

Title: Finance Report

Committee: Finance & Assets Committee

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1.0 Issue

This report provides Members with budget information for services under the Finance & Assets Committee and then, as part of its corporate remit, for the Council as a whole.

2.0 Recommendations

Members are requested to note:

- this Committee has a year-end underspend of £1,331,912 when compared to its approved revenue budget of £7,969,054.
- that overall, the Council has a year-end underspend of £1,990,003 when compared to its approved revenue budget of £19,249,383.
- that the overall position for the Council on Capital is an outturn of £12,518,671, which is an underspend of £4,449,410 when compared to the revised budget.

3.0 Budget Monitoring

Under Financial Regulations, each policy committee is required to consider projections of financial performance against both its revenue and capital budget on a quarterly basis, with this Committee further considering the overall Council position.

This is the final report for the 2025/26 financial year, detailing the actual expenditure incurred and the income received as of 31 March 2026.

Revenue

Appendix 1 details the overall revenue position for both this Committee and the Council overall. In Appendix 1, the budget lines under the stewardship of this Committee and the funding lines are shown in detail, followed by the Operational Services Committee position in summary.

The detailed revenue position for the Operational Services Committee is shown in Appendix 2. The Committee reported a net underspend of £476,084 against its

approved budget for 2025/26. The most significant variances relate to Licensing (£393,020), Planning (£217,820), Care & Repair (£158,261), Leisure Centres (£132,677) and Building Regulations (£71,175). Further details of these and other year-end variances were reported to the Operational Services Committee on 22 June 2026.

The Finance and Assets Committee reported a total year-end underspend of £1,331,912 against its approved budget for 2025/26. This position reflects a number of variances across the services within the Committee's remit. The principal variances contributing to the overall outturn are summarised in the table below.

Service	Variance	Explanation
Corporate Man. Policy Research/Review	(£27,419)	The underspend relates to grant funding received from MHCLG towards the costs associated with the implementation of the external audit backstop arrangements. As the grant funding was not known at the time the budget was set, it has resulted in a favourable variance at year-end.
Council Tax Collection	(£69,016)	ARP underspent at year-end and was therefore able to refund the partner councils some of the management fee paid earlier in the year.
Economic Development	(£74,438)	A staffing underspend was realised in 2025/26 as a result of the work programme delivered during the year. This position will be reviewed in 2026/27.
Finance	(£37,979)	The underspend is primarily attributable to salary savings arising from a vacant Principal Accountant post within the team during the year. The post has now been filled.
General Gang	(£33,782)	The underspend relates to savings from a staff vacancy during the financial year 2025/26.
Housing Benefits	(£22,610)	The budget was built on 2024/25 figures (the most recently available at the time), the revised final cost is now based on 2025/26 expenditure.

Housing Strategic	(£180,843)	There were savings in salaries and consultants' budget throughout the financial year.
Interest & Financial Transactions	(£696,018)	Interest income exceeded the budgeted amount due to effective treasury management, higher investment balances during the year, and interest rates remaining elevated longer than prudently assumed in the budget.
Information Technology	£113,808	The overspend is primarily attributable to increased costs associated with IT software licences, hardware and infrastructure, which exceeded the original budget provision.
Local Charges	£13,428	The increase in the charges that CCC make for the Con 29 fees were more than what we budgeted for in 2025/26.
Legal Services	(£81,400)	The favourable variance is attributable to salary savings generated by vacant posts within the service during the financial year.
Strategic Plans	(£25,378)	The underspend relates to lower-than-anticipated expenditure on consultancy costs within the Local Plan budget during the financial year.
Management Team	£72,816	The overspend is attributable to a reduction in the recharge of employee costs to the Council's trading companies following changes to the management structure, together with expenditure incurred in relation to Local Government Reorganisation.
Miscellaneous Finance	(£113,728)	The favourable variance arises from a lower-than-budgeted Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) charge. The original budget assumed a higher level of capital expenditure; however, actual expenditure was lower than forecast, resulting in a reduced MRP requirement for the year.
Member & Committee Support	(£90,856)	Vacancies within the team this year have resulted in an underspend.

NNDR Costs	(£10,299)	Court costs recovered during the year exceeded the budgeted income target, resulting in a favourable variance.
Office Accommodation	(£43,962)	There were savings in employee costs during 2025/26 as a result of vacancies within the team throughout the financial year.
Parking of Vehicles	(£77,091)	The underspend is the result of increased Car Parking income, back to pre-COVID levels, due to more commuters using the council-owned car park.
Parks & Gardens	£48,561	Section 106 contributions received during the year for Parks and Gardens allocations were lower than budgeted, resulting in an adverse variance.
Public Conveniences	£41,208	The overspend relates to increased costs of providing cleaning cover at public toilets across the district during periods of staff holiday and sickness absence.
Reprographics	(£27,273)	The favourable variance is attributable to increased commercial income generated by the Reprographics Service during 2025/26.
Parish Precepts	(£10,000)	This relates to one of the Parish precepts which was incorrect at the time of budget preparation. This was resolved at a later date.
Business Rates	(£1,068,528)	The underspend relates to additional Renewable Energy receipts generated in 2024/25. Under the accounting arrangements for these receipts, any over-collection in a financial year is credited to the accounts in the following year, resulting in the favourable variance reported in 2025/26
Internal Drainage Boards	(£172,007)	The Internal Drainage Boards prepare their budgets at the same time as the Council, so assumptions are made as to the actual levy to be charged. The forecast reflects the payments due, but more significantly, additional Government Grant received to meet

		the sharp increase in levy costs. (The grant announcement was only made in July 2025 and only a selected few councils are allocated funding, so while budget provision was built into the budget, a prudent approach was taken to the value of our contribution.)
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Capital

The Council's revised capital programme for 2025/26 totals £16,968,081. This includes £1,553,906 of slippage brought forward from 2024/25 and an additional budget allocation of £2,197,397 for the Crematorium project.

The Council's final capital outturn position for 2025/26 is an underspend of £4,449,410 against the revised budget. Within the Finance & Assets Committee, there is a net overspend of £1,123,365. This is primarily due to additional borrowing provided to East Cambs Trading Company (ECTC), with total lending of £2.875 million during the year compared with the original budget provision of £1.5 million. This overspend was partially offset by the deferral of the Solar Panels on Council Buildings project and by lower-than-anticipated expenditure on Depot capital maintenance works. The Operational Services Committee reported an underspend of £5.572 million, details of which are set out in the Operational Services Committee Outturn Report.

4.0 Arguments/Conclusions

The net revenue expenditure for the Council is a £ 3,049,102 underspend compared to the approved budget. This has been moved to the Surplus Savings Reserve.

5.0 Additional Implications Assessment

In the table below, please put Yes or No in each box:

Financial Implications Yes	Legal Implications No	Human Resources (HR) Implications No
Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) No	Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA) No	Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) No

Financial Implications

The underspend reported in this report will be added to the Council's Surplus Savings Reserve and will become available to balance the budget in future years.

6.0 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Summary Budget Monitoring Report – 31 March 2026.

Appendix 2 – Operational Services Budget Monitoring Report – 31 March 2026

Appendix 3 – Capital Budget Monitoring Report – 31 March 2026

Appendix 4 – Reserve Balances – 31 March 2026

7.0 Background Document

Council Budget approved by Full Council on 25 February 2025

Finance & Assets Committee - Budget Monitoring Report - 31st March 2026

Revenue	Total Budget 2025-26	Actual to 31 March 2026	Variance
	£	£	£
Asset Management	153,442	153,442	--
Award Ditches	11,468	10,512	(956)
Civic Relations	18,721	15,029	(3,692)
Climate Change	100,000	100,000	--
Closed Churchyards	37,777	37,777	--
Community Transport	15,000	15,000	--
Corp.Man.Policy Research / Review	245,497	218,078	(27,419)
Council Tax Collection costs	614,713	545,697	(69,016)
Data Management	175,648	170,287	(5,361)
Depot	(76,499)	(76,499)	--
Economic Development	32,486	(41,952)	(74,438)
Enterprise Zone Business Rates	610,816	610,816	--
Finance	359,950	321,971	(37,979)
General Gang	99,947	66,165	(33,782)
Health & Safety (Work)	28,784	26,410	(2,374)
Housing Benefits	518,819	496,209	(22,610)
Housing Strategic	207,243	26,400	(180,843)
Human Resources (including Training)	287,498	285,981	(1,517)
Interest & Financial Transactions	(994,055)	(1,690,073)	(696,018)
Information Technology	1,136,674	1,250,482	113,808
Internal Audit	88,568	84,016	(4,552)
Land Charges Admin	(29,917)	(16,489)	13,428
Legal Services	189,832	108,432	(81,400)
Local Elections	25,000	29,864	4,864
Strategic Plans	229,069	203,691	(25,378)
Management Team	725,349	798,165	72,816
Member & Committee Support	711,686	620,830	(90,856)
Miscellaneous Properties	(47,367)	(42,569)	4,798
Misc Finance	556,098	442,370	(113,728)
NNDR Collection Costs	61,973	51,674	(10,299)
Office Accommodation	618,884	574,922	(43,962)
Out Of Hours call out Service	14,000	10,047	(3,953)
Parking Of Vehicles	47,544	(29,547)	(77,091)
Parks And Gardens Team	509,711	558,272	48,561
Payroll	133,939	126,445	(7,494)
Public Conveniences	213,197	254,405	41,208
Registration of Electors	50,644	52,980	2,336
Reprographics	159,263	131,990	(27,273)
Sport & Recreation Admin	127,652	135,912	8,260
Finance & Assets Committee Total	7,969,054	6,637,142	(1,331,912)
Operational Services Committee	6,842,567	6,366,483	(476,084)
Other Spend			
Parish Precepts	3,596,232	3,586,232	(10,000)
Internal Drainage Boards	801,368	629,361	(172,007)
Movement in Corporate Reserves	40,162	40,162	--
Revenue Budget Total	19,249,383	17,259,380	(1,990,003)
Funding	/AP001		
Council Tax	(8,310,874)	(8,310,874)	--
Revenue Support Grant	(125,690)	(116,261)	9,429
Business Rates	(7,647,071)	(8,715,599)	(1,068,528)
Other Government Grants (NHB / RSG etc.)	(1,352,853)	(1,352,853)	--
Budgeted draw from Surplus Savings Reserve	(1,812,895)	(1,812,895)	--
	(19,249,383)	(20,308,482)	(1,059,099)
Revenue Total	0	(3,049,102)	(3,049,102)

APPENDIX 2

Revenue	Total Budget 2025-26	Actual to 31 March 2026	Variance
	£	£	£
Building Regulations	36,436	107,611	71,175
Community Projects & Grants	206,095	175,791	(30,304)
Community Safety	64,358	65,483	1,125
Cons. Area & Listed Buildings	74,808	81,520	6,712
Customer Services	665,279	672,696	7,417
Dog Warden Scheme	50,553	38,311	(12,242)
Emergency Planning	32,148	38,961	6,813
Environmental	52,087	55,659	3,572
Environmental Health	620,980	602,139	(18,841)
Care & Repair	(98,842)	59,419	158,261
Homelessness	326,611	374,419	47,808
Leisure Centre	(502,043)	(634,720)	(132,677)
Licencing	26,040	(366,980)	(393,020)
Marketing & Grants	34,266	31,126	(3,140)
Parish Forums	1,561	979	(582)
Nuisances	115,533	119,797	4,264
Planning	395,659	177,839	(217,820)
Public Relations	124,682	125,083	401
Recycling	1,649,812	1,668,185	18,373
Refuse Collection	1,850,473	1,844,146	(6,327)
Street Cleansing	1,082,792	1,082,888	96
Street Naming & Numbering	33,279	25,028	(8,251)
Travellers Sites	0	21,103	21,103
Revenue Total	6,842,567	6,366,483	(476,084)

Capital Outturn 2025/26

Capital	Published Budget 2025-26	Slippage from 2024-25	Additions	Revised Budget 2025-26	Outturn	Variance between Revised Budget & Outturn
	£	£	£	£	£	£
OPERATIONAL SERVICES						
Conservation Area Schemes - 2nd round		27,506		27,506	0	(27,506)
Refuse & Cleansing Vehicles	1,964,000	623,620		2,587,620	1,554,627	(1,032,993)
Waste - Wheelied Bins	1,040,000			1,040,000	253,091	(786,909)
Food Waste Caddies	280,256			280,256	112,109	(168,147)
Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants	697,299	520,505		1,217,804	1,029,688	(188,116)
Empty Properties, Discretionary DFGs, Minor Works, Home Repair Asst.	75,000			75,000	35,843	(39,157)
Vehicle Etc. Replacements	100,000			100,000	299,288	199,288
Bereavement Centre	7,560,223	1,342	2,197,397	9,758,962	6,229,727	(3,529,235)
Leisure Centre				0	0	0
Operational Services Total	11,716,778	1,172,973	2,197,397	15,087,148	9,514,373	(5,572,775)
FINANCE & ASSETS						
Solar Panels on Council Buildings		100,100		100,100	0	(100,100)
Depot		280,833		280,833	129,298	(151,535)
New Loan Agreement with ECTC	1,500,000			1,500,000	2,875,000	1,375,000
Finance & Assets Total	1,500,000	380,933	0	1,880,933	3,004,298	1,123,365
Total	13,216,778	1,553,906	2,197,397	16,968,081	12,518,671	(4,449,410)

SOURCES OF FINANCING	Published Budget 2025-26	Slippage from 2024-25	Additions	Revised Budget 2025-26	Outturn	Variations
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Operational Services						
Government Grants (DFG)	602,678	520,505		1,123,183	1,029,688	(93,495)
Government Grants (Food Waste)	894,056	0		894,056	365,200	(528,856)
Capital Receipts	209,621	27,506		237,127	35,843	(201,284)
Borrowing	1,850,200	623,620		2,473,820	1,054,627	(1,419,193)
Section 106 / CIL	8,160,223	1,342	2,197,397	10,358,962	7,029,015	(3,329,947)
Operational Services Total	11,716,778	1,172,973	2,197,397	15,087,148	9,514,373	(5,572,775)
Finance & Assets						
Revenue Contributions	0	0		0	0	0
Capital Receipts	0	100,100		100,100	0	(100,100)
Borrowing	1,500,000	280,833		1,780,833	3,004,298	1,223,465
Finance & Assets Total	1,500,000	380,933	0	1,880,933	3,004,298	1,123,365
Capital Funding Total	13,216,778	1,553,906	2,197,397	16,968,081	12,518,671	(4,449,410)

Capital Resources Forecast	Published Budget 2025-26	Slippage from 2024-25	Additions	Revised Budget 2025-26	Outturn	Variations
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance Brought Forward	1,498,475	260,173		1,758,648	1,758,648	
Add receipts from Sales of Assets	50,000			50,000	66,021	16,021
Less Capital Receipts Applied	(209,621)	(127,606)		(337,227)	(35,843)	301,384
Capital Reserves Carried Forward	1,338,854	132,567	0	1,471,421	1,788,826	317,405

Borrowing	Published Budget 2025-26	Slippage from 2024-25	Additions	Revised Budget 2025-26	Outturn	Variations
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance Brought Forward	10,276,638	(79,453)		10,197,185	10,197,185	
Less MRP Applied	(685,622)		100,322	(585,300)	(585,300)	0

Repayment from ECTC	(1,900,000)			(1,900,000)	(2,850,000)	(950,000)
Add additional Borrowing Applied	3,350,200	904,453		4,254,653	4,058,925	(195,728)
Borrowing Carried Forward	11,041,216	825,000	100,322	11,966,538	10,820,810	(1,145,728)

AGENDA ITEM 14 - APPENDIX 4

Appendix 4

Reserve Accounts

Description	2025/26			
	Opening Balance 1 April	Transfers to Reserve	Contributions from Reserve	Forecast Balance 31 March
	£	£	£	£
District Elections	50,397	25,000		75,397
Housing Conditions Survey	35,000	5,000		40,000
Change Management	0			0
Major Project Development	100,000			100,000
Surplus Savings Reserve	10,229,244	3,049,103	(1,746,019)	11,532,328
Vehicle Replacements	74,240			74,240
Sports Facilities Funding Reserve	58,000		(10,000)	48,000
IT	160,000	67,209		227,209
CIL Admin	206,621			206,621
Asset Management	96,441		(42,840)	53,601
Community Fund Reserves	18,207		(7,529)	10,678
Housing	69,926			69,926
Historic Homelessness Grant	742,431		(109,162)	633,269
Affordable Housing	97,526		(9,414)	88,112
General Fund Balance	1,385,852	40,162		1,426,014
Commercial Invest to Save	20,000			20,000
CLT Grant Applications	20,000			20,000
Travellers' Sites	0			0
Enterprise Zone NNDR	1,234,540	428,148	(70,112)	1,592,576
Growth and Infrastructure Fund	2,522,015		(1,021,686)	1,500,329
Exceptional Hardship Fund	6,939		(3,964)	2,976
Community Transport	125,281	14,000		139,281
Climate Change	88,229	26,084		114,313
Other				
CIL	12,947,370	5,942,116	(8,033,725)	10,855,762
Section 106 Agreements	4,722,039	903,319	(1,350,495)	4,274,862
Internal Borrowing	(10,197,185)	(4,058,925)	3,435,300	(10,820,810)
Total Reserves	24,813,113	6,441,216	(8,969,646)	22,284,682
Total Reserves	17,340,889	3,654,706	(3,020,726)	17,974,868
General Fund	1,385,852	40,162	0	1,426,014
Earmarked Reserves	15,955,037	3,614,544	(3,020,726)	16,548,854

