

Divisions Affected – All

Performance & Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

6 December 2024

Budget Proposals 2025/26 to 2027/28

**Report by the
Executive Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer**

RECOMMENDATION

1. **Noting the requirement for the council to set a sustainable balanced budget for 2025/26 which shows how income will equal spending plans the Performance & Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee is invited to consider and comment on:**
 - a) **Revenue budget proposals for 2025/26 to 2027/28.**
 - b) **Proposed capital schemes for inclusion in the Capital Programme and proposed capital pipeline.**

Executive Summary

2. This report sets out information on funding and other updates announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Autumn Budget on 30 October 2024 along with new budget proposals for the period 2025/26 to 2027/28.
3. The report provides the opportunity for the Performance and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to comment on the proposals as part of the council's budget consultation process.
4. The following annexes are attached to this report:
 - Revenue expenditure
 - Annex 1a – planned revenue budget changes agreed in February 2024
 - Annex 1b – new revenue draft budget proposals
 - Capital expenditure
 - Annex 2a – High priority capital schemes to which indicative funding is proposed to be allocated.
 - Annex 2b – capital schemes proposed to be included in the pipeline but are pending funding becoming available

- Annex 3a – Overarching Equality Impact Assessment
- Annex 3b – Overarching Climate Impact Assessment

- Annex 4 – Executive summary of 2024 residents' survey and 2025/26 budget engagement findings.

Background

5. Oxfordshire County Council provides 80% of local government services in Oxfordshire based on expenditure, including adult and children's social care, some education services, fire and rescue, libraries and museums, roads, trading standards, waste disposal and recycling.
6. The budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) support the strategic plan and are reviewed and updated each year through the budget & business planning process. Through this process the council is required to set a balanced budget for the coming year so that forecast expenditure is aligned with forecast income.

Introduction

7. The Budget and Business Planning report to Cabinet on 15 October 2024 set out background to the council's existing Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) as well as a proposing the Budget and Business Planning process which will continue through the winter. The report, which is available on the Cabinet agenda through the following link to the meeting, [Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday, 15 October 2024](#)¹, includes on-going budget changes already agreed for 2025/26 – 2026/27 as well as the funding and assumptions behind the existing plans.
8. Based on assumptions in February 2024, Table 1 summarises that there is a shortfall of £13.9m in 2025/26 rising to £14.0m in 2026/27.

¹ See item 134/24

Table 1	2025/26 Indicative Budget £m	2026/27 Indicative Budget £m
Funding:		
Council Tax Requirement	-517.4	-537.0
Council Tax Collection Fund Surplus	-8.0	-8.0
Business Rates	-101.2	-102.9
Revenue Support Grant	-1.4	-1.4
Total Funding	-628.0	-649.3

Table 1	2025/26 Indicative Budget £m	2026/27 Indicative Budget £m
Net operating budget (previous year)	611.2	641.9
Add Service Changes		
Demographic Growth	15.7	8.5
Pressures and Investments	11.7	11.2
Savings	-9.5	-4.5
Subtotal Service Changes	17.9	15.1
Add changes to budgets & grant funding held centrally	12.8	6.3
Net Operating Budget	641.9	663.3
Budget Deficit Compared to Funding	+13.9	+14.0
Council Tax increase	1.99%	1.99%

9. It is anticipated that the Government will announce individual local authority funding allocations on 19 December 2024 as part of the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement. The final settlement is expected to be received in early February 2025. The updated funding position and any changes to the proposals will be shared with Performance and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee in January 2025 along with the proposed changes to fees and charges for 2025/26.
10. This report provides an updated funding position based on the information known at this stage as well as setting out new proposals to add to the existing plan.
11. Performance and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee is invited to consider and comment on the revenue and capital budget proposals for 2025/26 – 2027/28.

12. The Committee's comments will be included in the Budget and Business Planning report to Cabinet on 28 January 2025, along with the outcome of the public consultation. This feedback will be taken into consideration by Cabinet in setting out their proposed revenue budget for 2025/26 and MTFs to 2027/28. In determining the final budget proposals to be included in the proposed budget for 2025/26, Cabinet will also consider the outcome of the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement and other resources available through Council Tax and Business Rates.

Budget engagement and consultation

13. The council's approach to consultation and engagement is explained further in the Consultation and Engagement Strategy 2022 - 2025. This puts residents at the heart of decision-making and aims to engage with and listen to residents and other partners in a more active and inclusive way.
14. The council's approach to budget engagement for 2025/26 aims to:
 - Involve, inform and engage residents, businesses, staff and partners about the financial pressures facing the council and underline our ongoing commitment to delivering against our strategic priorities.
 - Enable the council to develop a clear understanding of what is important to local people, their priorities and the challenges facing their communities and to feed that insight into the budget and business planning process.
 - Increase understanding of how the council works, the range of services it delivers and what council tax is spent on.
15. A three-phase approach to consultation and engagement to support 2025/26 business and business planning has been organised into three distinct phases:
 - **Phase 1:** Representative residents' survey
 - **Phase 2:** Participatory engagement: Budget simulator, focus groups and sounding boards for children and young people
 - **Phase 3:** Public consultation on the substance of the 2025/26 budget
16. Feedback from Phase 1 and 2 was included in the [Budget & Business Planning report to Cabinet on 15 October 2024 and included in annex 4 to this report.](#)
17. Phase 3, the public consultation on the substance of the 2025/26 budget proposals, will be launched on 28 November 2024 and will run until 2 January 2025 on the council's consultation and digital engagement platform "Let's Talk Oxfordshire". There will also be an opportunity for people to comment on the council's proposed budget with feedback captured using an online form or in writing by Freepost.

Current Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025/26 to 2026/27

Planned changes to directorate budgets

18. The budget supports a range of service provision which contributes to the council's vision and nine priorities. Further information about the council's services is available in [Annex 1a to the Budget & Business Planning Report to Cabinet on 15 October 2024](#). Because most of these services continue from one year to the next the first step in building the budget for 2025/26 is to roll forward 2024/25 budgets. This starting point is then adjusted for changes for 2025/26 built into the MTFS agreed in February 2024.
19. The net council funded budget for each service and changes that are already planned to create the budget for 2025/26 based on the current MTFS agreed in February 2024 are set out in Annex 1a and summarised in Table 2 which also shows the impact on the budget for each service. New changes agreed as part of the 2025/26 Budget & Business Planning Process will be added to this starting point.

Table 2: Current MTFS agreed in February 2024

Service Areas	2024/25 Budget (*)	Add Planned Changes in current MTFS	Indicative Budget 2025/26	Change in Budget
	£m	£m	£m	%
Adult Services	251.7	10.9	262.6	4.4%
Children's Services	199.1	3.3	202.4	1.7%
Environment & Highways	70.6	1.7	72.4	2.5%
Economy & Place	2.0	-0.1	1.9	-3.7%
Public Health & Communities	12.9	0.2	13.1	1.5%
Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service and Community Safety	28.9	1.0	29.9	3.6%
Resources and Law & Governance	59.0	1.6	60.6	2.7%
Transformation, Digital & Customer Experience	3.5	-0.9	2.6	-25.4%
Service Total	627.7	17.9	645.6	2.85%

(*) 3.5% budgeted pay inflation for 2024/25 has been allocated to services in these totals.

Autumn Budget 2024, Spending Review & Other Funding Updates

20. On 30 October 2024, the Government announced the [Autumn Budget 2024](#), the first major fiscal announcement following the General Election in July 2024.
21. A one-year spending review for 2025/26 was included as part of the Autumn Budget. A multi-year spending review for subsequent years is expected in spring 2025.

Core Spending Power and Local Government Funding

22. Core Spending Power (which includes council tax and business rates) will increase in real terms by approximately 3.2% nationally, including at least £600m additional funding for social care; alongside a £700m un-ringfenced grant.
23. With inflation at 1.7% for the year to September 2024, 3.2% in real terms is just under 5% in cash terms, which equates to approximately £3.2bn (based on 2024/25's Core Spending Power of £64.7bn). The increase in core spending power will also need to meet new pressures such as changes to Employers National Insurance, demand increases and inflationary pressures. Whilst this is a lower increase than that in 2024/25, the additional funding is welcome given the significant financial challenges the sector faces.
24. Core Spending Power for the council will be included as part of the Provisional Local Government Settlement expected to be announced on 19 December 2024. The Government is expected to publish a Local Government Finance Policy Statement ahead of the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement. This is likely to include notification of the maximum Council Tax increase for 2025/26 and the methodology for the distribution of the new £1.3bn grant.

Inflation and the National Living Wage

25. The National Living Wage (NLW) will increase by 6.7% to £12.21 per hour and £10.00 per hour for 18-20 year olds from April 2025.
26. The Autumn Budget assumes Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation of 2.5% in 2024 with inflation remaining above 2% but gradually falling until 2028. As shown in Table 3 the forecast is higher in all years than set out in the Spring Budget 2024.

Table 3	Forecast CPI Spring Budget 2024	Forecast CPI Autumn Budget 2024
2024	2.2%	2.5%
2025	1.5%	2.6%
2026	1.6%	2.3%
2027	1.9%	2.1%
2028	2.0%	2.1%

27. The impact of the increase in the National Living Wage and the rate of CPI inflation on the rates the council pays for services will need to be considered and agreed as part of the final budget agreed in February 2025.
28. The increase in the National Living Wage also means that pressure relating to pay inflation (based on national agreements) for the council's employees is now

likely to be higher than the 2.5% increase assumed for 2025/26 because of the impact on national pay scales. The current assumption is in line with the average increase for 2024/25 of 3.5%. However, this expected to be able to be managed through use of existing funding for pay inflation not required in 2024/25.

National Insurance

29. Employer National Insurance contributions (NICs) will increase from 13.8% to 15% from 6 April 2025 alongside a reduction from £9,100 to £5,000 in the per-employee threshold at which employers become liable to pay National Insurance.
30. An update on the funding arrangements for public bodies for the impact of this increase on both direct staffing costs and contract costs is awaited. It is currently estimated that the impact of the changes on the council for employees and services will be in the region of £8.2m.

Council Tax

31. There remains no notification about the arrangements for council tax referendum limits for 2025/26 other than what could be inferred from national funding assumptions as part of the Autumn Budget 2024. Therefore, until information becomes available, the assumptions remain in line with the existing MTFs, that the maximum increase falls back to 1.99% in 2025/26. Each 1% increase in council tax will generate around £5.0m on-going funding for the council's services.
32. Updates on the council tax base and council tax collection fund surpluses or deficits for 2025/26 are expected to be shared by the district councils later in December and January.

Business Rates

33. In addition to council tax funding the Council receives a Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA) from Government which is the share of the local government spending based on the 'need' of a local authority. It comprises Business Rate Top Up Grant, together with the Government's assessment of the level of local Business Rates income to be retained by the Council. The SFA for 2024/25 is £78.4m and the current plan assumes that increases by 2.0% (£1.6m) to £80.0m in 2025/26. The Autumn Statement confirmed that SFAs will be increased by September 2024 CPI (1.7%) which would reduce the total SFA for the council by an estimated £0.3m compared to the existing MTFs with a total of £79.7m. The council's actual SFA will be confirmed as part of the Provisional Local Government Settlement.
34. The Autumn Statement also confirmed that Business Rates reliefs for Leisure, Retail and Hospitality businesses will be extended on a permanent basis at a reduced rate of 40% up to a cap of £110,000 per business rather than 75% relief in 2024/25. The council expects to receive further Section 31 grant funding

in 2025/26 (this will reduce from the £3.6m grant funding notified for 2024/25) to offset local business rates income not received because of these reliefs.

35. The council's actual SFA and grant funding allocations for some of the business rates reliefs will be included as part of the Provisional Local Government Settlement with further information on funding for reliefs shared by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in spring 2025. District councils are required to provide information by the end of January 2025 on the Business Rate Collection Fund surpluses or deficits, along with local shares of business rates to confirm business rates growth above the SFA.

Specific Grant Funding included in Core Spending Power

Social Care Grant

36. The Social Care Grant, which can be used to support either Children's or Adult Social Care was increased from £32.7m in 2023/24 to £42.5m in 2024/25. £4.8m of the increase was announced in the Final Local Government Settlement for 2024/25 in February 2024. Since it was unclear whether this additional funding was one-off or on-going this was used to support one-off investments in Adult's and Children's Social Care in 2024/25. The existing MTFs therefore assumes that the £4.8m grant funding does not continue into 2025/26. Whilst it is likely, based on what can be assumed from the Autumn Budget 2024 totals, that this will continue into 2025/26, there is currently not a clear understanding on how this could be distributed in 2025/26, which may result in the council receiving a different share of the overall funding.
37. A further £600m funding for Social Care will be available nationally in 2025/26. The council's share will depend on the distribution mechanism which is likely to take into account deprivation and could be adjusted to take account of council tax equalisation. At this stage it isn't possible to accurately estimate the impact of this announcement on funding for Oxfordshire.
38. The Adult Social Care Market Sustainability and Improvement fund and the Discharge fund were both announced for two years ceasing in 2024/25. These are ringfenced to Adult Social Care, with Oxfordshire's share being £10.0m and £2.5m respectively in 2024/25. It is currently assumed that the Market Sustainability and Improvement fund will continue in future years in some form, as it was provided to support increasing fees for care services in the sector. If it wasn't continued it would have a significant impact on authorities across the country. There is less certainty relating to the Discharge fund, however if this wasn't continued it is assumed any services funded by this would end.

New Homes Bonus

39. £1.7m un-ringfenced funding from the New Homes Bonus, which was extended by a further year into 2024/25, was expected to fall out in 2025/26. At this stage there is no information on whether this will continue or cease.
40. Confirmation of the council's actual share of these grants will be included in the Provisional Local Government Settlement. As the Autumn Budget 2024 was clear that there is expected to be a "a targeted approach to allocating additional

funding in 2025/26, ahead of a broader redistribution of funding through a multi-year settlement from 2026/27”, no estimates are being included in the funding assumptions.

Other Grant Funding Updates

Household Support Fund

41. The Government has announced funding of £1bn nationally for the Household Support Fund (HSF) and Discretionary Housing Payments in 2025/26 to extend the funding to March 2026, the amount for Oxfordshire along with any grant conditions are yet to be confirmed. In September 2024, the Government announced that it would extend the HSF for a further six months, from October 2024 to March 2025, with a further £421m of funding, with Oxfordshire’s allocation being £3.4m.

Roads Maintenance

42. As part of the Autumn Budget 2024, the Government announced an increase of £500m on 2024/25 funding for local roads maintenance in addition to baseline funding, the amount for Oxfordshire along with any grant conditions are yet to be confirmed.

Bus Services

43. On 17 November 2024, the Department for Transport (DfT) announced details of £1bn funding for bus services.
44. For Oxfordshire this includes £5.4m of capital, £0.1m of capacity building and £3.8m of revenue funding in relation to the Bus Service Improvement Plans grant. This is to support Local Transport authorities to deliver their bus service improvement plans, and to continue the National Bus Fare Cap at £3 until December 2025. In total, this is an increase in funding of £4.5m compared to 2024/25. The DfT also announced the continuation of the Bus Services Operators Grant at £0.8m for Oxfordshire.

Extended Producer Responsibilities

45. Local Authorities are expected to receive around £1.1bn of new funding in 2025/26 through the implementation of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme to improve recycling outcomes. Exceptionally for 2025/26 only, HM Treasury will guarantee that if Local Authorities do not receive EPR income in line with the central estimate there will be an in-year top up, with the detail on this to be set out through the Settlement process. The Oxfordshire share of this funding is expected to be split across Districts, City and County Council, with further detail on any new requirements to be confirmed. Allocations are expected to be published at the end of November or in early December.

Dedicated Schools Grant Funding and SEND

46. The Autumn Budget allocated an overall increase of £2.3bn to the core schools’ budget, equivalent to 3.7% real growth, almost £1bn of this funding will go towards supporting the SEND system.

47. The £1bn High Needs funding under Phase 1 of the spending review uplift for SEND and alternative provision funding, provides equivalent to 6% real growth. Further work to improve outcomes and return the system to financial sustainability, will be built on through Phase 2. Details on how this additional funding will be allocated are yet to be received.
48. In line with the CIPFA code of practice on Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficits are held in an unusable reserve since 2020/21. The forecast deficit of £26.1m in 2024/25 will increase the total accumulated negative balance for High Needs held in this reserve to £81.9m at 31 March 2025.
49. The regulations which require the negative balance to be held in an unusable reserve were due to come to an end on 1 April 2023. In December 2022 the government agreed to the extension of the DSG statutory override for a one-off period of three years (up to March 2026). There is no confirmed position on whether there is any change to this process, or extension of the override period, although there is pressure in the sector for some guidance, but it needs a cross-government approach between MHCLG and the Department for Education (DfE).
50. DSG deficits cannot currently be met from general council funding without permission from the Secretary of State. However, this deficit, both accumulated to date, and on-going, is a significant financial risk irrespective of the future arrangements for the statutory override. This will need to be taken into account in the assessment of the overall financial position for the council, including the adequacy of reserves and balances for 2025/26, that is required to be set out in the statutory Section 25 report by the Director of Finance.
51. The authority is in the last year of receiving Delivering Better Value funding from DfE and is required to complete a DSG Deficit Management Plan, as a tool for strategically managing the deficit. There are a number of mitigations planned in the DSG Deficit Management Plan that are designed to mitigate the High Needs Funding over the longer term. They include new Special Schools scheduled 2023/24 to 2029/30, new SEN Units and Resource Bases, Transfer of Resource Bases to Schools – Piloted from 2025/26, savings through contract renegotiation and review of service delivery.
52. There are other issues being reviewed in the service such as the implementation of a Banding System from April 2026 and the top up rates transitioning to funding at full cost. Both of these policies may more appropriately fund SEND establishments and also have the risk that they will put more pressure into this part of the DSG High Needs Funding.

Looking Ahead: Local Government Funding Reform

53. The Autumn Budget 2024 report states that the Government will pursue a “comprehensive set of reforms to return the sector to a sustainable position. This will include reform of the approach to allocating funding through the Local Government Finance Settlement, starting with a targeted approach to allocating

additional funding in 2025/26, ahead of a broader redistribution of funding through a multi-year settlement from 2026/27”.

54. Looking ahead, the Government is committed to “reforming the approach to funding allocations within the Local Government Finance Settlement by redistributing funding to ensure that it reflects an up-to-date assessment of need and local revenues”.
55. Since there has been no consultation over the autumn it is unlikely that there will be a significant redistribution of existing funding sources implemented in 2025/26 but it is likely that there will be a targeted approach to deprivation and greater council tax equalisation used in the distribution of the additional £1.3bn grant funding announced in the Autumn Budget 2024.
56. A Local Government Finance Policy Paper will be published ahead of the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement on 19 December 2024. This is expected to set out more details on the plans for funding reform from 2026/27 including a timetable for engagement and consultation. The Government first launched the Fair Funding Review in 2016 to devise a new system for allocating funding between councils, which would be based on updated and improved methods for estimating councils’ differing abilities to raise revenues themselves and their differing spending needs. This was expected to affect how funding was allocated and redistributed between local authorities from 2020 onwards. The focus on ‘need’ to drive the new funding formula was using three main cost drivers of population, deprivation and sparsity, and additional cost drivers related to specific local authority services. This was alongside a planned increase in business rate retention by local authorities from 50% to 75%. Due to COVID-19, the implementation was delayed and remains outstanding.
57. It is expected that the Council will lose funding under any formula which is based on both need and ability to raise revenue. Previous reports to Cabinet and to Council since 2016 have referred to the financial risk of implementation. Assumptions on possible reductions in funding will be considered later in the budget setting process and ahead of Council setting the MTFS in February 2025.
58. It is expected that the consultation on the new formula will commence in Spring 2025, with a further engagement exercise in the Summer in light of feedback from the consultation. However, details of the multi-year settlement for 2026/27 and beyond will not be available until the Local Government Finance Settlement is announced in December 2025.

New Revenue Budget Proposals 2025/26 - 2027/28

59. Over the summer services were asked to assess the cost of their service plans and likely demand/costs. The outputs from this exercise, along with the Administration’s investment proposals are set out below.
60. The Council’s Strategic Plan (2023 – 2025) was critical to shaping all proposals for new revenue budget, investment and capital proposals and demonstrates

the connection of the budget to the overall objectives set by the Council to ensure a greener, fairer and healthier Oxfordshire for all.

Proposed Budget Changes to add to the existing plan

61. New service pressures identified as a result of this assessment are shown in Annex 1b and summarised in Table 5.

Table 5: New Services Pressures

Service Areas	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	Total £m
Adult Services	-0.8	1.2	17.1	17.6
Children's Services	12.4	10.6	12.4	35.5
Environment & Highways	0.6	1.2	4.1	5.9
Economy & Place	0.1	-0.1	0.2	0.2
Public Health & Communities	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service and Community Safety	0.7	0.8	0.6	2.1
Resources and Law & Governance	0.7	0.5	1.6	2.8
Transformation, Digital & Customer Experience	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.3
Total	14.1	14.3	36.1	64.5

62. 2027/28 is a new year that needs to be added to the MTFs so the pressures in that year mainly reflect demographic growth for Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care and Waste Management, and the addition of estimated pay inflation at 2.5%.

Adult Services

63. Demography has been recalculated based on future population growth in relevant cohorts and recent activity trends and this is predicted to produce a reduction to the existing demography pressure of £0.4m included in the budget agreed in February 2024 from 2025/26 onwards.

Children's Services

64. Pressures for Education include the reversal of £1.2m COVID-19 funding for HN Block Pressures, this has been replaced with a £0.5m pressure to fund the SEN Inreach/Outreach programme between special schools and mainstream schools, resulting in a net reduction.

65. Additional demographic funding is forecast to be required in 2025/26 for children's services across education and social care. For home to school transport there is an on-going impact based on demographic growth of between 7% and 9% estimated to be a pressure of £0.4m from 2025/26 increasing to £3.2m by 2027/28.

66. The growth in demand for Educational Psychologists results in a pressure of £0.6m in 2025/26, and a further pressure of £1.0m in 2026/27.

67. The impact of inflation pressures in contracts with providers of care is estimated to be £2.5m in 2025/26.
68. Within the Early help/Front door service there is a £0.4m on-going pressure which relates to the continuation of funding for Supporting Families funded posts, Community Impact Zone, and LCSS staffing as the grant to support this is not expected to continue in 2025/26. The future of this funding is uncertain at this point, but it is believed it is unlikely to continue, at least in the current form beyond 2024/25.
69. A £2.8m pressure relates to the removal of undeliverable savings from 2024/25 and a risk adjustment of £4.7m has been included in relation to the delivery of existing savings, to reflect the potential challenges in delivering the savings in full.
70. Changes to future pressures relating to the Dedicated Schools Grant for High Needs will be shared later in the Budget & Business Planning process.

Environment & Highways

71. Within Network Management there are £1.1m pressures mainly associated with the delay in the Department for Transport decision on the council's lane rental scheme application. A £0.2m pressure relates to reduced income as a result of higher levels of compliance on moving traffic offences.
72. There is also a proposed pressure of £0.2m in 2025/26 for landfill site maintenance due to aging equipment and change in emissions.

Economy and Place

73. A pressure of £0.1m is proposed one-off in relation to energy staffing budgets due to a reduction in grant funding.

Public Health & Communities

74. Public Health activity will continue to be managed within the ring-fenced grant funding. £0.2m is proposed to be used for Libraries and Heritage services pressures to continue to the home library service and early years provision at current levels.

Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue & Community Safety

75. An additional £0.2m funding is proposed towards the cost of a resilience contract within the Thames Valley reflecting a change in the minimum service levels legislation.

Resources and Law & Governance

76. A £0.3m pressure in the Finance & Commercial Services Team relates to the reversal of an overpayments recovery target which was a temporary rather than permanent income source.

77. £0.2m in the Law and Governance service relates to pressures on budgeted vacancy factors, due to demands on the service.
78. £0.2m relates to previously agreed but unachievable savings in 2024/25 in the IT service.

Transformation, Digital and Customer

79. A £0.2m pressure relates the removal of helpdesk consolidation savings.

Proposals for Corporate Budgets

80. New corporate budget pressures of £9.7m are proposed for 2025/26 with an on-going impact of £14.7m by 2027/28 as set out in the table below. £8.2m of this relates to the initial estimate of the cost of Employers National Insurance costs to the council. The Government confirmed funding would be provided for the costs related to directly employed staff, details of which are expected to be confirmed in the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement.

Capital Financing

81. Interest payments on external borrowing are lower than previously forecast from 2025/26 as a result of higher cash balances across the medium term, whilst the increase to the capital financing requirement as a result of the proposed borrowing results in an increase to the Minimum Revenue Provision from 2026/27 onwards following a reduction in 2025/26 compared to the existing plan.
82. The detailed proposals for each service as well as changes to budgets held centrally are set out in Annex 1b and summarised in the table below.

Table 6: Corporate Budgets	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	Total £m
Impact of increases in Employers National Insurance contribution on Employees and Services expenditure	8.2	0.2	0.3	8.7
Increase in interest on cash balances	-1.0	1.1	0.5	0.6
Capital Financing	-1.7	2.2	0.7	1.2
£65m Prudential Borrowing for priority capital schemes including Highways Maintenance	4.2	0.0	0.0	4.2
Total	9.7	3.5	1.5	14.7

Proposals for New Investments

83. New investments of £5.4m are proposed for 2025/26 with an on-going impact of £5.1m by 2027/28. The detailed proposals for each service as well as changes to budgets held centrally are set out in Annex 1b and summarised in Table 7.

Table 7: New Investments

Service Areas	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Adult Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Children's Services	1.1	0.1	0.2	1.4
Environment & Highways	1.5	0.0	0.0	1.5
Economy & Place	0.2	0.0	-0.1	0.1
Public Health & Communities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service and Community Safety	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Resources and Law & Governance	1.6	-0.9	0.0	0.8
Transformation, Digital & Customer Experience	1.0	0.3	0.0	1.3
Total	5.4	-0.4	0.1	5.1

Children's Services

84. A £1.0m investment to develop services to support under 5 year olds, developing early help and early years support so that all children can get the best possible start in life. There is also a proposed £0.1m investment in Social Work Apprenticeships due to an overlap between apprenticeships being concluded and the release of agency workers.

Environment & Highways

85. A £1.5m investment is proposed to increase the cleansing of Highway Drainage assets.

Economy & Place

86. An investment of £0.1m in additional resources in 2025/26 and 2026/27 will facilitate delivery of four National Strategic Infrastructure Projects.
87. An investment of £0.1m is proposed in Climate Action relating to carbon sequestration to move the council's operational emissions towards a negative net total (i.e. beyond 'net zero'). In addition, this investment will cover the cost of forward purchasing Carbon offsets to reduce the impact of future offsetting costs.

Resources and Law & Governance

88. A £0.8m investment is proposed to continue the Councillor Priority Fund for 2025/26 and 2026/27; a £0.8m investment is also proposed on additional resource within the contracts management team to drive the delivery of best value from the council's contracts with third parties and is expected to support the achievement of savings in contracts and third party spend.

89. A £0.1m investment in Property & Assets relates to the continuation of discretionary rent concessions provided to tenants in the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) which were scheduled to end in March 2025 for a further year.

Transformation, Digital & Customer Experience

90. A £0.8m investment in a revised data team structure is proposed as part of the transformation programme to further deliver efficiencies.
91. A further investment of £0.1m relates to additional resource in the delivery unit, and a further £0.1m to the cost of Digital Management Tools.

Proposals for New Savings

92. New budget reductions of £17.9m are proposed for 2025/26 with an on-going impact of £22.8m by 2027/28. The detailed proposals for each service as well as changes to budgets held centrally are set out in Annex 1b and summarised in Table 8.

Table 8: New Savings

Service Areas	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	Total £m
Adult Services	-5.1	-0.1	0.0	-5.2
Children's Services	-1.0	-0.2	-0.2	-1.3
Environment & Highways	-2.1	0.0	0.0	-2.1
Economy & Place	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Public Health & Communities	-0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service and Community Safety	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Resources and Law & Governance	-1.2	-0.1	-0.1	-1.3
Transformation, Digital & Customer Experience	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cross Cutting Proposals	-7.7	-5.2	0.0	-12.9
Total	-17.9	-4.8	-0.2	-22.8

Adults Services

93. Adult Services continue to support people in Oxfordshire to live well in their community, remaining fit and healthy for as long as possible. Savings include the continuing impact of the Section 117 joint health funding of £4.2m, a £0.3m savings relating to the reduction in short stay hub beds by supporting hospital discharges and moving support into homes.
94. A £0.4m saving is proposed from a reduction in the number of packages receiving double handed care and a saving of £0.2m from an introduction of a fixed charge for setting up of a universal deferred payment agreement for the first time since 2015, as set out in Care Act 2014 to bring it in line with what other local authorities are charging.

Children's Services

95. Within the Early Help/Front door service there is a proposed £0.1m saving associated with the expected ending of supporting families funding, which is yet to be confirmed. £0.5m savings has been identified in the Provider Services and Safeguarding service, associated with providing capital loans to foster carers to increase local capacity, and a £0.3m savings from reviewing the delivery of an outdoor therapy service.

Environment & Highways

96. Savings of £1.5m within Highways Maintenance relate to the on-going impact of the council's investment in LED lamp replacements on streetlighting energy usage. In addition, there is a £0.5m saving for the drawdown from commuted sums to support the previous year's growth in highway maintenance services. In infrastructure delivery there is a saving of £0.1m for increased allocation of staff time to council projects and schemes.

Economy & Place

97. Proposed savings include a higher S106 income target and savings from a reduction in the works budget in the central Oxfordshire team.

Public Health & Communities

98. £0.8m savings relate to the release of council funding due to utilisation of government grants to fund services across the council.

Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue & Community Safety

99. £0.03m savings are proposed from the implementation of interim measures to improve fire engine availability and response times.

Resources and Law & Governance

100. £1.0m savings in the Property & Assets function include savings from vacating Abbey House, rationalisation of the estate, and Health & safety responsibilities within Facilities management. There are also £0.2m savings from the review of current contracts.

Cross Cutting Proposals

101. A saving of £7.7m has been included for cross cutting themes in 2025/26. This includes savings of £5.0m from undertaking a review of contracts and third party spend, £1.0m savings from commercial opportunities, £0.7m savings from organisational redesign, £0.3m saving from focus on confirming and clarifying corporate landlord responsibilities and budgets, a £0.2m saving from a proposing to streamline the council's approach to commissioning services through the voluntary and community sector and £0.5m savings from developing the council's integrated transport hub. These will need to be developed further as the Budget & Business Planning process continues.

Updated Position for 2025/26 compared to current Medium Term Financial Strategy

102. Based on funding assumptions in the existing MTFS and after taking account of new pressures, savings and investments there is a pressure of £25.2m. However, this is before taking account of any new funding announced in the Autumn Budget 2024.
103. Table 9 sets out the revised position for 2025/26 compared to the current plan incorporating the new changes set out in this report. Due to the level of uncertainty, new funding announced in the Autumn Budget and any possible Council Tax increases beyond 1.99% have not been included in the position at this stage. Therefore, the current budget deficit set out of £25.2m will change significantly once the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement is announced.
104. The first column of Table 9 shows the budget for 2025/26 assumed in the MTFS agreed by Council in February 2024. The second column then shows anticipated changes that can be added at this stage and the final column shows the combined impact.

Table 9: Current MTFS and Updates to the Budget for 2025/26

	2025/26 Budget Current MTFS £m	Changes to Funding Assumptions £m	2025/26 Budget Updated £m
Funding:			
Council Tax	-517.4		-517.4
Council Tax Collection Fund	-8.0		-8.0
Business Rates	-101.2		-101.2
Revenue Support Grant	-1.4		-1.4
Total Funding	-628.0		-628.0

	2025/26 Budget Current MTFS £m	New Budget Pressures, Investments and Savings £m	2025/26 Budget Updated £m
Net operating budget 2024/25	611.2		611.2
Directorate Budget Changes			
Existing planned changes	17.9		17.9
New service pressures (Table 5)		14.1	14.1
New Investments (Table 7)		5.4	5.4
New savings (Table 8)		-17.9	-17.9
Subtotal Services Changes	17.9	1.6	19.5
Budgets held centrally			
Existing planned changes	12.8		12.8
New changes (Table 6)		9.7	9.7
Net Operating Budget 2025/26	641.9	11.3	653.2
Budget Deficit	+13.9	+11.3	+25.2

105. Table 10 shows the impact of the proposed changes for each service and for budgets held centrally in 2025/26. Further detail and the updated position for each directorate will be set out in the reports to Performance and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet in January 2025.

Table 10: Proposed changes for each service and budgets held centrally

Service Areas	Budget Rolled Forward from 2024/25 £m	Add changes in current MTFS £m	Add new budget increases £m	Less new savings £m	2025/26 Budget £m	Cash Change in Budget %	Real Terms Change in Budget ² %
Adult Services	251.7	10.9	-0.8	-5.1	256.7	2.0%	-0.5%
Children's Services	199.1	3.3	13.6	-1.0	215.0	8.0%	5.5%
Environment & Highways	70.6	1.7	2.1	-2.1	72.4	2.5%	0.0%
Economy & Place	2.0	-0.1	0.2	-0.1	2.1	4.6%	2.1%
Public Health & Communities	12.9	0.2	0.1	-0.8	12.5	-3.3%	-5.8%
Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service and Community Safety	28.9	1.0	0.7	-0.0	30.6	6.0%	3.5%
Resources and Law & Governance	59.0	1.6	2.3	-1.2	61.8	4.7%	2.2%
Transformation, Digital & Customer Experience	3.5	-0.9	1.1	0.0	3.7	7.0%	4.5%
Cross Cutting Proposals - To be Allocated				-7.7	-7.7		
Services Total	627.7	17.9	19.5	-17.9	647.1	3.1%	0.6%
Budgets Held Centrally							
Capital Financing Costs	30.2	1.3	2.5	0.0	34.0		
Interest on balances	-20.2	4.1	0.0	-1.0	-17.1		
Contingency & Inflation Risk	15.1	0.1	8.2 ³	0.0	23.4		
Un-ringfenced Specific Grants	-52.0	6.9	0.0	0.0	-45.1		
Insurance	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7		
Budgeted contribution from COVID-19 Reserve	-3.8	1.4	0.0	0.0	-2.3		
Budgeted contribution from Transformation Reserve	-1.5	0.6	0.0	0.0	-0.9		
Budgeted contribution from Budget Priorities Reserve	-1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Other Budgeted Contributions to reserves ⁴	15.4	-3.1	0.0	0.0	12.4		
Total Budgets Held Centrally	-16.4	12.8	10.7	-1.0	6.0		
Net Operating Budget	611.2	30.7	30.2	-18.9	653.2	6.9%	4.4%
Existing Funding in MTFS (from Table 8)					-628.0		
Budget Deficit					+25.2		

106. Outstanding information which is required as part of the Budget & Business Planning process is set out at paragraph 123. Changes to budget proposals arising from the consultation plus any further updates to pressures arising from the forecast position for 2024/25, other inflationary changes, and funding for 2025/26, as well as the assessed level of reserves and balances will need to

² Assuming inflation of 2.5% (based on CPI in the year to April 2025)

³ Impact of increases in Employers' National Insurance held corporately until further information is available (see paragraph 80).

⁴ Includes £4.0m on-going contribution to Demographic Risk Reserve, a £10.2m contribution to the Prudential Borrowing Reserve and adjustment to the Budget Equalisation Reserve.

be considered and taken into account in the final budget proposed by Cabinet in January 2025.

Capital & Investment Strategy

107. Capital expenditure obtains or improves buildings, vehicles, equipment or other assets owned by the council. The capital programme shows how the Council will use capital expenditure to support the delivery of its priorities.
108. Council is required to approve the capital and investment strategy annually to demonstrate that capital expenditure and investment decisions are in line with objectives and properly take account of stewardship, value for money, prudence, sustainability and affordability. The capital and investment strategy incorporates the treasury management strategy and is supplemented by the council's property strategy and highways asset management plan.
109. The total value of capital proposals requiring funding from the Council's corporate resources is £109.2m. Funding available to be allocated for 2025/26 onwards includes an additional £65.0m of prudential borrowing., the cost of which is reflected in the revenue budget proposals in Table 6 at paragraph 82. The majority of the prudential borrowing is proposed to be allocated to maintaining Oxfordshire's Highway Network. There is also £13.1m funding to be returned to the Capital Programme as a result of savings on previous delivered schemes, as well as a further £20.0m of corporate resources, bringing the total funding available to £98.1m.
110. If all proposed investments are approved, the programme will exceed available funding by £11.1m. The total value of the Capital Programme is £1.3bn, therefore it would not be imprudent to over-programme up to a maximum level of £20m, which is 1.5% of the total programme. The Capital & Investment Strategy was agreed in February 2024. A revised strategy, outlining a new set of priorities, will be presented to Cabinet in January 2025 and then Council in February 2025. Capital schemes put forward as part of the 2025/26 budget have been prioritised as follows:

Schemes that facilitate compliance with minimum statutory duties relating to health & safety, schools, and delivery of business-critical services

Schemes that generate revenue, are self-funding or facilitate cost-avoidance strategies

Schemes that contribute to the improvement of the highway network, including road safety measures, flood prevention work and pothole prevention measures such as surface dressings

Schemes that encourage and facilitate active travel and improve market towns

Schemes that enhance energy efficiency and promote the adoption of sustainable and environmentally responsible solutions

Schemes which are partly funded by Section 106 developer contributions but require additional funding to progress

111. Programmes of work, aligning with the above, are set out in Annex 2a. £1.7m is proposed to be invested into the corporate estate to ensure that buildings are fully compliant with new fire legislation. This investment is in addition to £2.0m already agreed at Council in February 2024 and should complete the programme of work.
112. A significant investment is required for the long-term viability of Redbridge Household Waste Recycling Centre. A £4.9m proposed investment will address health and safety concerns as well as providing a modern, upgraded site that will meet residents' future needs. In addition, an investment of £0.1m is required at Dix Pit Household Waste and Recycling Centre to ensure the site meets its legal and environmental responsibilities.
113. A proposed investment of £2.5m, to be spent over two years, will enhance the Council's IT infrastructure, ensuring the continuity of business-critical activities, with a significant portion of this investment allocated towards enhancing cybersecurity measures.
114. Schemes which generate cost savings, are self-funding or facilitate cost-avoidance, include a capital investment of £0.5m to increase local capacity to support children the Council cares for, by funding home improvement loans to foster carers. In line with policy, the loans could facilitate loft conversions, extensions or other home improvements that would enable foster carers to care for more children the Council cares for, enabling them to live locally, and reducing expenditure on placements.
115. A proposed investment of £1.9m is to enable the acquisition of land, for the development of four specialised homes for individuals in long-term hospital care, or at risk of being placed out-of-area to move into supported homes in Oxfordshire. This initiative aims to improve quality of life for residents by providing bespoke, adapted housing in the community. It will enable individuals in long-term hospital care to move to supported homes in Oxfordshire, and in a cost-effective manner.
116. In response to resident feedback, a proposed investment of £47.6m (in addition to expected government funding) is to be allocated over a two-year period to implement pothole prevention measures, and strategies to prevent drains from overflowing. The investment will also ensure improved maintenance of footways and cycle ways as well as effectively managing the condition of the Highway Network. An additional £4.0m investment over two years, is proposed to be allocated to support a programme of measures to improve accessibility, connectivity and road safety. £16.2m is to be committed to repair

bridges at risk of structural failure or closure, combined with preventative maintenance, also over a 2-year period.

117. A number of schemes are proposed that enhance Active Travel as well as improving market towns. £11.1m is proposed to be invested in Watlington Relief Road, a scheme originally to be funded by the Housing and Growth Deal. The scheme will alleviate noise, congestion and air pollution in the town centre, whilst offering more sustainable modes of transport, including cycling and walking. Proposed investments in Banbury and Wantage will enhance the town centre spaces, working with partners, to transform the areas into vibrant and inclusive and accessible spaces. St Giles is also to benefit from a proposed investment to deliver an improved space for pedestrians, cyclists and improved arrangements for buses and tourist coaches. An investment of £0.2m is also proposed to progress the Thame to Haddenham Active Travel Link.
118. The Council remains committed to the adoption of sustainable and environmentally responsible solutions and its ambition of reaching net zero by 2030. Schemes include a further £10.0m proposed investment over a two-year period, which is in addition to £10.2m already invested. This investment increases funds already committed to address a backlog in repairs and maintenance, ensuring buildings are future-proofed through the adoption of sustainable and environmentally responsible solutions. A further £0.3m proposed investment will also ensure the continuation and expansion of the Energy Efficiency Recycling Fund. The scheme, already in use by a number of schools, enables investment in energy-saving measures providing students with better learning environments, as well as reducing schools' energy costs, and supports the Council's climate action goals.
119. A number of transport infrastructure schemes are proposed to be funded, which will support local communities. An investment of £4.0m is proposed which will encompass footway extensions, active travel schemes, highway layout changes, pedestrian crossings and bus stop improvements. The schemes are partly funded by Section 106 developer contributions but require additional funding to progress, releasing £22.5m of Section 106 developer contributions.
120. Table 6 summarises the proposed use of the available funding.

Table 6:

	Proposed Corporate Funding (£m⁵)
Schemes that facilitate compliance with minimum statutory duties relating to health and safety, schools and delivery of business-critical services	10.6
Schemes that generate revenue, are self-funding or facilitate cost-avoidance strategies	2.9
Schemes that contribute to the improvement of the highway network and pothole prevention measures such as surface dressings	67.8
Schemes that encourage and facilitate active travel and improve market towns	13.6
Schemes that enhance energy efficiency and promote the adoption of sustainable and environmentally responsible solutions	10.2
Schemes which are partly funded by Section 106 developer contributions but require additional funding to progress	4.0
Total Schemes Proposed to be Funded	109.2

121. Annex 2a sets out high priority capital schemes to which indicative funding is proposed to be allocated. Annex 2b lists schemes included in the pipeline pending future funding becoming available.
122. In accordance with the council's capital governance arrangements all schemes, including those assessed as high priority, will need an approved business case before they are added to the firm programme.

Outstanding Information & Next Steps

123. At the point of publication of this report, all information on funding for the Council for 2025/26 remains outstanding. This includes:
- The provisional and final Local Government Finance Settlement for 2025/26 setting out the council's Settlement Funding Assessment and confirming estimated grant funding and any other changes including any redistribution of existing and new funding.
 - Confirmation of any referendum limit on council tax precepts along with the continuation of a social care precept.
 - Updates on the growth in the council tax base for 2025/26 and surpluses on council tax collection funds, expected to be received from the City and District Councils in December 2024 and January 2025 respectively.

⁵ estimates subject to business cases.

- Notification of Business Rates income for 2025/26 and collection fund deficits/surpluses which may not be received from the City and District Councils until 31 January 2025.
- The outcome of the public consultation running from 28 November 2024 to 2 January 2025.

124. Changes arising from these updates will need to be addressed as part of the proposed budget which will be presented to Cabinet on 28 January 2025.

Business and Budget Planning Process

125. Updates to funding and any changes to proposals known by the end of December 2024 will be published on 9 January 2025 ahead of consideration by Performance and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 17 January 2025.

126. Cabinet will propose their budget on 28 January 2025 taking into account comments from Performance and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee in December 2024 and January 2025 as well as feedback from the public consultation. The report to Cabinet in January will include:

- Council tax and precept calculations
- Draft budget for 2025/26
- Draft MTFs to 2027/28 (incorporating proposed changes following consultation)
- Review of charges for 2025/26
- Capital and Investment Strategy incorporating the Property Investment Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy
- Capital proposals and draft ten-year Capital Programme
- Earmarked Reserves and General Balances Policy
- Financial Strategy (including Financial Management Code self-assessment)

127. Council will meet to agree the Revenue Budget 2025/26; Capital Programme 2024/25 - 2034/35; MTFs 2025/26 - 2027/28 on 11 February 2025. Any further changes to the budget proposed by Cabinet at their meeting on 28 January 2025 needed as a result of funding changes notified in late January 2025, for example, will either be incorporated into the final budget considered by Council or updated during 2025/26.

Risk Management

128. The statutory report of the Chief Financial Officer required under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2002, which forms part of the suite of papers considered by Council in setting the budget each February, includes a section assessing the key financial risks.

129. This report sets out some significant risks and uncertainties for 2025/26 and the medium term but these are continuing to be assessed through the Budget and

Business Planning process. An assessment of the impact will be provided as information and updates become available.

130. In addition to corporate contingency general balances are also held to ensure that a major incident or emergency can be managed without impacting on other services. The level of balances held is monitored through the Business Management & Monitoring Reports throughout the year and subject to an annual risk assessment undertaken as part of the budget setting process.

Equality and Inclusion Implications

131. The Equality Act 2010 imposes a duty on local authorities that, when making decisions of a strategic nature, decision makers must exercise 'due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination... advance equality of opportunity... and foster good relations.'
132. In developing budget proposals, services have considered the potential impact of change with respect to equality, diversity and inclusion, in line with the council's refreshed framework agreed by Cabinet on 19 November 2024, "Including Everyone".
133. The refresh of the framework gives the opportunity to realign the council's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) goals with the broader strategic priorities and reconsider how the framework can be used to drive meaningful change. The council has a track record of going beyond its legal equality duty by considering groups and communities beyond the protected characteristics of the Equality Act. For example, the council considers the impact of its decisions on rural communities, armed forces communities, areas of deprivation and carers. The new Including Everyone framework goes further, recognising the council's commitment to considering future generations in decision-making, as well as refugees and asylum seekers by becoming a Council of Sanctuary. The new framework also includes reference to the socioeconomic duty and consideration of residents experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.
134. A draft overarching summary impact assessment for equalities, taking into account the overall impact of the budget proposals, is included at Annex 3a. It should be noted that a number of proposals are very early in the business case development process.
135. Following the public consultation, impact assessments will be reviewed and updated as necessary to take into account consultation responses.

Sustainability Implications

136. The Climate Action Framework sets the council's commitment to tackling the climate emergency which is underpinned by the Council's priority to put action to address the climate emergency at the heart of our work.
137. A draft overarching summary impact assessment for climate of the budget proposals is included at Annex 3b. A number of the proposals are very early in

the business case development process and therefore will be subject to fuller Climate Impact Assessment as the proposals are developed.

Financial Implications

138. The Council is required by law to set a balanced budget for 2025/26 before 1 March 2025. Alongside this, there is a requirement under Section 25 of the Local Government Finance Act 2003 for the Chief Finance Officer to prepare a statement on the robustness of the budget estimates and the adequacy of reserves. This report is part of the process to achieve these objectives.

Comments checked by:

Thomas James, Head of Finance Business Partnering

Staff Implications

139. Staffing implications are being considered as part of the Budget and Business Planning process and any proposals are consistent with the council's People and Culture Strategy.

Legal Implications

140. The Council is required under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to set a balanced budget and a council tax requirement for the authority. This report provides information which, when taken together with the previous and future reports up to January 2025, will lead to the council tax requirement being agreed in February 2025, together with a budget for 2025/26, medium term financial strategy covering the period to 2027/28, and ten- year capital programme.
141. The Council has a fiduciary duty to council taxpayers, which means it must consider the prudent use of resources, including control of expenditure, financial prudence in the short and long term, the need to strike a fair balance between the interests of the council taxpayers and ratepayers and the community's interest in adequate and efficient services and the need to act in good faith in relation to compliance with statutory duties and exercising statutory powers.

Comments checked by:

Paul Grant

Head of Legal

Lorna Baxter, Executive Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer

Annexes:

Revenue expenditure

- Annex 1a – planned revenue budget changes agreed in February 2024
- Annex 1b – new revenue draft budget proposals

Capital expenditure:

- Annex 2a – High priority capital schemes to which indicative funding is proposed to be allocated
- Annex 2b – capital schemes proposed to be included in the pipeline but not funded at this stage.
- Annex 3a – Overarching Equality Impact Assessment
- Annex 3b – Overarching Climate Impact Assessment
- Annex 4 – Executive summary of 2024 residents' survey and 2025/26 budget engagement findings.

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November 2024