

**ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA**  
**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 15 NOVEMBER 2023**

**SCRUTINY MANAGER**

**BUDGET SCRUTINY COVER REPORT**

Effective financial and budget scrutiny provides assurance to the Council that the budget is robust and sustainable. The Medium-Term Financial Planning – Update on Financial Position 2024/25 and Budget Proposals report is attached to this cover report as Appendix One. The report contains details of proposed areas of growth as well as proposed budget reductions.

**Scrutiny of budgets**

**1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Scrutiny is part of the Council's governance and decision-making framework. Effective financial and budget scrutiny provides assurance to the Council that the budget is robust and sustainable.
- 1.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) has the lead responsibility for budget scrutiny according to its terms of reference. A standing Budget Working Group, (BWG), was set up in 2019 to carry out the scrutiny and to develop a report with recommendations to the Leadership Team. The BWG Recommendations as agreed by the Leadership Team and presented to Council on 1 February 2023 and the report on implementation progress are set out in paper A9 of this meeting. At the meeting on 4 May 2023, OSC reviewed and amended the approach to budget scrutiny to give the select committees a greater role including lead responsibility scrutinising the annual budget proposals relating to their terms of reference.
- 1.3 The Medium-Term Financial Planning – Update on Financial Position 2024/25 and Budget Proposals report is attached to this cover report as Appendix One. Appendix A gives details of proposed areas of growth across Council services and Appendix B sets out proposed budget reductions for 2024/25. This report is the core document that will be used by the select committee for their scrutiny of budget proposals. OSC will scrutinise proposals for corporate services at its December meeting.
- 1.4 Recommendations from the select committees and OSC will be collated into a consolidated report for referral to the Leadership Team for a formal written response. They will also be included in the report to full Council at the Budget meeting in February 2024.

**2 RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended:

- To refer the attached report and in particular the proposals contained in Appendix A and Appendix B and to the 4 Select Committees for scrutiny and a decision about whether each Committee wishes to make any comments or recommendations to the Leadership Team.

Jacqui Hird  
**Scrutiny Manager and Statutory Scrutiny Officer**

**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**  
*none other than previously published documents*

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