

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.

Summary of comments and feedback to Cabinet from Performance Scrutiny Committee following consideration in June 2024 of Medium-Term Financial Strategy and Plan 2025/26 – 2027/28 (April version).

- Queried how up to date the data available was that underpinned the MTFP.
- Queried the reasons behind the pressures included for Schools and Adults Social Care.
- Sought assurances on the role of the Committee in developing the Council's strategy for setting future balanced budgets to ensure there was no duplication of efforts.
- Noted that arrangements were underway to hold a meeting with City, Town and Community Councils (CTCC) to update them on the budget position
- Raised concerns over the perceived high number of experienced staff leaving for a variety of reasons.
- Queried whether the estimated prediction of £700,000 from car parking fees was on target to be realised.
- Noted the mitigating steps being taken to make sure the Council set and delivered a balanced budget for the current year and in forthcoming years.