

PROPOSAL FORM FOR ITEMS FOR FOR CONSIDERATION BY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

Submitted by:

Cllr David Palethorpe, Cllr John Parrott

Item for Consideration:

To conduct Overview of 2024/25 Budget and Review & Scrutinise 2025/26 Medium Term Financial Strategy and Teignbridge Financial Plan

Expected outcome i.e. new policy, new action, new partnership, review and/or scrutinise the performance of other public bodies or of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas:

Priority for matter to be considered ✓ :

To review the TDC Medium Term Financial Strategy and Teignbridge District Council Financial Plan.
To make recommendations for consideration by the Executive following an Overview of the 2024/2025 Council Budget Proposals.
To make recommendations for consideration by the Executive in time to inform the preparation of the 2025/2026 Council Budget

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High (up to 3 months)

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Medium (3-6 months)

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Low (over 9 months).

Basis on which priority has been set

To provide an Overview of the Budget Proposals for the year 2024/2025

In order to provide information in time to influence the 2025/2026 Council Budget the O & S Review and Scrutiny will interrogate all aspects and areas of the Council finance and provide a report to the Executive and Full Council for consideration.

The suggested item should be included in future programme(s) because: (please tick as appropriate) ✓

(a) It is a district level function over which the district has some control

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(b) It is a recently introduced policy, service area of activity which would be timely to review .

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| (c) It is a policy which has been running for some time and is due for review | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (d) It is a major proposal for change | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (e) It is an issue raised via complaints received | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (f) It is an area of public concern | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (g) It is an area of poor performance | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (h) It would be of benefit to residents of the district | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (i) Which of the Council's objectives does the issue address? | |

The Council is committed to and legally obliged to deliver a balanced Annual Budget

- (j) Is there a deadline for the Council to make a decision? (If so, when and why?)

The Council will commence its 2024/2025 Budget review in October 2023. O&S will carry out an Overview of the Budget proposals and make recommendations as appropriate.

There is insufficient time for the O&S Committees to carry out a full and detailed interrogation of the Council Finance in time to make sensible and viable recommendations for this budget year.

The proposal is for work to commence immediately on carrying out a detailed forensic interrogation of all departments across the Council with a report and recommendations to be completed by 30 September 2024 for consideration by the Executive and Council as part of the budget process for 2025/2026

Members are requested to provide information on the following:-

- (k) What do you wish to achieve from the review?

1. To review and consider all revenue and capital budgets across all departments of the Council.
2. To review and consider the savings being delivered through the M25 project.
3. To review all statutory services that the Council has a duty to deliver and the level of effectiveness and efficiency with which they are being delivered
4. To review all discretionary services and projects and the effectiveness of the services and projects being delivered
5. To review and consider in the light of a projected (Aug2023) budget gap of circa £4m in the financial year 2025/2026 how the council will resolve the issue.
6. To review how during the financial year 2024/2025 the Council approach to finding savings of £1.3m in 2024/25.
7. To review and consider the Council strategy and policies on all fees and charges

8. To review and consider the Council policies on the management of assets and estates that operates on a commercial basis, including asset disposal.
9. To review and consider the Council strategy and policies on assets and estates that operates for community benefit and all associated fees and charges
10. To review the council strategy corporate aims and objectives to ensure that the strategy is financially viable.

(l) Are the desired outcomes likely to be achievable?

Desired outcomes of a comprehensive scrutiny and forensic interrogation of the Council finance will be achievable

(m) Will it change/increase efficiency and cost effectiveness?

The O&S Committee does not have a decision making role

This review and scrutiny will assist in influencing and informing the Council in its development of the Council Budget for 2025/2026 to ensure the Council is effectively accessing and efficiently utilising available funding streams for the benefit of Teignbridge residents.

Additional information – an explanatory sentence or paragraph to be provided below to support each box which has been ticked.

In order to ensure a coherent and co-ordinated approach from Overview & Scrutiny the cross party Task & Finish Group will be members from both OS1 and OS2
The Task and Finish Group will meet a minimum of once a month with additional meetings to conduct face to face interviews with consultees.
Consultees will be offered the opportunity to provide their evidence by a written submission to the Task & Finish Group and wherever possible be provided with questions arising from their evidence prior to being interviewed
The Task & Finish Group will provide a draft report to be discussed, evaluated and agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee by 1 September 2024
The Final Report and recommendations will be available to the Executive by 30 September 2024.

Background Documents.

TDC Budget 2023/24, 2024/2025

TDC Financial Plan

Capital Programme

Statutory Services Key Development Plans/Needs

TDC Commercial Strategy

TDC Annual Governance Statement

TDC Assets and Estates Strategy and Policies

CIPFA Guidance

Grant Thornton Audit Opinion

Financial Benchmarking Data from Local Government Inform

Departmental Budgets

Please return completed form to Democratic Services Department

Suggested Consultees (not an exhaustive list):-

TDC Officers -151 Officer to provide a briefing to members

TDC Departments Budget Holders

Local Government Finance Specialist (expert witness)

TDC Council Leader and Executive Members

TDC Group Leaders

TDC Council Members

Draft Review Plan

- 1. 151 Officer to provide financial briefings and updates to members**
- 2. Review all appropriate background papers**
- 3. Conduct interviews, collate and review information and evidence**
- 4. Monitoring progress – Task and Finish Group will meet a minimum of once a month to collate and review information and progress to date**
- 5. Task and Finish group will report progress to Overview and Scrutiny Committee including raising any issue arising from their work**
- 6. Draft Report will be presented to O & S by the 1 September 2024 for review, consideration and agreement.**
- 7. Final Report and Recommendations to Executive by 30 September 2024**
- 8. Agree programme timetable for MTFP Overview and Scrutiny for budget 2026/2027**