

**Corporate Scrutiny Committee**  
**29 January 2025**

**Scrutiny of the Budget**

**Report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer**

**1 Purpose**

- 1.1 To scrutinise the Council's overall budget strategy and planning process, focusing on the overarching financial position, ensuring a balanced budget and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), and to provide feedback to the Executive.
- 1.2 To scrutinise the service impacts of the specific budget proposals put forward from the Finance and Resources and Chief Executives directorates, and the cross cutting proposals, and to provide feedback to the Executive.
- 1.3 To note the overall MTFP and budget will be brought back to the Committee's February meeting for further scrutiny and comment following the consultation period and its final consideration at Executive Board.
- 1.4 To note that the service impact of proposals put forward from the Council's other directorates have been scrutinised by the other Scrutiny Committees at their meetings in December/January as these matters fall outside the terms of reference for this Committee.

**2 Action required**

- 2.1 To discuss the budget with the Executive Councillors and officers present, to gather information, and to draw conclusions.
- 2.2 To scrutinise the Council's overall budget strategy and planning process, and the overall financial impact of the budget proposals and provide feedback to the Executive.
- 2.3 To scrutinise the service impact of proposals put forward from the Finance and Resources directorate, Chief Executives directorate, and the Corporate cross-cutting proposals, and provide feedback to the Executive.

**3 Background information**

**3.1 The Role of Overview and Scrutiny**

All Council's operating Executive Governance arrangements are required to establish Overview and Scrutiny Committees. These Committees act as a check and balance to the power of the Executive, holding decision

makers to account for their decisions, reviewing proposals and supporting the development of policy. When operating effectively Overview and Scrutiny supports effective decision making and good governance through processes of supportive but robust challenge and transparent public accountability.

### **3.2 Scrutiny of the Budget 2025/26**

All Councils are legally required to agree a balanced budget, outlining how resources will be allocated to enable them to deliver their statutory responsibilities within their financial means. The Council continues to face significant budget pressures in future years and uncertainty, including the continuing level of support from Central Government, over the medium term. Due to an increased demand for services councils continue to operate in a challenging resource environment where changes to demands on services can lead to material budget variances.

3.3 In Nottingham, proposals have been drawn up by the Council's Executive Councillors and Senior Officers. At its meeting on 17 December 2024, Executive Board agreed to put these proposals to the public with a formal consultation process for those proposals requiring it.

3.4 As the Overview and Scrutiny Committee responsible for scrutinising finance, this Committee will provide its views to the Executive on the overall approach to the budget, as well as the specific proposals put forward by the Finance and Resources directorate, the Chief Executives directorate, and the cross cutting Corporate proposals. Matters to consider may include:

- a) A view on the overall approach to the budget.
- b) What impacts the proposals within the Committee's remit will have on service users / citizens and how these impacts might be mitigated.
- c) How effectively equalities have been considered as part of the proposals.
- d) The robustness and deliverability of the proposals.
- e) The consultation.
- f) How proposals may impact on each other.

3.5 The service impact of the individual proposals put forward from the Council's other directorates have been scrutinised by the four other Overview and Scrutiny Committees at their meetings in December/January with comments fed back to the relevant Executive Members. These matters fall outside of the Terms of Reference for this Committee and should not form part of the considerations at this meeting.

## **4 List of attached information**

4.1 2025/2026 Budget Strategy Update

4.2 Budget Savings 2025/26 – 2028/29

**5 Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information**

5.1 None

**6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report**

6.1 [Meeting of the Executive Board on 17 December 2024.](#)

**7 Wards affected**

7.1 All

**8 Contact information**

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