

## FINANCE & ASSETS COMMITTEE – 29 JANUARY 2026

### AGENDA ITEM NO. 10

#### AMENDMENT

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- 2.1 Committee is asked to recommend to Full Council that it approve:
- i) The draft revenue budget for 2026/27 and MTFS for 2027/28 to 2029/30 as set out in Appendix 1 **(Amended)**
  - ii) The Statement of Reserves as set out in Appendix 2 **(Amended)**
  - iii) The Capital Strategy and financing as set out in Appendix 3
  - iv) The 2026/27 Fees and Charges as set out in Appendix 4
  - v) The application of Business Rate reliefs for 2026/27, including those announced in the Autumn Budget and fully funded by Government through Section 31 grant, as detailed in sections 6.6 to 6.7 of this report.
  - vi) The changes to the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme and premiums for Long-Term Empty and Second Homes as detailed in sections 11.8 and 11.9 of this report.
- 2.2 To authorise the Director, Finance, in consultation with the Chairman of Committee to adjust the use of the Surplus Savings Reserve in 2026/27 and future years (as available), to ensure that the net budget as detailed in 2.1 remains unchanged (in the event of any additional information becoming available, principally in relation to (but not exclusive too) the Final Local Government Settlement and/or the NNDR1 return). These adjustments to be made in advance of the report being presented to Full Council on the 24 February 2026.

PROPOSER: Cllr Anna Bailey

SECONDER: Cllr Alan Sharp

**DRAFT BUDGET 2026-27**

	Budget 2025-26 £	Estimate 2026-27 £	Estimate 2027-28 £	Estimate 2028-29 £	Estimate 2029-30 £
Committees:					
Operational Services	6,842,567	<b>8,368,382</b>	8,437,242	8,505,138	8,775,199
Finance & Assets	7,969,054	<b>8,279,422</b>	8,334,820	8,635,326	8,844,736
Net District Spending	14,811,621	<b>16,647,804</b>	16,772,062	17,140,464	17,619,935
New Homes Bonus Grant	-828,863	<b>0</b>	0	0	0
Dampening Grants ( Transitional Protection	0	<b>-164,492</b>	-1,073,724	-2,015,660	0
Service Grant / Funding Floor Grants	-523,990	<b>0</b>	0	0	0
Internal Drainage Board Levies	801,368	<b>811,850</b>	829,687	847,881	866,439
Net Operating Expenditure	14,260,136	<b>17,295,161</b>	16,528,025	15,972,684	18,486,374
Contribution to Corporate Reserve	40,162	<b>303,502</b>	-76,713	-55,535	251,369
Contribution from Surplus Savings Reserve	-1,812,895	<b>-3,906,688</b>	-3,905,988	-1,874,835	0
Savings to be identified	0	<b>0</b>	0	-2,534,449	-6,670,339
ECDC Budget Requirement	12,487,403	<b>13,691,975</b>	12,545,325	11,507,865	12,067,404
Parish Council Precepts	3,596,232	<b>3,776,044</b>	3,889,325	4,006,005	4,126,185
DISTRICT BUDGET REQUIREMENT	16,083,635	<b>17,468,019</b>	16,434,650	15,513,870	16,193,589
<u>Financed by:</u>					
Council's share of Collection Fund	-492,272	<b>-150,313</b>	0	0	0
Revenue Support Grant	-125,690	<b>-4,971,021</b>	-3,712,999	-2,415,112	-2,472,088
Locally retained Non-Domestic Rates	-5,393,410	<b>-2,110,633</b>	-2,159,047	-2,202,603	-2,503,610
NNDR from Renewables / Enterprise Zone	-1,773,841	<b>-1,713,527</b>	-1,713,527	-1,713,527	-1,713,527
COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT	8,298,422	<b>8,522,525</b>	8,849,076	9,182,629	9,504,364

	Estimate 2025-26 £	Estimate 2026-27 £	Estimate 2027-28 £	Estimate 2028-29 £	Estimate 2029-30 £
Unallocated Surplus Savings Reserve					
In hand at 1st April	10,229,244	<b>9,687,511</b>	5,780,823	1,874,835	0
Movement in year	-541,733	<b>-3,906,688</b>	-3,905,988	-1,874,835	0
In hand at 31st March	9,687,511	<b>5,780,823</b>	1,874,835	0	0

<b>IMPLIED BAND 'D' COUNCIL TAX</b> (District only i.e. excluding parish levies)					
Demand on Collection Fund as above	8,298,422	<b>8,522,525</b>	8,849,076	9,182,629	9,504,364
Less Parish Precepts as above	3,596,232	<b>3,776,044</b>	3,889,325	4,006,005	4,126,185
	4,702,190	<b>4,746,481</b>	4,959,751	5,176,624	5,378,179
Council Tax Base	33,081.4	<b>33,393.0</b>	33,707.7	34,025.4	34,225.4
District Council Tax - Band D	142.14	<b>142.14</b>	147.14	152.14	157.14

Description	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Appendix 1(b) (Amended)	
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Estimate 2028/29	Estimate 2029/30
<b>Operational Services</b>					
Building Regulations	36,436	<b>45,677</b>	46,127	46,586	47,054
Care and Repair	-98,842	<b>-25,836</b>	-26,059	-26,311	-26,593
Community Projects & Grants	206,095	<b>212,295</b>	214,420	216,588	218,799
Community Safety	64,358	<b>73,219</b>	81,587	82,738	83,912
Cons. Area & Listed Buildings	74,808	<b>77,144</b>	78,420	79,722	81,050
Crematorium	0	<b>242,649</b>	-30,371	-264,791	-299,935
Customer Services	665,279	<b>649,638</b>	662,858	676,343	690,097
Dog Warden Scheme	50,553	<b>50,674</b>	51,643	52,632	53,641
Emergency Planning	32,148	<b>34,578</b>	34,954	35,338	35,730
Environmental	52,087	<b>53,377</b>	54,357	55,357	56,377
Environmental Health	620,980	<b>708,373</b>	721,889	735,675	749,737
Homelessness	326,611	<b>383,692</b>	388,324	393,049	397,869
Leisure Centre	-502,043	<b>-548,183</b>	-548,183	-548,183	-548,183
Licencing - Env Services	26,040	<b>-102,213</b>	-91,897	-81,375	-70,643
Marketing & Grants	33,766	<b>33,766</b>	34,290	34,825	34,825
Nuisances	115,533	<b>119,898</b>	122,198	124,544	126,937
Parish Forums	1,561	<b>1,561</b>	1,561	1,561	1,561
Planning	395,659	<b>419,250</b>	426,522	433,940	441,506
Public Relations	124,682	<b>130,557</b>	133,101	135,696	138,342
Recycling	1,649,812	<b>3,048,931</b>	3,267,033	3,450,667	3,635,390
Refuse Collection	1,850,473	<b>1,438,796</b>	1,467,572	1,496,923	1,526,861
Street Cleansing	1,082,792	<b>1,284,471</b>	1,310,160	1,336,363	1,363,090
Street Naming & Numbering	33,279	<b>36,067</b>	36,568	37,080	37,601
Travellers Sites	0	<b>0</b>	168	171	174
	<b>6,842,067</b>	<b>8,368,382</b>	<b>8,437,242</b>	<b>8,505,138</b>	<b>8,775,199</b>
<b>Finance &amp; Assets</b>					
Asset Management	153,442	<b>153,442</b>	153,442	153,442	153,442
Award Ditches	11,468	<b>11,697</b>	11,931	12,170	12,413
Civic Relations	18,721	<b>19,212</b>	19,507	19,807	20,113
Climate Change	100,000	<b>232,687</b>	235,340	238,046	240,807
Closed Churchyards	37,777	<b>38,533</b>	39,304	40,090	40,892
Community Transport	15,000	<b>15,000</b>	15,000	15,000	15,000
Corp. Man. Policy Research / Review	245,497	<b>251,354</b>	257,334	263,458	269,730
Council Tax Collection Costs	614,713	<b>625,991</b>	644,561	657,329	670,353
Data Management	175,648	<b>138,122</b>	140,061	142,038	144,055
Depot	-76,499	<b>-76,530</b>	-78,081	-79,663	-81,277
Economic Development	32,486	<b>-68,922</b>	-64,461	-59,909	-55,266
Enterprise Zone Business Rates	610,816	<b>500,816</b>	603,506	603,506	603,506
Finance	359,950	<b>391,762</b>	399,458	407,308	415,315
General Gang	99,947	<b>60,838</b>	61,715	62,609	63,521
Health & Safety (Work)	28,784	<b>29,900</b>	29,900	29,900	29,900
Housing Benefits	518,819	<b>508,800</b>	532,371	545,467	558,825
Housing Strategy	207,243	<b>193,762</b>	200,387	207,145	214,038
Human Resources (including training)	287,498	<b>300,371</b>	304,708	309,132	313,644
Information Technology	1,136,674	<b>1,310,335</b>	1,391,189	1,392,959	1,379,391
Interest & Financial Transactions	-994,055	<b>-530,353</b>	-430,154	-233,637	-230,201
Internal Audit	88,568	<b>89,548</b>	91,771	94,050	96,386
Land Charges Admin	-29,917	<b>-24,758</b>	-26,188	-27,647	-29,135
Legal Services	189,832	<b>177,887</b>	180,915	184,004	187,154
Local Elections	25,000	<b>25,000</b>	25,000	25,000	25,000
Local Plans	229,069	<b>318,652</b>	323,609	328,065	333,222
Management Team	725,349	<b>828,759</b>	845,235	862,041	879,183
Markets	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0
Member & Committee Support	711,686	<b>729,619</b>	755,397	757,720	772,330
Misc. Financial Services	556,098	<b>44,478</b>	-344,114	-375,373	-304,860
Miscellaneous Properties	-53,487	<b>-54,229</b>	-58,486	-59,258	-60,046
NNDR Collection Costs	61,973	<b>59,525</b>	64,347	67,663	71,045
Out Of Hours Service	14,000	<b>14,000</b>	14,280	14,566	14,857
Parking of Vehicles	47,544	<b>4,850</b>	8,109	11,435	14,826
Parks and Open Spaces	509,711	<b>539,859</b>	554,228	568,886	583,836
Payroll	133,939	<b>125,102</b>	127,465	129,875	132,334
Public Conveniences	213,197	<b>222,249</b>	209,381	212,488	215,654
Registration of Electors	50,644	<b>50,644</b>	50,644	50,644	50,644
Reprographics	159,263	<b>230,890</b>	241,327	244,937	248,619
Office Accommodation	618,884	<b>657,707</b>	670,395	683,338	696,538
Sport & Recreation Admin	133,772	<b>132,823</b>	134,487	136,695	138,948
	<b>7,969,054</b>	<b>8,279,422</b>	<b>8,334,820</b>	<b>8,635,326</b>	<b>8,844,736</b>
Total	<b>14,811,121</b>	<b>16,647,804</b>	<b>16,772,062</b>	<b>17,140,464</b>	<b>17,619,935</b>

**Reserve Accounts**

Description	2025/26				2026/27			
	Opening	Transfers to	Contributio	Forecast	Opening	Transfers	Contribution	Forecast
	Balance 1	Reserve	ns from	Balance 31	Balance 1	to Reserve	s from	Balance 31
	April		Reserve	March	April		Reserve	March
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
District Elections	50,397	25,000		75,397	75,397	25,000		100,397
Housing Conditions Survey	35,000	5,000		40,000	40,000	5,000		45,000
Change Management	0			0	0			0
Major Project Development	100,000			100,000	100,000			100,000
Surplus Savings Reserve	10,229,244	1,271,162	(1,812,895)	9,687,511	9,687,511		(3,906,688)	5,780,823
Vehicle Replacements	74,240			74,240	74,240			74,240
Sports Facilities Funding Reserve	58,000			58,000	58,000			58,000
IT	160,000	60,000	(73,345)	146,655	146,655	60,000	(196,138)	10,517
CIL Admin	206,621	70,000	(100,000)	176,621	176,621	70,000	(100,000)	146,621
Asset Management	96,441			96,441	96,441			96,441
Community Fund Reserves	18,207			18,207	18,207			18,207
Housing	69,926			69,926	69,926			69,926
Historic Homelessness Grant	742,431		(143,268)	599,163	599,163		(104,992)	494,171
Affordable Housing	97,526			97,526	97,526			97,526
General Fund Balance	1,385,852	40,162		1,426,014	1,426,014	303,502		1,729,516
Commercial Invest to Save	20,000			20,000	20,000			20,000
CLT Grant Applications	20,000			20,000	20,000			20,000
Travellers' Sites	0	35,722		35,722	35,722	35,722		71,444
Enterprise Zone NNDR	1,234,540	305,408	(83,249)	1,456,699	1,456,699	250,408	(185,718)	1,521,389
Growth and Infrastructure Fund	2,522,015			2,522,015	2,522,015			2,522,015
Exceptional Hardship Fund	6,939			6,939	6,939			6,939
Community Transport	125,281			125,281	125,281			125,281
Climate Change	88,229			88,229	88,229			88,229
Other								
CIL	12,947,370	400,000	(9,758,962)	3,588,408	3,588,408	400,000	(2,482,583)	1,505,825
Section 106 Agreements	4,722,039		(500,000)	4,222,039	4,222,039		(500,000)	3,722,039
Internal Borrowing	(10,197,185)	(5,454,653)	3,190,300	(12,461,538)	(12,461,538)	(3,580,000)	2,816,384	(13,225,154)
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>24,813,113</b>	<b>(3,242,199)</b>	<b>(9,281,419)</b>	<b>12,289,495</b>	<b>12,289,495</b>	<b>(2,430,368)</b>	<b>(4,659,736)</b>	<b>5,199,391</b>

Total Reserves	17,340,889	1,812,454	(2,212,757)	16,940,586		13,363,646
General Fund	1,385,852	40,162	0	1,426,014		1,729,516
Earmarked Reserves	15,955,037	1,772,292	(2,212,757)	15,514,572		11,634,130

**Appendix 2**  
**Amended**

**Reserve Accounts**

Description	2027/28				2028/29			
	Opening Balance 1 April	Transfers to Reserve	Contributions from Reserve	Forecast Balance 31 March	Opening Balance 1 April	Transfers to Reserve	Contributions from Reserve	Forecast Balance 31 March
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
District Elections	100,397	25,000		125,397	125,397		(125,397)	0
Housing Conditions Survey	45,000	5,000		50,000	50,000	5,000		55,000
Change Management	0			0	0			0
Major Project Development	100,000			100,000	100,000			100,000
Surplus Savings Reserve	5,780,823		(3,905,988)	1,874,835	1,874,835		(1,874,835)	0
Vehicle Replacements	74,240			74,240	74,240			74,240
Sports Facilities Funding Reserve	58,000			58,000	58,000			58,000
IT	10,517	60,000	(70,517)	0	0	60,000	(60,000)	0
CIL Admin	146,621	70,000	(100,000)	116,621	116,621	70,000	(100,000)	86,621
Asset Management	96,441			96,441	96,441			96,441
Community Fund Reserves	18,207			18,207	18,207			18,207
Housing	69,926			69,926	69,926			69,926
Historic Homelessness Grant	494,171		(67,859)	426,312	426,312		(56,288)	370,024
Affordable Housing	97,526			97,526	97,526			97,526
General Fund Balance	1,729,516		(76,713)	1,652,803	1,652,803		(55,535)	1,597,268
Commercial Invest to Save	20,000			20,000	20,000			20,000
CLT Grant Applications	20,000			20,000	20,000			20,000
Travellers' Sites	71,444	34,529		105,973	105,973	33,851		139,824
Enterprise Zone NNDR	1,521,389	301,753	(188,881)	1,634,261	1,634,261	301,753	(192,107)	1,743,907
Growth and Infrastructure Fund	2,522,015			2,522,015	2,522,015			2,522,015
Exceptional Hardship Fund	6,939			6,939	6,939			6,939
Community Transport	125,281			125,281	125,281			125,281
Climate Change	88,229			88,229	88,229			88,229
Other								
CIL	1,505,825	400,000		1,905,825	1,905,825	400,000		2,305,825
Section 106 Agreements	3,722,039		(500,000)	3,222,039	3,222,039		(500,000)	2,722,039
Internal Borrowing	(13,225,154)		7,019,399	(6,205,755)	(6,205,755)	0	768,233	(5,437,522)
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>5,199,391</b>	<b>896,282</b>	<b>2,109,441</b>	<b>8,205,114</b>	<b>8,205,114</b>	<b>870,604</b>	<b>(2,195,929)</b>	<b>6,879,789</b>

Total Reserves	9,618,509	7,289,448
General Fund	1,652,803	1,597,268
Earmarked Reserves	7,965,706	5,692,180