

Chairman - Councillor M J Winnington

Present (for all or part of the meeting):-

Councillors:

K M Aspin

E L Carter

M G Dodson

A D Hobbs

R A James

P A Leason

A Nixon

J S Powell

J Thorley

Also present:- Councillors R P Cooke, Resources Portfolio
A J Sandiford

Officers in attendance:-

C Forrester	-	Deputy Chief Executive (Resources)(CF)
I Curran	-	Head of Law and Governance (IC)
J Aupers	-	Head of Transformation and Assurance (JA)
J Allen	-	Democratic Services Officer (JEA)

RSC18 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2025, as previously circulated, were agreed as a correct record.

RSC19 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A M Loughran (substituted by Councillor A D Hobbs) and J P Read (substituted by Councillor J Thorley)

RSC20 General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme

The Deputy Chief Executive (Resources) introduced the report noting the detail as set out in paragraphs 3 and 5 and referred to the recommendations in paragraph 2.

Councillor R P Cooke, Cabinet Member - Resources, commented that it was a good budget. The Band D Council Tax increase is approximately 10 pence per week. He thanked the finance team for the work carried out.

RESOLVED:- that the following be recommended to Council:

- a) The Budget Requirement for the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2026-27 be set at £20.888 million;
- b) The indicative General Fund Revenue Budgets be set at £20.724 million for 2027-28 and £20.987 million for 2028-29;
- c) The General Fund working balance be set at a minimum of £1.0 million,
- d) The detailed capital programme as set out in Appendix 2 be approved;
- e) That the Council Tax for 2026-27 be increased by 2.99% to £184.09;
- f) The Council's Tax Base be set at 50,296.31 (as determined by the Deputy Chief Executive Resources S151);
- g) Note that the inflation parameter for fees and charges for 2026-27 was generally set at 4%;
- h) That delegated authority be given to the Deputy Chief Executive (Resources)/S151 Officer in consultation with the Resources portfolio holder to add items to the budget funded from reserves in line with the purpose of the reserve;
- i) That the Deputy Chief Executive (Resources)/S151 Officer be authorised to adjust reserve contributions to reflect any grant and local taxation changes announced in the final 2026/27 Local Government Finance Settlement.

The Scrutiny Committee gave their thanks to the Finance Team.

RSC21 Fees and Charges Review

The Deputy Chief Executive (Resources) introduced the report noting the detail as set out in paragraphs 3 and 5 and referred to the recommendations in paragraph 2.

RESOLVED:- that the proposed Fees and Charges for 2026/27 be recommended to Council for approval, specifically the new charges in paragraph 5.10 and the increases above 4.3% in Appendix 1

RSC22 Work Programme - Resources Scrutiny Committee

Considered a report presenting the Resources Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme.

An item to be added to the Work Programme regarding LGR progress.

RESOLVED:- that in accordance with the powers delegated to the Committee the report be noted subject to the amendment noted above.

CHAIR