



Meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Board **Date:** 3 July 2014

Wards Affected: All

Report Title: Timetable for Review of Priorities and Resources

Is the decision a key decision? Yes

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1. Purpose and Introduction

1.1 The Mayor has requested that the Overview and Scrutiny Board change the dates for the meetings which have been arranged to undertake its review of priorities and resources. Given that the Board agreed these dates in April 2014, it is for the Board to determine if it wishes to change the dates and/or add in additional dates.

2. Proposed Decision

2.1 **That the Board determine which of the options in section 5 it wishes to put in place.**

2.2 Reason for Decision

It is for the Overview and Scrutiny Board to determine how it arranges its Work Programme.

Supporting Information

4. Position

4.1 At its meeting held on 9 April 2014, the Overview and Scrutiny Board agreed the Project Plan – Timetable for its review of priorities and resources. This timetable had been prepared on the basis that the Mayor has indicated that he wished for the Council to consider the savings proposals towards the 2015/2016 budget at its meeting in September 2014.

4.2 The dates for the Priorities and Resources Review Panel followed the same pattern as they would follow if the Council was considering its savings proposals in February. Therefore, it was agreed that the Panel would meet on 6, 13, 15 and 20 August with the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting on 3 September to agree its report. The report would then be published on 5 September in order for the Mayor's response to be included within the papers for the meeting of the Council to be held on 25 September.

- 4.3 Overall the Panel would have five weeks in order to undertake its detailed review which would allow time for members to gather information from the stakeholders and the community as well as to hear from the Mayor and Executive Leads. This time period includes enough time for additional information to be requested should issues arise at the meetings and for Panel Members to reflect on their findings prior to agreeing their conclusions and recommendations.
- 4.4 The dates for the Priorities and Resources Review Panel were also included in the Calendar of Meetings which was agreed at the Adjourned Annual Meeting of the Council held on 1 May 2014.
- 4.5 The Scrutiny Office has subsequently been informed that the Mayor is unable to attend the meetings in August and the Executive Leads for Health and Wellbeing, Adult Social Care, Business Planning and Governance and Culture and the Arts are unavailable for some or all of the meetings.
- 4.6 The Mayor has requested that the meetings of the Priorities and Resources Review Panel are held in the first week of September.

5. Possibilities and Options

- 5.1 Option 1:
Cancel the meetings of the Priorities and Resources Review Panel scheduled for 6, 13, 15 and 20 August are cancelled and that the meetings are held instead on:
Monday 1 September
Tuesday 2 September
Wednesday 3 September
with the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting on Thursday 4 September and the report being published on Friday 5 September.

- 5.2 Option 2:
That the meetings of the Priorities and Resources Review scheduled for August continue with Panel Members using these meetings to gather the views of stakeholders, service users and the community together with considering other information it wished to request.

These meetings would be used to identify key lines of enquiry which the Panel would then pursue with the Mayor and Executive Members at additional meetings held on:

Monday 1 September
Tuesday 2 September
Wednesday 3 September
with the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting on Thursday 4 September and the report being published on Friday 5 September.

(With this option, three meetings of the Panel may not be needed – this would be determined after the Panel had held its August meetings.)

- 5.3 Option 3:
That the Board continue with its programme of meetings as already agreed.
- 5.4 Members of the Board may wish to identify other options.