

Scrutiny Board :	Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board
Report Title	Budget Monitoring - Quarter 3
Date of Meeting	Thursday, 19 March 2026
Report Author	Claire Spencer, Service Director - Finance
Lead Officer	Alex Thompson, Executive Director - Finance & Transformation
Wards Affected	(All Wards);
Identify exempt information and exemption category	Not applicable
Appendices (if any)	1. Cabinet Report – Quarter 3 Budget Monitoring Report 2025/26 (and associated appendices)

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 To consider the Council's Quarter 3 Budget Monitoring Report.

2. Recommendation

That the Board considers and comments upon the information presented and determines whether it wishes to make any recommendations to the Executive.

3. Background and Context

- 3.1 Section 151 of the 1972 Local Government Act requires the Chief Financial Officer to ensure the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs. Budgetary control, which includes the regular monitoring and reporting of budgets is an essential element in discharging this statutory responsibility.
- 3.2 Budget monitoring reports are produced quarterly for Cabinet and the budget position is reported monthly to Leadership Team, highlighting the anticipated year end projection.

- 3.3 The monitoring reports track progress against agreed budget decisions, consider any budget changes (including re-profiling of Capital budgets), forecast any significant variances to the budget, and enable corrective action to be taken as necessary to ensure a balanced budget at year end.
- 3.4 Regular financial reporting is part of the governance and risk management approach within the Council, ensuring that it delivers sustainable and value for money services as required under statute.
- 3.5 At its meeting on 11th March 2026, the Cabinet considered the Quarter 3 Budget Monitoring Report for the 2025/26 financial year and referred the report to the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board for consideration and comment. The Board has been asked to consider the report, in the context of paragraphs 3.1-3.4 above, providing comment and recommendations to Cabinet as it sees fit.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 Not applicable

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 No direct implications arising from the recommendations.

6. Legal and Governance Implications

- 6.1 No direct implications arising from the recommendations.

7. Risks

- 7.1 No direct implications arising from the recommendations.

8. Equality and Diversity Implications (including the public sector equality duty)

- 8.1 No direct recommendations arising from the recommendations.

9. Other Relevant Implications

- 9.1 No direct implications arising from the recommendations.

10. Background Documents

- 10.1 Cabinet Report – 10th December 2025 – Quarter 2 Budget Monitoring Report 2025/26 (and associated appendices)

11. How does this deliver the Outcomes in the Council Plan?

- 11.1 The Council's financial status underpins the resourcing of the Council's Corporate Plan, Medium Term Financial Strategy and the associated strategies and aspirations. Analysis of the forecast financial outturn position supports ongoing strategic planning.