

# Agenda

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## Finance Panel (Panel of the Scrutiny Committee)

Date: **Wednesday 7 September 2016**

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Time: **6.00 pm**

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Place: **Plowman Room - Town Hall**

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For any further information please contact:

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# Finance Panel (Panel of the Scrutiny Committee)

## Membership

### **Chair**

Councillor Craig Simmons

Councillor James Fry

Councillor Jean Fooks

Councillor Sian Taylor – apologies received

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# AGENDA

## Pages

### 1 APOLOGIES

Substitutes are not allowed.

### 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

### 3 COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME

9 - 16

#### Background Information

The Council Tax Reduction Scheme is funded by the City Council and provides support to people on low incomes who are liable to pay Council Tax. This scheme replaced the old Council Tax Benefit Scheme in April 2013.

This item was suggested by the Housing Panel for inclusion in the Scrutiny Work Plan. The Scrutiny Committee has referred it to the Finance Panel for consideration.

#### Why is it on the agenda?

For the Panel to consider spend and impacts of the Council's discretionary Council Tax Reduction Scheme. The Chair has suggested that the Panel could consider:

- Spend against budget;
- Numbers of applications received and outcomes;
- Numbers of awards granted by period and discount amount;
- Which groups are typically in receipt of reductions (e.g. Job seekers, pensioners on low incomes etc.)
- Benchmarking with other similar Councils
- How frequently data is checked for accuracy and changes of status and the results of any checking that takes place.

#### Who has been invited to comment?

- Councillor Susan Brown, Board Member for Customer and Corporate Services;
- Tanya Bandekar, Revenue and Benefits Service Manager;
- Paul Wilding, Revenue and Benefits Programme Manager.

## 4 THE IMPLICATIONS OF BREXIT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

17 - 30

Background Information
The Panel requested a briefing on the expected impacts of Brexit following the public referendum held on 23 June 2016 and the resulting decision for the UK to leave the European Union.
Why is it on the agenda?
For the Panel to note and comment on the report. The Panel may also wish to submit one or more recommendations to the City Executive Board via the Scrutiny Committee in October.
Who has been invited to comment?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Nigel Kennedy, Head of Financial Services.</li></ul>

## 5 BUDGET MONITORING - QUARTER 1

31 - 46

Background Information
<p>The Finance Panel is responsible for scrutinising the Council's financial performance and monitoring spend against budgets.</p> <p>The Integrated Performance Report for quarter 1 2016/17 sets out the Council's financial position at 30 June 2016.</p>
Why is it on the agenda?
<p>For the Panel to note and comment on the Council's financial performance. The Panel may also wish to make recommendations to the City Executive Board.</p> <p>The City Executive Board on 15 September will be asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Note the projected financial outturn, the current position on risk and performance as at the 30 June 2016;</li><li>Recommend to Council that additional budget of £0.118 million and £0.399 million is approved for Super Connected Cities and Disabled Facilities Grant expenditure to be financed from external grant funding in accordance with paragraph 11.</li></ol>
Who has been invited to comment?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Nigel Kennedy, Head of Financial Services.</li></ul>

## 6 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY: ANNUAL REPORT AND PERFORMANCE 2015/16

47 - 58

Background Information
<p>The Finance Panel is responsible for scrutinising the Council's treasury management functions.</p> <p>The Treasury Management Annual Report 2015/2016 sets out the Council's treasury management activity and performance for the financial year 2015/2016.</p>
Why is it on the agenda?
<p>For the Panel to note and comment on the Treasury Management Annual Report 2015/2016. This is also an opportunity for the Panel to make recommendations to the City Executive Board.</p> <p>The City Executive Board on 15 September will be asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Note the report;</li><li>2. Recommend that Council approve the amendment to the Specified Investments list attached at Appendix 1 (paragraphs 35 – 37).</li></ol>
Who has been invited to comment?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nigel Kennedy, Head of Financial Services;</li><li>• Bill Lewis, Financial Accounting Manager.</li></ul>

## 7 BUDGET REVIEW 2017/18 - SCOPE

59 - 62

Background Information
<p>The Finance Panel has been tasked with scrutinising the Budget 2017/18 decision, which will be taken by the City Executive Board</p>
Why is it on the agenda?
<p>The Finance Panel is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Agree the scope of the budget review,</li><li>2. Note the budget review meeting dates,</li><li>3. Agree to invite members of the Housing Panel to the Housing &amp; Regeneration budget review session,</li><li>4. Consider whether the meeting on 16 January 2017 should be a public meeting of the Finance Panel or a private meeting of the Budget Review Group.</li></ol>

The Panel may wish to defer points 1 and/or 4 to the December meeting.
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Who has been invited to comment?
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nigel Kennedy, Head of Financial Services;</li><li>• Andrew Brown, Scrutiny Officer.</li></ul> |
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## **8 WORK PLAN**

63 - 74

For the Panel to note and agree its work plan, which can be adjusted to reflect the wishes of the Panel.

The Panel currently has no items scheduled for the meeting in March 2017.

## **9 NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

75 - 78

For the Panel to note the record of the meeting held on 30 June 2016.

## **10 FUTURE MEETING DATES**

Finance Panel meetings are scheduled as follows:

8 December 2016  
16 January 2017  
1 February 2017  
29 March 2017

All meetings start at 5.30pm.

## **DECLARING INTERESTS**

### **General duty**

You must declare any disclosable pecuniary interests when the meeting reaches the item on the agenda headed "Declarations of Interest" or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.

### **What is a disclosable pecuniary interest?**

Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to your\* employment; sponsorship (ie payment for expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties as a councillor or towards your election expenses); contracts; land in the Council's area; licences for land in the Council's area; corporate tenancies; and securities. These declarations must be recorded in each councillor's Register of Interests which is publicly available on the Council's website.

### **Declaring an interest**

Where any matter disclosed in your Register of Interests is being considered at a meeting, you must declare that you have an interest. You should also disclose the nature as well as the existence of the interest.

If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest, after having declared it at the meeting you must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

### **Members' Code of Conduct and public perception**

Even if you do not have a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter, the Members' Code of Conduct says that a member "must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself" and that "you must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned". What this means is that the matter of interests must be viewed within the context of the Code as a whole and regard should continue to be paid to the perception of the public.

\*Disclosable pecuniary interests that must be declared are not only those of the member her or himself but also those of the member's spouse, civil partner or person they are living with as husband or wife or as if they were civil partners.

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b)

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