



**To:** **Scrutiny Committee**  
**Date:** **3 February 2026**  
**Report of:** **Chair of the Budget Review Group**  
**Title of Report:** **Endorsement of the Report of the Budget Review Group**

<b>Summary and recommendations</b>	
<b>Decision being taken:</b>	To endorse the draft report and recommendations from the Budget Review Group.
<b>Key decision:</b>	No
<b>Lead Member:</b>	Councillor James Fry, Chair of the Budget Review Group
<b>Corporate Priority:</b>	A Well-Run Council
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	None

<b>Recommendation(s): That the Scrutiny Committee resolves to:</b>	
1.	<b>Endorse</b> the report and recommendations from the Budget Review Group.
2.	<b>Delegate authority</b> to the Scrutiny and Governance Advisor, in consultation with the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, to make minor amendments to the report.

<b>Information Exempt From Publication</b>	
<b>Appendix 3</b>	Relating to financial sensitivity/business of the Council

<b>Appendix No.</b>	<b>Appendix Title</b>	<b>Exempt from Publication</b>
Appendix 1	Draft Report of the Budget Review Group	No
Appendix 2	Budget Review Group Recommendations	No
Appendix 3	Written response to questions from the Budget Review Group	Yes

## Overview and Summary

1. Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting in September 2025, commissioned the Budget Review Group (BRG) to review Council’s proposed budget and medium-term financial strategy.
2. The Budget Review Group held five meetings in December 2025 and January 2026 to carry out its work examining the draft budget proposals, as approved by Cabinet for consultation in December 2025. The Group’s findings and recommendations are appended to this report for Scrutiny’s endorsement.
3. Following endorsement by Scrutiny, the BRG recommendations will be forwarded to Cabinet to either agree, agree in-part, or disagree, in consultation with the relevant Officers. Together with the report, it will be presented to Cabinet and Full Council on 11 and 23 February 2026 respectively.
4. Section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000 grants power to the Scrutiny Committee to make reports or recommendations to the Cabinet with respect to the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the Executive; and on matters which affect the authority's area or the inhabitants of that area.
5. The Budget Review Group wish to thank Cabinet Members, Working Group Members and Officers who attended the meetings and responded to the questions.

**Financial implications**

6. Financial implications for the reports listed above were outlined within the reports presented at Working Groups.

**Legal issues**

7. Legal implications for the reports listed above were outlined within the reports presented at Working Groups.

**Level of risk**

8. Risk Registers, where appropriate, were considered by the Budget Review Group when they considered their recommendations.

**Equalities impact**

9. Equalities Impact Assessments, where appropriate, were considered by the Budget Review Group when they considered their recommendations.

**Carbon and Environmental Considerations**

10. Consideration for Carbon and Environmental impacts, where appropriate, were considered by the Budget Review Group when they considered their recommendations.

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