

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Personnel Policy

Budget Proposals and Associated Strategies

1. Purpose of Report

To recommend to Council the revenue and capital budget proposals together with the Capital Strategy, Prudential Indicators, Treasury Management Strategy, Investment Strategy and General Fund Medium Term Financial Strategy and to approve the Business Plans. This is in accordance with all the Council's key priorities.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE to approve:

- 1. The Business Plans for the Council's corporate priorities and support service functions, subject to amendment as a result of any budget decisions still to be taken by Council as recommended by Cabinet.**

and to RECOMMEND to Council that:

- 2. The Housing Revenue Account budgets as submitted be approved.**
- 3. The General Fund revenue budgets as submitted be approved.**
- 4. The capital submissions and priorities within them be approved and that the Interim Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer be authorised to arrange the financing of the Capital Programme as necessary.**
- 5. The Council Tax Requirement for 2026/27 including special expenses (but excluding local precepting requirements) be £7,216,416.**
- 6. An amount of £760,309 be withdrawn from the General Fund Reserve and an amount of £439,883 be taken from the General Fund earmarked reserves in 2026/27.**
- 7. The Capital Strategy 2026/27 to 2028/29 be approved.**
- 8. The Minimum Revenue Provision policy, as set out, be approved.**
- 9. The Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2026/27 to 2028/29 be approved.**
- 10. The Investments Strategy 2026/27 to 2028/29 be approved.**
- 11. The General Fund Medium Term Financial Strategy to 2029/30 be approved.**

3. Detail

The following appendices are included and recommended for approval:

Appendix 1	Impact Analysis
Appendix 2	Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget and Council House Rents 2026/27
Appendix 3	General Fund Revenue Budget 2026/27
Appendix 4/4a	Capital Programme 2026/27 to 2028/29
Appendix 5	Capital Strategy 2026/27 to 2028/29
Appendix 6	Treasury Management Strategy 2026/27 to 2028/29
Appendix 7	Investments Strategy 2026/27 to 2028/29
Appendix 8	General Fund Medium Term Financial Strategy

A budget consultation exercise was undertaken during the Autumn 2025, the results of which were considered by Cabinet on 6 January 2026.

The matters referred to in these reports are inter-related and, as such, need to be considered together. An update to the HRA 30-Year Business Plan model was approved by Cabinet on 5 December 2023. This will be refreshed again in 2026/27.

The service and financial plans were considered as an integral part of the budget setting process by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 19 and 20 January 2026. Subject to any consequent amendments necessary as a result of any budget changes approved by Council, Cabinet is asked to approve these documents.

After consulting with the Leader of the Council and the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Resources and Personnel Policy, the figures included within the recommendations and in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy reflect the fact that Cabinet may choose to recommend to Council that the basic amount of Council Tax in 2026/27 is increased by 2.94% from £192.93 to £198.61 and by a 2% increase in 2027/28 and 2028/29.

4. Key Decision

This report is a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 and is a decision made or to be made in connection with the discharge of an Executive function which is likely to result in the Council incurring revenue or capital expenditure or savings of £250,000 or more.

5. Updates from Scrutiny

The business and financial plans were considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 19 and 20 January 2026.

6. Financial Implications

The comments of the Interim Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer were as follows:

The detailed financial implications are considered in the report and appendices.

7. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

There are no specific legal implications that arise from this report, as the suggested proposals are in accordance with relevant legislation, Council policy and procedures. The recommendation is within the Council's statutory and fiduciary powers.

8. Human Resources Implications

There were no comments from the Human Resources Manager.

9. Union Comments

Not applicable.

10. Climate Change Implications

Climate change implications have been considered as part of the business planning and budget setting process.

11. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

12. Equality Impact Assessment

As there is no change to policy an equality impact assessment is not required.

13. Background Papers

Nil.