

Cabinet



Date of meeting:	09 February 2026
Title of Report:	Budget Scrutiny Recommendations
Lead Member:	Councillor Mark Coker (Chair of the Scrutiny Management Board)
Lead Strategic Director:	David Northey (Interim Service Director for Finance)
Author:	Jamie Sheldon (Democratic, Governance and Scrutiny Service Manager)
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Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

This report presents the recommendations from the Scrutiny Management Board, Budget Scrutiny sessions held on 21, 22 and 28 January 2026. The Board undertook a detailed review of the 2026/27 Draft Budget, Cabinet Member Risks, and background papers, hearing evidence from Cabinet Members and Senior Officers. This report outlines the full set of recommendations together with the rationale underpinning them.

Recommendations and Reasons

- I. That Cabinet notes the Budget Scrutiny Recommendations as set out in the report and agrees to provide a response.

Reason: The Constitution requires scrutiny recommendations to be presented to Cabinet as part of the budget setting process

Alternative options considered and rejected

Not to present Budget Scrutiny recommendations to Cabinet: This option is rejected because the Constitution requires scrutiny recommendations to be formally presented to Cabinet for consideration. Scrutiny Management Board has a constitutional duty to examine the budget and report its findings.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

The Scrutiny Management Board considered the themes within the Corporate Plan to ensure that proposals within the budget deliver against the Council's vision and priorities. Budget scrutiny is an essential part of the Council's budget setting process, reflecting the Council's commitment to democracy through ensuring councillors have meaningful input into budget decisions, and co-operation through working collaboratively with Cabinet to strengthen budget proposals through constructive challenge.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

Recommendations within the report impact on the 2026/27 budget and subject to the response from Cabinet could have impact on future years budgets within the scope of the current Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Financial Risks

There are no financial risks anticipated from considering these recommendations.

Legal Implications

The Constitution requires Cabinet to consider scrutiny recommendations as part of the budget-setting process. Scrutiny's examination of budget proposals contributes to transparency and accountability in budget setting.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

There are no environmental implications as a direct result of this report.

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

** When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*

The recommendations propose ongoing monitoring of Cabinet identified budget risks through scrutiny work programmes and quarterly budget reporting,

Appendices

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
A	Budget Scrutiny Recommendations							

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:

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: David Northey (Interim Service Director for Finance)

Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes

Date agreed: 06/02/2026

Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Mark Coker (Chair, Scrutiny Management Board)

Date approved: 06/02/2026