

Report for: Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 21st July 2026

Title: Finance Update – 2025/26 Provisional Financial Update

Item number: 8

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

Lead Officer: Dominic O'Brien, 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 provides details of the Council's financial position at Quarter 4 of the 2025/26 financial year. This sets out the provisional outturn for 2025/26 for the General Fund (GF), Housing Revenue Account (HRA), Designated Schools Grant (DSG) and the Capital Programme compared to the original budget agreed by the Council in March 2025.
- 1.2 The report was originally published as part of the agenda papers for the meeting of the Cabinet scheduled for 14th July 2026.
- 1.3 The Overview & Scrutiny Committee is considering this report as part of its approach to quarterly 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 Finance & Corporate Services and the Director of Finance, submits any recommendations that arise to 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 in recent years to allow more prominent focus on budget monitoring and performance. This includes in-year finance and performance monitoring items on a quarterly basis. In 2026/27 these items are scheduled to take place on:
 - **21st July 2026 – Provisional Financial Outturn report (Q4)**
 - 17th September 2026 – Q1
 - 10th December 2026 – Q2
 - 18th March 2027 – Q3
- 3.2 The scrutiny of the draft Budget for 2027/28 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2027/28-2031/32 will take place through the Scrutiny Panels

in November 2026 with recommendations considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in January 2027 before being submitted to the Cabinet.

4. Statutory Officers comments

- 4.1 Refer to the Provisional Financial Outturn report (Cabinet report – Section 12) provided for statutory officer comments.

5. Use of appendices

- 2025/26 Provisional Financial Outturn report (report to Cabinet meeting, 14th July 2026)
- Appendices 1a to 1f – Revenue & Capital Directorate Children's Directorate Level Forecast including Savings and Capital forecasts
 - 1a – Children & Young People Directorate
 - 1b - Adults, Housing & Health Directorate
 - 1c – Culture, Strategy & Communities Directorate
 - 1d – Finance & Resources Directorate
 - 1e – Environment & Resident Experience Directorate
 - 1f – Corporate Budgets
- Appendix 2 – Capital Carry Forward Requests
- Appendix 3 – Appropriations to / from Reserves
- Appendix 4 – Budget Virements
- Appendix 5 – Debt Write-Off
- Appendix 6 – Finance Response and Recovery Plan Closure Report
- Appendix 7 – Housing Revenue Account (HRA) End of Year Outturn 2025-26