

Amendment (2) to Item 12: Budget 2026/27 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2026/27 to 2030/31
Full Council, 24 February 2026

Amended Recommendation (red text denotes additional wording):

To be proposed by Councillor Gooding and seconded by Councillor Moran

1. That the Council approves:
 - i. the key assumptions as set out at paragraphs 31 - 38 of the full report;
 - ii. the Medium Term Financial Plan 2026/27 to 2030/31 on page 11 of the full report;
 - iii. the council tax increase of 2.99% council tax for 2026/27. The Band D equivalent (for Uttlesford's share of the bill) would be £187.46, which would be an increase of £5.44 as set out on pages 17 and 18 of the full report;
 - iv. the provisional council taxbase of 41,402.4 and the continued assumption of a maximum increase in the council tax of 2.99% over the lifetime of the Medium Term Financial Plan to 2030/31 as set out on pages 17 of the full report;
 - v. the Council Tax requirement for 2026/27 of £7.761m as set out in paragraph 3 of Appendix B;
 - vi. the General Fund budget as detailed on page 21 of the full report;
 - vii. to increase the HRA rent by the maximum allowed of 1% above CPI, which is an increase of 4.8% for 2026/27. The average increase in HRA weekly rents would be £6.22, leading to an average weekly rent payable by council tenants of £135.83 as set out on page 29 of the full report;
 - viii. the housing service charge increases (General Fund and HRA) in line with inflation plus 1% as per rents;
 - ix. the Housing Revenue Account 5 year budget as set out on page 32 of the full report;
 - x. to delegate to the Section 151 Officer to increase the Capital budget to match the 30 Year HRA Programme once it is approved to enable the delivery of new homes in the HRA;
 - xi. the Capital Strategy 2026/27 to 2030/31 as set out on pages 33-43 of the full report;
 - xii. to approve the General Fund Capital Programme 2026/27 to 2030/31 detailed on pages 44-47 of the full report;
 - xiii. to approve the HRA Capital Programme 2026/27 to 2030/31 detailed on pages 48 of the full report;
 - xiv. the section 25 report set out on pages 49 - 55 when considering the budget for 2026/27;

- xv. the further proposal to increase Garden Waste subscriptions by £5 in 2027/28 as part of the Blueprint Uttlesford 2.0 programme to support the MTFP on page 20;
- xvi. the Fees and Charges schedule as set out in Appendix C;
- xvii. the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2026/27 as set out in Appendix D;
- xviii. the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2026/27 as set out in Appendix E;
- xix. the Commercial Strategy 2026/27 to 2030/31 as set out in in Appendix F;
- xx. the Ethical Investment Policy as set out in Appendix G;
- xxi. the revenue growth bids as detailed at Appendix H;
- xxii. the savings proposals as detailed at Appendix I; and
- xxiii. notes the Equality & Health Impact Assessment at Appendix J.

xxiv. This Council notes that the proposed increases in Parking Charges are significantly higher than inflation and this will undoubtedly cause hardship to the residents of this District who rely on parking to carry out their regular shopping or commute to work. The impact on our already challenged retail and service sector will be unprecedented and will cause further downturn for those businesses in our towns and villages.

It is noted that the proceeds of this proposed increase (£345,000) is scheduled to be added to the revenue account and will need to be replaced from other resources.

xxv. This Council is therefore RESOLVED: -

In order to maintain Council Income from Parking Charges, the increase should be no more than the current rate of inflation (3%), which would generate circa £45k per annum; and

That the balance of the money (£300k) required to offset the proposed additional income from Parking Charges be drawn from the annual Blueprint 2.0 Contingency detailed in Paragraph 58.