

RECORD OF DECISION BY CITY MAYOR OR INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER

1.	Decision title	Recommendation of General Fund Revenue Budget 2026/27
2.	Declarations of interest	None
3.	Date of recommendation	24th February 2026
4.	Decision maker	City Mayor
5.	Decision taken	<p>1.To thank scrutiny commissions for taking time to consider and comment on the draft budget.</p> <p>2. To recommend to Council the following:</p> <p>(a) approve the three year budget strategy described in this report;</p> <p>(b) approve the proposed budget and council tax for 2026/27, including the recommendations in the formal budget resolution circulated separately;</p> <p>(c) that £2m is transferred from the budget strategy reserve to an earmarked reserve to support the Council-owned Adventure Playgrounds in the City. The funding will be provided as capital and revenue therefore it is proposed to add up to a maximum of £2m to the capital programme to be funded from this earmarked reserve.</p> <p>(d) approve the transfers from the budget strategy reserve as set out in paragraph 8.3 of this report;</p> <p>(e) approve the budget ceilings for each service shown at Appendix 1 to this report;</p> <p>(f) approve the scheme of virement described in Appendix 2 to this report;</p> <p>(g) note the Director of Finance’s view on the adequacy of reserves and the estimates used in preparing the budget;</p> <p>(h) note the equality implications arising from the proposed tax increase, as described in paragraph 14 and Appendix 3;</p> <p>(i) note the medium-term financial strategy and forecasts presented at Appendix 4, and the financial challenges ahead;</p> <p>(j) note the earmarked reserves position set out at Appendix 5;</p>

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		<p>(k) note the policy on council tax premiums and discounts set out at Appendix 6;</p> <p>(l) note that the impact of the Council Tax Support Scheme has been reviewed by the Executive, and reported to OSC, during the year;</p> <p>(m) approve the inflationary increase to Council Tax Support Scheme thresholds as shown at Appendix 7 and approve further inflationary increases in future years (to be calculated with reference to published CPI inflation for the September prior to the start of the year in question);</p> <p>(n) approve the capital receipts flexibility policy at Appendix 8.</p>
6.	Reason for decision	<p>The revenue budget forms part of the budget and policy framework. Its approval is the responsibility of the full Council. The City Mayor is responsible for the preparation of a proposal for Council consideration.</p> <p>A draft budget was published on 9th December 2025. The budget was considered by a number of scrutiny commissions, whose comments were considered by Overview Select Committee on 2nd February. Minutes of the commissions and Overview Select Committee have been circulated to Council members.</p>
7.	<p>A) KEY DECISION Yes/No?</p> <p>b) If yes, was it published 5 clear days in advance? Yes/no</p>	a) No
8.	Options considered	Not Applicable
9.	<p>Deadline for call-in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 members of a scrutiny commission or any 5 councillors can ask for the 	Not Applicable.

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	<p>decision to be called-in.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notification of call-in with reasons must be made to the monitoring officer	
<p>10.</p>	<p>Signature of decision maker (City Mayor or where delegated by the City Mayor, name of executive member)</p>	