



Tuesday, 13 January 2026

Report of Councillor Ashley Baxter,
Leader of the Council and Cabinet
Member for Finance, HR and Economic
Development

Budget Proposals for 2026/27 and Indicative Budgets for 2027/28 and 2028/29 – General Fund

Report Author

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Purpose of Report

To present the draft budget proposals and estimates for 2026/27 for the General Fund.

Recommendations

The Budget Joint Overview Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- Consider the budget proposals for 2026/27 in respect of General Fund – Revenue and Capital.
- Provide any feedback for Cabinet to consider at their meeting on 15 January 2026.
- Note the launch of the consultation in respect of Council Tax setting for 2026/27 in accordance with the requirements of Section 65 of the Local Government Act 1992 between 19th January to 2nd February 2026.

Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication? N

What are the relevant corporate priorities? All

Which wards are impacted? All Wards

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance and Procurement

- 1.1 Financial commentary is contained throughout this report. Members are asked to note the commentary on the level of Council reserves and the Financial Risk Register.

Completed by: Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 The recommendations relate to proposals for the budget which forms part of the budgetary and policy framework in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules set out at Part 4(3) of the Constitution of the Council (Rules of Procedure). Members (via approval from Cabinet) must consult with the community on the proposals contained within this report as required in accordance with statutory regulation and constitutional requirements.

Completed by: James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager

Risk and Mitigation

- 1.3 A Financial Risk Register is shown at Appendix E and risk scores are applied accordingly.

Completed by: Tracey Elliott, Risk and Governance Officer

Diversity and Inclusion

- 1.4 An Equality Impact Assessment is appended at Appendix F.

2. Background to the Report

- 2.1. The purpose of this report is to present the draft budget proposals for the 2026/27 Financial Year to the Budget Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.2. The Committee is invited to review and comment on the proposals contained in the report which will be presented to Cabinet on 15 January 2026. The budget setting timetable is set out in **Table 1** below:

Table 1 – Budget Setting Timetable

Date	Committee/ Action	Details
13 January 2026	Budget – Joint OSC	To consider budget proposals for 2026/27
15 January 2026	Cabinet	To consider budget proposals for 2026/27 To receive feedback from the Budget - Joint OSC To approve consultation regarding budget proposals To recommend proposals for fees and charges 2026/27
19 January – 02 February 2026	Consultation	To receive views on proposed levels of Council Taxes for 2026/27
29 January 2026	Council	To consider and approve fees and charges 2026/27
10 February 2026	Cabinet	To consider consultation feedback and make final budget recommendations to Council
26 February 2026	Council	To approve Council Tax levels and 2026/27 budgets for both General Fund and Housing Revenue Account

- 2.3. The proposed budgets for the next 3 years have been developed with the primary aim of allocating resources to deliver the Council's aims and ambitions outlined in the Corporate Plan 2024 -2027 which was approved in January 2024.
- 2.4. On 26 November 2025, the Chancellor presented the 2025 Autumn Budget. The Office of Budget Responsibility also published its routine Economic and Fiscal Outlook update, overviewing the public finance situation in light of the Government's Budget decisions and other economic determinants.
- 2.5. The majority of announcements relating to local government centres concerns Business Rates reform (multipliers, reliefs, revaluation, retention arrangements) and a Council Tax surcharge which will come into effect from 1 April 2028.
- 2.6. The Council has received a multi-year settlement for the period 2026/27 – 2028/29 which provides a basis for accurate Medium Term Financial Planning because it removes some of the uncertainty caused by single year settlements. However, annual reviews will still be undertaken by Government and consequently annual settlements will be subject to change.

- 2.7. The budget setting process began in September 2025 and proposals have been formulated by Cabinet, working closely with senior officers, through a series of budget review sessions. These sessions have focused on the ambitions of the Council to drive forward the Corporate Plan within financial parameters.
- 2.8. This report brings together the conclusions of the budget preparatory work and covers a number of areas:

- The funding position for the General Fund (section 3)
- Draft General Fund budget proposals (section 4)
- The draft Capital Programme 2026/27 – 2028/29 (section 5)
- Capital Financing (section 6)
- Reserves and Balances (section 7)

3. THE FUNDING POSITION FOR THE GENERAL FUND

- 3.1 The provisional settlement was announced on 17th December 2025 and includes:
 - a full baseline reset (for the first time since the Business Rate Retention was introduced in 2013-14),
 - major changes to all the Relative Needs Formulas (RNFs), and
 - the simplification of many grants.
- 3.2 The funding review began in 2016, but while the new settlement builds on the work of previous governments, no previous government actually managed to implement the changes. However, it had been intended that the provisional settlement would have been published in early December or even late November so, it was disappointing that the first notification of the specific settlement for the Council arrived on 17th December 2025.
- 3.3 This is a 3-year settlement which gives some certainty to authorities for the second and third years. Each of these latter two years will still be subject to an annual settlement process and therefore should be considered as indicative.

The main headlines are as follows:

- 3.4 **Fair Funding Assessment (FFA)**— MHCLG (Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government) has published the provisional outcome of the Fair Funding Review which sets underlying figures for the FFA. The settlement suggests that the FFA amounts also cover Simpler Recycling new burdens, but this is not itemised and there is little additional funding that could account for this. This lack of transparency was raised by the District Council Network as a concern to MHCLG so further lobbying might reveal the amount allocated for this new responsibility.

3.5 **Council Tax** – As previously announced, the council tax referendum limits are as follows:

Type of Authority	2026/27 Referendum Limit
Shire district councils	2.99% or £5 (whichever is higher)
Social Care Authorities	2.99% (+ 2% for social care authorities)
Fire authorities	£5.00
Police authorities	£15.00
Greater London Authority	£20.13
Other Mayoral Strategic Authorities (non-PCC functions)	No limit
parish councils	No limit

Six specified councils will have no referendum principle applied in 2027/28 and 2028/29, allowing them to increase council tax as much as they choose due to their specific financial circumstances.

3.6 The core principle of the Fair Funding Review is to maintain an equal balance of local authorities Core Spending Power (CSP) which takes into account Core Government Grants, Specific Grants and Council Tax. The Government has modelled our base CSP for 2025/26 at **£20.592m** which has formed our base over the next 3 years as shown in **Table 2**:

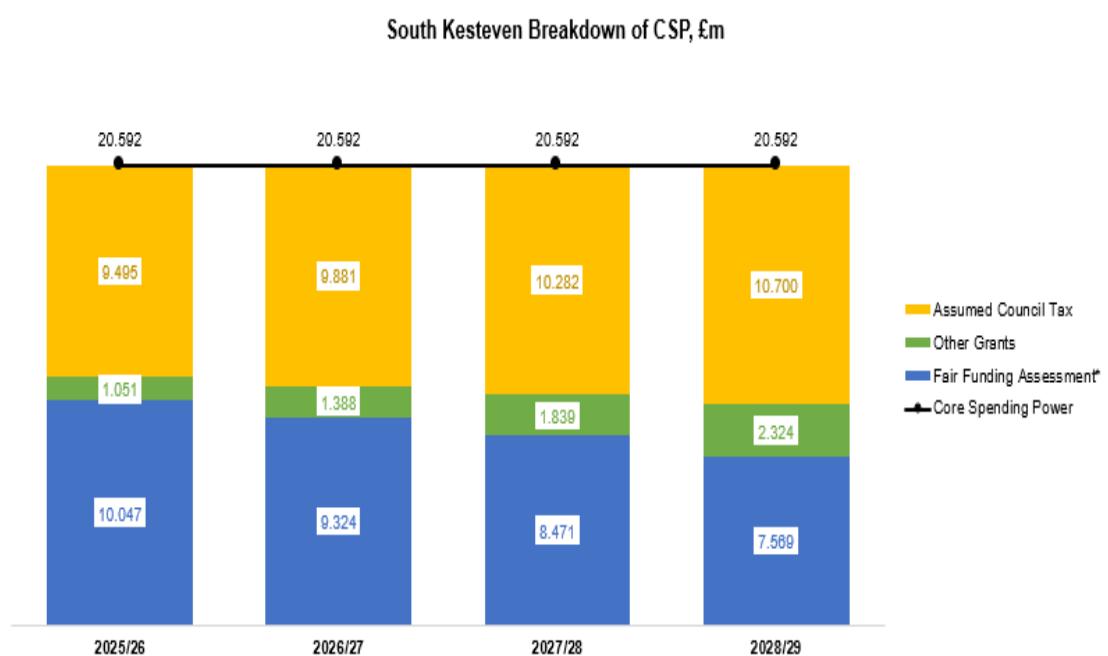
Table 2 Core Spending Power – South Kesteven

Reserve Heading	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000
Fair Funding Allocation	9,324	8,471	7,569
Council Tax (government estimates)	9,881	10,282	10,700
Homelessness funding (specific grant)	838	875	907
Transitional Protection Grant	549	964	1,417
Total	20,592	20,592	20,592

3.7 The Government has stated that there is now funding certainty over the 3 year period although this is only achieved by assuming maximum Council Tax increases. If Council tax increases are excluded, the Councils actual funding from Government reduces from **£10.711m** to **£9.893m** in 2028/29 – a reduction of **£0.818m**. Without confirmation that sufficient funding has been made available to fund the new weekly food waste collection service, the decrease is even greater.

As illustrated in the graph below (**Table 3**) Council Tax continues to be an ever-increasing proportion of the Councils funding and by 2028/29 would form more than 50% of the Councils core funding.

Table 3 – South Kesteven Breakdown of Core Spending Power



3.8 **Table 4** below shows the projected increase for Council Tax for 2026/27 of 2.99% which is an increase of £5.66 for the year (which equates to less than 11p per week). This proposed increase is within the referendum limits set by Government for District Councils outlined above.

Table 4 – Option to increase SKDC share on the 2026/27 Council Tax Band D Charge

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Tax Base	49,710.00	50,140.50	50,762.08
Tax Base increase	0.77%	0.87%	1.24%
Band D Charge	£183.89	£189.37	£195.03
Total Council Tax Income	£9.141m	£9.495m	£9.900m
Additional Council Tax Income	N/a	£354k	£405k

3.9 It is proposed that Consultation relating to Council Tax options for 2026/27 will be launched following the January meeting of Cabinet. The feedback from the consultation will be presented to the February meeting of Cabinet.

Business Rates Pool – 2026/27

3.10 Lincolnshire authorities had intended to apply for Pool Status for 2026/27 as this has been financially beneficial for all Lincolnshire Councils over previous financial years. However, following the provisional settlement announcement and clarification of the business rate reset guidelines whereby the Government is providing a 100% safety net, there is no financial business case to remain in the Lincolnshire Pool. This decision has been confirmed by the Councils financial advisors who have confirmed there is no financial benefit for being part of a Pool.

4. GENERAL FUND BUDGET PROPOSALS

4.1 The overall General Fund position for 2026/27 is summarised in **Table 5** below and detailed in **Appendix A** including cost centre level breakdown. The net cost of services for 2026/27 is estimated at **£24.003m**.

Table 5 – Summary of General Fund Estimates

Heading	2025/26 Revised Budget £'000	2026/27 Proposed Budget £'000	2027/28 Indicative Budget £'000	2028/29 Indicative Budget £'000
Corporate, Governance and Public Protection	4,463	4,561	4,844	4,645
Finance, Property and Waste Services	12,501	12,338	12,662	12,955
Growth and Culture	9,857	7,119	7,232	7,835
Housing and Projects	2,032	1,856	1,875	1,895
HRA Recharge	(2,960)	(3,049)	(3,110)	(3,172)
Internal Drainage Board Levies	1,026	1,128	1,241	1,365
Net Cost of Services	26,469	24,003	24,744	25,750
Depreciation	(4,537)	(4,017)	(4,171)	(4,071)
Investment Income	(781)	(1,276)	(1,309)	(1,148)
Minimum Revenue Provision	271	505	501	497
Revenue Contribution to Capital	2,087	0	0	0
Transfer to/from Earmarked Reserves	(2,906)	3,726	(104)	(418)
Net Budget Requirement	20,603	22,941	19,661	20,383

Heading	2025/26 Revised Budget £'000	2026/27 Proposed Budget £'000	2027/28 Indicative Budget £'000	2028/29 Indicative Budget £'000
Funding:				
Business Rates	(7,189)	(3,459)	(3,539)	(3,610)
Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit				
Business Rates	(1,400)	(1,374)	0	0
Council Tax	(9,497)	(9,900)	(10,298)	(10,713)
Collection Fund (Surplus/Deficit –				
Council Tax	60	18	0	0
Revenue Support Grant	(195)	(5,864)	(4,932)	(3,958)
Transitional Protection	0	(549)	(964)	(1,417)
Funding Guarantee Grant	(1,188)	0	0	0
New Homes Bonus	(474)	0	0	0
pEPR Payment	(837)	(1,813)	0	0
NIC Funding	(151)	0	0	0
IDB Funding	(80)	0	0	0
Surplus contribution	410	0	0	0
Total Funding	(20,063)	(22,941)	(19,733)	(19,698)
Projected (surplus)/ Deficits	0	0	(72)	685

4.2 The Council is legally required to produce a balanced budget each year and **Table 5** shows this can be achieved for 2026/27 without reliance on reserves. However, the 3 year outlook remains difficult as the Council transitions towards its newly established baseline funding levels following the Fair Funding Review and Business Rate Reset. It is therefore recommended that a transfer is made to the Budget Stabilisation Reserve to ensure financial resilience if the financial outlook remains difficult.

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)

4.3 Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) is the charge to revenue made as a proxy for the repayment of principal when borrowing is undertaken to finance capital expenditure. Making MRP is statutory and aimed at ensuring the council does not have outstanding debt related to time expired or fully depreciated assets.

4.4 MRP is charged in the first full year after the asset becomes operational and is charged over the life of the asset. **Table 6** shows that MRP is forecast to increase significantly over the next three years as the Council undertakes further borrowing.

Table 6 – Forecasted MRP Charges

Heading	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000
Existing MRP Charge (legacy borrowing)	111	107	103
St Martin's Park Stamford	161	161	161
Turnpike Close Grantham – New Depot	233	233	233
Total	505	501	497

Key Budget Proposals

The budget proposals for 2026/27 incorporate a number of service changes required to meet operational demands. These proposed increases have been formulated in response to a combination of Cabinet priorities, changes in statutory responsibilities and service delivery pressures. The proposals are set out in **Tables 7 and 8** below:

Table 7 – Proposed Budget Increase – (Recurring)

Heading	Cost	Details
Employee Expenditure	£316,060	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enforcement Officer• Private Sector Housing Officer• Events Officer• Income Recovery Officer• Rough Sleeper Support Officer Roles• Housing Options Officer
General Expenditure		
Tree planting for SKDC open spaces	£62,000	Tree planting initiative across the District including in the award winning parks
Tree maintenance for SKDC open spaces	£66,150	Allocation to respond to the actions arising from the Tree Management Policy
Events budget	£100,000	The establishment of a programme of public events across the district during 2026/27 to encourage public participation. The events programme to be presented to the Leisure and Culture OSC.
Funding for Compliance Works in General Fund Corporate Buildings	£100,000	Rolling programme of compliance works relating to DDA, Asbestos, Fire Risk Assessments across General Fund assets
Surface Water Drainage Clearance Programme	£60,000	Rolling programme of remedial repairs and maintenance of gullies and drainage systems.

Stock condition surveys	£40,000	Rolling programme of stock condition surveys across General Fund assets. 20% of asset base to be surveyed each year
Increase in community grants	£100,000	Increase in the annual budget for the established community grant scheme from £100k to £200k
Total	£844,210	

Table 8 – Proposed Budget Increase (One-Off)

Details	Cost	One-Off
Employee Expenditure	£41,494	Safer Streets patrols Safer Streets CCTV Cover
General Expenditure		
Spitalgate Garden Village Consultancy Support	£30,000	External expert support to progress the Garden Village development
Town Centre Vitality & Viability	£20,000	Support assessment of the vitality and viability in our market town centres into order to create an ongoing strategy for town centre development.
Citizens Advice South Lincolnshire – increase in annual grant allocation	£33,000	Application from CASL to increase the funding from £52k to £85k to support financial sustainability. The increase to be reviewed after the first year.
Mobile CCTV cameras	£10,000	Purchase of mobile cameras to target fly-tipping hot spots
Body worn cameras	£10,000	Purchase of body cameras for key officer roles
Total	£144,494	

General Fund Budget Estimates – 2026/27

4.5 Budget assumptions that have been considered and incorporated into the estimates are shown at **Table 9**. All other inflationary costs have been absorbed by service areas which has enabled a balanced budget.

Table 9 – General Fund Budget Assumptions

Cost Heading	2026/27		2027/28		2028/29	
	% Increase	Annual Increase on base budget	% Increase	Annual Increase on base budget	% Increase	Annual Increase on base budget
Drainage Board Levies	10%	£103k	10%	£112k	10%	£125k
Pay Award	3%	£599k	2%	£420k	2%	434k
Fuel *	10%	£29k	5%	£65k	5%	£88k
Gas*	5%	£5k	5%	£2k	5%	£2k
Electricity*	10%	£28k	5%	£15k	5%	£16k

* These budgets have been rebased in 2026/27 following an underspend in 2024/25 and forecast savings in 2025/26. The increases in 2026/27 are based on the reduced base budget for these areas.

4.6 The drainage board levies continue to be a significant cost with anticipated annual increases of over £100k. The Council received Internal Drainage Board Levy Grants from Central Government of £50k in 2024/25 and £80k in 2025/26 to provide additional funding towards the increased cost of these levies. Further support is expected for 2026/27 but no details are yet available.

4.7 Treasury Investment Income - Financial forecasts for investment income remain volatile with most economist's predicting a reduction in Base Rate. The estimated investment income interest rates, based on our treasury advisor's projections, are shown at **Table 10 below**. This information has been used to estimate interest on the Council's investment of its cash balances.

Table 10 – Treasury Investment Financial Forecasts

Financial Year	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Forecasted Interest Rate	3.50%	3.25%	3.00%
Assumed Interest Receivable	£1.276m	£1.309m	£1.148m

5 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2026/27 – 2028/29

5.1 The schemes included within the capital programme have been designed to deliver the Council ambitions for growth and investment in its assets to support the delivery of quality services. The capital programme contains key investments across General Fund assets including:

• Vehicle replacement	£1.046m
• Wheelie Bin Replacement	£0.155m
• River Witham Footbridge	£0.050m
• Grantham Canal	£0.200m
• Car Park Improvements	£0.120m
• Wharf Road Car Park Refurbishment	£0.650m
• Disabled Facilities Grants (100% grant funded)	£0.975m

5.2 A summarised capital programme is shown in **Table 11** and a detailed capital programme is included at **Appendix B**.

Table 11 – General Fund Capital Programme Summary

Details	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000
Disabled Facilities Grant	975	975	975
Vehicle and Bin Replacement	1,201	1,616	1,779
Asset Investment	1,020	320	320
Chamber Audio Equipment	88	0	0
Grounds Maintenance Equipment	130	120	0
Loan to LeisureSK Ltd for improvement to the gym space at Stamford Leisure Pool	95	0	0
EV Charging Points	55	50	50
Total	3,564	3,081	3,124

6 CAPITAL FINANCING

6.1 The General Fund Capital Programme is detailed at **Appendix B**. The proposed schemes have been funded by a combination of external grants as well as capital and revenue reserves. No further internal borrowing has been necessary although the Council continues to carry the cost of internal borrowing and the financial implications of this are shown in **Table 6** (MRP) earlier in the report.

6.2 The adopted strategy of disposing of surplus assets to generate capital receipts has been in place for a several years but the identification of further assets for disposal is now limited. Consequently, the capital programme will continue to be financed from internal resources until borrowing is the only available option.

6.3 It is proposed that the General Fund Capital Programme for 2026/27 be financed from the following funding sources:

- £1.201m Capital Receipts Reserve
- £0.975m Grants and Contributions
- £1.245m Local Priorities Reserve
- £0.088m ICT Reserve
- £0.055m Climate Change Reserve

6.4 At the time of compiling this report, the £0.975m grant funding for Disabled Facilities Grants has not yet been confirmed (but is anticipated as part of the settlement) and therefore the financing or level of the 2026/27 investment may need to be amended when the level of grant funding is confirmed.

7 **RESERVES AND BALANCES**

7.1 Prudent financial management requires, the Council maintains a number of reserves to meet the following requirements:

- To ensure the Council has sufficient funds available to meet cash flow requirements and avoid unnecessary temporary borrowing and to protect services against unforeseen financial events – this is known as the ‘working balance’.
- A means of building up funds to meet known or predicted liabilities (earmarked) – these are shown as ‘discretionary’ and ‘governance’ reserves.

7.2 Through prudent financial management, the Council is able to establish a number of specific general reserves to provide funding for approved purposes usually in respect of specific services or corporate ambitions.

7.3 A summary of the proposed reserve movements to fund the General Fund Revenue and Capital Budgets are set out at **Table 12** below. Full details of the General Fund Reserves can be found at **Appendix C**.

Table 12 – Proposed General Fund Revenue Reserve Movements

Reserve Heading	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000
Climate Change Reserve	(55)	(50)	(50)
Street Scene	(246)	0	0
Local Priorities Reserve	(2,193)	(1,710)	(1,614)
Market Reserve	(50)	0	0
Market Towns Investment Fund	550	0	0
Property Maintenance	(1,000)	(440)	(320)
Leisure & Community	367	0	0
Leisure Investment	500	0	0
Waste Services	2,059	0	0

Pensions	469	(31)	0
Budget Stabilisation	1,374	0	0
Building Control	(27)	(26)	0
Football 3G Pitch	25	25	0
Special Expense Area Reserve	169	160	157
New Burdens	(50)	0	0

7.4 The following paragraphs set out the reasons for major uses of either new reserves established or those that have been allocated additional resources:

Movements to existing reserves

- **Climate Change Reserve** – this Reserve was established to fund initiatives to support the delivery of the Climate Change Strategy. The proposed use in 2026/27 is to fund EV Charging Points at specific locations including council car parks (£55k).
- **Local Priorities Reserve** – this Reserve is the Council's primary discretionary revenue reserve and is the source of funding for one-off in-year budget amendments. The reserve has also been a source of capital financing as the level of the capital reserves have been insufficient. New Homes Bonus receipts have been the primary source of funding but, as outlined in the government's Fair Funding Review 2.0, New Homes Bonus will cease as a funding stream. However, it seems unlikely the reserve will be replenished because the primary contributor is no longer available and therefore the balance is forecast to reduce to a balance of **£1.3m** by March 2029.

It is proposed that **£1.245m** of this reserve is used to contribute towards the 2026/27 capital programme including: £1.020m for Asset Investment vehicle replacement; £0.130m for grounds maintenance equipment and £0.95m for a loan to LeisureSK Ltd for further investment at the leisure centres. A further £118k will be drawn down to fund the play parks revenue maintenance works (£100k) and support the requirements of the Local Plan (£18k).

- **Property Maintenance Reserve** – this reserve was established to support ongoing investment in council assets and to reduce the maintenance backlog. As part of the 2025/26 budget setting process, a growth bid for an initial £2m pump prime investment to address revenue backlog maintenance issues was allocated across 2025/26 and 2026/27. £1m will be drawn from this reserve in 2026/27 as part of the second year of the programme.
- **Leisure & Community Reserve** – an additional £367k has been added to this reserve to enable it to be widened in order to support both leisure and community projects across the district. This allocation will increase the balance in the reserve to £500k.
- **Leisure Investment Reserve** – As part of the outturn for 2025/26 £500k was allocated to deal with capital investment requirements across the Council's Leisure sites. The programme of works is focused around high priority investment works but it is also recognised as part of managing an aging asset

base further works will still be required and therefore it is proposed to allocate a further £500k to continue with this required investment.

- **Waste & Street Scene Reserve** – this reserve was established from the packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (pEPR) payment previously announced by Government to support the implementation of new legislation set out in the Environment Act 2021. A further allocation of £1.813m has been awarded in 2026/27 which will be transferred into this reserve.
- **Pension Reserve** – a transfer of £500k to this reserve is proposed to provide resilience of any transformation impact costs associated with Local Government Reorganisation.
- **Budget Stabilisation Reserve** – based on the forecast business rate collection fund surplus in 2026/27 it is proposed to allocate £1.047m into this reserve to help deal with the future deficits that are currently modelled on the basis of the multi-year settlement.

New Reserves

It is proposed the following new reserve is created:

- **Market Towns Investment Fund** – this is a proposed new reserve of £500k to be established to provide investment in the four market towns following the success of the Future High Streets Fund programme which is now nearing completion.

Closed Reserves

It is proposed the following reserves are closed down and balances transferred to another reserve:

- **Markets Reserve** – this Reserve was established to support the continued regeneration of the markets and to deliver specific actions set out in the Markets Action Plan. The actions associated with this reserve are closely aligned with the new Markets Towns Investment Fund and therefore it is proposed the balance on this reserve of **£50k** is transferred to this new reserve.
- **Street Scene Reserve** – due to the interrelated nature of the work between the waste service and street scene teams it is proposed to transfer the balance on this reserve of £246k into the waste services reserve to increase flexibility to deliver service requirements.

7.5 Based on the above reserve movements the impact on the overall General Fund reserve balances is summarised in **Table 13** below. Over the 3 year financial period the level of reserves reduces by **£3.6m** based on the forecast balance as at 31 March 2026. The level of working balance of **£2.5m** is maintained within the target of 10-15% of the value of the net cost of services.

Table 13 – Summary General Fund Reserve Balances

	Forecast Balance as at 31 March 2026 £'000	Forecast Balance as at 31 March 2027 £'000	Forecast Balance as at 31 March 2028 £'000	Forecast Balance as at 31 March 2029 £'000
Discretionary Reserves	12,000	12,762	11,035	8,451
Governance Reserves	4,879	6,562	6,690	6,847
Total General Reserves	16,879	19,324	17,725	15,298
Government Grants	2,007	1,957	1,957	1,957
Working Balance	2,535	2,535	2,535	2,535
Total Revenue Reserves	21,421	23,816	22,217	19,790
Capital Reserves	2,332	1,131	514	349
Total General Fund Reserves	23,753	24,947	22,731	20,139

8 Reasons for the Recommendations

8.1 The Council is legally required to set a balanced budget each financial year.

9 Consultation

9.1 The Budget - Joint OSC offers the opportunity for Members to consider the budget proposals for 2026/27 and to make any recommendations to Cabinet for their consideration on 15th January 2026.

10 Appendices

Appendix A - Revenue summary – General Fund (GF)

Appendix B – Capital Programme & Financing Statement – GF

Appendix C – Reserves Statement – GF

Appendix D – GF Risk Register

Appendix E – GF Equality Impact Assessment