

**REPORT FOR: OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
AND SCRUTINY SUB-
COMMITTEES**

Date:	1 st November 2011
Subject:	Standing Scrutiny Review of the Budget Scope
Responsible Officer:	Alex Dewsnap, Divisional Director, Partnership Development and Performance
Scrutiny Lead Member area:	All
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	Scope for the Standing Scrutiny Review of the Budget

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

The scope for the Standing Scrutiny Review of the Budget is attached to this report.

Recommendations:

Councillors are asked to:

- I. Consider and approve the scope for the project

Section 2 – Report

The council faces its toughest financial challenge in years. Budgets need to be reduced by approximately 30% over the next three years in order to meet public spending targets. The Standing Scrutiny Review of the Budget has been established to monitor the impact of the budget changes. Specifically, the review will consider:

- The budget setting process and savings proposals each year
- The extent to which previous years' savings targets are being realised
- The process for determining and managing the council's capital programme
- The implications of and council's response to changing local government finance policy

As a standing review, this project will run for the lifetime of the current administration and will produce regular update reports during this period.

Financial Implications

There are no specific financial implications associated with this report. However, it is anticipated that the review will support the council to meet the financial challenge it faces by providing effective and robust challenge to proposals being made.

Performance Issues

There are no performance issues associated with this report.

Environmental Impact

There are no environmental impact implications associated with this report.

Risk Management Implications

There are no risk management implications associated with this report

Equalities implications

Was an Equality Impact Assessment carried out? No

This report outlines the scope of the Standing Review of The Budget and as such makes no proposal to alter services or how they are delivered.

Corporate Priorities

The Standing Review of the Budget has potential impact on the delivery of all of the corporate priorities.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Not required for this report

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Lynne Margetts, Service Manager Scrutiny, 020 8420 937

Background Papers: None