1 Executive Summary

1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee established a Budget Working Party to consider the Council’s Mid Term budget position and the Mayor’s Budget proposals for 2019-2020 and provide a report and any recommendations for consideration by the Mayor and Cabinet and full Council in accordance with 4.5 Part 11 of the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Procedure rules.

2 The Budget Working Party commissioned a series of evidence hearings to receive presentations on the budget position and proposals from each of the Council directorates and put questions to each of the Cabinet portfolio holders and Directors.

3 On 24th January 2019, in consideration of the evidence heard, the Budget Working Party and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed a report and recommendations to the Mayor and Cabinet and Council.

4 As it was not possible to agree the report unanimously, a further supplementary report was proposed by some members of the committees. As Part 10.2 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure rules provide for up to one Minority Report, this has also been submitted as an appendix to the main report.

5 The Mayor and Cabinet are now invited to respond to the Budget Scrutiny report and recommendations before the report and Executive Response are considered by full Council on 18th February 2019.

6 Recommendations
6.1 For the reasons set out in the report and its appendices, the Mayor, in consultation with Cabinet, is recommended to agree and Executive Response to the scrutiny report and recommendations set out in the report.

7 Background

8 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Budget Working Party considered the Council’s Mid-Year Review of the 2018/19 Budget and Overall Financial Position to 2022/23.

8.1 On 18th September 2018, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee established a Budget Working Party, as envisaged in the Scrutiny Work Programme 2018-2019, to consider the Council’s Mid Term budget position and the Mayor’s Budget proposals for 2019-2020 and provide a report and any recommendations for consideration by the Mayor and Cabinet and full Council in accordance with 4.5 Part 11 of the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Procedure rules.

8.2 The terms of reference of the Budget Working Party was:
   i). to consider the Mid Year Positional Statement 2018-2019,
   ii). to consider the Mayor’s draft Budget Proposals for 2019-2020, and
   iii). to make any reports and recommendations to the Mayor and Cabinet and to full Council.

The full membership of the Budget Working Party was agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 7th November 2019.

9 The Budget Working Party commissioned a series of evidence hearings to receive presentations on the budget position and proposals from each of the Council directorates and put questions to each of the Cabinet portfolio holders and Directors.

10 On 24th January 2019, in consideration of the evidence heard, the Budget Working Party and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed a report and recommendations to the Mayor and Cabinet and Council.

11 As it was not possible to agree the report unanimously, a further supplementary report was proposed by some members of the committees. As Part 10.2 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure rules provide for up to one Minority Report, this has also been submitted as an appendix to the main report.

11.1 The Mayor and Cabinet are now invited to respond to the Budget Scrutiny reports and recommendations before the report and Executive Response are considered by full Council on 18th February 2019.

12 Key Considerations & Proposals

12.1 The scrutiny recommendations are summarised in the scrutiny report.

13 Policy Implications & Corporate Priorities

14 Alternatives considered

14.1 The scrutiny committees considered the evidence presented and concluded with the consideration of a draft report and a minority report, which are both attached. The Minority Report is attached as an appendix to the main scrutiny report.

15 Consultation

15.1 None.

16 Implications

16.1 Financial Implications
Finance Comments will be considered as part of the Executive Response to the scrutiny reports and recommendations.

16.2 Legal Implications

16.3 Equalities Implications
Equalities implications were considered during the scrutiny inquiry, as outlined in the scrutiny report.

16.4 Other Implications relevant to this report:

17 Background Information used in the preparation of this report

17.1 Statutory requirement to list

17.2 When related to procurement – Checkpoint Panel Response to [procurement title]