

Report for: Adults & Health Scrutiny Panel – 22nd September 2025

Title: Finance Update – Q1 2025/26

Item number: 7

Report

authorised by: Ayshe Simsek, Democratic Services & Scrutiny Manager

Lead Officer: Dominic O'Brien, Principal Scrutiny Officer

Ward(s) affected: All

Report for Key/ N/A

Non Key Decision:

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 The report provided sets out the Council's financial position at Quarter 1 of the 2025/26 financial year.
- 1.2 The report was originally published as part of the agenda papers for the meeting of the Cabinet scheduled for 16th September 2025.
- 1.3 The Adults & Health Scrutiny Panel is considering this report as part of its approach to finance and performance monitoring.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee give consideration to the contents of the report and, following questions to Cabinet Member for Health, Social Care & Wellbeing and senior Directors from the Department for Adults, Housing & Health, submits any recommendations that arise to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet.

3. Background information

- 3.1 Given the Council's challenging financial situation, the terms of reference for Overview and Scrutiny has been updated to allow more prominent focus on budget monitoring and performance. This includes in-year finance and performance monitoring items on a quarterly basis which are scheduled to take place at the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on:
 - 22nd July 2025 – Provisional Financial Outturn report (Q4)
 - **18th September 2025 – Q1**
 - 11th December 2025 – Q2
 - 12th March 2026 – Q3
- 3.2 The four Scrutiny Panels also have the opportunity to scrutinise areas specific to their remits in greater depth at their corresponding meetings.

- 3.3 The scrutiny of the draft Budget for 2026/27 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2026/27-2030/31 will take place through the Scrutiny Panels in November 2025 with recommendations considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in January 2026 before being submitted to the Cabinet.

4. Statutory Officers comments

- 4.1 Refer to the Finance Update Q1 report (Cabinet report – Section 12) provided for statutory officer comments.

5. Use of appendices

- 2025/26 Finance Update Quarter 1 (report to Cabinet meeting, 16th Sep 2025)
- Fair Funding Review 2.0 – Consultation response by London Borough of Haringey