

Date of meeting: 24 November 2025

Title of Report: **Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025/26 – 2029/30**

Lead Member: Councillor Mark Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance)

Lead Strategic Director: Ian Trisk-Grove (Service Director for Finance)

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Your Reference:

Key Decision: No

Confidentiality: Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

Under the Council's Financial Regulations, the Responsible Financial Officer (Section 151 officer) is required to report the medium term budget prospects. Council is asked to approve the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for the period 2025/26 to 2029/30.

The MTFS reflects the latest funding projections and sets out the forecasted budget shortfall in each year. The Strategy does not set out projected savings over the plan period; savings required for 2026/27 will be incorporated into the annual budget to be presented to Council in February 2026 and incorporated into the revised Medium-Term Financial Plan to be presented and approved alongside the budget. Cabinet have recommended the Strategy to Council.

Recommendations and Reasons

That Council approves the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025/26 – 2029/30

Reason: The MTFS forms a key part of the budget setting process, which itself is essential to maintain financial control.

Alternative options considered and rejected

This document is the required update to the Council's MTFP from February 2025, outlining the key drivers that will inform the 2026/27 budget and setting the foundation of the next MTFP. Our Financial Regulations require us to produce regular reports on our finance resources and as such there is no alternative option.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

The report is fundamentally linked to delivering the priorities within the Council's Corporate Plan. Allocating limited resources to key priorities will maximise the benefits to the residents of Plymouth.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

The resource implications are set out in the body of the report.

Financial Risks

The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) is the Council's primary financial strategic and planning document linking the revenue budget, the capital programme and the treasury management strategy. The Strategy sets out the financial planning assumptions for the next five years and ensures resource allocation is in line with Plymouth's priorities. A full analysis of the financial risks will be set out in the Budget Report to Full Council at the meeting in February 2026.

Legal Implications

(Legal comments provided by Liz Bryant)

Whilst there is no legislative requirement for the Council to produce a MTFS, section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires the Council to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs. The establishment of a MTFS is one of the mechanisms used for ensuring the Council's proper financial administration and budgetary control.

The development of a MTFS and the monitoring of budgets and financial information is also a significant contributor to meeting the Council's Best Value legal duty and assists with demonstrating compliance with that legal duty.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

There are no impacts directly arising from this report.

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

The reducing revenue and capital resources across the public sector has been identified as a key risk within our Strategic Risk register. The ability to deliver spending plans within budget is paramount to ensuring the Council can achieve its objectives.

Appendices

*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Background papers:

*Add rows as required to box below

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

Fin	OW. 25.26. 091	Leg	LS/00 0033 90/29 /LB/I 3/11/ 25	Mon Off	N/A	HR	N/A	Assets	N/A	Strat Proc	N/A
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Ian Trisk-Grove (Service Director for Finance)											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes Date agreed: 31/10/2025											
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Mark Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) approved by email Date approved: 31/10/2025											