

# Public Document Pack



**Cherwell**

DISTRICT COUNCIL  
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

**Committee: Budget Planning Committee**

**Date: Tuesday 30 June 2026**

**Time: 6.30 pm**

**Venue: 39 Castle Quay, Banbury, OX16 5FD**

## **Membership**

**Councillor Edward Fraser  
Reeves (Chair)**

Councillor Gordon Blakeway  
Councillor Mark Gorman  
Councillor David Hingley  
Councillor Rob Pattenden  
Councillor Dom Vaitkus

**Councillor Tom Beckett (Vice-Chair)**

Councillor Mark Cherry  
Councillor Ian Harwood  
Councillor Frank Ideh  
Councillor Chris Pruden  
Councillor Bryonie Wells

Substitutes – any member of the relevant political group

## **AGENDA**

**1. Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitute Members**

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Members are asked to declare any interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.

**3. Minutes (Pages 5 - 12)**

To confirm as correct records the minutes of the meetings held on 10 March and 20 May 2026.

**4. Chair's Announcements**

To receive communications from the Chair.

**5. Requests to Address the Meeting**

The Chair to report on any requests to address the meeting.

## 6. Urgent Business

The Chair to advise whether they have agreed to any item of urgent business being admitted to the agenda.

## 7. Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2027/28 (Pages 13 - 20)

Report of Assistant Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer)

### Purpose of report

To enable members to consider the proposed banded scheme for Council Tax Reduction (CTR) Scheme for 2027/28.

### Recommendations

The Budget Planning Committee resolves:

- 1.1 To note the contents of the report, and any financial implications for the Council.
- 1.2 To recommend to Executive that the current scheme is retained for 2027/28.

## 8. End of Year 2025/2026 Finance Report (Pages 21 - 56)

Report of Assistant Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer)

### Purpose of report

To report to the committee the council's financial position at the end of the financial year 2025-2026.

### Recommendations

The Budget Planning Committee resolves:

- 1.1 To note the contents of this report.

## 9. Review of Committee Work Plan (Pages 57 - 58)

To review the Committee Work Plan.

**Councillors are requested to collect any post from their pigeon hole in the Members Lounge at the end of the meeting.**

## Information about this Meeting

### Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence should be notified to [democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk) or 01295 221534 prior to the start of the meeting.

### **Declarations of Interest**

Members are asked to declare interests at item 2 on the agenda or if arriving after the start of the meeting, at the start of the relevant agenda item.

### **Local Government and Finance Act 1992 – Budget Setting, Contracts & Supplementary Estimates**

Members are reminded that any member who is two months in arrears with Council Tax must declare the fact and may speak but not vote on any decision which involves budget setting, extending or agreeing contracts or incurring expenditure not provided for in the agreed budget for a given year and could affect calculations on the level of Council Tax.

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### **Queries Regarding this Agenda**

Please contact Matt Swinford, Democratic and Elections Team [democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk), 01295 221534

**Shiraz Sheikh**  
**Monitoring Officer**

Published on Monday 22 June 2026

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## **Cherwell District Council**

### **Budget Planning Committee**

Minutes of a meeting of the Budget Planning Committee held at 39 Castle Quay, Banbury, OX16 5FD, on 10 March 2026 at 6.30 pm

#### Present:

Councillor Edward Fraser Reeves (Chair)  
Councillor Dom Vaitkus (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Gordon Blakeway  
Councillor Mark Cherry  
Councillor Andrew Crichton  
Councillor Frank Ideh  
Councillor Zoe McLernon  
Councillor Robert Parkinson  
Councillor Les Sibley

#### Apologies for absence:

Councillor Tom Beckett  
Councillor Rob Pattenden  
Councillor Barry Wood

#### Also Present:

Councillor Lesley McLean, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, Regeneration and Property

#### Officers:

Michael Furness, Assistant Director Finance & S151 Officer  
Leanne Lock, Strategic Business Partner - Business Partnering & Controls  
Jacey Scott, Head of Revenues and Benefits  
Matt Swinford, Democratic and Elections Officer

#### Officers Attending Virtually:

Mona Walsh, Assistant Director - Property

## 41 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

42 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 20 January 2026 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

43 **Chair's Announcements**

There were no Chair's announcements.

44 **Requests to Address the Meeting**

There were no requests to address the meeting.

45 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

46 **December Monthly Performance Report 2025-2026**

The Assistant Director of Finance (S151 Officer) submitted a report to the committee to report the financial position at the end of the financial year 2025/2026.

In introducing the report, the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Regeneration and Property advised the committee that the year-end forecast position for 2025/26 was projected to be an overspend of £3.024m against an £18.893m budget. Services with the largest pressures reported were within Property, Environmental Services and Wellbeing and Housing.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Regeneration and Property advised that the forecast overspend was partially offset but corporate underspends in the areas of Executive Matters and Policy Contingency.

**Resolved**

(1) That the report be noted.

47 **Non-Domestic Rate Discretionary Relief Policy and response to motion from Council Supporting our high street**

The Assistant Director of Finance (S151 Officer) submitted a report to inform Budget Planning Committee of the reviewed Non-Domestic Rate Discretionary Rate Relief policy and the response to the motion from Council on supporting our high streets. This was submitted to the 3 March Executive for decision and was submitted to Budget Planning Committee for information.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Regeneration and Property advised the Committee that the provision of Non-Domestic Rate Discretionary Rate Relief allowed the council to offer targeted financial support where the national framework did not provide relief or where additional local discretion was justified.

In response to a question from the Committee asking if the Leader had written to the Secretary of State and copied the relevant Members of Parliament, which was included in the motion to Council motion, the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Regeneration and Property confirmed that the Leader had written to the Secretary of State and copied the relevant Members of Parliament but no response had yet been received.

**Resolved**

- (1) That the reviewed policy for Non-Domestic Rate Discretionary Rate Relief be noted.
- (2) That the response to the motion to Council, subsequently referred to and agreed by Executive, be noted.

48 **Review of Committee Work Plan**

In considering the Committee Work Plan, the Assistant Director of Finance advised that the inclusion on "Business Rates Reset Consultation" for the 30 June 2026 was an error and would not be heard at the forthcoming meeting.

**Resolved**

- (1) That the work programme be noted.

49 **Exclusion of Press and Public**

**Resolved**

That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the ground that, if the public and press were present, it would be likely that exempt information falling under the provisions of Schedule 12A, Part 1, Paragraph 3 would be disclosed to them, and that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

50 **Car Park Revenue**

The Assistant Director Property submitted an exempt report in response to the request from Budget Planning Committee for information about parking

revenue, expenditure and if free parking had any impact on footfall in town centres.

**Resolved**

- (1) That the exempt report be noted.

The meeting ended at 7.19 pm

Chair:

Date:

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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## **Cherwell District Council**

### **Budget Planning Committee**

Minutes of a meeting of the Budget Planning Committee held at 39 Castle Quay, Banbury, OX16 5FD, on 20 May 2026 at 7.32 pm

Present:

Councillor Edward Fraser Reeves (Chair)  
Councillor Tom Beckett (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Gordon Blakeway  
Councillor Mark Cherry  
Councillor Mark Gorman  
Councillor Ian Harwood  
Councillor David Hingley  
Councillor Frank Ideh  
Councillor Rob Pattenden  
Councillor Chris Pruden  
Councillor Dom Vaitkus  
Councillor Bryonie Wells

#### **1 Appointment of Chair for the Municipal Year 2026/2027**

It was proposed by Councillor Harwood and seconded by Councillor Pattenden that Councillor Reeves be appointed Chair of the Budget Planning Committee for the municipal year 2026/2027.

There were no further nominations.

There being no further nominations, Councillor Eddie Reeves was duly elected Chair of the Budget Planning Committee for the municipal year 2026/2027.

#### **2 Appointment of Vice-Chair for the Municipal Year 2026/2027**

It was proposed by Councillor Hingley and seconded by Councillor Ideh that Councillor Beckett be appointed Vice-Chair of the Budget Planning Committee for the municipal year 2026/2027.

It was subsequently proposed by Councillor Cherry and seconded by Councillor Reeves that Councillor Vaitkus be appointed Vice-Chair of the Budget Planning Committee for the municipal year 2026/2027.

There being two nominations for the position of Vice-Chair, a vote was taken. There were seven votes for Councillor Beckett and four votes for Councillor Vaitkus, with one committee member not voting.

Councillor Tom Beckett, having received the most votes, was duly elected Vice-Chair of the Budget Planning Committee for the municipal year 2026/2027.

The meeting ended at 7.40 pm

Chair:

Date:

<b>This report is public.</b>	
<b>Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2027/28</b>	
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Budget Planning Committee</b>
<b>Date of Committee</b>	30 June 2026
<b>Portfolio Holder presenting the report</b>	Councillor David Hingley Portfolio for Finance
<b>Date Portfolio Holder agreed report</b>	16 June 2026
<b>Report of</b>	Assistant Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) Michael Furness

## Purpose of report

To enable members to consider the proposed banded scheme for Council Tax Reduction (CTR) Scheme for 2027/28.

### 1. Recommendations

The Budget Planning Committee resolves:

- 1.1 To note the contents of the report, and any financial implications for the Council.
- 1.2 To recommend to Executive that the current scheme is retained for 2027/28.

### 2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 To enable members to consider the proposed banded scheme for Council Tax Reduction for 2027/28.
- 2.2 The current scheme was introduced from April 2020 following a period of consultation and engagement. In general, it has been well received with limited contact from customers. It is proposed to continue with the current scheme uprated for inflation.
- 2.3 The scheme assesses the maximum level of Council Tax Reduction based on the net income of the applicant and household members; the main principles of the scheme remain unchanged. Pensioners are protected and continue to have their calculation of Council Tax Reduction based on 100% Council Tax liability.
- 2.4 If the applicant or partner is in receipt of a passported benefit such as Income Support Job Seekers Allowance (JSA), income based and income related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) or receiving War widows or War disablement pensions they will be placed into the first of 8 bands and will receive 100% Council Tax Reduction. Working age households will receive a discount, depending on their level of income and the band that they fall into. The current scheme is understood by customers and has enabled them to budget for their council tax payments, and this is reflected in the Council Tax collection rates with Cherwell being one of the highest performers across

the county for 2025-26. The current scheme reduces the number of changes that the customer will experience with less bills and notification letters generated and enables better personal budgeting. There is still a lot of financial uncertainty for many customers in the current financial climate. Given the imminent timelines for Local Government Reform and the pending decision on the formation of unitary councils, it is recommended that the existing scheme be retained for 2027–28 to minimise disruption to customers during this period of change

## Implications & Impact Assessments

Implications	Commentary
<b>Finance</b>	<p>The MTFS has assumed the current scheme will be retained. Any changes to the existing caseload will be accommodated as part of the budget process with final estimates included in the annual council tax base calculation.</p> <p>Rachel Ainsworth – Finance Business Partner 09.06.2026</p>
<b>Legal</b>	<p>Since 1 April 2013, local authorities in England have been responsible for running their own local schemes for help with council tax. These are called Council Tax Reduction schemes.</p> <p>Section 13A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires the Council as the billing authority to make a localised council tax reduction scheme in accordance with section 1A of the Act. Each financial year the council must consider whether it wants to revise the scheme, leave as is or replace it. Consultation must occur on any options required to change the scheme prior to introduction and is set out in Schedule 1A (3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. No changes to the scheme are being considered in this report.</p> <p>The 1992 Act provides that a billing authority's Council Tax Reduction Scheme must include prescribed matters set out in the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements) (England) Regulations 2012. Therefore, the Council is required, without any exercise of discretion, to amend the CTR Scheme, to reflect any changes made to those regulations.</p> <p>Denzil Tubervill – Head of Legal 10.06.2026</p>
<b>Risk Management</b>	<p>There are no risk implications arising as a direct consequence of this report, if any arise, they will be managed through the service operational risk and escalated the leadership risk as and when deemed necessary.</p> <p>Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance Team Leader, 08.06.2026</p>

<b>Impact Assessments</b>	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
<b>Equality Impact</b>	x			This report, and the proposal to continue the Council Tax Reduction Scheme have been developed with our most vulnerable residents in mind. Any equality and diversity concerns have been appropriately considered from the outset, if a new proposal arises this will be screened for relevance against our statutory duties to promote equality and an impact assessment will be completed. Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance Team Leader, 08.06.2026
<b>A</b> Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?	x			
<b>B</b> Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		x		
<b>Climate &amp; Environmental Impact</b>				The continuation of the banded Council Tax Reduction Scheme supports a reduction in printed bills, notifications, and administrative correspondence, contributing to a modest reduction in the Council's operational carbon footprint.  Although the direct environmental impact is relatively small, the scheme is consistent with the Council's Climate Action Plan by embedding low-carbon principles within service delivery and supporting incremental emissions reduction across Council operations.  Hitesh Mahawar, Climate Change Programme Manager 10.06.2026
<b>ICT &amp; Digital Impact</b>				N/A
<b>Data Impact</b>				None required. The scheme uses only existing data held. No further personal data will be requested, obtained, held, or published.

<b>Procurement &amp; subsidy</b>				N/A
<b>Council Priorities</b>				
<b>Human Resources</b>	N/A			
<b>Property</b>	N/A			
<b>Consultation &amp; Engagement</b>	There are no proposed changes therefore no consultation is required.			

## Supporting Information

### 3. Background

- 3.1 The Council Tax Reduction caseload has been monitored and there has been a reduction in the number of live cases from 6,035 in June 2024 to 5926 as of April 2025 and an increase to 5957 as of June 2026.
- 3.2 As working age customers transition onto Universal Credit they are not always advised by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) that in order to make a claim for Council Tax Reduction (CTR), prior to April 2026 they would need to make this directly with the local authority, which caused the caseload to fluctuate when backdated requests for CTR were received throughout the year.
- 3.3 Since 1 April 2026, new Universal Credit (UC) claims received via the DWP data share have been treated as Council Tax Reduction (CTR) claims where there is a liability for council tax. Previously, applicants were required to submit a separate CTR claim to the local authority.

This automated process has resulted in a modest increase in the CTR caseload compared to the same period last year, reversing a year-on-year decline observed since June 2024. The increase is directly attributable to the onboarding of UC claims from April 2026.

By capturing claims at the earliest point of contact, this approach maximises entitlement, supports the reduction of council tax arrears, and may contribute to improved collection rates. Early data from April to June 2026 indicates an increase of 127 new CTR claims as a result of this change.

- 3.4 The in-year Council Tax collection rate for the 2022/23 financial year was 98.05% compared to 98.02% in 2023/24 unchanged for 2024/25 at 98.02%, and 97.81% for 2025/26 which remains one of the highest rates within the Oxfordshire authorities.

In considering the CTR Scheme for 2027/28 members should be mindful that any changes to the scheme that reduce entitlement to CTRS could have an adverse impact on collection rates.

## 4. Details

- 4.1 Since the introduction of the CTRS the benefits landscape has drastically changed. Universal Credit (UC) is based on real time information which means that any change in income generates a change in CTR through data files received directly from the DWP. Residents were therefore, receiving multiple bills and letters during the year making the process a poor user experience and making budgeting for individuals very difficult.
- 4.2 In December 2019 the Council agreed to move to an income banded scheme for customers that were of working age. The scheme assesses the maximum level of CTR based on the net income of the applicant and household members, the main principles of the scheme are as follows:
- If the applicant or partner is in receipt of one of the passported benefits (Income Support, Job Seeker's Allowance Income Based and Income Related Employment and Support Allowance or receiving War Widows or War Disablement Pensions they will automatically be placed in the highest band of the scheme and will receive 100% support.
  - Working age households will receive a discount, depending on their level of income and the band that they fall into.
  - Under this scheme, as part of our ongoing commitment to support disabled people, we will continue to disregard Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payments, Attendance Allowance, War Disablement Benefits and will also continue to disregard Child Benefit and child maintenance.
  - As highlighted earlier in this report the introduction of Universal Credit and Real Time Information files means that customers can experience frequent changes in their Council Tax Reduction which in turn impacts on the amount of Council Tax payable. This makes budgeting for households more of a challenge and is impacting on our ability to collect Council Tax. The banded scheme is simpler for residents to understand and any future changes to the value of awards can be achieved by simply adjusting the banding thresholds.
  - Residents experience less change in their CTR, and the scheme reduces the number of letters and Council Tax demands issued. The Council has continued to see an overall reduction in printed mail and dispatch packs year on year with the introduction of the banded CTR scheme.
- 4.3 The current scheme was introduced from April 2020 following a period of consultation and engagement. In general, it has been well received with limited contact from customers affected by the change.
- 4.4 There is a requirement to consult with the public, major preceptors, and other parties, who may have an interest in the CTR Scheme on any material changes to the scheme. If members would like to consider a change to the current banded scheme, then a full consultation will need to be undertaken.

- 4.5 Any amendments proposed to the scheme (other than uprating thresholds for inflation) would require significant consultation to take place. If any changes were made to the scheme, it is unlikely to generate significant additional resources to the Council.
- 4.6 The widening of the claiming process to include Universal Credit claimants as CTR claimants by accepting the DWP information through the data sharing agreement, as a claim for CTR has maximised potential entitlement by reaching customers at the nearest point of contact and simplifying access to claiming CTR for working age customers receiving UC.
- 4.7 The UC new claims received directly from DWP data sharing have been monitored from April to June 2026 and this has shown the authority has received 127 UC new claims that have been automatically processed for CTR and has maximised entitlement, and it is anticipated will increase Council Tax collection rates and reduce administration due to a reduction in the requirement for the claimant to produce evidence and complete a council form, this will be better evidenced by closing figures for the scheme for 2026/27. This approach has provided an efficient mechanism for claiming in all future schemes. The Council has included information on its website and informed stakeholders.
- 4.8 The recommended approach is to maintain the existing Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2027–28. This as the most stable and proportionate option in advance of planned local government reorganisation in 2028.

At a time when significant structural change is anticipated, retaining the current scheme ensures continuity for residents and avoids introducing unnecessary complexity, risk, and administrative burden during a period of transition.

Keeping the scheme unchanged also provides a consistent and reliable framework while future arrangements are developed at a wider organisational level. This avoids the need for short-term amendments that may subsequently require alignment or reversal under new governance structures, ensuring a more efficient use of resources and supporting a smoother transition into the reorganised authority.

## **5. Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 5.1 The alternative option is to undertake a review of the current CTRS scheme but 6.1 6.2 and 6.3 explains the rationale for not taking this course of action.

## **6 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations**

- 6.1 At a time when significant structural change is anticipated, retaining the current scheme ensures continuity for residents and avoids introducing unnecessary complexity, risk, and administrative burden during a period of transition.

- 6.2 The current scheme is understood by customers and has enabled them to budget for their council tax payments. One of the main advantages of the banded scheme is that it reduces the number of changes that the customer will experience enabling more effective personal budgeting.
- 6.3 There is still a lot of financial uncertainty for many customers and in the current financial climate with the ongoing cost of living crisis it is therefore recommended that the existing scheme should be retained for 2027/28.

## Decision Information

<b>Key Decision</b>	N/A
<b>Subject to Call in</b>	N/A
<b>If not, why not subject to call in</b>	N/A
<b>Ward(s) Affected</b>	All

## Document Information

<b>Appendices</b>	
<b>Appendix 1</b>	N/A
<b>Background Papers</b>	No
<b>Reference Papers</b>	N/A
<b>Report Author</b>	Sandra Ganpot
<b>Report Author contact details</b>	<a href="mailto:Sandra.ganpot@cherwell-dc.gov.uk">Sandra.ganpot@cherwell-dc.gov.uk</a> Benefit Services and Performance Manager 01295 221 721

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<b>This report is public</b>	
<b>End of Year 2025/2026 Finance Report</b>	
<b>Committee</b>	Budget Planning Committee
<b>Date of Committee</b>	30 June 2026
<b>Portfolio Holder presenting the report</b>	Councillor David Hingley, Portfolio Holder for Finance
<b>Date Portfolio Holder agreed report</b>	18 June 2026
<b>Report of</b>	Assistant Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer), Michael Furness

## Purpose of report

To report to the committee the council's financial position at the end of the financial year 2025-2026.

### 1. Recommendations

The Budget Planning Committee resolves:

1.1 To note the contents of this report.

### 2. Executive Summary

2.1 At its 16 June 2026 Meeting Executive were recommended to:

- To consider and note the contents of the council's finance report as at the end of financial year 2025/26.
- To note the capital outturn position and approve the capital reprofiling held in Appendix 1.
- To approve the use of reserves and grant funding held in Appendix 5.
- To approve the use of reserves to be released in 2026/27 in Appendix 6.
- To note the balanced outturn position for 2025/26 after the proposed contributions to reserves.

2.2 CDC monitors its financial position on a monthly basis. This report provides the year end outturn position for the financial year ended 31 March 2026.

#### Implications & Impact Assessments

<b>Implications</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
<b>Finance</b>	<p>Financial and Resource implications are detailed within sections 4.1 and 4.2 of this report. The reserves policy requires Executive to agree transfers to and from earmarked reserves and general balances during the financial year.</p> <p>Joanne Kaye, Head of Finance, 18 June 2026</p>

<b>Legal</b>	<p>There are no legal implications arising at this stage.</p> <p>The Council has a fiduciary duty to council taxpayers, which means it must consider the prudent use of resources, including control of expenditure, financial prudence in the short and long term and the need to act in good faith in relation to compliance with statutory duties and exercising statutory powers. The Council has a statutory obligation to maintain a balanced budget and the monitoring process enables Executive to remain aware of issues and understand the actions being taken to maintain a balanced budget.</p> <p>The report sets out as at March 2026 the finance position for the Council as part of its fiduciary duty to implement budgetary controls and monitoring.</p> <p>Denzil Turbervill, Head of Legal, 18 June 2026</p>			
<b>Risk Management</b>	<p>There are no risk implications arising directly from this report. Financial resilience risk is managed, and reported quarterly, through the Leadership Risk register.</p> <p>Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance Team Leader, 18 June 2026</p>			
<b>Impact Assessments</b>	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
<b>Equality Impact</b>		X		<p>There are no equalities implications arising directly from this report.</p> <p>Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance Team Leader, 18 June 2026</p>
<b>A</b> Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		X		
<b>B</b> Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		X		
<b>Climate &amp; Environmental Impact</b>		X		N/A
<b>ICT &amp; Digital Impact</b>		X		N/A
<b>Data Impact</b>		X		N/A

<b>Procurement &amp; subsidy</b>		X		N/A
<b>Council Priorities</b>	N/A			
<b>Human Resources</b>	N/A			
<b>Property</b>	N/A			
<b>Consultation &amp; Engagement</b>	This report sets out the financial year end position as at 31 March 2026, therefore no formal consultation or engagement is required.			

## Supporting Information

### 3. Background

- 3.1 The council actively and regularly monitors its financial position to ensure it can deliver its corporate priorities and respond effectively to emerging issues.
- 3.2 This monitoring takes place monthly (quarterly for capital), so the council can identify potential issues at the earliest opportunity and put measures in place to mitigate them.

### 4. Details

- 4.1.1 The council's overall year-end position for 2025/26 is an overspend of £0.114m before contributions to / from reserves, after which the overall year end position is balanced.  
The year end outturn for the services is summarised below in Table 1 and further details providing explanations for variances can be found in Appendix 2.
- 4.1.2 The March year end position shows that directorates are reporting a net overspend, reflecting pressures across several service areas, particularly Property, Environmental Services, and Wellbeing & Housing. These pressures are partially mitigated through the use of earmarked reserves (subject to approval) across several services, reducing some of the underlying variances. The remaining directorate overspend is more than offset by significant underspends within Executive Matters and Policy Contingency, resulting in an overall balanced position after funding.  
Movement since the January forecasted year end position indicates a slight improvement in the directorates, with some services showing reduced pressures, while others have worsened marginally, but the council overall has maintained a balanced position at year end.

**Table 1: Year End Position**

Service	Current Budget £m	Spend to year end - March 2026 £m	March Variance prior to Reserve requests £m	Transfers To/From Reserves £m	Final March Variance (Under) / Over £m	January Variance (Under) / Over £m	Change since Previous (better) / worse £m	
Legal, Democratic, Elections & Procurement	2.518	2.308	(0.210)	0.149	(0.061)	0.000	(0.061)	
Finance	2.911	3.323	0.412	0.000	0.412	0.083	0.329	
HR & OD	0.852	0.951	0.099	0.000	0.099	0.087	0.012	
Contact Centre	1.340	1.301	(0.039)	0.000	(0.039)	(0.035)	(0.004)	
Digital IT	1.575	1.604	0.029	0.000	0.029	0.015	0.014	
Transformation	0.223	(0.360)	(0.583)	0.515	(0.068)	(0.079)	0.011	
<b>Resources</b>	<b>9.419</b>	<b>9.127</b>	<b>(0.292)</b>	<b>0.664</b>	<b>0.372</b>	<b>0.071</b>	<b>0.301</b>	
Planning	1.796	1.392	(0.404)	0.197	(0.207)	(0.021)	(0.186)	
Development Management	0.359	(0.329)	(0.688)	0.015	(0.673)	(0.349)	(0.324)	
Property	(3.600)	(1.194)	2.406	0.079	2.485	2.154	0.331	
Regeneration & Economy	0.576	(0.233)	(0.809)	0.779	(0.030)	0.000	(0.030)	
Biodiversity & Climate Resilience	0.231	0.229	(0.002)	0.000	(0.002)	0.004	(0.006)	
<b>Place &amp; Regeneration</b>	<b>(0.638)</b>	<b>(0.135)</b>	<b>0.503</b>	<b>1.070</b>	<b>1.573</b>	<b>1.788</b>	<b>(0.215)</b>	
Environmental Services	5.133	5.650	0.517	(0.011)	0.506	0.705	(0.199)	
Regulatory Services & Community Safety	1.232	1.064	(0.168)	0.064	(0.104)	(0.089)	(0.015)	
Wellbeing & Housing	2.021	2.419	0.398	0.079	0.477	0.470	0.007	
<b>Neighbourhood Services</b>	<b>8.386</b>	<b>9.133</b>	<b>0.747</b>	<b>0.132</b>	<b>0.879</b>	<b>1.086</b>	<b>(0.207)</b>	
Communications & Marketing	0.350	0.336	(0.014)	0.000	(0.014)	(0.010)	(0.004)	
Performance	0.442	0.444	0.002	0.000	0.002	0.000	0.002	
Executive Support Team	1.109	1.163	0.054	0.000	0.054	0.021	0.033	
<b>Chief Executives Office</b>	<b>1.901</b>	<b>1.943</b>	<b>0.042</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.042</b>	<b>0.011</b>	<b>0.031</b>	
<b>Subtotal for Directorates</b>	<b>19.068</b>	<b>20.068</b>	<b>1.000</b>	<b>1.866</b>	<b>2.866</b>	<b>2.956</b>	<b>(0.090)</b>	
Executive Matters	5.132	3.691	(1.441)	0.120	(1.322)	(1.428)	0.106	
Policy Contingency	1.995	(0.008)	(2.003)	0.000	(2.003)	(1.528)	(0.475)	
<b>Total</b>	<b>26.195</b>	<b>23.751</b>	<b>(2.444)</b>	<b>1.986</b>	<b>(0.459)</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>(0.459)</b>	
<b>FUNDING</b>	<b>(26.195)</b>	<b>(23.637)</b>	<b>2.558</b>	<b>(2.100)</b>	<b>0.459</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.459</b>	
<b>(Surplus)/Deficit</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.114</b>	<b>0.114</b>	<b>(0.114)</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	

**Note:** A positive variance is an overspend or a reduction in income and a (negative) is an underspend or extra income received. Green represents an underspend, and red represents a overspend for the outturn position.

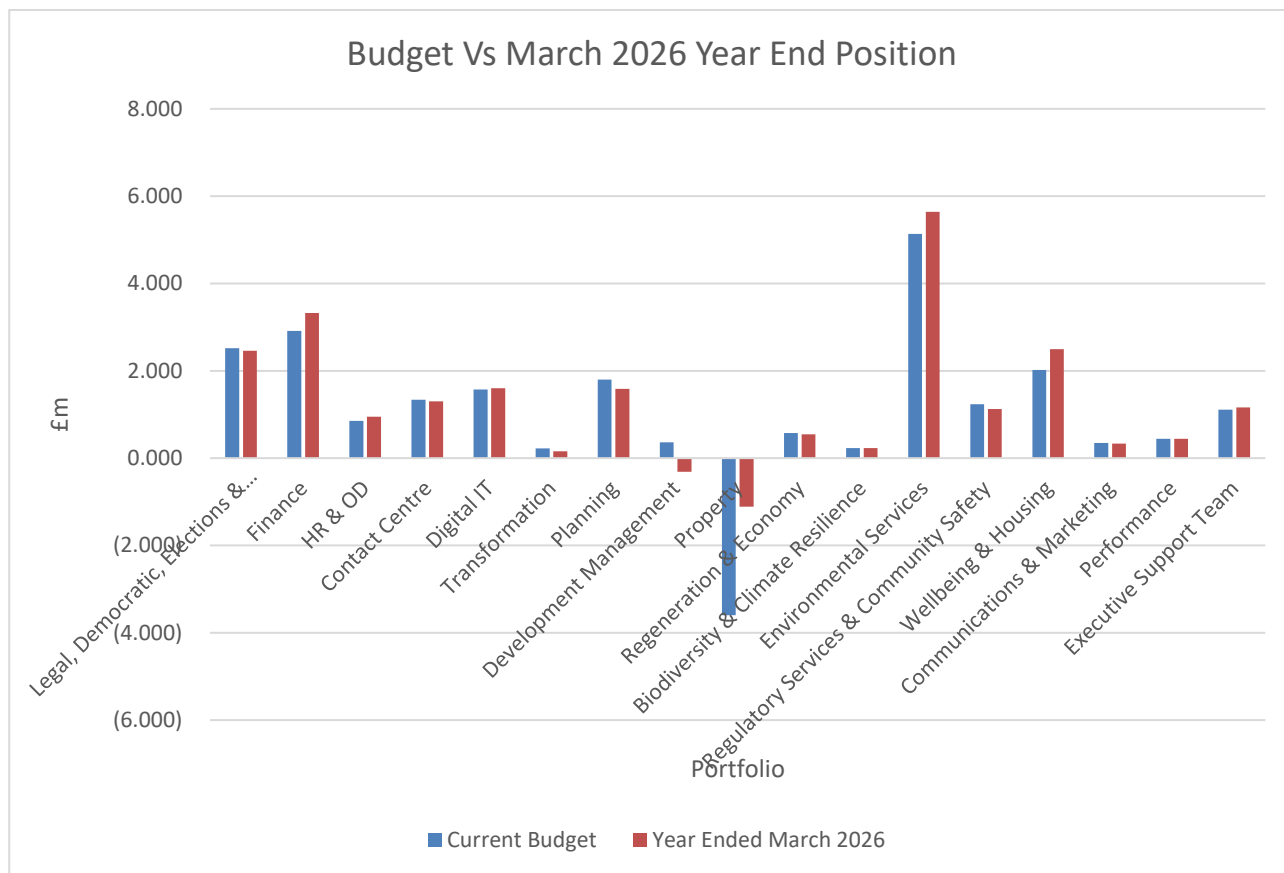
4.1.3 Table 2 below analyses the variances to distinguish between base budget variances and variances resulting from the non-delivery of previously approved savings. The non-delivery of savings has a knock-on impact on the Medium-Term Financial Strategy as failure to deliver on an ongoing basis adds to future pressures.

**Table 2:** Analysis of Forecast Variance – March 2026

<b>Breakdown of current month</b>	<b>Year End to March 2026</b>	<b>Base Budget Over/ (Under)</b>	<b>Savings Non-Delivery</b>
	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
Resources	9.127	9.059	0.068
Place & Regeneration	(0.135)	(0.216)	0.081
Neighbourhood Services	9.133	8.752	0.381
Chief Executives Office	1.943	1.933	0.010
<b>Subtotal Directorates</b>	<b>20.068</b>	<b>19.528</b>	<b>0.540</b>
Executive Matters	3.691	3.691	0.000
Policy Contingency	(0.008)	(0.008)	0.000
<b>Total</b>	<b>23.751</b>	<b>23.211</b>	<b>0.540</b>
<b>FUNDING</b>	<b>(23.637)</b>	<b>(23.637)</b>	<b>0.000</b>
<b>(Surplus)/Deficit</b>	<b>0.114</b>	<b>(0.426)</b>	<b>0.540</b>

4.1.4 The graph below shows the Budget compared with the final position at the end of the financial year.

**Graph 1: Budget compared with Outturn**



4.1.5 Table 3 below summarises the major variances for the reporting period. Further details can be found in Appendix 2.

**Table 3: Top Major Variances:**

Service	Current Budget	Variance	% Variance
Property	(3.600)	2.485	-69.0%
Environmental	5.133	0.506	9.9%
Wellbeing & Housing	2.021	0.477	23.6%
Executive Matters	5.132	(1.322)	-25.8%
Policy Contingency	1.995	(2.003)	-100.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.554</b>	<b>3.468</b>	

### Reserves

4.1.6 Allocations to and from reserves are made according to the Reserves Policy. Table 4 below summarises the movements, details of reserve requests can be found within appendix 5.

**Table 4: Earmarked Reserves:**

<b>Reserves</b>	<b>Balance 1 April 2025</b>	<b>Original Budgeted use/ (contribution)</b>	<b>Changes agreed since budget setting</b>	<b>Changes proposed March 2026</b>	<b>Balance 31 March 2026</b>
	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
General Balance	(8.021)	0.000	0.000	0.000	(8.021)
Earmarked	(31.264)	(2.444)	(1.715)	0.793	(34.630)
Non-Ringfenced Grant timing Difference	(0.033)	0.000	0.033	0.000	0.000
Ringfenced Grant	(1.918)	0.523	0.129	(0.679)	(1.945)
<b>Subtotal Revenue</b>	<b>(41.236)</b>	<b>(1.921)</b>	<b>(1.553)</b>	<b>0.114</b>	<b>(44.596)</b>
Capital	(5.321)	0.720	0.000	0.000	(4.601)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(46.557)</b>	<b>(1.201)</b>	<b>(1.553)</b>	<b>0.114</b>	<b>(49.197)</b>

\*According to the Reserves Policy Executive are only required to approve uses of Capital Reserves, not contributions.

## 4.2 Capital

4.2.1 Table 5 below summarises the spend against the capital programme for the financial year ended 31 March 2026 (including spend reprofiled across all years of the capital programme).

**Table 5: Capital Project Outturn**

<b>Service</b>	<b>Original Budget £m</b>	<b>Reprofiled Budget £m</b>	<b>Spend to Year Ending 31/3/2026</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Property	4.836	1.712	0.845	(0.867)
Regeneration & Growth	0.796	0.531	0.283	(0.248)
<b>Regeneration &amp; Growth</b>	<b>5.632</b>	<b>2.243</b>	<b>1.128</b>	<b>(1.115)</b>
IT	0.058	0.041	(0.036)	(0.077)
<b>Resources</b>	<b>0.058</b>	<b>0.041</b>	<b>(0.036)</b>	<b>(0.077)</b>
Environmental	1.559	1.170	1.292	0.122
Wellbeing & housing	4.274	3.816	3.449	(0.366)
Regulatory Services	0.265	0.265	0.000	(0.265)
<b>Neighbourhood Services</b>	<b>6.097</b>	<b>5.250</b>	<b>4.741</b>	<b>(0.509)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>11.787</b>	<b>7.534</b>	<b>5.833</b>	<b>(1.701)</b>

For further detail on individual schemes please see Appendix 1.

**Note:** A positive variance is an overspend or a reduction in forecast income and a (negative) is an underspend or extra income received.

Green represents an underspend and red represents a overspend for the outturn position.

**Table 6:** Table 6 below summarises the spend against the full capital programme (i.e. spend across all years of the capital programme).

Directorate	Project Total Budget £m	Total Forecast Project Spend £m	Variance to Budget £m
Resources	0.163	0.161	(0.002)
Place & Regeneration	18.308	17.959	(0.349)
Neighbourhood Services	26.347	25.961	(0.386)
<b>Total</b>	<b>44.818</b>	<b>44.081</b>	<b>(0.737)</b>

**Note:** A positive variance is an overspend or a reduction in income and a (negative) is an underspend or extra income received.

Green represents an underspend and red represents a overspend for the outturn position.

**Table 7:** How the Capital Programme is financed

Financing	Prior Years' Spend £m	Profiled Spend 2025/26 £m	Profiled Spend Future Years £m	Projected Total
Borrowing	0.785	1.828	7.360	9.973
Capital Receipts	5.214	0.038	1.965	7.217
Grant	2.559	3.594	12.410	18.563
S106	0.205	0.439	0.709	1.353
Borrowing & Grant	7.006	-0.031	0.000	6.975
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>15.769</b>	<b>5.868</b>	<b>22.444</b>	<b>44.081</b>

**Table 8:** Capital budgets to be reprofiled beyond 2025/26

Code	Project	Project Total Budget £m	Reprofiling 25/26	Reprofiling Future Years	Removed from Programme	Virements	Additional Capital Budget	Reason
40224	Fairway Flats Refurbishment	0.365	(0.126)	0.126				Reprofiled from current to future years
40254	Thorpe Lane Depot - Renewal of Electrical Incoming Main	0.268	(0.118)	0.118				Reprofiled from current to future years
40255	Installation of Photovoltaic at CDC Property	0.079	0.001	(0.001)				Reprofile from future to current year
40278	Development of New Land Bicester Depot	0.465	(0.162)	0.162				Reprofiled from current to future years
40279	Spiceball Sports Centre - Solar PV Car Ports	0.177	(0.091)	0.091				Reprofiled from current to future years
40281	North Oxfordshire Academy - Solar Panels	0.018	(0.018)	0.018				Reprofiled from current to future years
40282	Community Centre Solar Panels	0.106	0.007	(0.007)				Reprofile from future to current year
40283	Thorpe Lane - Solar Panels	0.034	0.001	(0.001)				Reprofile from future to current year
40341	Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) 4	1.661				(0.338)	0.210	£338k removed from programme in 25/26, £210k additional budget to 26/27
40342	Unit 5 & 6 Castle Quay	0.100			(0.100)			This is a lease incentive and shouldn't be part of capital projects
40343	Banbury Library	1.600	(0.040)	0.040				Reprofiled from current to future years
40348	Castle Quay Roof works	1.650	(0.023)	0.023				Reprofiled from current to future years
40334	Robotic Process Automation Pilot	0.133	(0.011)	0.011				Reprofiled from current to future years
40337	ESRI Software Upgrade	0.030	(0.009)	0.009				Reprofiled from current to future years
40028	Vehicle Replacement Programme	5.730	0.131	(0.131)				Reprofile from future to current year
40222	Burnehyll- Bicester Country Park	0.271	(0.009)	0.009				Reprofiled from current to future years
40286	Transforming Market Square Bicester	5.131	(0.070)	0.070				Reprofiled from current to future years
40287	UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UK SPF) Year Two Investment Plan Programme	0.306	(0.020)	0.019				Reprofiled from current to future years and adjustment
40288	UKSPF Rural Fund	0.709	(0.158)	0.158				Reprofiled from current to future years
40083	Disabled Facilities Grants	8.061	0.026	(0.026)				Reprofiled from future years to current year
40303	S106 - Hanwell Fields Community Centre Projects	0.360	(0.023)	0.023				Reprofiled from current to future years
40304	S106 - Hook Norton Sport And Social Club Project	0.080	(0.063)	0.063				Reprofiled from current to future years
40305	S106 - Horley Cricket Club Pavilion Project	0.110	(0.110)	0.110				Reprofiled from current to future years
40312	S106 - Whitelands Farm Sports Ground (Pedestrian crossing and various works)	0.160	(0.032)	0.032				Reprofiled from current to future years
40313	S106 - Woodgreen Leisure Centre Improvements	0.161	(0.012)	0.012				Reprofiled from current to future years
40324	Development of Activity Play Zones	0.162	(0.006)	0.006				Reprofiled from current to future years
40325	Grawn Hill Community and Infrastructure Projects	0.080	(0.017)	0.017				Reprofiled from current to future years
40329	Spiceball Leisure Centre Structural Beams	0.173	(0.010)	0.010				Reprofiled from current to future years
40344	S106- Banbury Cricket Club Project	0.011	(0.002)	0.002				Reprofiled from current to future years
40245	Enable Agile Working	0.015	(0.015)	0.015				Reprofiled from current to future years
40333	CCTV Thames Valley Project	0.250	(0.250)	0.250				Reprofiled from current to future years
		<b>28.456</b>	<b>(1.229)</b>	<b>1.228</b>	<b>(0.100)</b>	<b>(0.338)</b>	<b>0.210</b>	

## 5. Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 5.1 The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.

Option 1: This report summarises the council's financial year end position as at 31 March 2026, therefore there are no alternative options to consider.

## 6 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 6.1 It is recommended that the contents of the report are noted.

### Decision Information

<b>Key Decision</b>	No
<b>Subject to Call in</b>	Yes
<b>If not, why not subject to call in</b>	
<b>Ward(s) Affected</b>	All

### Document Information

<b>Appendices</b>	
<b>Appendix 1</b>	Capital March 2026
<b>Appendix 2</b>	Detailed Narrative - March 2026
<b>Appendix 3</b>	Virements & Aged Debt March 2026
<b>Appendix 4</b>	Funding March 2026
<b>Appendix 5</b>	Use of Reserves and Grant Funding March 2026
<b>Appendix 6</b>	Reserves to be released in 2026-27
<b>Appendix 7</b>	Savings 2025-26
<b>Background Papers</b>	N/A
<b>Reference Papers</b>	N/A
<b>Report Author</b>	Leanne Lock
<b>Report Author contact details</b>	<a href="mailto:Leanne.lock@cherwell-dc.gov.uk">Leanne.lock@cherwell-dc.gov.uk</a> 01295 227098

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CODE	DESCRIPTION	Previous year(s) spend	25/26 Actuals	25/26 Purchase orders	25/26 Original Budget	25/26 Current Budget	Forecast Spend					Project Total forecast	Project Total Budget	Project Total Variance	Narrative
							25/26 Forecast	26/27 Forecast	27/28 Forecast	28/29 Forecast	29/30 Forecast				
40224	Fairway Flats Refurbishment	44	135	0	321	261	135	70				249	365	(116)	The original approved budget was £365k. When further feasibility and design work was completed the cost was confirmed as £249k. The project will be completed during 26/27. £126k reprofiled to 26/27. £25k additional forecast to 26/27.
40254	Thorpe Lane Depot - Renewal of Electrical Incoming Main	104	46	0	164	164	46	118				268	268	(0)	£46k substation installation costs have increased since the sum was first agreed. Installation, including associated connections to onsite facilities, scheduled for 26/27. £118k reprofiled to 26/27
40255	Installation of Photovoltaic at CDC Property	8	1	0	71	0	1	70				79	79	0	Project will resume in 26/27 due to resource capacity £1k reprofiled from 26/27
40263	Kidlington Leisure New Electrical Main	180	0	0	20	0	0	20				200	200	0	Due to network capacity issues we have been advised there is insufficient electricity supply available for the planned sub-station. CDC reconsidering options and seeking reimbursement of sums previously paid.
40278	Development of New Land Bicester Depot	165	138	0	3,811	300	138	162				465	465	(0)	Planning application submitted. Funding retained to prepare business case and consider the potential effect of Local Government Reorganisation. £162k reprofiled to 26/27
40279	Spiceball Sports Centre - Solar PV Car Ports	7	9	0	170	100	9	161				177	177	0	Cost benefits and savings to be gained by delaying the PV works and undertaking them at the same time as PSDS4 works under one contract rather than two. £91k reprofiled to 26/27
40281	North Oxfordshire Academy - Solar Panels	0	0	0	18	18	0	18				18	18	0	Cost benefits and savings to be gained by delaying the PV works and undertaking them at the same time as PSDS4 works under one contract rather than two. PV works likely to commence in May 26 with invoice/s to follow in June 26
40282	Community Centre Solar Panels	0	85	0	106	78	85	21				106	106	0	Two community centres completed 2025/26. Third to be completed in Q1 2026/27. £7k reprofiled from 26/27
40283	Thorpe Lane - Solar Panels	0	1	0	34	0	1	33				34	34	0	Project will be completed in 26/27. Depends on electrical main project 40254 above. £1k reprofiled from 26/27
40284	Thorpe Lane - Heater Replacement (Gas to Electric)	4	0	0	24	0		24				28	28	0	Project will resume in 26/27. Depends on electrical main project 40254 above.
40316	CDC Office Relocation to Castle Quay	5,213	38	0	0	0	38					5,251	5,146	105	Look expenditure primarily from release of main or the retention monies to the main contractor. The final account will be determined when the remaining snagging is complete. Additional costs were incurred on some elements offset by savings against
40341	Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) 4	0	385	0	0	721	385	810	128			1,323	1,661	(338)	Proposed works approved for grant funding were reviewed as part of the detailed feasibility and design. Proposed works at Stratfield Brake, NOA and Spiceball LC, have been redesigned to take account of use and property design. Designs complete, works underway and will be completed during 26/27. Detailed design and feasibility confirmed proposed works at Woodgreen Leisure Centre could not be delivered in way that meets grant conditions. These works are not proceeding and there will be no expenditure on them.
40343	Banbury Library	0	0	0	0	40	0	200	1,400			1,600	1,600	0	Proposed works approved for grant funding were reviewed as part of the detailed feasibility and design. Proposed works at Stratfield Brake, NOA and Spiceball LC, have been redesigned to take account of use and property design. Designs complete, works underway and will be completed during 26/27. Detailed design and feasibility confirmed proposed works at Woodgreen Leisure Centre could not be delivered in way that meets grant conditions. These works are not proceeding and there will be no expenditure on them. £40k reprofiled to 26/27

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Previous year(s) spend	25/26 Actuals	25/26 Purchase orders	25/26 Original Budget	25/26 Current Budget	Forecast Spend					Project Total forecast	Project Total Budget	Project Total Variance	Narrative
							25/26 Forecast	26/27 Forecast	27/28 Forecast	28/29 Forecast	29/30 Forecast				
40348	Castle Quay Roof works	0	7	0	0	30	7	1,643				1,650	1,650	0	Newly approved on 15/12/2025. £23k reprofiled to 26/27.
40327	Thorpe Place Roofing Works	0	0	0	97	0	0	365				365	365	0	Project approved by Council on 10/03/2026. Planning application for the works to be determined in June 2026, following which works will be commenced on site.
<b>Property</b>		<b>5,725</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,836</b>	<b>1,712</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>3,715</b>	<b>1,528</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,813</b>	<b>12,162</b>	<b>(348)</b>	
40286	Transforming Market Square Bicester	144	227	0	720	297	227	825	3,365	570		5,131	5,131	0	Following the evolution of the preferred design, a validation stage is now required to test deliverability, particularly highways, before further design investment. As a result, capital provision profiled in 2025/26 for preliminary design and survey work was not spent in-year. £70k was reprofiled from 2025/26 to 2028/29, and £500k from 2026/27 to 2028/29.
40287	UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UK SPF) Year Two Investment Plan Programme	231	56	0	76	76	56	19				306	306	(0)	On track to spend by 30/09/2026 – the government has extended the deadline for grant expenditure, which has allowed the Council to maximise the benefits. £20k was reprofiled from 2025/26 to 2026/27.
40288	UKSPF Rural Fund	551	0	0	0	158	0	158				709	709	0	On track to spend by 30/09/2026 – the government has extended the deadline for grant expenditure, which has allowed the Council to maximise the benefits. £158k was reprofiled from 2025/26 to 2026/27.
<b>Regeneration &amp; Growth</b>		<b>925</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>796</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>1,002</b>	<b>3,365</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,146</b>	<b>6,146</b>	<b>(0)</b>	
<b>Place and Regeneration</b>		<b>6,651</b>	<b>1,128</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,632</b>	<b>2,243</b>	<b>1,128</b>	<b>4,717</b>	<b>4,893</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17,959</b>	<b>18,308</b>	<b>(349)</b>	
40334	Robotic Process Automation Pilot	105	(55)	0	28	11	(55)	83				133	133	0	The project is moving forward with the first automation currently on hold due to the non-availability of the service it's intended to support; we will proceed as soon as circumstances allow. Meanwhile, the second automation has been fully scoped and is just about to move into development. Once that's underway, we'll focus on planning the third automation. The aim is for all three pilot automations to be live by the end of Q3, which will give us a foundation for evaluating the impact and benefits of this pilot.
40337	ESRI Software Upgrade	0	19	0	30	30	19	9				28	30	(2)	Project will be completed 26/27 Q3 £9k reprofiled to 26/27
<b>ICT</b>		<b>105</b>	<b>(36)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>(36)</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>(2)</b>	
<b>Resources</b>		<b>105</b>	<b>(36)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>(36)</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>(2)</b>	
40028	Vehicle Replacement Programme	Rolling Programme	1,251	7	1,413	1,120	1,251	1,280	1,066	1,066	1,066	5,730	5,730	0	£131k re-profiled back to 2025/26
40222	Burnehyll- Bicester Country Park	125	16	0	121	25	16	85	45			271	271	(0)	Majority of the grant funded work has been completed week commencing 9th March 2026. The remaining grant funded work will be completed in 26/27. £9k re-profiled to 26/27.
40331	Additional Commercial Waste Containers	29	25	0	25	25	25					54	54	0	Project is completed in 25/26
<b>Environmental</b>		<b>154</b>	<b>1,292</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1,559</b>	<b>1,170</b>	<b>1,292</b>	<b>1,365</b>	<b>1,111</b>	<b>1,066</b>	<b>1,066</b>	<b>6,055</b>	<b>6,055</b>	<b>(0)</b>	
40083	Disabled Facilities Grants	Rolling Programme	1,526	0	1,719	1,500	1,526	1,918	1,539	1,539	1,539	8,061	8,061	0	Full spend of 25/26 grant allocation anticipated. Some project will continue through April 2026. 26k Was reprofiled from 26/27 to 25/26
40251	Longford Park Art	0	0	0	45	45		45				45	45	0	Reprofile to 26/27 - will not be able to start until development consortium transfers ownership to the

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Previous year(s) spend	25/26 Actuals	25/26 Purchase orders	25/26 Original Budget	25/26 Current Budget	Forecast Spend					Project Total forecast	Project Total Budget	Project Total Variance	Narrative
							25/26 Forecast	26/27 Forecast	27/28 Forecast	28/29 Forecast	29/30 Forecast				
40262	Town Centre House Refurbishment	7006	(39)	40	0	0	(31)					6,975	7,355	(380)	Project complete - Credit in 25/26 relates to minor over-accrual of costs in 24/25 relating to retention and final account estimates.
40303	S106 - Hanwell Fields Community Centre Projects	16	37	0	340	60	37	307				360	360	0	Evaluation of tender responses for the installation of a Mezzanine at Hanwell Fields Community Centre. 23k was reprofiled from 25/26 to 26/27
40304	S106 - Hook Norton Sport And Social Club Project	0	17	0	80	80	17	63				80	80	0	MUGA surface is finished just waiting for final stitching. The delay was caused by wet weather,63k was reprofiled from 25/26 to 26/27
40305	S106 - Horley Cricket Club Pavilion Project	0	0	0	110	110	0	110				110	110	0	Delivery delayed due to issue with the land registry. Reprofiled from 25/26 to 26/27
40312	S106 - Whitelands Farm Sports Ground (Pedestrian crossing and various works)	127	1	0	33	33	1	32				160	160	0	Waiting for road adaption before project commences.32k was reprofiled from 25/26 to 26/27
40313	S106 - Woodgreen Leisure Centre Improvements	23	127	0	139	139	127	12				161	161	0	Project completed, retention amount is going to be paid in April 2026.12k was reprofiled from 25/26 to 26/27
40319	Local Authority Housing Fund R2	1634	0	0	0	7						1,634	1,641	(7)	Recommend 7k be vired to Town Centre House - 40262
40324	Development of Activity Play Zones	4	136	0	155	142	136	22				162	162	(0)	Completed – retention payment is scheduled for September/October 2026. Reprofiled 6k from 25/26 to 26/27
40325	Graven Hill Community and Infrastructure Projects	0	3	0	80	20	3	77				80	80	0	The ground condition analysis will continue in 2026. Contract completion in end of April 2026. Reprofiled
40328	S106 - Windmill Community & Sports Centre Tennis Courts	35	0	0	0	16	16					51	51	0	Completed
40329	Spiceball Leisure Centre Structural Beams	13	150	0	100	160	150	10				173	173	0	Completed-retention will be released in July 2026.Reprofiled 10k from 25/26 to 26/27
40336	S106 Kingsmere Public Art	0	0	0	28	0	0	28				28	28	0	Project will be completed 2026/27
40338	LAHF R3	0	1,400	0	1,400	1,400	1,400					1,400	1,400	0	Grant has been transferred to SOHA to complete delivery of the project.
40339	S106 - Windmill Centre Kitchen Refurb	0	0	0	11	11	11					11	11	0	Completed
40340	S106 - Steeple Aston Playground	0	34	0	34	34	34					34	34	0	Completed
40344	S106- Banbury Cricket Club Project	0	9	0	0	11	9	2				11	11	0	Waiting for confirmation of project completion and final invoices. Reprofiled 2k from 25/26 to 26/27
40345	S106 - Yarnton Village Hall Project	0	0	0	0	0		23				23	23	0	S106 fund approved. Project delivery is expected in April/May 2026.
40346	S106 - Bloxham Bowls Club Roofing Contribution	0	14	0	0	14	14					14	14	0	Completed
40347	S106 – Fritwell Playing Fields Equipment Contribution	0	34	0	0	34	34	33				67	67	0	S106 spend approved. Project due to completion by 31/05/2026.

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Previous year(s) spend	25/26 Actuals	25/26 Purchase orders	25/26 Original Budget	25/26 Current Budget	Forecast Spend					Project Total forecast	Project Total Budget	Project Total Variance	Narrative
							25/26 Forecast	26/27 Forecast	27/28 Forecast	28/29 Forecast	29/30 Forecast				
<b>Wellbeing &amp; Housing</b>		<b>8,859</b>	<b>3,449</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>4,274</b>	<b>3,816</b>	<b>3,484</b>	<b>2,682</b>	<b>1,539</b>	<b>1,539</b>	<b>1,539</b>	<b>19,641</b>	<b>20,027</b>	<b>(386)</b>	
40245	Enable Agile Working	0	0	0	15	15	0	15				15	15	0	The app that will support this agile working has now been released but we are still delayed due to issues around use of the app with single sign on (SSO). The issues linked to SSO are expected to be resolved by Q2 of 26/27. £15k was reprofiled from 2025/26 to 2026/27.
40333	CCTV Thames Valley Project	0	0	0	250	250	0	250				250	250	0	Upgrade the public open space CCTV network and cameras to meet the necessary threshold to be included in the OPCC Thames Valley CCTV project. This expenditure is dependent upon the TVCCTV partnership progressing which has been delayed. The partnership agreement was signed in Q4 of 25/26. The subsequent capital spend is now anticipated to occur in Q1 and Q2 of 26/27. £250k was reprofiled from 2025/26 to 2026/27.
<b>Regulatory Services</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Neighbourhood Services</b>		<b>9,012</b>	<b>4,741</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>6,097</b>	<b>5,250</b>	<b>4,775</b>	<b>4,312</b>	<b>2,650</b>	<b>2,605</b>	<b>2,605</b>	<b>25,961</b>	<b>26,347</b>	<b>(386)</b>	
<b>Capital Total</b>		<b>15,768</b>	<b>5,833</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>11,787</b>	<b>7,534</b>	<b>5,868</b>	<b>9,121</b>	<b>7,543</b>	<b>3,175</b>	<b>2,605</b>	<b>44,081</b>	<b>44,818</b>	<b>(736)</b>	

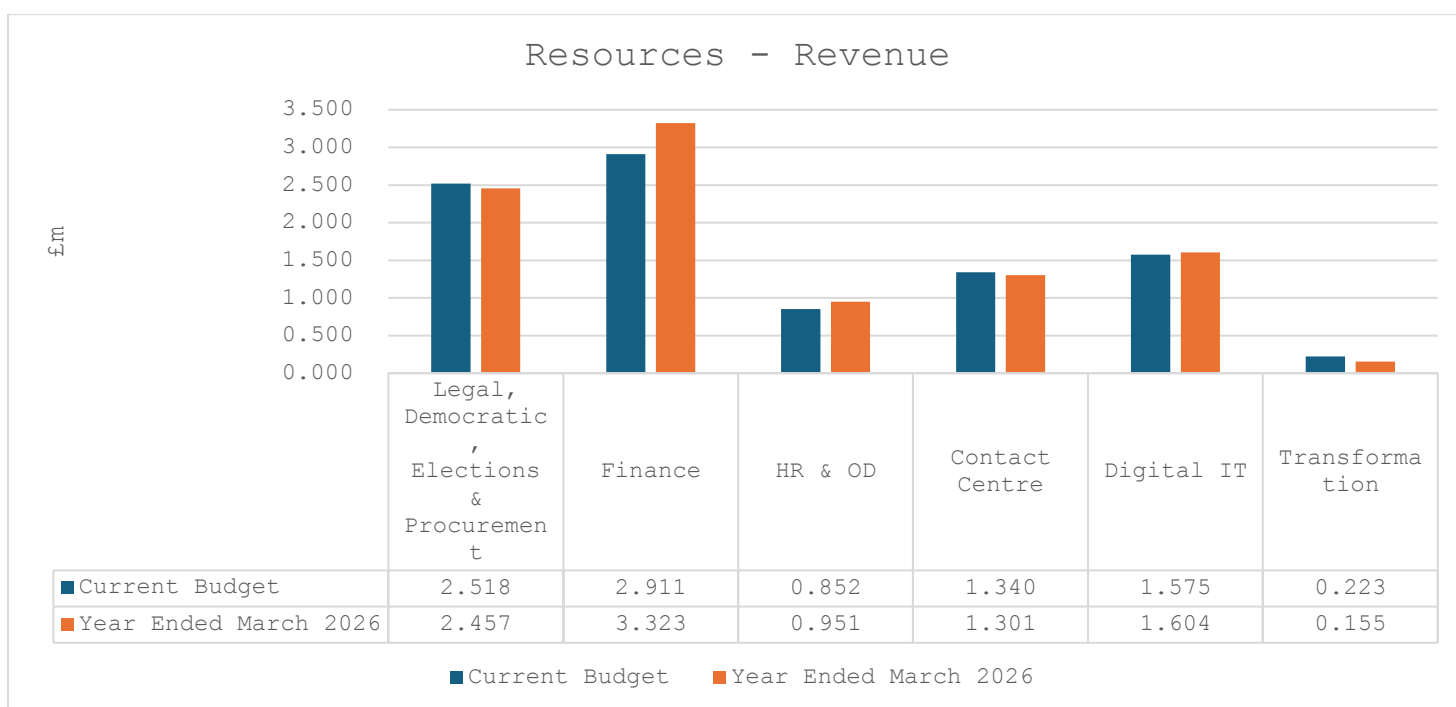
## Appendix 2 – Detailed Narrative on Forecast March 2026

### Resources

#### Revenue:

Resources are reporting a £0.372m overspend against a budget of £9.419m.

The Resources directorate faced a challenging financial position, with forecast pressures increasing over the year, with significant pressures being outside the control of the Council. The most significant pressure remains within Finance, driven by sustained demand and subsidy issues associated with exempt supported accommodation (very much outside the control of the Council), while HR reported pressures linked to staffing-related costs and the non-delivery of planned savings. These pressures are being partially offset by favourable positions across several other service areas, including Legal, Contact Centre and Land Charges, and Transformation. The directorate worked hard over the year to monitor closely and pursue mitigating actions where possible, whilst again recognising that some of the pressures are driven by demand-led and external factors. A big thank you to all the teams that managed to deliver our services whilst addressing the tough financial climate.



<p>Legal, Democratic, Elections &amp; Procurement</p> <p>Variation (£0.061m) Underspend</p>	<p>The underspend relates to the recovery of fees paid for legal costs, based on time charged for negotiating complex legal agreements that concluded towards the end of the financial year. This recovery is intended to help offset ongoing locum and agency fees, which may not otherwise be recoverable in high-demand areas such as planning and procurement.</p>
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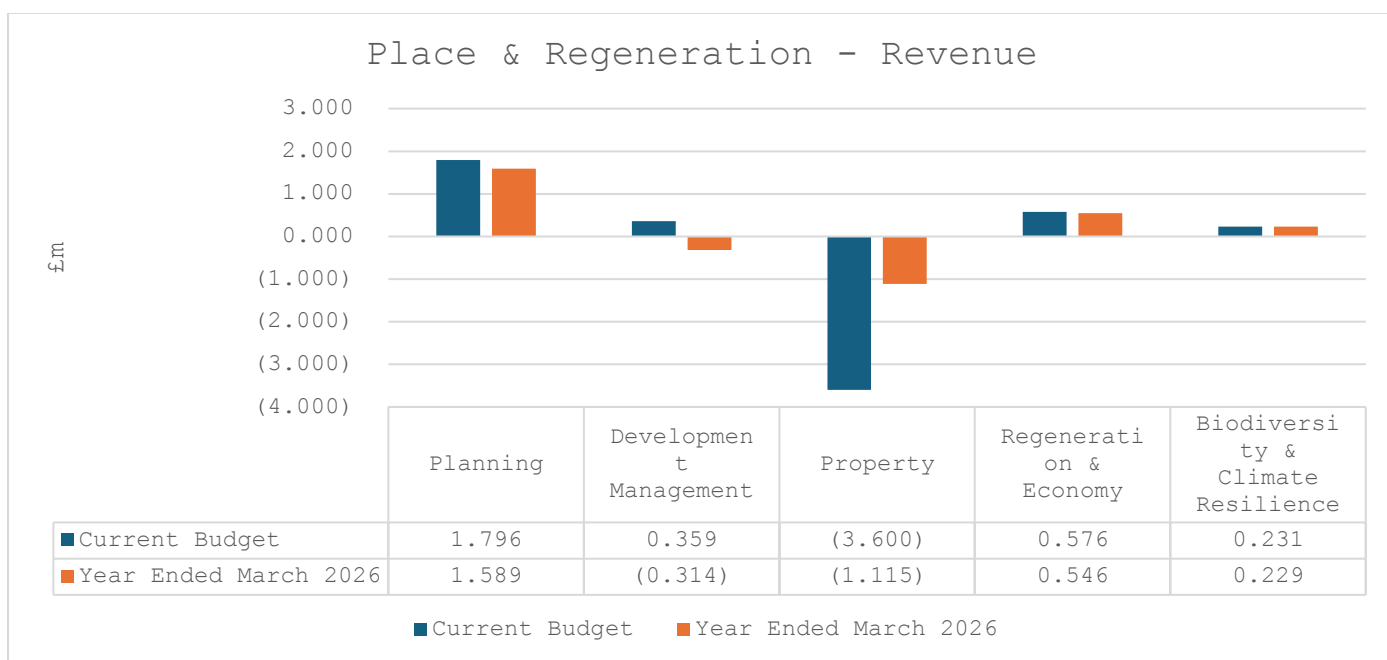
<p>Variation to January's Forecast £0.012m</p>	<p>software license costs and consultants fees relating to the structure project. In addition to these costs, the learning and development budget was exceeded by £0.024m.</p> <p>Minor changes across the service.</p>
<p>Contact Centre</p> <p>Variation (£0.039m) Underspend</p> <p>Variation to January's Forecast (£0.004m)</p>	<p>Customer Services is showing an underspend due to vacant hours on the establishment. Land Charges is showing a small underspend due to additional income.</p> <p>Posts that became vacant during February and March, but were not filled by end of year, resulted in a further in year saving. Additional savings further to Statutory Maternity Pay adjustments.</p>
<p>Digital IT</p> <p>Variation £0.029m Overspend</p> <p>Variation to January's Forecast £0.014m</p>	<p>Minor overspends across the service.</p>
<p>Transformation</p> <p>Variation (£0.068m) Underspend</p> <p>Variation to January's Forecast £0.011m</p>	<p>Underspend is due to current Business Process Analyst Vacancy, which was held as vacant whilst the new Transformation and Change Office (TCO) structure was being finalised, as well as costs associated with licensing fees and IT equipment and some consulting fees.</p> <p>A new TCO structure will be implemented for the 2026/27 financial year.</p> <p>Business Process Analyst Vacancy remains vacant.</p>

## Place & Regeneration

### Revenue:

Place & Regeneration are reporting a £1.070m overspend against a budget of (£0.638m).

The overarching overspend position is driven by external market forces which the services are working collectively to mitigate the impact of and improve the long-term forecasting of. This has been offset by underspends elsewhere including Planning Policy where local plan examination has delayed forecast expenditure and achieving a higher than forecast income in Development Management through a high volume of applications which will need to be resourced into 26/27. Additionally, Regeneration and Growth have brought in additional funding support to facilitate studies to unlock stalled delivery sites and invest in detailed technical studies which have been delivered on top of planned business.



<p><b>Planning &amp; Development Management</b></p> <p>Planning Variation (£0.207m) underspend</p> <p>Development Management Variation Underspend (£0.673m)</p>	<p>Building Control has ended the year underspent (£0.050m) mainly due to a saving on staffing costs due a delayed appointment for land drainage services. Planning Policy, Conservation &amp; Design has also ended with an underspend (£0.159m) due mainly to a delay to the Local Plan Examination and therefore delayed cost. The displaced cost is expected to be incurred in 26/27.</p> <p>Additional income received by Development Management has resulted in a significant underspend position of (£0.673m) but this includes significant fees for work continuing in 26/27 with associated costs for temporary staff. Overall, the two services have resulted in an underspend of (£0.880m).</p>
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Variation (£0.002m) Underspend	Biodiversity & Climate Resilience is reporting to budget for the 2025/26 outturn.
Variation to January's Forecast (£0.006m)	The previous forecasted overspend was mitigated through a reduction in consultancy scope.

## Neighbourhood Services

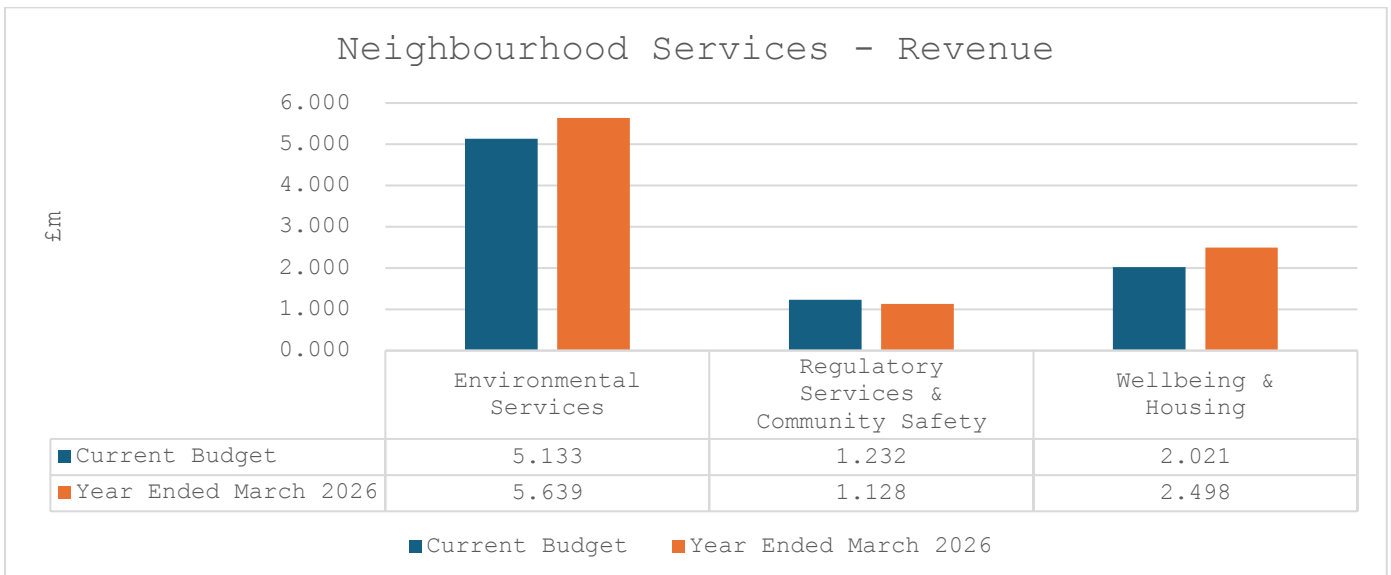
### Revenue:

Neighbourhood Services are reporting a £0.879m overspend against a budget of £8.386m.

The Neighbourhood Services department overspent across the 2025/2026 fiscal year due to a combination of factors, including the rising demand to provide Temporary Accommodation (TA), staffing shortages in essential front-line services due to sickness levels, and additional complexity in adopting the Agency arrangement in our leisure centres which will reduce our total spend.

Throughout the year, the department has looked at all opportunities to reduce costs, including holding vacant posts, delaying non-statutory or essential works, and increasing income where possible through commercial services. This is reflected in the projected overspend significantly reducing in the final outturn, with an improvement of £0.206m at year end.

The Iran war will have a material impact on the 26/27 budget, due to rising fuel costs and higher recycling processing costs, which will be factored into future financial planning.



Environmental Services	The pressure of £0.506m within Environmental Services is primarily due to staffing pressures and agency costs within Waste and Recycling. Changes in the global market for recycled materials fell
Variation £0.506m Overspend	

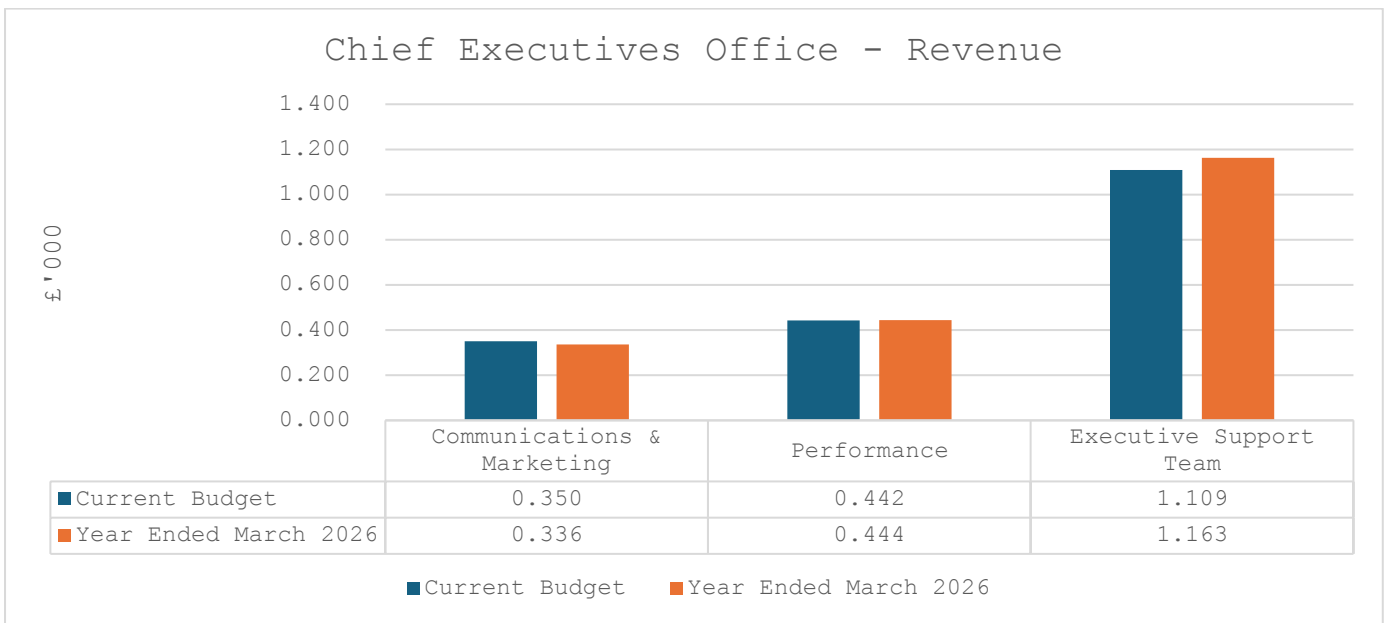
<p>Variation to January's Forecast (£0.199m)</p>	<p>more than anticipated and this resulted in the recycling processing cost increasing.</p> <p>This has been part offset by holding open vacancies within Street Cleansing, Landscaping and Admin teams. In addition, to this there has been growth in income across the services. More glass has been collected because of the introduction glass in the blue recycling bins.</p> <p>The movement of (£0.199m) is partially a result of a reduced level of agency staff requirements, as sickness levels fell across the service.</p> <p>Additionally, income rose due to higher glass tonnage recycling through the blue recycling bins, additional S106 contributions for refuse bins, an increase in income through a rise in business waste customers, and an increase in street cleansing income.</p> <p>Non recruitment to several vacant posts across the service in addition to delaying spend in less critical, front-line services within Admin, Landscaping and Arboriculture Services has helped mitigate this overspend.</p> <p>Additional income streams have been generated by the Waste and Recycling Service because of closer joint working and contracts with other local partners.</p>
<p>Regulatory Services &amp; Community Safety</p> <p>Variation (£0.104m) Underspend</p> <p>Variation to January's Forecast (£0.015m)</p>	<p>Regulatory Services and Community Safety outturn shows a (£0.104m) underspend.</p> <p>The variation from January's reporting is mainly due to additional savings from staffing costs as well as reduced kennel fees and improved fines income,</p>
<p>Wellbeing &amp; Housing</p> <p>Variation £0.477m Overspend</p>	<p>The outturn is an overspend primarily due to rising Temporary Accommodation costs, along with IT license costs and legal fees. This rise in TA costs has been experienced by most authorities across the UK and is a national challenge. We have been taking every step to reduce this rising pressure, and capital funding has been allocated for 2026/27 onwards to provide more temporary accommodation across Cherwell to reduce the revenue spend.</p>

Variation to January's Forecast £0.007m	<p>The position has improved by a further £0.007 in the last month of the year.</p> <p>Over the course of the year, it has been possible to underspend on some provisions within the budget and reduce the forecasted overspend. The Council has also received increases in grant aid increasing budget provision for temporary accommodation.</p>
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**Chief Executives Office**

**Revenue:**

Overall, the Service is 2% over budget for the 25/26 financial year which is largely due to unplanned recruitment costs reported in December 2025.



<p><b>Communications &amp; Marketing</b></p> <p>Variation (£0.014m) Underspend</p> <p>Variation to January's Forecast (£0.004m)</p>	<p>Communications is underspent in this financial year due to lower costs on external print and design that had been budgeted for at the start of the year.</p> <p>Some external costs relating to printing, etc have been less than originally forecast.</p>
<p><b>Performance</b></p> <p>Variation £0.002m Overspend</p> <p>Variation to January's Forecast £0.002m</p>	<p>Performance finished the financial year with a minor overspend across the service.</p>
<p><b>Page 42</b></p>	

Executive Support Team	Overall, the Service is over budget for the 25/26 financial year which is largely due to some unplanned recruitment costs. Every opportunity is being taken where possible to make savings that will mitigate the expected overspend.
Variation £0.054m Overspend	
Variation to January's Forecast £0.033m	There has been some movement in the budget due to recognition of staff costs that had not previously been apportioned to this service area.

## **Executive Matters**

### **Revenue:**

Executive Matters are reporting a (£1.322m) underspend against a budget of £5.132m.

Executive Matters	Executive Matters are reporting an underspend of (£1.322m) consisting of (£0.500m) dividend received from Graven Hill, an increase to the Provision for bad and doubtful debts of £0.351m, Compensatory Pension Strain charges of £0.236m, an over recovery of net interest of (£1.111m), an underspend on external audit of (£0.253m) and minor underspends across the service amounting to (£0.045).
Variation (£1.322m) Underspend	
Variation to January's Forecast £0.106m	

## **Policy Contingency**

### **Revenue:**

Policy Contingency are reporting a (£2.003m) underspend against a budget of £1.995m, the movement in Policy Contingency is shown in the table below: -

<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>(2.428)</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Inflation Contingency	0.060	for the development resource required for property projects
Inflation Contingency	0.031	Climate Change Redundancy
General Contingency	0.091	Redundancies
General Contingency	0.005	Climate Change Action Plan 25/26
General Contingency	0.004	Research & Stakeholder Engagement for Mental Health Provision of young people
General Contingency	0.005	To mitigate the Carbon Budgeting challenge
General Contingency	0.107	Glass Recycling implementation
General Contingency	0.050	New Arts Feasibility study
General Contingency	0.005	LCMB Carbon Budgeting invoice
General Contingency	0.040	To support The Hill Banbury
General Contingency	0.010	Devolution
General Contingency	0.025	Interim Programme Director (Heyford) as approved by CLT.
General Contingency	0.010	Climate Action Plan 25/26

General Contingency	0.010	Senior restructure - balance to be funded from Policy contingency
General Contingency	(0.021)	NED costs - move from Property to PC
General Contingency	(0.006)	Minor Underspend in service
<b>Remaining Budget</b>	<b>(2.003)</b>	

## **Funding**

Funding is reporting an overspend of £0.459m against a budget of £26.195m.

<p>Funding</p> <p>Variation £0.459m Overspend</p> <p>Variation to January's Forecast £0.459m</p>	<p>The main reason for the overspend of £2.558m (prior to the request from reserves) is due to a shortfall on Business Rates transactions credited to the General Fund at the end of the year, due to a higher levy on growth and lower pooling income than estimated.</p> <p>It is estimated there will be a surplus on Business Rates transactions credited to the Collection Fund of £2.859m to offset this but due to statutory accounting requirements this is not available to the Council until 2026/27.</p> <p>This timing issue has been mitigated by a transfer request from reserves in 2025/26 and this will be replenished in 2026/27 when the income can be recognised.</p> <p>Detailed as above.</p>
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## Appendix 3 - Virement Summary

### Virement Movement

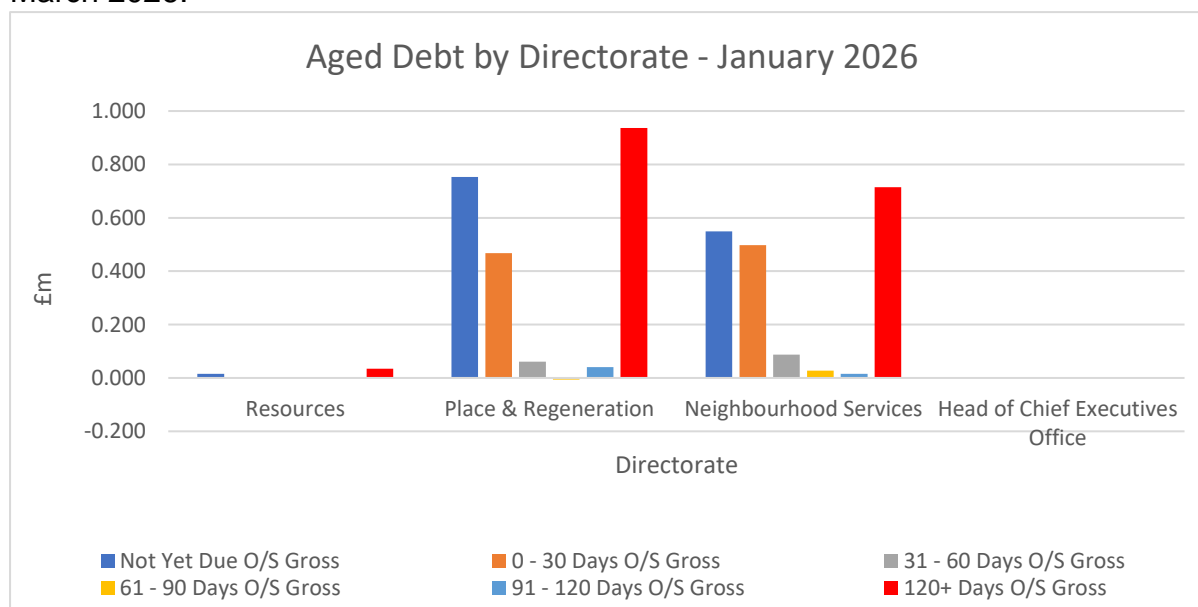
This table shows the movement in Net Budget from January 2026 to March 2026.

Virements - Movement in Net Budget	£m
Directorate Net Budget - March 2026	19.068
Directorate Net Budget - January 2026	19.049
<b>Movement</b>	<b>(0.019)</b>

Breakdown of Movements	£m
NED Costs	(£0.021)
Senior Restructure	(£0.008)
DocuSign - Legal return as unspent	£0.010
<b>Total</b>	<b>(0.019)</b>

### Aged Debt Summary

The below graph shows the movement in sundry aged debt for the period ending 31 March 2026.



The financial regulations make provision for writing off debts that are bad, uneconomical to collect or irrecoverable. The Council maintains a number of bad debt provisions in the anticipation that debts will become bad and these once agreed are charged to the relevant provision or cost centre.

There is a provision within the council for sundry bad debt totalling £0.767m that is sufficient and by writing off the amount of debt mentioned in this report will not cause

the provision to be exceeded. This provision is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that we have sufficient within it.

**Aged Sundry Debt Write Off Summary:**

	£m
Sundry Debts previously written off	0.168
Sundry Debts written off in February 2026, and March 2026 under S151 delegation	0.001
Sundry Debts for write off in over £0.005m	0.000
<b>Total write offs in financial year 2025/26</b>	<b>0.169</b>

**Housing Benefit Write off Summary:**

	£m
Housing Benefit previously written off	0.027
Housing Benefit due to be written off under S151 Delegation	0.004
Housing Benefit Overpayments to be written off via committee	0.000
<b>Total write offs in financial year 2025/2026</b>	<b>0.031</b>

**Council Tax Write off Summary:**

	£m
Council Tax previously written off	0.374
Council Tax due to be written off under S151 Delegation	0.000
Council Tax to be written off via Committee	0.000
<b>Total write offs in financial year 2025/2026</b>	<b>0.374</b>

**Non-Domestic Rates Write off Summary:**

	£m
Non-Domestic Rates previously written off	0.105
Non-Domestic Rates to be written off under S151 Delegation	0.000
Non-Domestic Rates written off via Committee Approval	0.000
<b>Total write offs in financial year 2025/2026</b>	<b>0.105</b>

## Appendix 4 - Funding for 2025/26

### Specific Funding received since budget was set:

Dept.	Grant Name	Funding
		£
MHCLG	Homelessness Prevention Grant	(£0.344)
MHCLG	Rough Sleepers Accommodation Programme	(£0.035)
MHCLG	Redmond Review Implementation	(£0.024)
MHCLG	Local Audit Backstop New Burdens	(£0.046)
MHCLG	New Burdens Funding for Accommodation-based Domestic Abuse	(£0.037)
MHCLG	ATLAS	(£0.085)
MHCLG	New Burdens Funding for Renters Rights	(£0.049)
MHCLG	Local Government Reorganisation proposal development contributions	(£0.019)
MHCLG	Awaab's Law New Burdens	(£0.002)
MHCLG	Calorie Labelling and Promotions	(£0.002)
MHCLG	Kidlington and Oxford Parkway spatial framework	(£0.120)
MHCLG	NTU Funding	(£0.500)
DEFRA	Biodiversity Net Gain Grant	(£0.027)
DEFRA	Food Waste Collection Grant	(£0.005)
DEFRA	Extended Producer Responsibility	(£0.309)
DWP	Welfare Reform New Burdens Funding	(£0.035)
DWP	LA IT changes Scottish Government Grant	(£0.006)
DWP	LA IT Changes SHBE	(£0.001)
DWP	Housing Benefit Award Accuracy Initiative	(£0.017)
DWP	IT Suppliers	(£0.001)
Home Office	Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy	(£2.103)
Home Office	Asylum Dispersal Grant	(£0.248)
Home Office	Syrian Resettlement Programme	(£0.011)
Homes England	Atlas - Homes England	(£0.197)
HM Land Registry	HM Land Registry - Transition Payment	(£0.025)
Salix/DESNZ	Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) Phase 4	(£0.144)
DSIT	Innovate	(£0.047)
		<b>(£4.439)</b>

**Grants included as part of Budget setting:**

<b>Directorate</b>	<b>Grant Name</b>	<b>£m</b>
<b>Communities</b>	Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy	(0.244)
	Asylum Accommodation Dispersal	(0.029)
	Homeless Prevention Grant	(0.763)
	Syrian Resettlement Scheme	(0.183)
	Homes for Ukraine	(0.417)
	UK Shared Prosperity Fund	(0.335)
	<b>Communities Total</b>	<b>(1.972)</b>
<b>Resources</b>	NNDR Cost of Collection Allowance	(0.231)
	Rent Allowances	(25.004)
	<b>Resources Total</b>	<b>(25.235)</b>
<b>Services Sub-total</b>		<b>(27.207)</b>
<b>Corporate</b>	Extended Producer Responsibility	(1.400)
	Funding Floor	(3.400)
	National Insurance Contribution Compensation	(0.258)
	<b>Corporate Total</b>	<b>(5.058)</b>
<b>Cost of Services total</b>		<b>(32.265)</b>
<b>Funding</b>	Business Rates Retained Scheme	(7.490)
	New Homes Bonus	(0.935)
	Revenue Support Grant	(0.368)
	<b>Funding Total</b>	<b>(8.793)</b>
<b>Government Grants Total</b>		<b>(41.058)</b>

## Appendix 5 - Reserves and Grant Funding

### Uses of/ (Contributions to) Reserves

#### Specific requests

Directorate	Type	Reserve Name	Reason	Amount £m
Neighbourhood Services	Reserves	Non-Recurring Ring Fenced Grants	Unspent budget for the new Arts Centre feasibility study to be released in 2026-27	(0.037)
Neighbourhood Services	Reserves	UK Resettlement Scheme Reserve	Return unspent UKRS funding to reserve	(0.018)
Neighbourhood Services	Reserves	Projects	Unspent budget for the 2nd contribution to the Hill Community Centre. To be released in 2026-27	(0.020)
Neighbourhood Services	Reserves	Cherwell Lottery – Revenue	Income from the sale of Cherwell lottery tickets in 2025-26	(0.004)
Resources	Reserves	Transformation Reserve	Return unspent Transformation project budget to be released in 2026-27	(0.362)
Resources	Reserves	Cherwell Futures Reserve	Return unspent Cherwell Futures funding to reserves. To be released in 2026-27	(0.153)
Neighbourhood Services	Reserves	NEW - TVP CCTV Contribution	Return unspent contribution budget Community Safety - CCTV Monitoring	(0.034)
Neighbourhood Services	Reserves	Licensing	Return to Reserves	(0.030)
Place & Regeneration	Reserves	Local Plan	Unspent Consultant Fees Budget - Local Plan	(0.197)
Place & Regeneration	Reserves	New – Parish Toolkit	Unspent Parish Toolkit training scheduled in 2026/27	(0.015)
Place & Regeneration	Reserves	Projects Reserve	Return unspent Kidlington Budget	(0.078)
Resources	Reserves	New - Local Audit Backstop	Funding received to assist with audit backlogs	(0.046)
Resources	Reserves	Election Reserve	Elections reimbursement	(0.149)
Place & Regeneration	Reserves	Sinking fund - Banbury Health Centre	To top up the sinking fund for Banbury Health centre	(0.031)
Neighbourhood Services	Reserves – S106	S106 Landscaping Commuted Sums - Hanwell Park NEAP & Orchard Park (April - December 2025) 95/01117/OUT	Grounds Maintenance, Play Area Inspections, Cleansing and Arb Works	0.008
Neighbourhood Services	Reserves – S106	S106 Landscaping Commuted Sums - Ayres Drive, Bloxham (April - December	Play Area Inspections, Cleansing & Work Orders	0.001

		2025) 07/01653/REM		
Neighbourhood Services	Reserves – S106	S106 Landscaping Commuted Sums - Hanwell Park NEAP & Orchard Park (January - March 2026) 95/01117/OUT	Grounds Maintenance, Play Area Inspections, Cleansing and Arb Works	0.001
Neighbourhood Services	Reserves – S106	S106 Landscaping Commuted Sums - Ayres Drive, Bloxham (January - March 2026) 07/01653/REM	Play Area Inspections, Cleansing & Work Orders	0.001
Resources	Reserves	Business Rates Reserve	To offset the Business Rates shortfall in 2025/26 transactions credited to the General Fund at the end of the year, due to a higher levy on growth and lower pooling income than estimated. It is estimated there will be a surplus on Business Rates transactions credited to the Collection Fund of £2.859m to offset this but due to statutory accounting requirements this is not available to the Council until 2026/27.	2.100
Resources	Reserves	Local Government Reform	Return unspent reserve	(0.074)
Place & Regeneration	Reserves	Growth & Regeneration	Unspent Area Oversight Group monies	(0.022)
Place & Regeneration	Reserves	Projects Reserve	Unspent budget for the repurposing of Castle Quay	(0.048)
<b>Total Earmarked Reserves</b>				<b>0.793</b>
Place & Regeneration	Grant	Bicester Garden Town	Bicester Garden Town unspent grant	(0.047)
Place & Regeneration	Grant	New – Heyford Park New Town	Unspent grant	(0.500)
Place & Regeneration	Grant	New – UKSPF	Unspent UKSPF grant	(0.132)
<b>Total Grants</b>				<b>(0.679)</b>

## Appendix 6 – Grants & Reserves to be released in 2026/27

Directorate	Type	Reserve	Description	Amount £m
Place & Regeneration	Reserve	NEW - Parish Toolkit	Unspent Parish Toolkit - Paul Seckington has scheduled Parish training for the service for financial year 26/27	0.015
Place & Regeneration	Grant	NEW - Heyford Park Newtown	NTU Funding (Heyford Park) Grant received in March 2026, spend to take place during 26/27 once approved by Exec after April 2026.	0.500
Place & Regeneration	Reserve	Projects Reserve	Return unspent Kidlington Budget from 25/26 to 26/27	0.078
Place & Regeneration	Reserve	Growth & Regeneration	part of £100k use of reserves oversight group (Kidlington)	0.007
Place & Regeneration	Reserve	Growth & Regeneration	part of £100k use of reserves oversight group (Banbury)	0.015
Place & Regeneration	Grant	Bicester Garden Town	Unspent Bicester Garden Town Grant from 26/27	0.047
Place & Regeneration	Grant	NEW - UKSPF	Unspent UKSPF grant to be carried forward to fund on-going work up to September 2026.	0.132
Executive Matters	Reserve	Local Government Reform	Release to support LGR	0.074
Neighbourhood Services	Reserve	Non-recurring ringfenced grants	Unspent budget for the new Arts Centre feasibility study to be released in 2026-27	0.037
Neighbourhood Services	Reserve	Projects Reserve	Unspent budget for the 2nd contribution to the Hill Community Centre. To be released in 2026-27	0.020
Resources	Reserve	Transformation	Return unspent Transformation project budget to be released in 2026-27	0.362
Resources	Reserve	Cherwell Futures	Return unspent Cherwell Futures funding to reserves. To be released in 2026-27	0.153
Place & Regeneration	Reserve	Projects Reserve	Release for the repurposing of Castle Quay project	0.048
				<b>1.488</b>

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Appendix 7 - Savings 2025/26

Neighbourhood Services						
Reference	Service	Title	Description	2025/26 (£m)	Savings achieved in 25/26	Reason for non-achievement
SMUSE221	Banbury Museum	Reduction in Banbury Museum grant	Reduce the grant funding to the Banbury Museum Trust - delayed by 1 year to 2025/26	(0.025)	Achieved	
SMUSE231	Banbury Museum	Gradual reduction in support to Banbury Museum	We are proposing a gradual reduction in the funding we give to Banbury Museum - delayed by 1 year to 2025/26	(0.020)	Achieved	
EEV22503	Environmental	Development Monitoring	Charging developers for extra monitoring and defect checks	(0.006)	Not Achieved	The (£0.006) was not delivered in-year due to multiple vacancies within the Landscape Architects roles.
DHW2503	Housing & Wellbeing	Leisure Contracts	Reducing costs in our leisure contracts	(0.350)	Not Achieved	The saving was not achieved due to delayed implementation of the Parkwood Agency contract.
EHW2501	Housing & Wellbeing	Youth Activator Mileage	Using electric pool cars to save on mileage expenses and reduce carbon emissions	(0.006)	Not Achieved	The saving was not achieved due to availability of the pool cars but also increased mileage carried out by the team.
DHW2502	Housing & Wellbeing	Holiday Programme	Transferring the 5 to 11 year olds' holiday programme to our leisure provider	(0.006)	Achieved	
ERG2504	Regulatory	Health Protection and Compliance	Removing vacant job posts where possible	(0.025)	Achieved	
IREG2501	Regulatory	Primary Authority Scheme	Primary Authority Scheme Increase	(0.004)	Not Achieved	This £4k was not delivered in-year due to difficulties in moving the job it was linked to back to CDC from OCC (a hosted post that relates to the Primary Authority Partnership with Sainsbury's).
SWAST241	Environmental	Bulky Waste	To introduce a range of different charges for collecting bulky waste items such as mattresses and furniture to better reflect the actual cost of providing this service rather than one fixed cost and to introduce a premium service for urgent collections.	(0.005)	Achieved	
SCLEA242	Environmental	Street Cleansing	Changing the working pattern of our street cleansing service to ensure we maintain high standards but reduce operational costs	(0.040)	Achieved	
SVEHM241	Environmental	MOTs	Generate additional income from inspecting taxis by widening MOT offer	(0.010)	Not Achieved	The (£0.010) was delayed due to Taxi policy updates required within Licensing. Went live on 14/04/2026.
SWAST244	Environmental	Environmental Services	Waste & Recycling - Generating savings as contracts renewed	(0.045)	Partially Achieved	The (£0.015) was not delivered in-year due to delays in retendering various contracts.
SWAST249	Environmental	Environmental Services	Further Development of Digitilisation of Key Service Areas	(0.003)	Achieved	
EHR2507	Environmental	Overtime	Reducing weekday overtime rates to standard pay	(0.040)	Not Achieved	The saving of (0.040) was not achieved due to the decision to not implement the change in the Overtime Policy
			<b>Total</b>	<b>(0.585)</b>		

Appendix 7 - Savings 2025/26

Resources						
Reference	Service	Title	Description	2025/26 (£m)	Savings achieved in 25/26	Reason for non-achievement
SFCOS231	Finance	Ensure services funded through external grants reflect the costs of support services required	Through adopting a new approach to allocating any grants we receive towards services we can deliver savings on existing and future grants by ensuring they take into account all the costs of providing the services	(0.080)	Achieved	
EFI2503	Finance	Vacant Post	Removing vacant job posts where possible	(0.140)	Achieved	
EDI2502	Digital & Innovation	Laptops as Corporate Assets	Centralising our computer budgets and making our equipment replacement programme more efficient	(0.010)	Achieved	
EHR2503	Human Resources	Review JE system	Simplifying the job evaluation process by using one scheme instead of two	(0.010)	Partially Achieved	Only partial achievement of saving due to the contract spanning 2 financial years and auto renewing on 1st December 2024 to 30 November 2025
EHR2504	Human Resources	Removal of Apprenticeship	Removing vacant job posts where possible	(0.019)	Not Achieved	The Apprentice HR post was not deleted due to the need for the resource during 2025-26
EHR2507	Human Resources	Overtime Review	Reducing weekday overtime rates to standard pay	(0.041)	Not Achieved	The saving was not achieved due to the decision to not implement the change in the Overtime Policy
ELG2501	Law & Governance	Electronic Sealing and Signing	Introducing a secure electronic document signing and sealing system to save time and money	(0.004)	Achieved	
ICF2501	Customer Focus	Land Charges	Increase of new Land Charges to supplement an income which declines	(0.005)	Achieved	
			<b>Total</b>	<b>(0.309)</b>		

Place & Regeneration						
Reference	Service	Title	Description	2025/26 (£m)	Savings achieved in 25/26	Reason for non-achievement
EPROP2504	Property	Facilities Management	Finding efficiencies within facilities management	(0.018)	Achieved	
EPROP2506	Property	Community Assets	Clarifying tenant's responsibilities to avoid extra work and costs	(0.005)	Achieved	
EHW2504	Property	Maintenance Contractor Framework	Exploring a shared contractor framework covering property, wellbeing and housing repairs to reduce costs	(0.005)	Achieved	
SINVP221	Property	Commercial Rents	Change in rental income from commercial council properties through contractual lease reviews	0.020	Achieved	
SCARP222	Car Parking	Car park fees	Increase annual car parking charge of no more than 10p per hour	(0.100)	Partially Achieved	The anticipated savings in parking were only partially achieved (-0.071) because of reduced car parking income. The reduction in car parking income reflects reduced footfall in town centres. This is reflective of national trends.
IPROP2501,2,3,6	Property	Leasehold Management	Leasehold Management	(0.050)	Achieved	
SBICR231	Bicester Regeneration	Gradual reduction in grant to Bicester Vision	We currently contribute £15k towards the work on Bicester Vision, which is the only contribution we make to organisations leading similar projects across the district. By tapering this contribution off over three years as a saving we can ensure we are treating these organisations equally and provide resilience for Bicester Vision to adapt its funding streams	(0.005)	Not Achieved	The £5k saving of gradual reduction in grant to Bicester Vision was non-deliverable as the outcome of the saving is still contributing towards work on Bicester Vision. However, this saving was mitigated elsewhere within the service. But it's the outcome of the saving that is reporting as non-deliverable.
SECON233	Economic Growth	Cutting grant to Experience Oxfordshire	Continuation of phased reduction of grant to Experience Oxfordshire	(0.003)	Partially Achieved	The phased reduction of grant to Experience Oxfordshire was partly achieved as the outcome of the saving still contributed £3k towards Ambassador Partnership for 25/26. However, this saving was mitigated elsewhere within the service therefore leaving £2k saving as deliverable.
SBCON221	Building Control	Building Control fees	Increase Building Control fees	(0.001)	Achieved	
SDMAN242	Development Management	National agreed increase in planning fees	National agreed increase in planning fees	(0.001)	Achieved	
IPD2501	Planning & Development	Land Drainage	Increase Land Drainage Recovery Costs	(0.008)	Achieved	
IPD2502	Planning & Development	Street Naming Fees	Street Naming Fee Increase	(0.009)	Achieved	
IPD2504	Planning & Development	Planning Pre-applications	Review of Pre-application Service	(0.044)	Not Achieved	This saving was not achieved because pre-application enquiry fees are often absorbed into income for planning performance agreements for major sites which has significantly exceeded expectations. There also remains a need to review the pre-application enquiry service to ensure 1) that its meets demand and 2) to tailor different levels of fee to different levels of service.
IPD2505	Planning & Development	Planning Performance Agreements	Planning Performance Agreements	(0.050)	Achieved	
			<b>Total</b>	<b>(0.279)</b>		

Head of Chief Executives Office						
Reference	Service	Title	Description	2025/26 (£m)	Savings achieved in 25/26	Reason for non-achievement

**Appendix 7 - Savings 2025/26**

SPERF231	Performance	Performance System Contract	Our performance system contract needs to be renewed every other year	(0.010)	Not Achieved	The saving was not achieved as the Performance System contract with Inphase was renewed as an alternative solution was not developed.
			<b>Total</b>	<b>(0.010)</b>		

**Executive Matters**

Reference	Service	Title	Description	2025/26 (£m)	Savings achieved in 25/26	Reason for non-achievement
EF12501 EF12504	Exec Matters	Balance Sheet Review	After reviewing our balance sheet, using available resources to help lower borrowing costs	(0.335)	Achieved	
			<b>Total</b>	<b>(0.335)</b>		
			<b>Total Savings</b>	<b>(1.518)</b>		

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# Agenda Item 9

<b>Budget Planning Committee</b>	
<b>Work Programme 2026/2027</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Agenda Items</b>
<b>15 September 2026</b>	Finance Monitoring Report - Q1 June 2026
	Budget Process 2027/2028
	Work Programme Update
<b>8 December 2026</b>	2027/28 Budget Proposals - Revenue & Capital (inclu Fees & Charges)
	Fees & Charges Benchmarking Report
	Finance Monitoring Report – Q2 (September 2026)
	Work Programme Update
<b>19 January 2027</b>	Draft 2027/28 Capital and Investment Strategy
	Draft 2027/28 Reserves Strategy and Medium Term Reserves Plan
	Budget Management Period 8 (November)
	Work Programme Update
<b>9 March 2027</b>	Finance Monitoring Report - Q3 (December 2026)
	Work Programme Update

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