

# ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 15 NOVEMBER 2023

### UPDATE ON BUDGET SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS FROM FEBRUARY 2023

#### COVER REPORT

Effective financial and budget scrutiny provides assurance to the Council that the budget is robust and sustainable.

In February 2023 the Budget Scrutiny Working Group made 13 recommendations as part of their review of the 2023/24 budget.

Attached at appendix 1 is an update on these recommendations.

**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 working group was set up in 2019 to carry out the scrutiny and to develop a report with recommendations to the Leadership Team.
- 1.3 In February 2023 the Budget Scrutiny Working Group made 13 recommendations to Leadership following their work reviewing the 2023/24 budget proposals.
- 1.4 Attached to this report at appendix 1 are the 13 recommendations made by the Working Group and the response from Executive Directors and Directors.

#### **2 RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended:
  - To note the responses to the 13 recommendations and the Committee are invited to seek further clarity on any of these recommendations to help with their work reviewing the 2024/25 budget proposals that are

contained in a separate report on this agenda and were presented to Leadership on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

Lisa Taylor  
Director of Financial Management

**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

*February 2023 Leadership Report – Agenda item 8 (i) Overview and Scrutiny Budget Reference Report*

**Contact Officer:** Report contact Lisa Taylor, Director Of Financial Management  
[Lisa.taylor@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:Lisa.taylor@rbkc.gov.uk)