

Summary of comments and feedback to Cabinet from Governance and Audit Committee Members following consideration in April 2024 of Medium-Term Financial Strategy and Plan 2025/26 – 2027/28.

- Noted the risks and mitigation in place around the introduction of the new financial system and the capacity of the finance team.
- Highlighted the importance of the tracker developed to monitor savings being delivered, the need to raise awareness when savings / additional income targets are in doubt or not achievable and be clear what the implications are.
- Queried the rationale behind the relatively high proportion of volunteers from the voluntary exit scheme not being taken forward for agreement.
- Stressed the need for transformational change to bridge future funding gaps in the MTFP and the need to have the right organisational behaviours and culture to achieve transformational change as well as the need for funding.
- Encouraged the use of the 2016 CIPFA Benchmarking toolkit in the review of fees and charges workstream planned.
- Considered the risks posed by WG proposals for Council Tax Reform and the triennial review of the pension fund. Queried the scrutiny arrangements of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority and the position regarding Members salaries (previously known as Members Allowances).
- Stressed the need to review the timetable of committee meetings so that the Governance and Audit Committee can review before Cabinet and Council consider the budget.
- Re-iterated the importance of links between Revenue and Capital and requested that the Council's treasury management advisors be asked to review the long term impacts of capital decisions made on the revenue budget.
- Highlighted the importance of public engagement and the need for the public to have a better understanding of the Council's financial position.
- Noted the risks and mitigation around imprudent use of reserves.

- Welcomed the financial resilience appendix and requested that this be revisited on an annual basis.