

ITEM CC8 Green Group Budget Amendments

COUNCIL – 10 FEBRUARY 2026

BUDGET AND BUSINESS PLANNING 2026/27 – 2030/31

Green Group Budget Amendments

Report by the Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer)

Executive Summary

1. The Green Group propose amendments to the budget proposed by the Cabinet. Recommendations and section numbers are consistent with those set out in the Cabinet's report. The recommendations note where Green Group amendments need to be considered along with the Cabinet's proposed budget at Item CC8.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. The Council is **RECOMMENDED** to:
 - a. have regard to the statutory report of the Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer) [set out in Cabinet Section 3.1 and amended at Green Group Section 3.1] in approving recommendations b to d below;
 - b. (in respect of the budget and medium term financial strategy – at Section 4) approve the following:
 - (1) the council tax and precept calculations for 2026/27 [at Cabinet Section 4.3] and in particular:
 - (i) a precept of £567,372,273.74;
 - (ii) a council tax for band D equivalent properties of £2,006.78;
 - (2) a budget for 2026/27 [as set out in Cabinet Section 4.4 amended by Green Group Section 4.4];
 - (3) a medium term financial strategy for 2026/27 to 2030/31 [as set out in Green Group Section 4.1 (which incorporates changes to the existing medium term financial strategy as set out in Cabinet Section 4.2 amended by Green Group Section 4.2)];
 - (4) the Financial Strategy for 2026/27 [at Cabinet Section 4.5];
 - (5) the Earmarked Reserves and General Balances Policy Statement 2026/27 [at Cabinet Section 4.6 and amended by Green Group Section 4.6]. This includes:
 - (i) the Executive Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer's recommended level of General Balances for 2026/27 [at Cabinet Section 4.6], and
 - (ii) the planned level of Earmarked Reserves for 2026/27 to 2030/31 at Cabinet Section 4.6.1 amended by a reduction of £1.0m in the Budget Priorities Reserve and £0.2m in the Grants and Contributions Reserve].

- c. (in respect of capital – at Section 5) approve:
 - (1) the Capital & Investment Strategy for 2026/27 to 2036/37 including the Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision Methodology Statement as set out in Cabinet Section 5.1].
 - (2) a Capital Programme for 2026/27 to 2036/37 [as set out in Cabinet's Section 5.3 and amended by Green Group Section 5.3].
- d. (in respect of treasury management – at Section 5) approve:
 - (1) the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2026/27 [at Cabinet Section 5.2] including the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators and the Specified Investment and Non-Specified Investment Instruments.
 - (2) that any further changes required to the 2026/27 Treasury Management Strategy be delegated to the Executive Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Transformation.

Green Group Section 3 – Statutory Report by the Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer) (Chief Finance Officer)

- 3. Under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, the Chief Finance Officer is required to report on the robustness of the estimates made in determining the council tax requirement and on the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves. The assessment of the changes from the Cabinet's proposed budget is set out in Green Group Section 3. Council is required to have regard to this report in making their decisions on the budget.

Green Group Section 4 – Revenue Budget Strategy

- 4. This section sets out those areas which differ from the Cabinet's proposed budget and includes recommendations on those matters that the Council must approve as part of the budget setting process, including the council tax requirement and council tax amount for a Band D property.
- 5. Green Group Section 4.2 sets out proposed budget amendments to Cabinet's Section 4.2. Therefore, the two sections need to be considered together.
- 6. Cabinet's Section 4.5 Financial Strategy is unaffected by the Green Group amendments.
- 7. In relation to use of earmarked reserves, Green Group Section 4.6 amendments set out the changes from the Cabinet's Section 4.6, so the two Sections need to be considered together.

Green Group Section 5 – Capital Budget Strategy

8. Green Group proposals to amend the capital programme are set out in Green Group Section 5.3.

Equality & Inclusion and Sustainability Implications

9. Overarching summary impact assessments for both equalities and climate, taking into account the overall impact of the budget proposals, are included in Green Group Section 4.7 and 4.8 and need to be considered in conjunction with Cabinet Section 4.7 and 4.8.

Financial Implications

10. The Council is required by law to set a balanced budget for 2026/27 before 1 March 2026. 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. Green Group Section 3 needs to be considered in conjunction with Cabinet Section 3.

Comments checked by: Kathy Wilcox, Head of Corporate Finance

Legal Implications

11. The legal implications remain as set out at Item 8 of the agenda for Council on 10 February 2026.

Lorna Baxter, Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer)

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February 2026