Scrutiny Board:	Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board
Report Title	Medium Term Financial Strategy - Adult Services, Health and Wellbeing / Children and Families
Date of Meeting	Thursday, 13 November 2025
Report Author	Claire Spencer, Service Director - Finance
Lead Officer	Alex Thompson - Executive Director - Finance & Transformation
Wards Affected	(All Wards);
Identify exempt information and exemption category	N/A
Appendices (if any)	1. Medium-Term Financial Strategy (Cabinet Report – 15th October 2025) 2. Appendix 1 to Cabinet Report – Draft Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2026/27-203031 3. Draft Budget Proposals – Adult Services, Health and Wellbeing 4. Draft Budget Proposals – Children and Families

1. Executive Summary

1.1 At its meeting on 15th October 2025, the Cabinet considered and endorsed the draft Medium-Term Financial Strategy, and authorisation was given to commence a period of appropriate consultation on the proposals within the draft Strategy. As part of this consultation process, the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board is invited to consider and comment upon the proposals relating to the Adult Services, Health and Wellbeing and to the Children and Families portfolio areas of the council's budget, and to identify any recommendations it wishes to make. Any such recommendations will be reported to the Cabinet.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board considers and comments upon the information presented and determines whether it wishes to make any recommendations to Cabinet.

3. Background and Context

3.1 In February 2025, the Council approved its Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), which included a balanced budget for the 2025/26 financial year and indicative financial estimates and efficiency and income generation proposals for 2026/27.

3.2 Since February, the MTFS has been regularly reviewed and, during the current financial year, a budget shortfall for 2026/27 has emerged. This reflects ongoing refinement and testing of initial planning assumptions.

3.3 As at October 2025, there remains a forecast deficit position for 2026/27, and therefore a suite of additional efficiency and income generation proposals have been developed in order to address the forecast budget shortfall. Those efficiency and income generation proposals are currently subject to public consultation.

3.4 In accordance with the MTFS timetable, the efficiency and income generation proposals, and all other financial proposals relating to each portfolio area, will be presented to the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board for consideration and comment. At its meeting of 13th November 2025, the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board is asked to consider the financial proposals relating to the Adult Services, Health and Wellbeing, and to the Children and Families portfolio areas. These proposals are set out in appendices 3 and 4 to this report.

3.5 Effective scrutiny of the council's financial position and strategy is integral to the council's ability to achieve a sustainable budget that is aligned to its strategic priorities.

3.6 A revised MTFS will be presented to Cabinet and Full Council in February 2026, following receipt of feedback from the budget consultation exercise, feedback from the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board, and following the receipt of the Local Government Finance Settlement.

4. Consultation

4.1 Consultation and stakeholder engagement proposals set out within the report to Cabinet of 15th October 2025 will ensure that any subsequent decisions are fully informed and reasoned.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 Further details on all implications of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy are set out in the attached report to Cabinet and appendices.

6. Legal and Governance Implications

6.1 Further details on all implications of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy are set out in the attached report to Cabinet and appendices.

7. Risks

7.1 Details of the risks within the Medium-Term Financial Strategy are set out in the attached report to Cabinet and appendices.

8. Equality and Diversity Implications (including the public sector equality duty)

8.1 Further details on all implications of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy are set out in the attached report to Cabinet and appendices.

9. Other Relevant Implications

9.1 Further details on all implications of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy are set out in the attached report to Cabinet and appendices.

10. Background Documents

10.1 Medium-Term Financial Strategy and Budget 2025/26 and Council Tax Resolution 2025/26 – 25th February 2025

11. How does this deliver the Outcomes in the Council Plan?

11.1 The financial position of the authority determines the affordability of all of the authority's activities. This underpins the resources available to achieve the objectives of the Council Plan.

11.2 The proposals within the report to Cabinet support the objectives of the Council Plan by ensuring that the council aligns available resources most efficiently to meet its strategic policy and performance commitments. This ensures that the council's best value obligations are met.