

Report for: Housing, Planning & Development Scrutiny Panel – 15th December 2025

Title: Finance Update – Q2 2025/26

Report authorised by: Ayshe Simsek, Democratic Services & Scrutiny Manager

Lead Officer: Philip Slawther, Principal Scrutiny Officer

Ward(s) affected: All

Report for Key/ Non Key Decision: N/A

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 The report provided sets out the Council's financial position at Quarter 2 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 9th December 2025.
- 1.3 The Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Panels are considering this report as part of Scrutiny's approach to quarterly finance and performance monitoring. OSC are due to consider this report at their meeting on 10th December.
- 1.4 The Housing, Planning & Development Panel are asked to review the bits of the budget that are relevant to it, by exception, focusing on areas of significant overspend and the delivery of savings which are RAG rated either red or amber.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Panel note the contents of the report, directing any questions they have to officers and the Cabinet Member for Housing & Planning (Deputy Leader).

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. The Panel considered the Quarter 1 in-year budget monitoring report at its meeting on 23 September.
- 3.2 The scrutiny of the draft Budget for 2026/27 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2026/27-2030/31 took 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 Q2 report (Cabinet report – Section 12) provided for statutory officer comments.

5. Use of appendices

- 2025/26 Finance Update Quarter 2 (report to Cabinet meeting, 9th Dec 2025)
- Appendix 1 - Adults, Housing and Health Directorate Level Forecast including Savings and Capital forecasts
- Appendix 2 – Housing Revenue Account Directorate Level Forecast including Savings and Capital forecasts
- Appendix 3 – Proposed Virements (Revenue and Capital)
- Appendix 4 – Debt Write Off (includes less than £50,000 and greater than £50,000)