

Governance & Resources Scrutiny Commission 8 th September 2015 Budget Scrutiny Task Groups	Item No 8
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Outline

Local Government has coped so far with severe reductions to budgets as a result of central government austerity measures. The cuts to date have led to a 27% reduction in the spending power of the sector in England between 2010/11 and 2014/15. Up until now councils have managed to set balanced, legal budgets by delivering the required savings each year.

The Governance and Resources Scrutiny Commission is proposing Budget Scrutiny Task Groups are set up to examine areas of major spend and consider the Council's budget saving proposals and models for the future shape of council services. Under the Constitution G&R has the power to establish such scrutiny task groups.

Attached is the draft Terms of Reference for the Budget Scrutiny Task Groups. It has been proposed that the scrutiny task groups should focus on areas of significant spend, where there is potential to make savings of a magnitude that can contribute to the budget reductions being applied to 2016/17 – 19/20. The Budget Scrutiny Task Groups will be aligned to ongoing officer work on the corporate cross cutting programmes.

Action

The Commission is asked to agree to the establishment of the scrutiny task groups and the Terms of Reference.