

Report for: Culture, Community Safety and Environment Scrutiny Panel –
13 October 2026

Title: 2026/27 Finance Update – Quarter 1

Item number:

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

Lead Officer: Fola Irikefe, 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.
- 1.2 The report was originally published as part of the agenda papers for the meeting of the Cabinet scheduled for 15th September 2026. It was also scrutinised at the meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 17th September 2026.
- 1.3 The Culture, Community Safety and Environment Panel is considering this report as part of the overall scrutiny approach to quarterly finance and performance monitoring.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Panel give consideration to the contents of the report and, following questions to Cabinet Members responsible for Culture, Communities and Environment and the Corporate Director, submits 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.
- 3.2 Quarterly finance updates are provided to the Cabinet in September, December, March and June. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee then scrutinises the same report shortly after each Cabinet meeting and any issues relating to specific services can then be considered by the Scrutiny Panels.

- 3.3 Panel Members should therefore focus in particular on the references to Culture, Communities and Environment in the main report and the forecast for the Culture, Strategy and Communication Directorate at Appendix 1C and Appendix 1 F - Environment and Resident Experience. The areas of Appendix 1C and 1 F relating to corporate and customer service, planning building standards and sustainability, and corporate services should be disregarded as this will be scrutinised by the Housing, Planning & Development Scrutiny Panel and OSC.

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