



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Budget and Transformation Panel – Terms of Reference
Date:	20 March 2009
Reporting Officer:	Peter McNaney, Chief Executive
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Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to recommend terms of reference for the Budget and Transformation Panel.

Relevant Background Information

Members will recall that it was agreed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 6 February 2009 to establish a Budget and Transformation Panel. The terms of reference set out the objectives of the Panel, its deliverables, ways of working, governance arrangements and programme of work.

Terms of Reference for the Budget and Transformation Panel

Overall Objective

The overall objective of the Budget and Transformation Panel is to provide political leadership and oversight of the Council's efficiency and transformation agenda and the Council's finances in general.

Detailed Objectives

1. To provide political support in terms of party groupings and the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for the delivery of the Council's efficiency and transformation agenda.
2. To scrutinise the alignment of the Council's efficiency and transformation agenda to corporate priorities.
3. To support the development and implementation of the Council's efficiency and transformation programme.

4. To hold officers to account for the delivery of an agreed efficiency and transformation programme.
5. To track and monitor the achievement of agreed financial savings.
6. To provide oversight of the Council's finances.

Membership

A separate report on the membership of the Panel which will be considered at today's meeting recommends the following:

- All political party groupings should be represented.
- Each political party grouping should have one representative.
- Representatives should be drawn from the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.
- Support will be provided by the Chief Executive and other officers as required along with an independent advisor.

Ways of Working

- The Panel will decide arrangements for chairing the meetings.
- The Panel will meet once a month in line with the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee timetable.

Governance

- The Panel is not an executive body and therefore will not have decision-making powers. It is recommended that the Panel reports to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on a regular basis.

Work Programme

April

- Discuss a outline paper on the direction and nature of the Council's efficiency and transformation agenda.
- Discuss a general paper on the finances of the council.
- Consider the Review of the Centre report.

May

- Consider the outturn report on 2008/09 budgets.
- Consider a draft efficiency and transformation programme.
- Consider a report on the implementation of the Review of the Centre.
- Agree the appointment of the independent advisor.
- Training on the role of Members in scrutinising Council finances.

Recommendations

Members are asked to :

1. Agree to the terms of reference for the Budget and Transformation Panel.