

# **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY, 20 JANUARY 2026**

Present: Councillor S Dannheimer, Chair

Councillors: S Webb (Vice-Chair)  
J M Owen (Vice-Chair)  
S J Carr  
H J Faccio  
K A Harlow  
H Land  
D L MacRae  
C M Tideswell  
E Winfield  
S P Jeremiah (substitute)  
H G Khaled MBE (substitute)  
P Owen (substitute)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H L Crosby, A W G A Stockwell and K Woodhead.

86 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

87 **CONSIDERATION OF CALL - IN**

There were no call-ins to be considered.

88 **PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK – BUSINESS PLANNING AND BUDGET SETTING**

Members noted the performance and financial management framework used to support the business planning and budget setting process. This was in accordance with all of the Councils priorities.

89 **HOUSING - BUSINESS PLANS AND FINANCIAL ESTIMATES 2026/27 - 2028/29**

The Committee considered the proposals for the business plan, revenue budget estimates, capital programme and proposed fees and charges in respect of the Council's priority area of Housing. The priorities and objectives for Housing were a good quality home for everyone, to build more houses, more quickly on under-used or derelict land, to invest to ensure our homes are safe and more energy efficient, and to

regulate housing effectively and respond to housing needs. Key lines of enquiry from Members were:

- Any potential impacts of the recent Regulator of Social Housing judgement of the Council's consumer standards rating.
- Housing Revenue Account vacancy savings and repair cost capitalisation.
- Modernisation programme.
- Average relet times and void rent loss.
- Comparison of the Council's yearly rent increase to that of other authorities.

**The Committee RECOMMENDED that:**

**1. Cabinet approves the Housing Business Plan.**

**2. Cabinet recommends to Council that the following be approved:**

- a) The detailed revenue budget estimates for 2025/26 (base)**
- b) The capital programme for 2025/26 to 2027/28**
- c) The fees and charges for 2025/26.**

90 BUSINESS GROWTH - BUSINESS PLANS AND FINANCIAL ESTIMATES 2026/27 - 2028/29

The Committee considered the proposals for the business plan, revenue budget estimates, capital programme and proposed fees and charges in respect of the Council's priority area of Business Growth. The priorities and objectives for Business Growth were to invest in our towns and people, develop and implement area regeneration, and support business employment, skills and connectivity. Key lines of enquiry from Members were:

- The budgets for and performance of markets and retail events, and whether spend increases have the desired effect.
- Usage and expenditure relating to car parks, compared to periods when some free parking has been provided.
- Appeals to council planning decisions, including cost implications and targets.

**The Committee RECOMMENDED that:**

**1. Cabinet approves the Business Growth Business Plan.**

**2. Cabinet recommends to Council that the following be approved:**

- a) The detailed revenue budget estimates for 2025/26 (base)**
- b) The capital programme for 2025/26 to 2027/28**
- c) The fees and charges for 2025/26.**

91 RESOURCES AND SUPPORT SERVICE AREAS - BUSINESS PLANS AND FINANCIAL ESTIMATES 2026/27 - 2028/29

Members considered proposals for the business plan, revenue budget estimates, capital programme and proposed fees and charges in respect of the Council's priority area of Resources and Support Services Areas. Key lines of enquiry from Members were:

- The measurement of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for industrial and retail units.
- The target for days lost due to sickness and whether comparators require updating.
- The percentage of stage-two complaints that are upheld and the fact that it is uncommon for the Ombudsman to disagree with the findings of the Complaints and Compliments Officer.
- Budgets for multi-functional print devices and the attempt to move to being a 'paper-lite' authority.
- The likely impacts of LGR on certain Council-wide programmes and rationales for progression in this context.

**The Committee RECOMMENDED that:**

**1. Cabinet approves the Resources and Support Service Areas Business Plan.**

**2. Cabinet recommends to Council that the following be approved:**

- a) The detailed revenue budget estimates for 2025/26 (base)**
- b) The capital programme for 2025/26 to 2027/28**
- c) The fees and charges for 2025/26.**

92 CABINET WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee noted the Cabinet work programme.

93 WORK PROGRAMME

Members consider the scrutiny work programme in accordance with all of the Council's priorities.

**RESOLVED that the work programme be approved.**