

Title of report: 2025-26 budget – recommendations from Scrutiny Management Board

Meeting: Cabinet

Meeting date: Thursday 23 January 2025

Report by: Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Classification

Open

Decision type

Non-key

Wards affected

(All Wards);

Purpose

To notify Cabinet of the recommendations from Scrutiny Management Board's scrutiny of:

- a. 2025-26 Draft Revenue Budget
- b. 2025-26 Proposed Savings Plans
- c. 2025-26 Proposed Directorate Base Budgets
- d. 2025-29 Medium Term Financial Strategy
- e. 2025-26 Treasury Management Strategy
- f. 2025-26 Draft directorate Fees and Charge

Recommendation(s)

That Cabinet:

- a) Consider the recommendations of the Scrutiny Management Board; and
- b) Respond to Scrutiny Management Board's recommendations in their proposed budget to be submitted to Cabinet on 23 January 2025.

Alternative options

1. It is a constitutional requirement that either Cabinet or its member portfolio holders consider recommendations from scrutiny committee. No alternative options are therefore presented.

Key considerations

2. The council's Scrutiny Management Board has a remit to scrutinise the council's finances, specifically the council's budget and treasury management strategy.
3. To fulfil this role, the committee met on 14 January to consider the council's
 - a) 2025-26 Draft Revenue Budget
 - b) 2025-26 Proposed Savings Plans
 - c) 2025-26 Proposed Directorate Base Budgets
 - d) 2025-29 Medium Term Financial Strategy
 - e) 2025-26 Treasury Management Strategy
 - f) 2025-26 Draft directorate Fees and Charge
4. At this meeting the committee made five recommendations, which are attached as appendix 1.

Community impact

5. The council's budget is fundamental to the delivery of the council's priorities, as contained in its forward plan. Scrutiny Management Board's recommendations, while not having a direct community impact, contribute to production of the council's budget.

Environmental Impact

6. This report contains no direct environmental impacts. However, the work that the committee will undertake resulting from agreeing this work programme may have direct impacts. Reports arising from or supporting this work will outline their potential environmental impact.

Equality duty

7. Equality Impact Assessments for the savings options and budget proposals will be made available as part of the 2025/26 Revenue Budget report to be presented at the meeting of Cabinet on 23 January 2025. These will include any changes made to the budget proposals as a result of the recommendations made by the Scrutiny Management Board.

Resource implications

8. This information report constitutes part of the typical function of this committee. There are no specific resource implications in its production or consideration.

Legal implications

9. The remit of the scrutiny committee is set out in part 3 section 4 of the constitution and the role of the scrutiny committee is set out in part 2 article 6 of the constitution.
10. The Local Government Act 2000 requires the council to deliver the scrutiny function.

Risk management

11. As this report is for information only, it presents no risks in its consideration.

Consultees

12. None undertaken

Appendices

Appendix 1: Scrutiny Management Board - Recommendations to Cabinet 23 January 2025

Background papers

Report Reviewers Used for appraising this report:

Governance	John Coleman	Date 15/01/2025
Finance	Click or tap here to enter text.	Date Click or tap to enter a date.
Legal	Click or tap here to enter text.	Date Click or tap to enter a date.
Communications	Click or tap here to enter text.	Date Click or tap to enter a date.
Equality Duty	Harriet Yellin	Date 15/01/2025
Procurement	Click or tap here to enter text.	Date Click or tap to enter a date.
Risk	Click or tap here to enter text.	Date Click or tap to enter a date.
Approved by	Click or tap here to enter text.	Date Click or tap to enter a date.