

Report for: Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel – 1st October 2026

Title: 2026/27 Finance Update – Quarter 1

Item number: 7

Report

authorised by: Ayshe Simsek, Democratic Services & Scrutiny Manager

Lead Officer: Philip Slawther, 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 provides details of the Council's financial position at Quarter 1 of the 2026/27 financial year including the General Fund (GF) Revenue and Capital, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Designated Schools Grant (DSG).
- 1.2 The report was originally published as part of the agenda papers for the meeting of the Cabinet scheduled for 15th September 2026.
- 1.3 The Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered this report on 17th September as part of its approach to quarterly finance and performance monitoring.
- 1.4 The Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel is asked to scrutinise the elements of the report that are relevant to Children's Services. These are the main body of the report (pages 1-18) and Appendix 1A (pages 19-16).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Panel give consideration to the contents of the report and, following questions to the Corporate Director of Children's Services, submit any recommendations that arise to the Overview & 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 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.

3.3 As part of the overall programme of in-year budget monitoring undertaken by Scrutiny, the Panels are asked to also consider these reports on a quarterly basis.

4. Statutory Officers comments

4.1 Refer to the 2026/27 Finance Update – Quarter 1 report (Cabinet report – Section 11) provided for statutory officer comments.

5. Use of appendices

- 2026/27 Finance Update – Quarter 1 (report to Cabinet meeting, 15th September 2026)
- Appendices 1a to 1f – Directorate Level Forecasts 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 – Corporate Directorate
 - 1f – Environment & Resident Experience Directorate
 - 1g – Housing Revenue Account
- Appendix 2a – Write Off Summary Report
- Appendix 2b – Debt Write Off (exceeding £50k)
- Appendix 3 – Revenue and Capital virements