

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
CHIEF EXECUTIVE	FINANCE AND DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE	21 MARCH 2023	6
BUDGET WORKING GROUP – CLOSURE REPORT			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

The current term of office for the council will end in May 2023 with the Borough elections and the return of a new group of elected members. The Boundary Commission Review means that there will be a reduction in the number of elected members from 51 to 37 and the governance review undertaken in response to the reduced membership of the council will see the creation of an executive policy committee and scrutiny arrangements. The council from May 2023 will have new governance that will require different working arrangements. At the final meeting of each committee for the current term of office the working groups and boards that have been established and appointed by the committee will be formally closed and disbanded where appropriate to create the opportunity for the new council to review and determine the most appropriate arrangements under the new governance structure.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the committee disband the Budget Working Group and acknowledges that the members of the Group appointed by the committee have fulfilled the intended objectives and aims set by the committee in delivering the budget for the Authority.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Finance & Democracy established the budget Working Group at the meeting on June 22nd, 2015 and has appointed members to the Budget Working Group on annual basis since 2015.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	✓
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	✓
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	✓
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	✓

REPORT

1. The Budget Working Group was established in June 2015 by this committee. The terms of reference for the group are included below:

'To co-ordinate and oversee the budget setting process and to provide a strategic steer to programme committees on key elements of the budget setting process such as the level of growth or savings required in light of the overall financial position of the Council, capital bid expectations, fees and charges levels etc.'

2. Membership of the Budget Working Group was reviewed and confirmed on an annual basis determined by the agreed criteria to qualify for membership. The group had representation from each of the main programme committees to ensure a corporate cross-cutting approach to budget setting.
3. The Budget Working Group had a set pattern of meetings based on the budget setting timetable working closely with senior officers to provide elected member input into every aspect of the budget. The group has been integral in successfully delivering the council budget including major projects over the last 8 years.
4. The Finance and Democracy committee has received numerous reports with recommendations from the Budget Working Group that have informed and supported the decisions made by this committee and the Full Council.
5. The Budget Working Group has fulfilled the remit set by this committee and members of the group over the last 8 years and are thanked for their hard work, dedication, and contribution. Programme committees including the Finance & Democracy committee will not be part of the new committee governance arrangements from May 2023. It is therefore recommended that the Budget Working Group is disbanded and that arrangements for budget setting input under the new governance arrangements are determined by the new council.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.
Legal	There are no legal implications
Community Safety	There are no community safety implications
Human Rights and Equalities	There are no human rights or equalities implications
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	There are no sustainability or environmental implications
Health & Safety and Risk Management	There are no health & safety or risk management implications

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Finance & Democracy Committee	Various dates / most meetings	www.fylde.gov.uk