

REPORT TO:		Council	
DATE:		27 February 2025	
REPORT OF:		Cllr Stephen Button, Chair of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
REPORT AUTHOR:		Susan Gardner, Scrutiny and Policy Officer	
TITLE OF REPORT:		Overview and Scrutiny Consideration of the 2025/26 Budget Proposals	
EXEMPT REPORT:	No		
KEY DECISION:	No	If yes, date of publication:	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report informs Council of the recent consideration of the budget proposals for 2025/26 by the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting held on Thursday 20th February, 2025.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Council notes the following resolutions of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee:
- (1) That the Committee note the content of the reports relating to Performance Indicators, Capital, Treasury Management and Investment Strategies 2025/26 – 2027-28, Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025/28, General Fund Revenue Budget 2025/26 and Capital Programme 2025/26 – 2027/28;
 - (2) That the Committee thanks the joint Cabinet Portfolio Holders for Finance and the Budget Process, Councillors Alexander and Aziz and the Leader of the Council, Councillor Munsif Dad, for responding to the questions submitted by Members and members of the public and their participation in the Scrutiny meeting and debate;
 - (3) That the Executive Director - Resources, and all other officers involved, be commended for their work in producing the budget;
 - (4) That having reviewed and debated the budget reports submitted, the Committee supports the content of the General Fund Revenue report and Capital Programme reports for 2025/26.

3. Reasons for Recommendations and Background

- 3.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, Part 3 - Responsibility for Functions, Appendix 1 - Terms of Reference, the main terms of reference request the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee ("The Committee") 'to consider the Cabinet's proposals to achieve a balanced budget in advance of the budget being determined by the Council'.
- 3.2 The Leader of the Council was requested to submit the following reports, which were considered by the Committee:
- a) Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025/26 to 2027/28
 - b) Performance Indicators, Capital, Treasury Management and Investment Strategies 2025/26 to 2027/28
 - c) General Fund Revenue Budget 2025/26
 - d) Capital Programme in 2025/26 – 2027/28
- 3.3 Individual Councillors and members of the public were invited to submit questions to the joint Cabinet Portfolio Holders for Finance and the Budget Process, relating to the budget. This was publicised on social media. Three valid questions were received.
- 3.4 The joint Cabinet Portfolio Holders for Finance and the Budget Process and the Executive Director for Resources attended the meeting to submit their reports and to respond to the questions raised at the meeting by the Committee and members of the public. The Leader of the Council was also in attendance and responded to questions raised at the meeting.
- 3.5 The Opposition Group Leader was invited to submit an alternative budget proposal to the Committee, to be scrutinised. No alternative budget was submitted at the meeting. The Committee requested that it be noted that all alternative budgets should be subject to adequate scrutiny at the Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee before being considered at Full Council.
- 3.6 Having considered the reports submitted and debated, questions and responses, the Committee formed its recommendations, outlined in paragraph 2.

4. Alternative Options considered and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 There were no alternative options submitted for consideration. The Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee asks Council to note its resolutions.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 Members of the public and all Councillors were invited to put forward their suggestions for the budget. The Conservative Group and Green Party representative were also invited to submit their budget proposals/attend to contribute to discussion.

6. Implications

Financial implications (including mainstreaming)	The financial implications are outlined in detail in the main budget reports on the agenda.
Legal and human rights implications	It is a Constitutional requirement of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the Cabinet's proposals to achieve a balanced budget in advance of the budget being determined by the Council.
Assessment of risk	Not applicable to this report
Equality and diversity implications <i>A Customer First Analysis should be completed in relation to policy decisions and should be attached as an appendix to the report.</i>	Not applicable to this report

**7. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985:
List of Background Papers**

- 7.1 *Agenda, Reports and Minutes of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Thursday, 20th February 2025*

[Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee 20th Feb 2025](#)