

Cabinet

18 February 2026

REPORT OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

Subject Heading:

Comments of Overview and Scrutiny Board on the Council's Budget 2026/27

SLT Lead:

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Policy context:

The report deals with a statutory process.

Financial summary:

There is no significant financial impact from the statutory process as these requirements are being met by existing budgets.

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

People - Supporting our residents to stay safe and well **X**

Place - A great place to live, work and enjoy **X**

Resources - Enabling a resident-focused and resilient Council **X**

SUMMARY

Following the recent scrutiny of the Council's Budget for 2026/27, the Overview and Scrutiny Board has made a series of comments and recommendations to Cabinet. Cabinet is required to respond to each of these.

RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet confirms whether it wishes to reconsider the proposed Budget and respond to the following recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Board:

1. That Officers explore aligning the Improvement and Transformation Plan with the Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)
2. That Officers undertake alternative modelling on the impact of reducing street-trading licence fees
3. That Officers review the wording within the Discretionary Fees and Charges section to ensure it reflects a compassionate approach to sensitive issues
4. That the Board be provided with information on the cost implications of extending 30 minutes free parking across all areas of Havering
5. That Officers confirm to the Board the value of the shortfall created by the National Insurance increase
6. That Officers explore a pilot scheme delivering a single, coordinated bulky-waste collection within a defined geographical area given sufficient bulky-waste demand exists
7. That Officers consider the feasibility and potential benefits of introducing individually licensed fly-tipping collectors
8. That Officers explore opportunities to enhance communications with residents regarding Green Flag status and achievements within local parks.

REPORT DETAIL

At its meeting on 4th February 2026, the Overview and Scrutiny Board scrutinised the Council's proposed Budget for 2026/27.

As the Board made recommendations and comments for Cabinet to consider and respond to, under the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, a report must be submitted to Cabinet. These recommendations and comments are shown above and Cabinet is required to give a response to each of these as well as indicate whether it wishes to change or continue with the proposed Budget.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks: None of this report which purely seeks an initial response from Cabinet. Should Cabinet be minded to consider revised proposals in response to the Board's recommendations, these may require a separate report with full implications.

Legal implications and risks: None of this report which purely seeks an initial response from Cabinet. Should Cabinet be minded to consider revised proposals in response to the Board's recommendations, these may require a separate report with full implications.

Human Resources implications and risks: None of this report which purely seeks an initial response from Cabinet. Should Cabinet be minded to consider revised proposals in response to the Board's recommendations, these may require a separate report with full implications.

Equalities implications and risks: None of this report which purely seeks an initial response from Cabinet. Should Cabinet be minded considering revised proposals in response to the Board's recommendations, these may require a separate report with full implications.

Environmental and Climate Change implications and risks: None of this report which purely seeks an initial response from Cabinet. Should Cabinet be minded to consider revised proposals in response to the Board's recommendations, these may require a separate report with full implications.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.