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### Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

**Contact:** Edward Smith, Policy Officer. 020 8424 7602

**Background Papers:** The Funding Challenge – Saving £75m from the Council’s Budget Challenge Panel Scope.