

Report for: Culture, Community Safety and Environment Scrutiny Panel – 16th December 2025

Title: Finance Update – Q2 2025/26

Item number: 7

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

Lead Officer: Fola Irikefe, 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 Culture, Community Safety and Environment Scrutiny Panel is required to consider sections of the budget that are relevant to the panel 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 Committee give consideration to the contents of the report, direct any questions to officers and submit any recommendations that may arise to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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 15th 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 due to be 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 3 – Culture, Strategy and Communication Directorate Level Forecast including Savings and Capital forecasts
- Appendix 6 – Environment and Residence Experience Directorate Level Forecast including Savings and Capital forecasts
- Appendix 8 – Proposed Virements (Revenue and Capital)
- Appendix 9 – Debt Write Off (includes less than £50,000 and greater than £50,000)