This report is public	
Finance Monitoring Report 2026/2026 – May 2026	
Committee	Executive
Date of Committee	13 July 2026
Portfolio Holder presenting the report	Portfolio Holder for Finance, Councillor David Hingley
Date Portfolio Holder agreed report	18 June 2026
Report of	Assistant Director of Finance (S151 Officer), Michael Furness

Purpose of report

To report to Executive the council's forecast year-end financial position as at the end of the May 2026. Further detail can be found in the report and its appendices.

1. Recommendations

The Executive resolves:

1.1 To consider and note the contents of the council's financial management report as at the end of May 2026.

1.2 To approve the use of reserves and grant funding held within appendix 4.

2. Executive Summary

2.1 This report sets out the Councils forecast year-end position for 2026/27, projecting an underspend of (£0.002m) to the financial year end.

2.2 The capital forecast year-end position will be reported on a Quarterly basis with the first report being June 2026.

Implications & Impact Assessments

Implications	Commentary
Finance	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. Michael Furness, Assistant Director of Finance, 10 June 2026

Legal	There are no legal implications arising at this stage. 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. The report sets out as at May 2026 the finance position for the Council as part of its fiduciary duty to implement budgetary controls and monitoring. Denzil Turbervill, Head of Legal Services, 9 June 2026			
Risk Management	There are no risk implications arising directly from this report. Financial resilience and any risks link to it are managed through the Corporate Leadership Risk register. Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance Team Leader, 9 June 2026			
Impact Assessments	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equality Impact		X		There are no equalities implications arising directly from this report.is report. Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance Team Leader, 9 June 2026
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		X		N/A
B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		X		N/A
Climate & Environmental Impact		X		N/A

ICT & Digital Impact		X		N/A
Data Impact		X		N/A
Procurement & subsidy		X		N/A
Council Priorities	This report links to all council's priorities, as it summarises our progress against them during 2026/27.			
Human Resources	N/A			
Property	N/A			
Consultation & Engagement	N/A			

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.

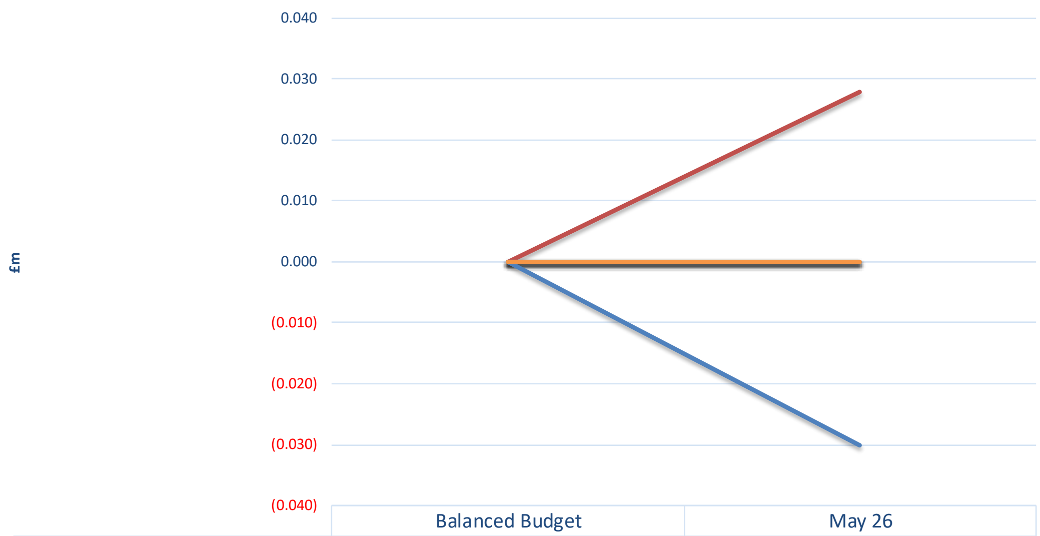
3.3 These updates are consolidated on a quarterly basis where Performance and Finance updates are given due to the implications and interdependencies between them, and this is the summary financial forecast for the end of the financial year position for 2026/27.

4. Details

4.1 Finance Update

4.1.1 The Finance section presents the forecast year-end revenue position for the 2026/27 financial year and in a summary dashboard as detailed below:

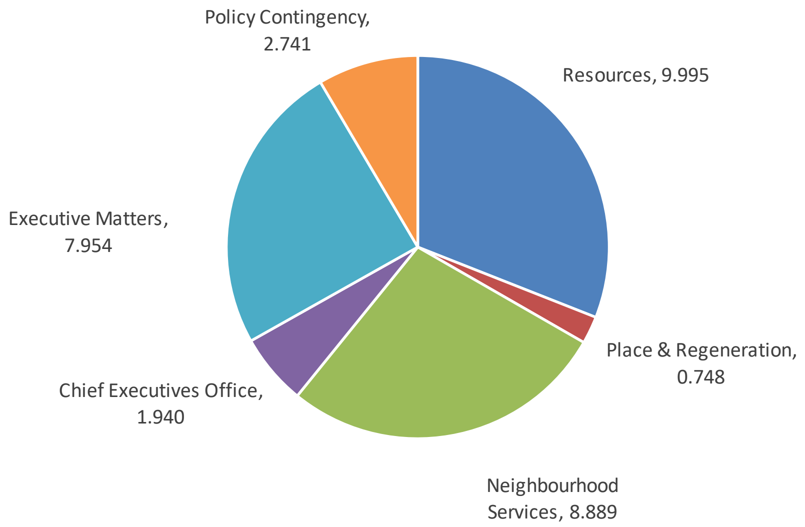
Monthly Forecast Variance By Directorate

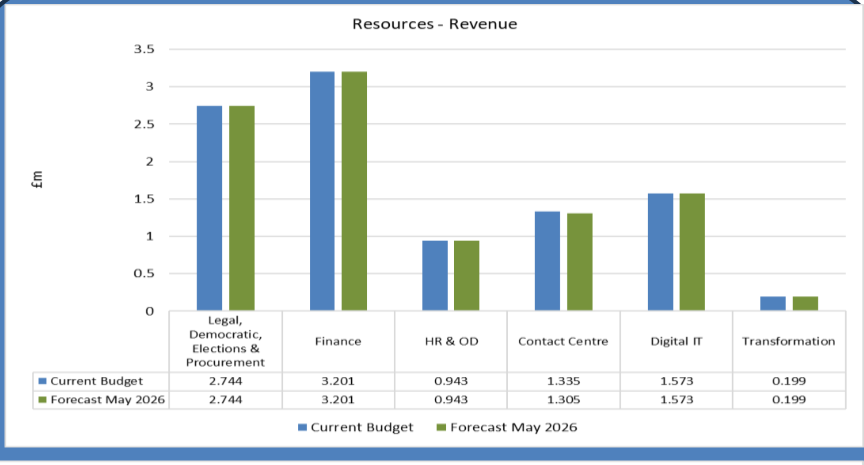


	Balanced Budget	May 26
Resources	0.000	-0.030
Place & Regeneration	0.000	0.028
Neighbourhood Services	0.000	0.000
Chief Executives Office	0.000	0.000
Policy Contingency & Executive Matters	0.000	0.000
Overall Council Position	0.000	0.00

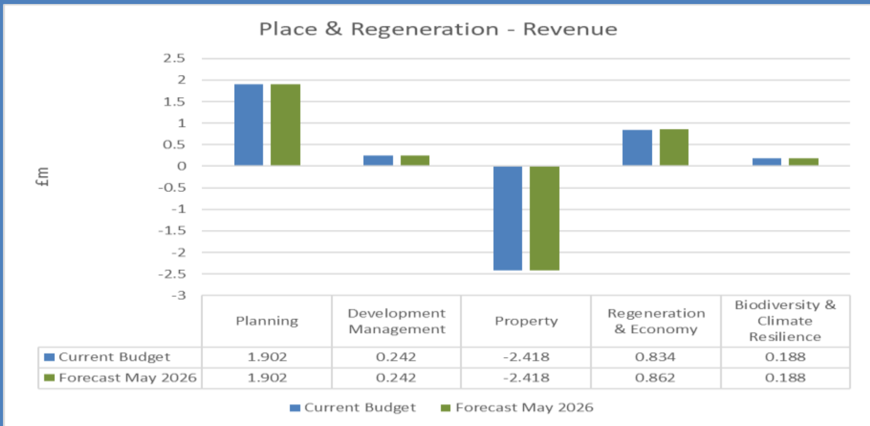
Current Budget By Service Area

Total Net Budget £32.267m

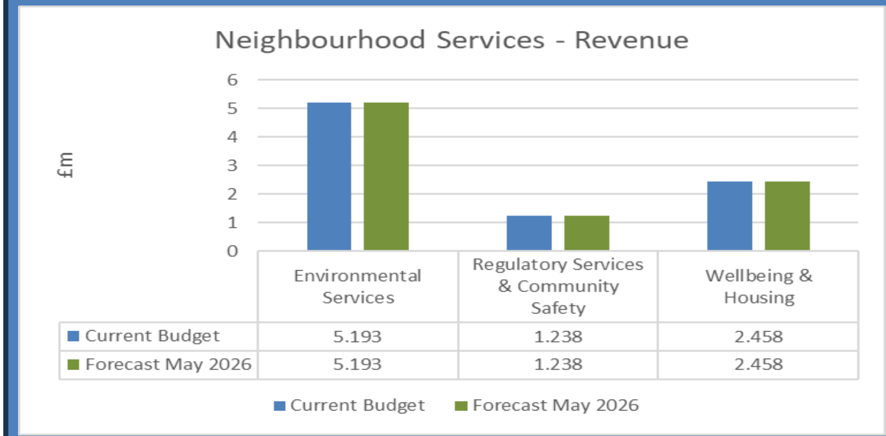




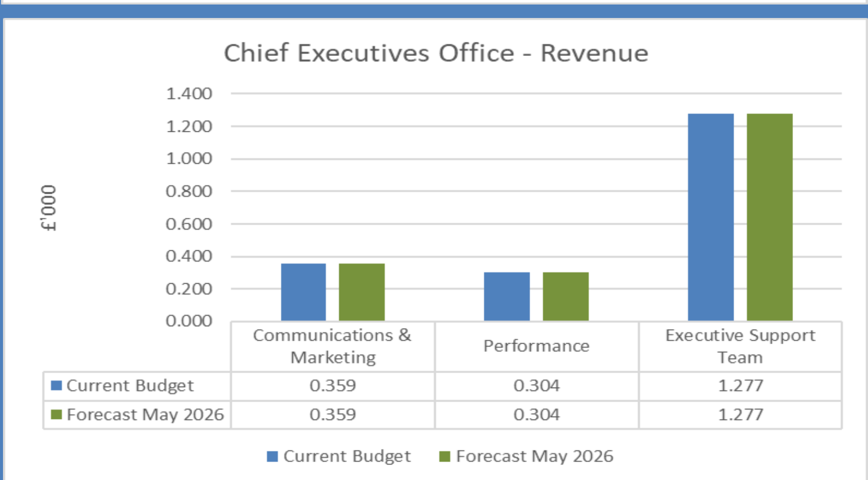
	Legal, Democratic, Elections & Procurement	Finance	HR & OD	Contact Centre	Digital IT	Transformation
Current Budget	2.744	3.201	0.943	1.335	1.573	0.199
Forecast May 2026	2.744	3.201	0.943	1.305	1.573	0.199



	Planning	Development Management	Property	Regeneration & Economy	Biodiversity & Climate Resilience
Current Budget	1.902	0.242	-2.418	0.834	0.188
Forecast May 2026	1.902	0.242	-2.418	0.862	0.188

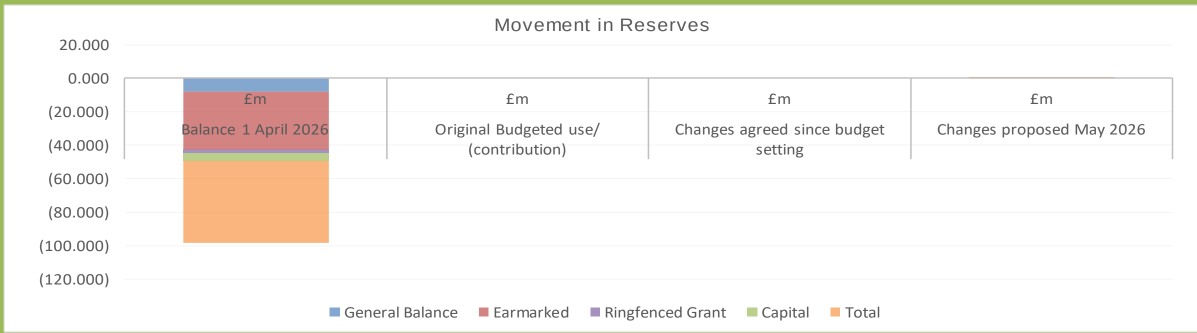


	Environmental Services	Regulatory Services & Community Safety	Wellbeing & Housing
Current Budget	5.193	1.238	2.458
Forecast May 2026	5.193	1.238	2.458



	Communications & Marketing	Performance	Executive Support Team
Current Budget	0.359	0.304	1.277
Forecast May 2026	0.359	0.304	1.277

Service	Resources £m	Place & Regeneration £m	Neighbourhood Services £m	Chief Executive Office £m	Executive Matters £m	Policy Contingency £m	Total £m
Budget approved by Council	**9.979**	**0.728**	**8.889**	**1.940**	**7.954**	**2.779**	**32.269**
senior restructure		0.020				-0.020	**0.000**
reverse fees & charges as not applicable on court costs	0.016					-0.016	**0.000**
Current Budget	**9.995**	**0.748**	**8.889**	**1.940**	**7.954**	**2.743**	**32.269**
Contact Centre - vacant hours	-0.030						**-0.030**
Regeneration & Economy - staffing changes & devolution		0.028					**0.028**
							0.000
Current (Under)/Overspends	**-0.030**	**0.028**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**-0.002**



4.1.2 The council's overall forecast year-end position for 2026/27 is balanced. The forecast currently shows an underspend across Directorates of (£0.002m) 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 1.

4.1.3 The May 2026 forecast indicates an overall balanced financial position, with total net expenditure of £32.265m broadly in line with the £32.267m budget, resulting in a marginal underspend of (£0.002m). Most services are forecasting to be reporting on budget, notable exceptions include a small underspend within Resources of (£0.030m) (2.2%), driven by the Contact Centre, and modest overspends of £0.028m (3.4%) within Regeneration & Economy contributing to a similar variance in Place & Regeneration. These variances largely offset each other, leaving the overall directorate subtotal and total position effectively on budget, with funding fully aligned and a negligible forecast surplus of (£0.002m).

Table 1: Forecast Year End Position

Service	Current Budget £m	May 2026 Forecast to Year End £m	May Variance (Under) / Over £m	% Variance to current budget %
Legal, Democratic, Elections & Procurement	2.744	2.744	0.000	0.0%
Finance	3.201	3.201	0.000	0.0%
HR & OD	0.943	0.943	0.000	0.0%
Contact Centre	1.335	1.305	(0.030)	2.2%
Digital IT	1.573	1.573	0.000	0.0%
Transformation	0.199	0.199	0.000	0.0%
Resources	**9.995**	**9.965**	**(0.030)**	**2.2%**
Planning	1.902	1.902	0.000	0.0%
Development Management	0.242	0.242	0.000	0.0%
Property	(2.418)	(2.418)	0.000	0.0%
Regeneration & Economy	0.834	0.862	0.028	3.4%
Biodiversity & Climate Resilience	0.188	0.188	0.000	0.0%
Place & Regeneration	**0.748**	**0.776**	**0.028**	**3.4%**
Environmental Services	5.193	5.193	0.000	0.0%
Regulatory Services & Community Safety	1.238	1.238	0.000	0.0%
Wellbeing & Housing	2.458	2.458	0.000	0.0%
Neighbourhood Services	**8.889**	**8.889**	**0.000**	**0.0%**
Communications & Marketing	0.359	0.359	0.000	0.0%
Performance	0.304	0.304	0.000	0.0%
Executive Support Team	1.277	1.277	0.000	0.0%
Chief Executives Office	**1.940**	**1.940**	**0.000**	**0.0%**
Subtotal for Directorates	**21.572**	**21.570**	**(0.002)**	**0.0%**
Executive Matters	7.954	7.954	0.000	0.0%
Policy Contingency	2.741	2.741	0.000	0.0%
Total	**32.267**	**32.265**	**0.000**	**0.0%**
FUNDING	**(32.267)**	**(32.267)**	**0.000**	**0.0%**
Forecast (Surplus)/Deficit	**0.000**	**(0.002)**	**0.000**	

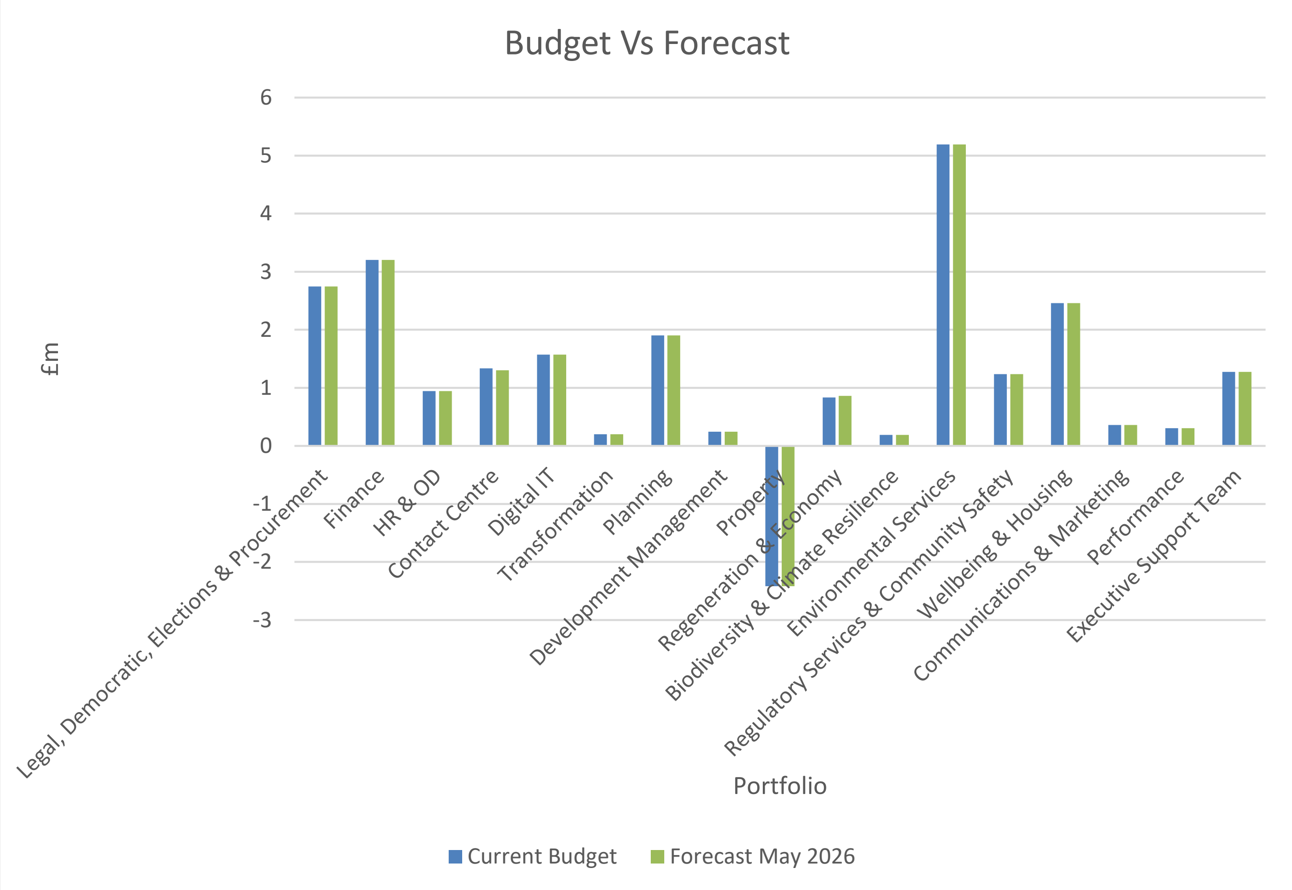
Note: A positive variance is an overspend or a reduction in forecast income and a (negative) is an underspend or extra income received.
Green represents an underspend and red represents a overspend for the forecast outturn position.

Table 2: Analysis of Variance – May 2026

Breakdown of current month forecast	May 2026 Forecast to Year End £m	Base Budget Over/ (Under) £m	Savings non-delivery £m
Resources	9.965	9.963	0.002
Place & Regeneration	0.776	0.686	0.090
Neighbourhood Services	8.889	8.863	0.026
Chief Executives Office	1.940	1.940	0.000
Subtotal Directorates	**21.570**	**21.452**	**0.118**
Executive Matters	7.954	7.954	0.000
Policy Contingency	2.741	2.741	0.000
Total	**32.265**	**32.147**	**0.118**
FUNDING	**(32.267)**	**(32.267)**	**0.000**
(Surplus)/Deficit	**(0.002)**	**(0.120)**	**0.118**

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

Graph 1: Budget compared with Forecast



Reserves

4.1.5 Allocations to and from reserves are made according to the Reserves Policy. Table 3 below summarises the movements, for details of reserve requests for May 2026 please see appendix 4.

Table 3: Reserves forecast:

Reserves	Balance 1 April 2026 £m	Original Budgeted use/ (contribution) £m	Changes agreed since budget setting £m	Changes proposed May 2026 £m	Balance 31 March 2027 £m
General Balance	(8.021)	0.000	0.000	0.000	(8.021)
Earmarked	(34.630)	0.000	0.000	0.250	(34.380)
Ringfenced Grant	(1.945)	0.000	0.000	0.000	(1.945)
Subtotal Revenue	**(44.596)**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.250**	**(44.346)**
Capital	(4.601)	0.000	0.000	0.000	(4.601)
Total	**(49.197)**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.250**	**(48.947)**

4.1.6 Cherwell District Council is exploring how underused and long-term vacant spaces within Castle Quay can be repurposed to help create a more vibrant town centre. This work will consider a stronger mix of uses to help the area continue adapting to changing consumer trends and better meet the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors. Approval is sought to release £0.250m from reserves to enable the work to progress. The funding will be support the commissioning of detailed options appraisal and feasibility studies to determine the most viable long term future options. The work is essential to inform a clear strategic direction, underpin future investment decisions, and maximise the overall value and regeneration potential of the asset.

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

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 2027, therefore there are no alternative options to consider.

6 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

6.1 The report updates the Committee on the projected year-end financial position of the council for 2026/27. Regular reporting is key to good governance and demonstrates that the council is actively managing its financial resources sustainably.

Decision Information

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

Document Information

Appendices	
Appendix 1	Detailed Revenue Narrative on Forecast May 2026
Appendix 2	Virements May 2026
Appendix 3	Funding May 2026
Appendix 4	Use of Reserves and Grant Funding – May 2026
Background Papers	None
Reference Papers	None
Report Author	Leanne Lock, Finance Business Partners
Report Author contact details	leanne.lock@cherwell-dc.gov.uk 01295 227098
Executive Director Approval (unless Executive Director or Statutory Officer report)	Report of Statutory Officer, S151 Officer