

This report is public	
November Monthly Performance Report 2025-2026	
Committee	Budget Planning Committee
Date of Committee	20 January 2026
Portfolio Holder presenting the report	Councillor Lesley McLean, Portfolio Holder for Finance
Date Portfolio Holder agreed report	7 January 2026
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.

1. Recommendations

The Budget Planning Committee resolves:

- 1.1 To note the contents of this report.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 At its 6 January 2026 Meeting Executive were recommended to:

- To consider and note the contents of the council's financial management report as at the end of November 2025.
- To note the release of £0.060m from Policy Contingency for development resource required for property projects, associated planning advisors, consultancy and initial ground condition reports, as well as information on flooding.
- To note the write offs held within Appendix 4.

- 2.2 CDC monitors its financial position on a monthly basis. This report provides the forecast outturn position for the year end based on the position as at 30 November 2025.

- 2.3 This report sets out the forecast year-end position for 2025/26, projecting an overspend of £0.609m to the financial year end. This is an increase of £0.209m compared to the year end forecast at Period 7.

- 2.4 The capital forecast year-end position will be reported on a Quarterly basis with the third report being December 2025.

Implications & Impact Assessments

Implications	Commentary
Finance	<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>Michael Furness, Assistant Director of Finance, 7 January 2026</p>

Legal	<p>There are no legal implications arising at this stage. However the report emphasises the importance of budget management and the need to maintain budgetary control.</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 November 2025 finance position for the Council as part of its fiduciary duty to implement budgetary controls and monitoring.</p> <p>Shiraz Sheikh, Assistant Director Law & Governance, Monitoring Officer, 7 January 2026</p>	
Risk Management	<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 & Insight Team Leader, 7 January 2026</p>	
Impact Assessments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Negative	Commentary
Equality Impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>There are no equalities implications arising directly from this report.</p> <p>Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance & Insight Team Leader, 7 January 2026</p>
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Climate & Environmental Impact		X		N/A
ICT & Digital Impact		X		N/A
Data Impact		X		N/A
Procurement & subsidy		X		N/A
Council Priorities	N/A			
Human Resources	N/A			
Property	N/A			
Consultation & Engagement	This report sets out the financial forecast for the financial year ended 31 March 2026, therefore no formal consultation or engagement is required.			

Supporting Information

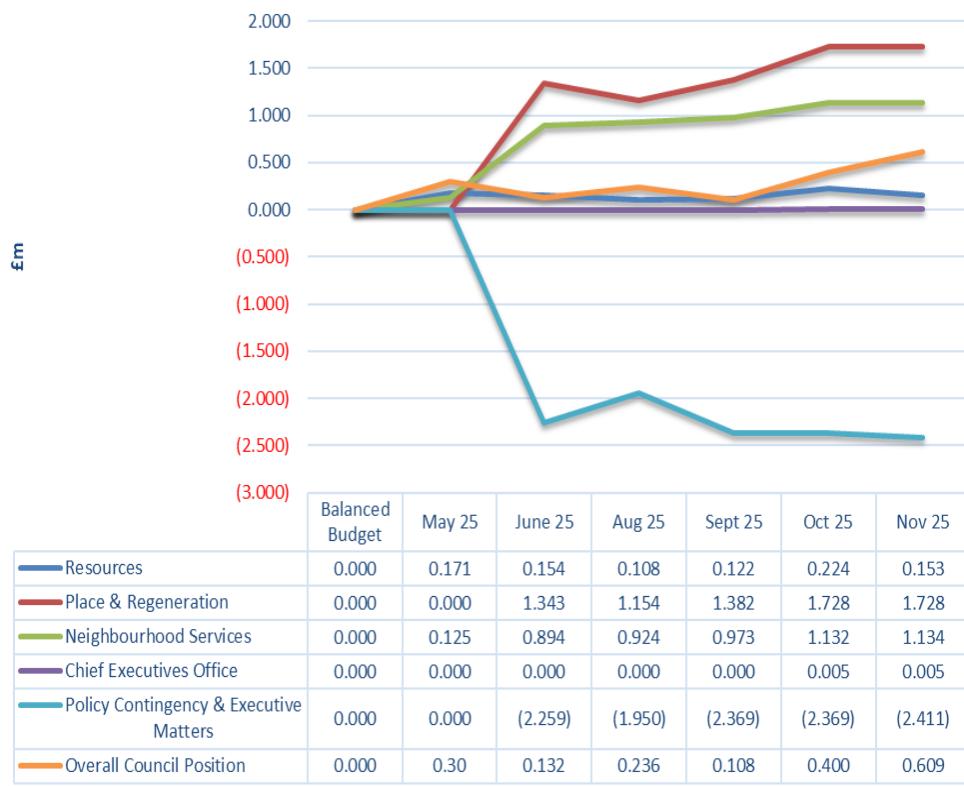
3. Background

- 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 for finance, so the council can identify potential issues at the earliest opportunity and put measures in place to mitigate them.

4. Details

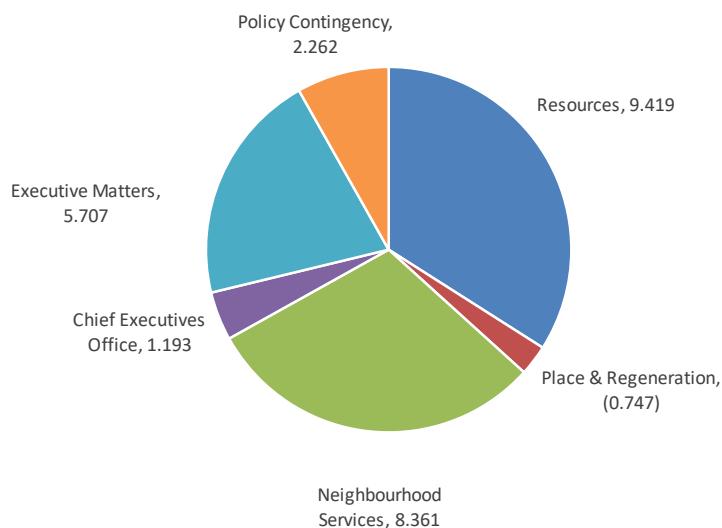
- 4.1.1 The Finance section presents the forecast year-end revenue position for the 2025/26 financial year and in a summary dashboard as detailed below:

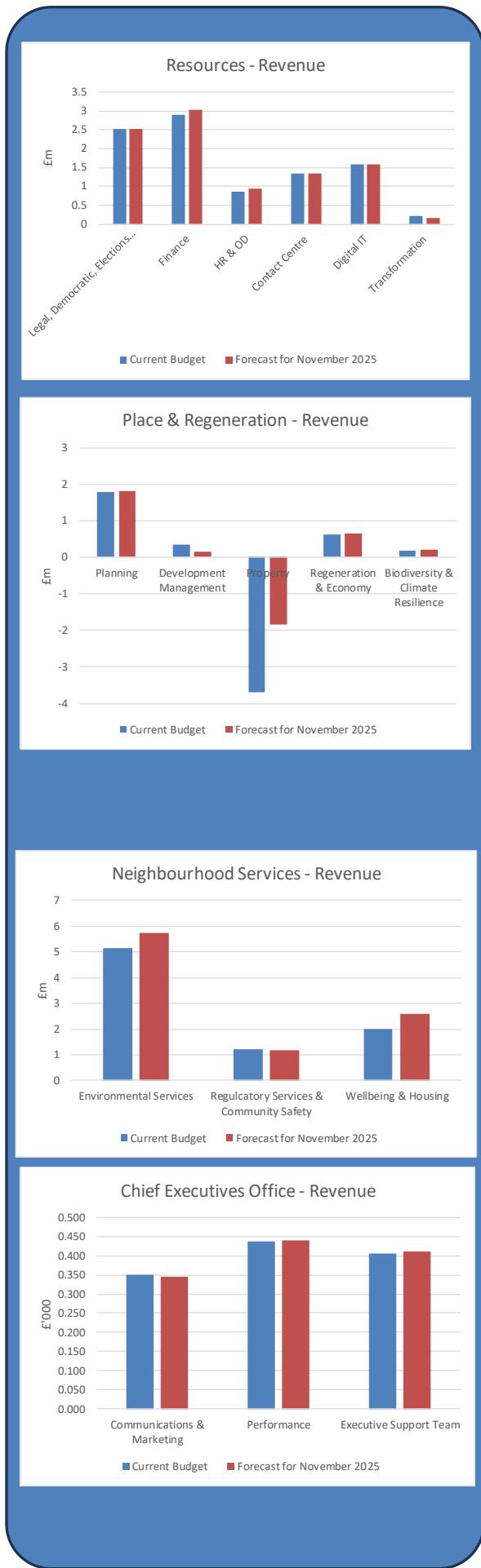
Monthly Forecast Variance By Directorate



Current Budget By Service Area

Total Net Budget £26.195m





Directorate Analysis

Service	Resources	Place & Regeneration	Neighbourhood Services	Chief Executive Office	Executive Matters	Policy Contingency	Total
Budget approved by Council	9.419	-0.747	9.761	1.193	4.306	2.428	26.360
Budget Adjustments approved:							
Move of the EPR Budget to Env Servs			-1.400		1.400		
Current Budget	9.419	-0.747	8.361	1.193	5.706	2.428	26.360
Wellbeing & Housing - Top slice of grants, IT license costs and temporary accommodation costs			0.575				0.575
Environmental - gate fees, agency			0.926				0.926
Property - shortfall in projected income		1.843				-1.100	0.743
Environmental Services - Additional EPR funding			-0.309				-0.309
Treasury					-0.811		-0.811
Dividend					-0.500		-0.500
Transformation - over recovery of land charges income and vacancies	-0.066						-0.066
Contact Centre - minor underspend	-0.008						-0.008
Planning - Various		0.021					
Development Management - Over Recovery of Income		-0.198					-0.198
Biodiversity & Climate Resilience		0.010					0.010
Regulatory Services underspend - staffing changes & less Contribution to CCTV than anticipated			-0.058				-0.058
Regeneration & Economy - primarily due to staffing costs where a full-time post is only partially funded (50%) through the service budget.		0.052					0.052
IT - Minor overspends across the service	0.015						0.015
HR & OD - Overtime policy changes non-deliver	0.041						0.041
HR & OD - Legal employment advice, Recruitment Costs & Minor Overspends	0.043						0.043
Chief Executives - Minor Overspends across the Directorate				0.005			0.005
Finance - increased expenditure on temporary accommodation & supported accomodation claims	0.197						0.197
Finance - Additional New Burdens Grant	-0.069						-0.069
Income							0.000
Performance - Minor Overspend							0.000
Executive Support Team - Minor Overspend							0.000
Current (Under)/Overspends	0.153	1.728	1.134	0.005	-1.311	-1.100	0.588

Movement in Reserves



4.1.2 The council's overall forecast year-end position for 2025/26 is an overspend of £0.609m. The forecast currently shows an overspend across Directorates with potential mitigations that are currently being investigated, these mitigations are not part of the forecast.

The projected outturn for the services is summarised below in Table 1 and further details providing explanations for variances can be found in Appendix 2.

4.1.3 The table shows the November 2025 year-end forecast compared to the current budget across various services. Overall, the total budget is £26.195m, with a forecast of £26.804m, resulting in an overspend of £0.609m (2.3%). The largest variances are in Neighbourhood Services which includes, Environmental Services £0.617m, 12.0%, and Wellbeing & Housing £0.575m 28.8%, along with the following in Place & Regeneration, Property £1.843m, 50.1%, and Development Management £0.198m, -57.6%,

The subtotal for directorates shows a £3.020m overspend (16.6%), compared to October, the overall position has worsened by £0.209m. Significant underspends are noted in Policy Contingency (£1.100m), (48.6%), and Executive Matters (£1.311m), (23%), which together provide a strong mitigating effect against directorate-level increases.

Table 1: Forecast Year End Position

Service	Current Budget £m	November 2025 Forecast to Year End £m	November Variance (Under) / Over £m	% Variance to current budget %	October Variance (Under) / Over £m	Change since Previous (better) / worse £m
Legal, Democratic, Elections & Procurement	2.518	2.518	0.000	0.0%	0.000	0.000
Finance	2.911	3.039	0.128	4.4%	0.178	(0.050)
HR & OD	0.852	0.936	0.084	9.9%	0.086	(0.002)
Contact Centre	1.340	1.332	(0.008)	0.6%	(0.009)	0.001
Digital IT	1.575	1.590	0.015	1.0%	0.015	0.000
Transformation	0.223	0.157	(0.066)	-29.6%	(0.046)	(0.020)
Resources	9.419	9.572	0.153	1.62%	0.224	(0.071)
Planning	1.796	1.817	0.021	1.2%	0.046	(0.025)
Development Management	0.344	0.146	(0.198)	-57.6%	(0.239)	0.041
Property	(3.681)	(1.838)	1.843	-50.1%	1.539	0.304
Regeneration & Economy	0.609	0.661	0.052	8.5%	0.052	0.000
Biodiversity & Climate Resilience	0.185	0.195	0.010	5.4%	0.010	0.000
Place & Regeneration	(0.747)	0.981	1.728	-231.3%	1.408	0.320
Environmental Services	5.133	5.750	0.617	12.0%	0.606	0.011
Regulatory Services & Community Safety	1.232	1.174	(0.058)	-4.7%	(0.049)	(0.009)
Wellbeing & Housing	1.996	2.571	0.575	28.8%	0.575	0.000
Neighbourhood Services	8.361	9.495	1.134	13.6%	1.132	0.002
Communications & Marketing	0.350	0.346	(0.004)	-1.1%	(0.004)	0.000
Performance	0.437	0.440	0.003	0.7%	0.003	0.000
Executive Support Team	0.406	0.412	0.006	1.5%	0.006	0.000
Chief Executives Office	1.193	1.198	0.005	0.4%	0.005	0.000
Subtotal for Directorates	18.226	21.246	3.020	16.6%	2.769	0.251
Executive Matters	5.707	4.396	(1.311)	-23.0%	(1.269)	(0.042)
Policy Contingency	2.262	1.162	(1.100)	-48.6%	(1.100)	0.000
Total	26.195	26.804	0.609	2.3%	0.400	0.209
FUNDING	(26.195)	(26.195)	0.000	0.0%	0.000	0.000
Forecast (Surplus)/Deficit	0.000	0.609	0.609		0.400	0.209

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 current month's forecast.

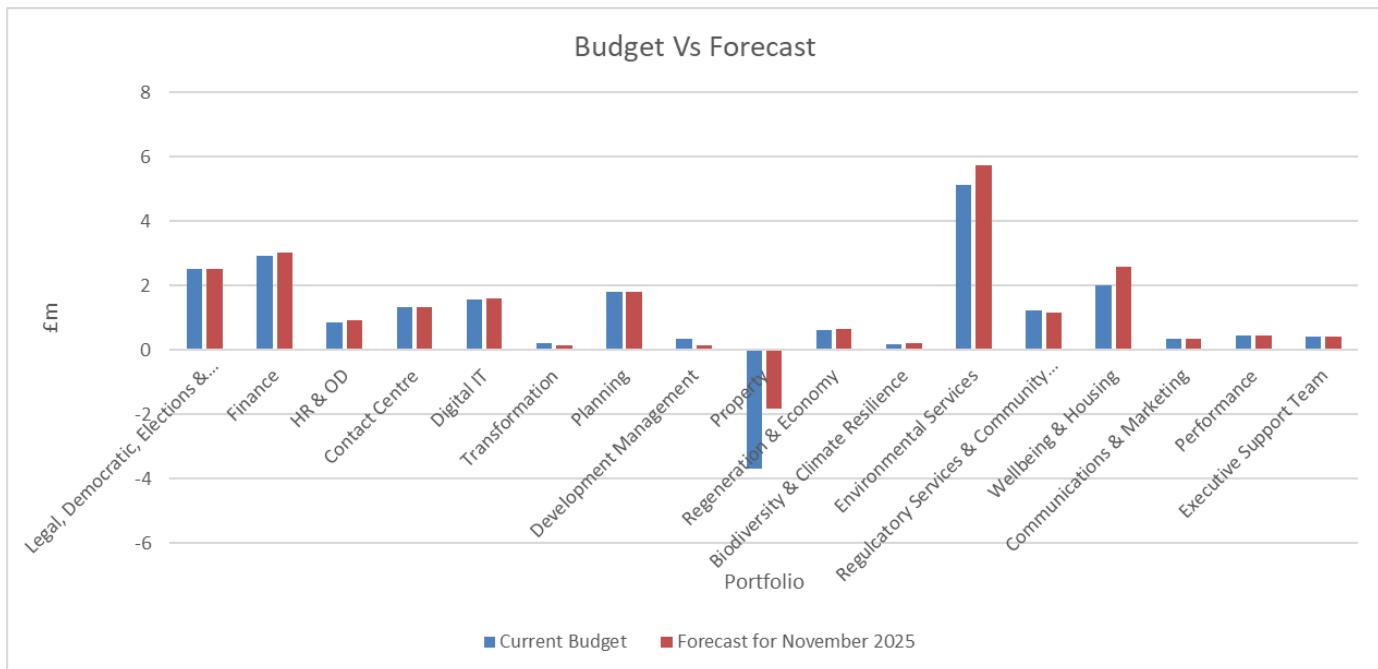
4.1.4 Table 2 below analyses the variances to distinguish between base budget variances and variances resulting from the non-delivery of previously approved savings. The non-delivery of savings has a knock-on impact on the Medium-Term Financial Strategy as failure to deliver on an ongoing basis adds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

Table 2: Analysis of Variance – November 2025

Breakdown of current month forecast	November 2025 Forecast to Year End £m	Base Budget Over/ (Under) £m	Savings Non-Delivery £m
Resources	9.572	9.496	0.076
Place & Regeneration	0.981	0.923	0.058
Neighbourhood Services	9.495	9.164	0.331
Chief Executives Office	1.198	1.198	0.000
Subtotal Directorates	21.246	20.781	0.465
Executive Matters	4.396	4.396	0.000
Policy Contingency	1.162	1.162	0.000
Total	26.804	26.339	0.465
FUNDING	(26.195)	(26.195)	0.000
(Surplus)/Deficit	0.609	0.144	0.465

4.1.5 The graph below shows the Budget compared with the forecast to the end of the financial year.

Graph 1: Budget compared with Forecast



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

Table 3: Top Major Variances:

Service	Current Budget	Variance	% Variance
Property	(3.681)	1.843	-50.1%
Environmental	5.133	0.617	12.0%
Wellbeing & Housing	1.996	0.575	28.8%
Total	3.448	3.035	

4.1.7 Allocations to and from reserves are made according to the Reserves Policy. Table 5 below summarises the movements, there are no reserve requests as at 30 November 2025.

Table 4: Reserves:

Reserves	Balance 1 April 2025	Original Budgeted use/ (contribution)	Changes agreed since budget setting	Changes proposed November 2025	Balance 31 March 2026
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
General Balance	(8.021)	0.000	0.000	0.000	(8.021)
Earmarked	(31.264)	(2.444)	(1.637)	0.000	(35.345)
Non-Ringfenced	(0.033)	0.000	0.033	0.000	0.000
Grant timing Difference					
Ringfenced Grant	(1.918)	0.523	0.129	0.000	(1.266)
Subtotal Revenue	(41.236)	(1.921)	(1.475)	0.000	(44.632)
Capital	(5.321)	0.720	0.000	0.000	(4.601)
Total	(46.557)	(1.201)	(1.475)	0.000	(49.233)

*According to the Reserves Policy Executive are not required to approve contributions to Capital Reserves.

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 forecast revenue financial position up to the end of 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

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

Document Information

Appendices	
Appendix 1	Detailed Revenue Narrative on Forecast November 2025
Appendix 2	Virements & Aged Debt November 2025
Appendix 3	Funding November 2025
Appendix 4	EXEMPT Write Off Details November 2025
Background Papers	N/A
Reference Papers	N/A
Report Author	Leanne Lock
Report Author contact details	Leanne.lock@cherwell-dc.gov.uk 01295 227098