

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

24 September 2025

COUNCILLOR L SHIRES - CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, ESTATES & PROPERTY SERVICES

For the period July to September 2025

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

- **Financial Statements 2024/25** – the Draft Statement of Accounts 2024/25 was published, and the public inspection period has now closed. The finance team are currently working through audit requests, in preparation for the formal audit period later in the year.
- **Budget Monitoring** - The first revenue and capital budget monitoring of 2025/26 has been produced. The revenue forecast outturn position as at P4 is indicating a Full Year surplus of £138k, This is largely due to staffing savings and additional income, partly offset by irrecoverable housing benefit in relation to Homelessness cases.
- **Financial Software Upgrade** - Testing has been taking place on a software upgrade to the Councils Financial Management system. This is now complete and has been applied to the live environment.
- **Training** – Members of the finance team have recently commenced professional training qualifications. Two are studying CIPFA and one is studying AAT.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

- **External Audit 2024/25** – The start of the formal audit is currently timetabled to commence 17th November. This is subject to change if there are delays in local authority audits prior to ours.
- **Budget Setting 2026/27** – Preparations are now underway for setting the annual budget for 2026/27. Detailed working papers are being prepared for circulation to Budget holders, these include staffing and other direct cost budgets. Meetings and discussion will take place over the next couple of months with the aim of providing members with an early forecast position.

- **Capital Bids 2026/27** – bid forms have now been circulated for completion by officers with new capital projects requests. These will be reviewed by Finance and compiled for consideration by Members as part of the budget setting process.

3 Meetings attended

Regular updates have also been provided through Dan King at business planning meetings

LGA – presentation on procurement