

To: Council
Date: 23 February 2026
Report of: Scrutiny Committee
Title of Report: Report of the Budget Review Group

Summary and recommendations	
Decision being taken:	To report to Council the Budget Review Group recommendations as endorsed by the Scrutiny Committee.
Key decision:	No
Lead Member:	Councillor James Fry, Chair of the Budget Review Group Councillor Alex Powell, Chair of the Scrutiny Committee
Corporate Priority:	A Well-Run Council
Policy Framework:	None

Recommendation(s): That Council resolves to:
1. Note the report and recommendations from the Budget Review Group as endorsed by the Scrutiny Committee.

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

Appendix No.	Appendix Title	Exempt from Publication
Appendix 1	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. The Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting in September 2025, commissioned the Budget Review Group (BRG) to review the Council's proposed budget and medium-term financial strategy.

2. The Budget Review Group held five meetings in December 2025 and January 2026 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 as endorsed by the Scrutiny Committee.
3. Following endorsement by Scrutiny, the BRG recommendations were formally considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 11 February 2026 indicating whether it agreed, agreed in-part, or disagreed each of the recommendations.
4. 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

5. Financial implications, where appropriate, were considered within the findings of the Budget Review Group and the consideration of their recommendations.

Legal issues

6. Legal implications, where appropriate, were considered within the findings of the Budget Review Group and the consideration of their recommendations.

Level of risk

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

Equalities impact

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

Carbon and Environmental Considerations

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

Implications of Local Government Reorganisation

10. Implications of Local Government Reorganisation for the reports were outlined within the report appended.
11. Where appropriate, any further implications were reviewed when considering the recommendations using the linked guidance from Government: [Financial decisions before local government reorganisation - GOV.UK](#)

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