

Report to **Joint Budget meeting of the Scrutiny Committee & Overview Committee**



Date of Meeting 15th January 2025

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

Draft Revenue and Capital Budgets 2025/26

Report summary:

This report presents the draft revenue and capital budgets for 2025/26 as adopted by Cabinet on the 8th January 2025. The Scrutiny and Overview Committees are asked to consider that draft budget and make recommendations for Cabinet to consider on 5th February 2025 when making final budget proposals to recommend to Council.

The draft budget report and linked background papers presented to Cabinet are attached. Specific recommendations are sought from the Committees on the draft budget including the proposed Council Tax level for 2025/26. The proposed draft budget is currently balanced for both the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account.

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes ☒ No ☐

Policy Framework Yes ☒ No ☐

Recommendation:

That the draft revenue and capital budgets for 2025/26 including the associated fees and charges schedule are considered by the Scrutiny and Overview Committees with recommendations on its approval or any amendments being made to Cabinet.

Reason for recommendation:

There is a requirement to set a balanced budget and a Council Tax for 2025/26

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Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- ☒ Climate Action and Emergency Response
- ☒ Coast, Country and Environment
- ☒ Council and Corporate Co-ordination
- ☒ Communications and Democracy
- ☒ Economy
- ☒ Finance and Assets
- ☒ Strategic Planning
- ☒ Sustainable Homes and Communities

☒ Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism

Equalities impact Low Impact

An analysis of budget changes has not highlighted areas that give rise to any equality issues that need highlighting. There are no changes proposed from the current service provisions because of the draft budget that will affect individuals. Assessment attached to Cabinet Report.

Climate change Medium Impact

The budget approval gives the Council the resources necessary to undertake its business which will significantly contribute to the carbon footprint of the Council. The Council is committed to reducing its carbon net emissions to zero by 2040 and resources have been factored into the budget to meet this priority including key actions identified in the Directorate Service Plans.

Risk: Medium Risk; Risks have been considered in preparing the budgets and the financial implications have been assessed at the point of preparation. Various budget assumptions have been made including the treatment of inflation and interest rates; estimates on the level and timing of capital receipts; the treatment of demand led pressures; the treatment of planned efficiency savings/productivity gains; levels of income; financial risks inherent in any new arrangements; capital developments; the availability of funds to deal with major contingencies and the need for any provisions. In each of these areas the Council's financial standing, management and track record have been considered to prepare robust budget proposals. Other specific areas of risk have been highlighted where appropriate within the report.

Links to background information Links contained in attached report

Link to [Council Plan](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

- ☒ A supported and engaged community
 - ☒ Carbon neutrality and ecological recovery
 - ☒ Resilient economy that supports local business
 - ☒ Financially secure and improving quality of services
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Financial implications:

Details are contained in the report

Legal implications:

No legal observations are required