

<b>REPORT TO:</b>		Council	
<b>DATE:</b>		26 February 2026	
<b>REPORT OF:</b>		Cllr Noordad Aziz, Chair of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>		Stuart Sambrook, Policy Manager	
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>		Overview and Scrutiny Consideration of the 2026/27 Budget Proposals	
<b>EXEMPT REPORT:</b>	<b>No</b>		
<b>KEY DECISION:</b>	<b>No</b>	If yes, date of publication:	

## 1. **Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 This report informs Council of the recent consideration of the budget proposals for 2026/27 by the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting held on Monday 23rd February, 2026.

## 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 Medium Term Financial Strategy 2026/27 to 2028/29; Prudential Indicators, Capital, Treasury Management and Investment Strategies 2026/27 – 2028-29; General Fund Revenue Budget 2026/27 and Capital Programme 2026/27 – 2028/29;
  - (2) 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 2026/27.
  - (3) That the Committee thanks the Cabinet Portfolio Holders for Finance and the Budget Process, Councillors Alexander and the Leader of the Council, Councillor Munsif Dad, and Executive Director (Finance) Martin Dyson for responding to the questions submitted by Members and members of the public and their participation in the Scrutiny meeting and debate;
  - (4) That the Executive Director - Resources, and all other officers involved, be commended for their work in producing the budget;

- (5) That Council be requested to take the recommendations into consideration when setting the 2026/27 Budget.

### **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 2026/27 to 2028/29
  - b) Performance Indicators, Capital, Treasury Management and Investment Strategies 2026/27 to 2028/29
  - c) General Fund Revenue Budget 2026/27
  - d) Capital Programme in 2026/27 – 2028/29
- 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. Five valid questions were received.
- 3.4 The Cabinet Portfolio Holder 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.
- 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**

<b>Financial implications (including mainstreaming)</b>	The financial implications are outlined in detail in the main budget reports on the agenda.
<b>Legal and human rights implications</b>	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.
<b>Assessment of risk</b>	Not applicable to this report
<b>Equality and diversity implications</b> <i>A <a href="#">Customer First Analysis</a> 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 Monday, 23rd February 2026*

[Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee](#)