



MINUTES OF A CABINET MEETING
Council Chamber - Town Hall
Wednesday, 12 November 2025
(7.00 - 9.00 pm)

Present:

Councillor Ray Morgon (Leader of the Council), Chairman

Cabinet Member responsibility:

Councillor Gillian Ford (Vice-Chair)	Lead Member for Adults & Wellbeing
Councillor Oscar Ford	Lead Member for Children & Young People
Councillor Paul McGeary	Lead Member for Housing & Property
Councillor Barry Mugglestone	Lead Member for Environment
Councillor Natasha Summers	Lead Member for Housing Need & Climate Change
Councillor Christopher Wilkins	Lead Member for Finance
Councillor Graham Williamson	Lead Member for Regeneration

In attendance: Councillor Michael White (CON), Councillor Keith Darvill (LAB), Councillor Martin Goode (EHRG)

33 ANNOUNCEMENTS

On behalf of the Chair, there was an announcement about the arrangements in case of fire or other events that might require the meeting room or building's evacuation.

34 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Councillor Paul Middleton, the Councillor joined the meeting via the Zoom link.

35 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

36 MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on **15th October 2025**, were agreed as a correct record and the Chair signed them

37 ZANE'S LAW

Report Title: **Zane's Law**

Presented by: **Cllr. Ray Morgon, Leader of the Council**

This item was considered first on the Agenda as Zane's father, Mr Kye Gbangbola was in attendance together with Ms Ruth Kettle-Frisby (campaigner in support of clean air initiatives) and addressed the members in the chamber.

The Leader thanked them for attending, and reiterated Havering's support with the campaign.

Summary:

Zane's Law seeks, in brief, to achieve:

- Councils to maintain a local public Register of Land that may be contaminated.
- Environment Agency to maintain a national public Register of Contaminated Land.
- Councils to inspect any land on the Register and to pursue remediation of land that poses harm.
- Councils to inspect previously closed ("legacy") landfill sites and to pursue remediation of land that poses a risk of significant harm.
- Government to fully fund councils to conduct the above actions (costs recovered from polluter, as appropriate).

A number of councils (particularly in Surrey and London) and the Greater London Authority have expressed support for Zane's Law.

It is proposed that, in seeking to keep local residents safe and to reduce the risks of harm, Havering Council supports the principles of "Zane's Law".

Cabinet Members:

Expressed support for achieving the principles of Zane's Law and **agreed** to lobby the Government for its introduction.

38 DECANT POLICY

Report Title: **Decant Policy**

Presented by: **Councillor Natasha Summers, Cabinet Member for Housing Need and Climate Change**

Summary:

This report seeks the approval of the Decant Policy which sets out the offer to council tenants and leaseholders who need to temporarily or permanently move out of their home in order for repairs to be undertaken or the property redeveloped. The policy also sets out the roles and responsibilities for officers who support these moves.

The policy is applicable to all secure tenants (including those on introductory or fixed-term tenancies) and leaseholders who need to move from their current home for repairs to be undertaken.

Cabinet:

Approved the proposed Decant Policy in Appendix 1

Delegated any minor amendments to the Policy to the Director of Living Well in consultation with the Lead Cabinet Member for Housing Need and Climate Change

39 **VULNERABLE PERSON POLICY**

Report Title: **Vulnerable Person Policy for Council Tenants (2025)**

Presented by: **Councillor Paul McGeary, Cabinet Member for Housing and Property**

Summary:

This policy sets out Havering Housing Services' commitment to assisting our vulnerable tenants to access our services and sustain their tenancy. It describes how a resident's vulnerabilities will be identified and recorded, and how we can adjust the way we deliver services to ensure the resident is not disadvantaged by their vulnerability.

Cabinet:

Approved the Vulnerable Person Policy for Council Tenants.

40 **REVIEW OF FOSTER CARER ALLOWANCES**

Report Title: **Review of Foster Carer Allowances**

Presented by: **Councillor Oscar Ford - Cabinet member for Children and Young People**

Summary:

As corporate parents, we have a statutory duty to recruit and retain foster carers who can provide a range of homes offering the appropriate support to meet the needs of the children and young people in our care.

1. It is a key priority to ensure that (where it is safe to do so) children in care remain within, or close to, their local area so that they can continue attending their school or clubs and maintain appropriate connections with family and friends.
2. As of the end of March 2024, there were 57,065 approved mainstream foster carers in England, which is a 4% decrease from the previous year. From 2021 to 2024, there was a 9.6% decrease in the number of registered foster carers nationally. Local authorities nationwide are facing recruitment challenges. The reasons cited for foster carers leaving the profession are lack of support and financial pressures.
3. The current Havering financial allowance structure has remained largely static since 2021 when a previous uplift and wider council package was agreed. However, since this point increases in the cost of living and associated care costs have not been reflected.
4. Benchmarking data from other East London authorities and anecdotal feedback from our foster carers, has evidenced that our current fostering rates are not currently in line with neighbouring authorities.
5. Havering are part of the 'Local Community Fostering' (Greater London East) Fostering Hub initiative which was launched in May 2024. The hub hosted by the London Borough of Waltham Forest was established as a regional [fostering hub](#) involving [Waltham Forest](#), [Barking & Dagenham](#), [Havering](#), [Newham](#), [Redbridge](#), and [Tower Hamlets](#), with funding from the government's Fostering Recruitment and Retention Programme. This programme provided support to local authorities in finding new ways to recruit foster carers, which included funding for regional hubs like this one and a range of initiatives such as the Mockingbird constellations. Benchmarking at the time put Havering as one of the leading local authorities however this has changed over the last 4 years as the other local authorities reviewed their allowances.
6. Feedback from carers is that our current allowances is limiting interest for new carers to join and causing existing carers to considering fostering for other authorities. The benchmarking has shown that our current rates are also below the national minimum weekly allowance government guidance. We know currently that approximately 20% of Havering residents who apply to be foster carers go on to do so with another local authority or fostering agency.

7. This proposal seeks to increase the weekly fee paid to our in-house foster carers, as well as increasing the weekly allowance for the child (or children) they are caring for to be more competitive within the market.

8. In-house foster care is the most cost-effective option for the local authority. The use of independent (agency) carers costs, on average, an additional £32,000 per child per year.

9. By improving our financial incentives alongside our marketing and recruitment support, we aim to meet our target of an additional 17 in-house foster carers year on year. The target for foster carer recruitment in 2026-27 is yet to be determined however, we will continue to have robust targets for recruitment as part of our strategic plans.

Cabinet:

Agreed to support recruitment and retention of our in-house foster carers

Cabinet agreed to;

Increase the weekly foster carers' fee allowance and weekly allowance per child as set out in paragraph 2.5 of the Report to ensure we are offering a fair and competitive rate when compared to neighbouring boroughs and the recommended national minimum allowance.

41 EAST LONDON JOINT WASTE PLAN SUBMISSION

Report Title: East London Joint Waste Plan Submission

Presented by: **Councillor Graham Williamson, Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Development**

Summary:

1.1 In July 2024 and April 2025, Cabinet gave approval to consult on the East London Joint Waste Plan (ELJWP) which, once adopted, will form part of the borough's Development Plan. The Joint Waste Plan has been prepared with the other East London Waste Authorities (the London Boroughs of Barking and Dagenham, Newham and Redbridge). The ELJWP has gone through two rounds of statutory consultation and is now ready to be submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination.

1.2 Member approval is sought to submit the East London Joint Waste Plan for independent public examination, under Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations (2012).

Cabinet:

Endorsed the report and its appendices, and made the following recommendations to be presented at Full Council:

That Full Council:

1. Authorise officers to proceed under Regulation 22 to submit the East London Joint Waste Plan Submission Plan (appendix 1, the East London Joint Waste Plan, approved by Cabinet in April 2025, as amended by the modifications provided in appendix 17) and associated documents (as set out in paragraph 2.19) to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, for independent public examination.
2. Delegate authority to the Director of Planning and Public Protection, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration to:
 - Make any inconsequential or factual updates to the Submission Documents listed in paragraph 2.19 to facilitate submission of the Plan under Regulation 22.
 - Make a formal request of the Planning Inspector at an appropriate point during the examination of the Waste Plan to recommend modifications to the Plan to make it sound and legally compliant in accordance with section 20 (7c) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act; and
 - Exercise all examination procedural matters as prescribed by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and associated Regulations, including updates to submission documents and agreeing and consulting on further modifications, required to make the Plan sound.

42 **CHIPPENHAM ROAD - PROPOSED MAKING OF THE PLANNING COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER**

Report Title: **Harold Hill Town Centre - Chippenham Road Making of a Compulsory Purchase Order**

Presented by: **Councillor Graham Williamson – Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Development**

Summary:

1.1 This report outlines the progress made on land assembly at Chippenham Road and seeks Cabinet approval to authorise the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) to acquire the remaining land and property interests necessary to facilitate the regeneration of the site. This is a request for final approval to make the CPO.

1.2 The Chippenham Road scheme forms a key part of the Harold Hill Town Centre regeneration proposals and is essential to deliver new affordable homes and associated public realm improvements. The site has been identified as a priority within the 12 Estates regeneration programme and is

considered critical to meeting the Council's housing delivery and placemaking objectives.

1.3 The following recommendations are made on the basis that a CPO is considered necessary to secure delivery of the Chippenham Road regeneration scheme, in accordance with planning policy and the Local Plan. The Scheme will promote the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the area and is deliverable within a reasonable timescale. Equitable steps to acquire land by agreement have been taken and there is no viable alternative to the use of CPO. The Council's actions are proportionate, in line with human rights and equalities duties.

Cabinet:

- 2.1 **Resolved** that there is a compelling case in public interest for the Council to make a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO).
- 2.2 **Resolved** that the public interest in making a CPO outweighs interference with rights under the Human Rights Act 1998.
- 2.3 **Agreed** to the Council making a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) pursuant to the statutory powers contained in section 226(1)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), and section 13 of the Local Government (Misc. Provisions) Act 1976 and all other necessary action to acquire all property and other proprietary interests on the land, including where appropriate new rights, located within the outline on the CPO Red Line Plan at Appendix B, for the purposes of delivering the new homes and regeneration of Chippenham Road.
- 2.4 **Agreed** that the Strategic Director of Place, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, Deputy Director Legal and Governance and Strategic Director of Resources be authorised to:
 - 2.4.1 To make the CPO or multiple CPOs to enable the acquisition of land, interest and rights within the CPO Red Line Plan as attached to this report at Appendix B;
 - 2.4.2 To appoint surveyors, solicitors, barristers and any other professionals required to promote the CPO(s) and to facilitate the vacant possession of interests located within the CPO Red Line Plan;
 - 2.4.3 To settle the final form and content of the CPO(s) and associated documentation to include the;
 - CPO Schedule of Interests - Appendix A;
 - Plans identifying location and extent of interests subject of the proposed CPO - Appendix B;
 - Equalities Impact Assessment - Appendix C;
 - Statement of Reasons - Appendix D;
 - Community Engagement - Appendix E;
 - Financial Implications - Appendix F (Exempt)

- 2.4.4 To make amendments to the CPO if necessary, including a reduction or increase to the extent of the land included in the draft Order Map.
- 2.4.5 To take all necessary steps to secure the making, confirmation and implementation of the CPO(s) including publication and service of notices and presentation of the Councils case at Public Inquiry, or Court should such representation be necessary;
- 2.4.6 To take such actions to continue attempts to acquire properties and proprietary interests within the CPO Red Line Plan by agreement, such actions to include; the relocation of residents and statutory undertakers apparatus or Communication Code Operators; and any other interests and setting out the terms for the withdrawal of objections to the CPO(s); and
- 2.4.7 To pay all costs associated with making the Order, including the compensation payable to landowners and their professional fees;
- 2.4.8 Agreed to appoint external consultants to assess, agree and pay any compensation and claims arising from redevelopment of the Order Land pursuant to the Order;
- 2.4.9 That following the confirmation of the CPO(s) by the Secretary of State, secure vacant possession of all properties and proprietary interests located within the confirmed CPO Red Line land to include:
 - 2.4.9.1 To take all necessary actions to secure the making and confirmation of a General Vesting Declaration (GVD) or multiple GVD's under the Compulsory Purchase and (Vesting Declarations) Act 1981 and /or to serve Notices to Treat and Entry (if required); and
 - 2.4.9.2 To appropriate to planning / or housing purposes as necessary, any parcel of land within the CPO Red Line Plan under Section 203 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016; and
 - 2.4.9.3 if necessary make representation to the Upper Tribunal (Lands Chamber) or court should such representation be appropriate.
- 2.5 **Agreed** that in the event that the Cabinet approves resolutions 2.1 and 2.2 above, and upon the Deputy Director Legal and Governance being satisfied that further information and all the Equalities Impact Assessment outcomes are satisfactory and to not require reference back to Cabinet, that the Deputy Director Legal and Governance be authorised to affix the common Seal of the Council to the CPO(s), GVD(s), maps and elsewhere and to take all necessary steps as

necessary, such as to issue notices and sign certificates to attain the resolutions above.

2.6 Noted that:

Any expenditure associated with the following will be met from the Council's existing approved budgets:

- a) preparatory work required to make the Compulsory Purchase Order; and
- b) payment of compensation arising from the CPO, together with the associated capital costs required to undertake the construction works.

43 CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY

Report Title: **Corporate Parenting Strategy 2025 – 2028**

Presented by: **Councillor Oscar Ford, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People**

Summary:

Havering's draft Corporate Parenting Strategy 2025–2028 sets out our renewed commitment to ensuring that children in care and care experienced young people are supported to thrive. The strategy is guided by the borough's WISH principles, ensuring every child is Well, Inspired, Safe, Heard, and Treated Fairly and is aligned with the [Havering Vision](#) and the [Integrated Starting Well Plan](#).

The strategy proposes a coordinated, borough wide approach to corporate parenting, where professionals across services act collectively as responsible parents. It outlines key actions across health, education, participation, and safeguarding.

The strategy will be overseen by the Corporate Parenting Panel, which includes the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and other stakeholders. This panel will monitor progress, ensure accountability, and incorporate feedback from children in care and care experienced young people.

Cabinet:

Approved the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2025–2028 attached at Appendix One.

Noted that the Corporate Parenting Panel will monitor the delivery of the strategy and associated action plan, which will include scrutinising that there is:

- o Timely access to health and mental health services.
- o Strengthened education, employment, and mentoring pathways.
- o Strengthened housing pathways.
- o Safer placements and community environments.
- o Meaningful participation of young people in shaping services.
- o Promotion of fairness, inclusion, and cultural celebration.

Noted that the Corporate Parenting Panel will monitor progress through key performance indicators and qualitative feedback, with updates to be shared with stakeholders, including children and young people, by officers in the Starting Well directorate.

Directed officers to carry out an internal review of the strategy for late 2027, and to make any interim revisions to the action plan as needed to ensure continued relevance and impact.

44 LEARNING DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT CHARTER

Report Title: **Havering Employment Charter for Autistic People and People with Learning Disabilities**

Presented by: **Councillor Gillian Ford; Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Adults and Wellbeing**

Summary:

1. The Havering Employment Charter for the Employment of People with Learning Disabilities and Autistic People aims at increasing the number of autistic people and people with a learning disability employed directly by Havering Council. The charter aligns with the Council's wider aims under the Disability Confident Employer Scheme and is the initial step of a multi-staged approach aimed at reducing employment inequalities for people with learning disabilities and autistic people within the borough.
2. The charter is underpinned by several key principles aimed at developing and sustaining meaningful employment opportunities, where appropriate and suitably assessed for employment, within the council. These are nurturing a disability confident and inclusive culture within Havering Council, empowering employing managers, providing competitive meaningful employment, providing a person-centred approach to work and workplace support, and a commitment to continuous evaluation and improvement of the workforce.
3. People with learning disabilities and autistic people are two groups, among several others with protected characteristics, of individuals who are heavily underrepresented in the workforce, being significantly more likely to be socio-economically inactive even when compared to people with other recognised disabilities.

4. The council undertakes various initiatives aimed at reducing economic activity within Havering, and whilst these initiatives may include activity for autistic people and people with learning disabilities, due to the specific adaptations and requirements, a more focused approach will provide greater refinement in addressing the inequality.

5. The implementation of the charter will be overseen by the Learning Disabilities and Autism Employment Steering Group and monitored within the annual reporting on Workforce data. The steering group will initially support the council to improve data collection and reporting employment of individuals with disabilities and develop an action plan across the council. The action plan will be reviewed and refreshed annually to adapt to emerging trends, initiatives and developments relating to the employment of autistic people and people with learning disabilities.

Cabinet

2.1 **Agreed** to support the addition of the of the employment charter into the Council's Human Resources recruitment and selection policy within the conditions of the Disability Confident scheme.

Overview & Scrutiny Recommendations:

At its meeting on 6 November 2025, the People Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee discussed and made some recommendations re the report being considered by Cabinet on the Havering Learning Disability and Employment Charter.

The specific recommendations in this area are as shown below and Cabinet was asked to respond to these at the Cabinet meeting.

If agreed, Cabinet is also asked to approve that a final version of the Charter, incorporating these changes, be published as soon as is practicable, on the Council's website alongside the agenda papers for this Cabinet meeting.

1. That Cabinet considers and responds to the following recommendations made by the People Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee in relation to the report on the Havering Learning Disability and Autism Employment Charter due to be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 12 November 2025.
 - Section 5.1.1: The term 'positive discrimination' be amended to 'positive action', aligning with the Equality Act 2010.
 - Sections 5.1.3 and 5.1.4: These sections be amended as follows:
 - o 5.1.3 will now focus on ensuring training and support to enable people with learning disabilities and autistic people to develop skills for career progression.

- o 5.1.4 will now refer to reviewing the effectiveness of supported employment services, rather than continuous assessment.
- 2. That Cabinet notes that these refinements strengthen the Charter, ensure compliance with equality legislation, and reinforce the Council's commitment to fairness, accessibility, and impact.
- 3. Should the above proposed amendments be accepted by Cabinet, that the final version of the Havering Learning Disability and Autism Employment Charter be published for clarity on the Council's website page for this meeting of Cabinet.

Cabinet agreed to all of the above recommendations and agreed that the updated document is attached below as confirmation.

The London Borough of Havering Employment Charter – Employment of People with Learning Disabilities and Autistic People

- 1.0 Introduction
 - 1.1. Inequalities and inequity in employment can be associated with inequalities and inequity in other areas of life including health, social mobility, and education. People with learning disabilities and autistic people are more likely to experience life inequalities and be unemployed relative to both the general population and even people with other kinds of disability.
 - 1.2. To help reduce inequalities in employment outcomes for people with learning disabilities and autistic people, the London Borough of Havering will adopt the following charter to increase the number of people with learning disabilities and autistic people employed locally.
 - 1.3. This charter forms part of the borough's wider employment strategy, the local autism strategy, and our commitment to the Disability Confident Employer scheme.
- 2.0 Vision
 - 2.1. To promote employment opportunities and personal and career development for people with learning disabilities and autistic people within Havering to reduce inequalities by enabling equal employment opportunities for meaningful and sustainable employment.
- 3.0 Mission
 - 3.1. To increase the number of individuals with learning disabilities and autism employed directly by the London Borough of Havering and to support them in achieving their employment goals through appropriate personalised development once employed.
- 4.0 Key Principles for Employment Opportunities

- 4.1. To enable the local authority to achieve its vision the charter sets out six key principles that the local authority will adopt to make recruitment, and employment opportunities more inclusive for people with learning disabilities and autistic people.
 - 4.1.1. Meaningful Competitive Employment: Ensure that the local authority provides job opportunities that provide competitive living wages and enable people to meaningfully develop their career paths.
 - 4.1.2. Disability Confident Employer: Empower hiring managers to be confident in the recruitment and support of individuals with learning disabilities and autistic people.
 - 4.1.3. Person-Centred Approach: Tailor employment opportunities to meet the unique needs, preferences, and goals of each person.
 - 4.1.4. Inclusion: Promote inclusive workplaces where people with disabilities work alongside their non-disabled peers.
 - 4.1.5. Empowerment: Empower people with disabilities to make informed choices about their employment and career paths.
 - 4.1.6. Continuous Improvement: Commit to ongoing evaluation and improvement of the recruitment and employment practices within Havering local authority.
- 5.0 Objectives of the Employment Charter for People with Learning Disabilities and Autistic People
 - 5.1. The objectives associated with adoption of the employment charter for people with learning disabilities and autistic people are:
 - 5.1.1. To Increase Employment Opportunities within Havering Local Authority for People with Learning Disabilities and Autistic People: Develop a positive action approach to job opportunities and expand job opportunities available for people with learning disabilities and autistic people within the local authority. This objective will apply to all employment opportunities within Havering local authority including all paid employment, internships, graduate schemes, apprenticeships, and work experience opportunities.
 - 5.1.2. To Further Development the Local Authority Towards Maintaining its Position as a Disability Confident Employer: Develop managerial training to further develop inclusive workplace environment where employees can be confident in interviewing, recruitment of and support of individuals with learning disabilities and autistic people.
 - 5.1.3. To Enhance Skills and Competencies of People with Learning Disabilities and Autistic People Employed by the Local Authority: Ensure that the council's approach to training and support enables people with learning disabilities and autistic people to develop the skills needed for carer development.
 - 5.1.4. To Monitor and Evaluate the Success of the Interventions that are Aimed at Supporting the Implementation of the Employment Charter and Employment Principles: Review of the effectiveness of the supported employment services and make necessary adjustments to improve outcomes in the recruitment of people with learning disabilities and autistic people.

- 6.0 Key Actions to Support the Employment Charters Approach to Employment Opportunities
- 6.1. The following actions should be undertaken to implement this charter as part of the approach to making Havering local authority a more inclusive workplace:
- 6.1.1. Workforce Engagement: Engage with the workforce to promote the benefits of hiring individuals with learning disabilities and autistic people and provide training on inclusive practices.
- 6.1.2. Selective Recruitment Focus: Automatically make people with learning disabilities and autistic people who meet the minimum criteria eligible for interviews when applying for job opportunities advertised across the local authority.
- 6.1.3. Inclusive Recruitment Practices: HR should support all hiring managers with adopting more flexible recruitment approaches across recruitment exercises to reduce disadvantages inherent in traditional interview and recruitment processes.
- 6.1.4. Individualized Employment Plans: Adopt inclusivity focused personalised employment plans that outline the individual's goals, strengths, and support needs.
- 6.1.5. Job Matching and Placement: Further support matching individuals with suitable job opportunities that align with their skills and interests.
- 6.1.6. On-the-Job Support: Provide ongoing person-centred support and coaching to help individuals succeed in their employment.
- 6.1.7. Community Partnerships: Collaborate with internal community organisations within Havering local authority to create a network of support for individuals with learning disabilities and autistic people in the workplace.

45 2026-2029 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY UPDATE

Report Title: **2026-2029 Medium Term Financial Strategy Update**

Presented by: **Councillor Chris Wilkins (Cabinet Member for Finance)**

Summary:

The report provides an update on the progress towards setting the 2026/27 budget and the development of the 2026-2029 Medium Term Financial Strategy

1. This report provides an update on the progress towards setting the Council's budget for 2026/27. The report includes:

- Background
- An update on National funding changes
- Update on the revenue monitoring position for 2025/26
- Updates made to the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and revised budget gap
- Financing the budget and engagement with MHCLG

- Next Steps
- Medium-term budget initiatives

Cabinet:

- 2.1. Cabinet **noted** the medium-term financial position set out in this report
- 2.2 Cabinet **noted** the proposed savings and investment set out in this report and **authorised** officers to start the budget engagement process, including specific consultations (where required) to implement the savings in this report.
- 2.3 Cabinet **authorised** officers to action efficiency and invest to save proposals with immediate effect in 2025/26 where possible if the operational savings proposals are not public facing, and so therefore is not subject to consultation and an EQUIA.
- 2.4 Cabinet **noted** the position regarding further exceptional financial support from the Government and to note that officers will continually review and update the Medium Term Financial Strategy from now through to when the Budget is signed off by Full Council.

46 **SECOND QUARTER OF FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/26 REVENUE AND CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT**

Report Title: **Second Quarter of Financial Year 2025/26 Revenue and Capital Monitoring Report**

Presented by: **Councillor Chris Wilkins (Cabinet Member for Finance)**

Summary:

At the end of quarter two of the Financial Year the Council is forecasting an underspend of £7.65m against its General Fund budget of £292m. This includes use of Exceptional Financial Support. The DSG is forecasting an in year overspend that will bring the total deficit to £65m.

1. This report gives an overview of the Council's financial position setting out the forecast revenue expenditure as at the end of September 2025 with an explanation of the significant variances. It also provides an update on progress towards savings targets and an overview of the capital programme at the end of quarter two.

Cabinet:

- 2.1 Cabinet **noted** the revenue monitoring position of the Council as at the end of September 2025 (quarter two of the financial year.) This includes a forecast underspend on the Council's General Fund of £7.65m (sections 4, 5 and 6), an underspend on the HRA of £2.33m

(Section 8) and an overspend of £28m DSG budgets that will bring the overall DSG deficit to £65m (section 9). The consequent impact on the Council's reserves is set out in section 11).

- 2.2 Cabinet **noted** the progress toward the delivery of savings as set out in the Council's MTFS as at the end of September 2025 (quarter two of the financial year) as set out in section 7
- 2.3 Cabinet **noted** the capital monitoring position of the Council as at the end of September 2025 (quarter two of the financial year) as set out in section 12
- 2.4 Cabinet **noted** the update in section 10 on the position of the Council's maintained schools and to delegate to the Director of Starting Well in conjunction with the Strategic Director for Resources and the appropriate Cabinet members the ability to grant a licensed deficit to qualifying schools.

Chairman