

Overview & Scrutiny Committee					
Ref	MTFS Proposal	Further info requested by the Panel (if appropriate)	Comments/Recommendation	Cabinet Response Req'd (Yes/No)	Cabinet to agree not agree/partially agree recommendation
Recommendation 13	Reserves		In light of being advised that the total un-earmarked reserves available to the Council were around £23m and that in addition to this there was a contingency budget of £7m. The Committee were concerned about the level of reserves that would be left at the end of 2024/25. The 2023/24-year end overspend which at Qtr2 was forecast to be £20m (part mitigated by the application of the c. £7m contingency – leaving £13m; plus, the planned £5.9m use of reserves to balance the 2024/25 Budget. This would leave around £4m left in reserves. The Committee highlights to Cabinet the risk from depleting out reserve position to around £4m and seeks assurance that this will continue to be closely monitored.	Yes response to be added below	To be added

Recommendation 14	E&RE growth of £946k for the delivery of Leisure management services in – house.		There was discussion on the benefits of insourcing leisure services and the factors that have been considered such as gaining management of this service, limiting future additional costs, safeguarding the services, obtaining more democratic accountability. Also, the positive impact that this decision will have when considered as part of the wellbeing strategy. The benefits outlined would also bring down costs elsewhere in the budget. The Committee agreed to recommend to Cabinet that the impact of this growth on other areas of the budget is set out in next year's budget.	Yes response to be added below	To be added
Recommendation 15	AHC24_SAV_012 – Strength based working.		The Committee noted that a piece of work was ongoing with Haricare to map out details of support groups available in each of the three locality areas in the Borough and that this information would be integrated into the locality model. The Committee sought assurances that this information would be made widely available to residents and the local community & voluntary sector through	Yes – response to be added below	

			various communication channels and not only through the Haricare website.		
Recommendation 16	Council Tax arrears at paragraph 6.29 main Budget report 6 Feb		The Committee seeks assurances in relation to the sixth bullet point at paragraph 6.29 of the report that <i>“The Revenues service have been given one-off resources to focus on the collection of arrears. On the back of this, a one-off £1m additional income has been assumed as deliverable in 2024/25 and was included in the December draft budget report”</i> . The Committee seek clarification from Cabinet about the nature of this one-off resource for collecting arears i.e. what is the resource, is it additional staff? Where in the budget is this reflected?	Yes Response to be added below	

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Recommendation 17	Table 7.1b paragraph 40		Reference was a made to the table at paragraph 7.40 in the Budget report that showed a total new growth of £24,707,000 and when this was compared to the December Cabinet report on the budget, at paragraph	Yes – response to be	

	&Appendix 2b		<p>7.42, and the same table 7.1b, this showed the total as £24,992,000. This was a difference of 285,000 less. Then reference was made to appendix 2b - new growth identified post 5th of December and the total of £715k showing new growth.</p> <p>The Committee requested a clear explanation from Cabinet about what appears to be a reduction of £1m of new growth from the December Cabinet Report to the February Cabinet Report. The Committee would like clarification on whether this is new growth proposals that are not progressing or whether this was a printing error.</p>	added below	
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Recommendation 18	CE24_SAV 012 - Library Hard Copy Titles		In relation to CE24_SAV 012 - Library Hard Copy Titles - This was showing as a £25k saving in appendix 3b which was on the list of new savings identified post December 2023. However, this was an existing saving in December 2023 of £30k. The Committee sought assurance that only £25k of savings would go forward and that clarification be provided at Cabinet on how this will be reflected in the Full Council Report in March.	Yes response to be added below	
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Recommendation 19	CSE24 SAV002		The Committee agreed that there was updated wording provided on Saving CSE24 SAV002 on self-service technology in Libraries as there was an understanding that this saving was no longer being taken forward.	Yes – cabinet Response to be added below	

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Recommendation 20	. Saving CSE-SAV-002		There was a discussion on the assessment of individual library opening hours and noted that there would be an equalities impact assessment for each Library and wider consultation undertaken. The Committee seek assurances from Cabinet that EQIAs will be undertaken for each library, and that the EQIA's will be undertaken before any changes are made to the opening hours.	Yes – Cabinet Response to be added below	
Recommendation 21	Consultation on the budget		The Committee recommend that Schools and 6th Forms are included in budget consultation activities in the next Budget consultation process.	Yes	

Recommendation 22	EN24 SAV 009		The Committee agreed to add in the proposed review of Council Tax reduction Scheme planned for 2025/2026 - 2026/2027 to the work plan for the Climate, Community Safety and Culture Scrutiny Panel Work Plan.	No	

Recommendation 23	Capital Programme		The Committee found it difficult to ascertain which were the new schemes within the Capital programme and which we are existing schemes. The Committee requested that new revenue saving proposals are clearly highlighted in future budget scrutiny reports and that, in particular, new schemes within the Capital Programme are clearly demarcated from existing schemes.	Yes to be set out below	
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