

Budget Review Group

Record of the meeting held on Wednesday 5 February 2025 in the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00pm.

Present: Councillors: Armstrong, Barton, Collins, R Dickson, Falp, Milton, Rosu, and Phillips.

Also Present: Councillor Chilvers, Portfolio Holder – Resources; Councillor Adkins, Portfolio Holder – Housing; Andrew Rollins, Head of Finance; Steven Leathley, Strategic Finance Manager; Lisa Barker, Head of Housing; and Mia Matthews, Principal Committee Services Officer.

5. **Appointment of Chair**

Councillor Milton was appointed to Chair the meeting.

6. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Aizlewood and Hales.

7. **Declarations of Interest**

Minute Number 8 – General Fund Revenue and Capital Budget 2025/26

Councillor Barton declared an interest because he owned a property that might be deemed as a second home.

Councillor Dickson declared an interest because he was a member of Everyone Active.

Councillor Falp declared an interest as whilst she was not a member of Everyone Active, she used swimming pool facilities at leisure centres within the District.

8. **Cabinet Agenda (Non-Confidential items and reports) – Thursday 6 February 2025**

Item 5 – General Fund Revenue and Capital Budget 2025/26

The Budget Review Group thanked officers for their hard work in putting together the report.

The Group noted the importance of the change programme and savings expected to be delivered through this. Members requested Cabinet look into the potential of a cyber-attack and the risk profile of this. They expressed concerns around inflation and explored confidence in reserves.

The Group asked that the HRA business plan be brought forward alongside the base budget in future for Councillors to understand the budget within the context of this.

Item 6 – Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2025/26 (including Housing Rent Setting)

The Budget Review Group thanked officers for their hard work in putting together the report.

Members explored the decision to borrow monies externally to prevent the depletion of Council reserves and expressed the implications of this decision should be understood. The Group noted that this would be covered within the Treasury Management Strategy that will be brought to Cabinet at a later date but requested in future reports be brought together where possible in order for Members to see the bigger picture.

(The meeting ended at 7.29pm)

CHAIR OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
18 February 2025

CHAIR AUDIT & STANDARDS COMMITTEE
26 February 2025