

58 **GRA REVENUE BUDGET REPORT AND MTFS UPDATE 2024/25 TO 2026/27**

The Head of Finance, Procurement and Commercial Services introduced the report, as contained on pages 331 to 352 of the Book of Reports, the purpose which was to:

1. To enable the Council to set a balanced Revenue Budget for the forthcoming financial year 2024/25.
2. To present to members the updated Medium-Term Financial Forecast (MTFF) for the following financial years 2025/26 to 2026/27, noting the latest forecast budget gap of £1.348m, comprising:
 - £1.620m in 2025/26
 - (£0.272)m in 2026/27
3. To inform members of the reserves position as at 31 March 2023 and the forecast position to 2026/27.
4. To present to members the Capital Strategy 2024/25 to 2026/27.
5. To enable the Council to set the Capital Programme for the three years 2024/25 to 2026/27.

Comments and questions were raised in respect of the following:

- Staff vacancy factor – use of interim staff / agency expenditure / list of vacancies
- Further detail requested on growth in tax basis not being as anticipated
- Some houses registered as business premises / Airbnb, so no longer in Council tax
- Why is there only a £6k reduction in Members Allowances
- TVD showing return in 2026/27 of £500k at Appendix 1, this figure differs from the business plan

The Head of Finance, Procurement and Commercial Services, commented that it would be helpful if questions were presented prior to the meeting if possible. He informed Members that he would provide a response to the above questions following the meeting.

- RESOLVED: A. That the report be noted.
- B. That the Head of Finance, Procurement and Commercial Services provide a response to Members in relation to the above comments and questions raised at the meeting.