

<b>Risk Identifier</b>	CR-01
<b>Risk Title</b>	Medium Term Financial Plan

**Risk Description**

The council faces enormous and uncertain fiscal and economy pressures. The council needs to set and adhere to a robust budget and medium term financial strategy, while putting resources aside against the risks of the unknown. If it is unsuccessful, the viability of the authority and the ability to deliver services to residents would be at risk.

**Risk Owner**

Adrian Webb


**Directorate Responsible**

Finance & Corporate Services

Original Risk		
Likelihood	Impact	Score
4	4	16

Residual Risk		
Likelihood	Impact	Score
3	4	12

**Risk direction**

Decreasing 

**Cabinet Member**

Councillor Hargreaves

Key Dates	
Date Registered	7th June 2024
Last update	4th October 2024

**Background**

The Council created Blueprint Uttlesford to ensure it had a plan and governance process to meet the 5-Year savings target and has had a long history of being innovative and frugal such as the Zero based budgeting processes in 2018 through 2021 that has kept the council in a strong fiscal position.

The council has a deep and wide income base deriving from business rates but the council is only entitled to a small share of this.. At some point, there will be a reset alongside a fair funding review. The impact of this would radically shift the council's fiscal long term viability. It therefore, needs to ensure the council's local position is understood by central government through lobbying, while identifying the impact of any changes.

**Service Area Affected**

All

**Triggers**

Council does not regularly monitor budgets or savings targets and it misses a major pressure.  
 Council does not identify long term pressures accurately and it understates the savings it needs to make.  
 Council does not set a balanced budget or rigorously ensure savngs are credible or lets services avoid service targets.

**Risk Type**

Threat

**Risk Response Category**

Reduce

Risk Response	Risk Response Actionee	RAG Status	Progress Update	Next Scheduled Update
Full Council has set a sustainable budget and five year MTFS most recently in February 2024, and the first full year of Blueprint Uttlesford has delivered substantial savings, putting it on target to close the current projected 5 year MTFS funding gap.	Adrian Webb	Green	Budget was passed in February 2024	Oct-24
Council reviews Blueprint Savings Targets at each 2 weeks at internal meeting of CMT Members.	Peter Holt	Green		Oct-24
Members were updated on Blueprint Uttlesford progress	CMT	Green		
Revenues and Benefits Strategy paper will go to Cabinet in September.	Gareth Robinson	Amber	Ideas and process review workshops and external NEC reviews have taken place. Next stage is Early findings paper, further workshops with staff, and then a revised paper to CMT.	Dec-24

The Council will update its long term medium term financial model to identify the impact of fair funding and a business rate reset.	Gareth Robinson	Red	Council will review its MTFP model for December	Dec-24
Council is strengthening its budget monitoring processes	Gareth Robinson	Amber	Quarter 1 process was simpler and more information was provided to CMT. Quarter 2 will be a further improvement and Quarter 3 should be	Dec-24

Key for RAG status of risk response	
R	Control is not in place or working or progress has slipped
A	Control is not working efficiently and some challenges remain
G	Control is working or predominantly in hand or completed