

COUNCIL

Thursday, 26 February 2026

Attendance:

Councillors Present

Achwal S (The Mayor)

Gordon-Smith	Learney
Bailey-Morgan	Lee
Batho	Morris
Becker	Murphy
Bennett	Pett
Bolton	Pinniger
Brook	Porter
Brophy	Power
Chamberlain	Rutter
Clear	Scott
Cook	Small
Cramoysan	Thompson
Cunningham	Tippett-Cooper
Cutler	Tod
Eve	Wallace
Godfrey	Warwick
Horrill	Westwood
Laming	White
Langford-Smith	Williams
Latham	

Apologies for Absence:

Councillors Achwal V, Aron, Miller, Reach and Wise

[Recording of meeting](#)

1. **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 14 JANUARY 2026**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 14 January 2026 be approved and adopted.

2. **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Councillors Porter, Tod, Wallace, Warwick and Williams each declared disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of agenda items due to their role as Hampshire County Councillors. Councillor Pett declared a disclosable pecuniary

interest in respect of agenda items due to his role as the Council's representative on the South Downs National Park Authority.

However, as there was no material conflict of interest, they each remained in the room, spoke and voted under the dispensation granted on behalf of the Audit and Governance Committee to participate and vote in all matters which might have a County Council or a South Downs National Park Authority involvement.

Councillor Scott declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of agenda item 5, Housing Revenue Account Budget (HRA) 2026/27 (CAB3540) as a Winchester City Council housing tenant. Councillor Becker also declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of the same item as a property owner with a connection to a council sewage treatment works for which she paid an annual fee.

However, as there is no material conflict of interest in this item, they both remained in the room, spoke and voted under the dispensation granted on behalf of the Audit and Governance Committee that enabled them to both participate and vote on the matters in the report.

3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, LEADER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE.**

The Mayor referred to recent engagements and then announced his forthcoming charities events.

The Leader provided an update on several matters relating to local government reorganisation, elections, and devolution.

The Leader reminded Members that, following the previous Full Council meeting, he had written to the Government supporting the continuation of local elections, reflecting the Council's cross-party position. The Leader suggested that the debate, despite changes to the Government's position regarding local elections, had nevertheless been a useful opportunity to set out the Council's views. The Leader then advised that the Government had sought views on the design of the Structural Change Order, which included matters such as the governance of the joint committee that was to oversee reorganisation following the proposed announcement in March of this year regarding boundaries and the establishment of shadow authorities in April 2027. The name "Mid Hampshire" had been proposed for the new authority, but it was emphasised that new councils should retain the ability to choose a name once boundaries had been finalised. The Leader also reported that parish councils had been consulted on the potential synchronisation of parish elections with future unitary or mayoral elections; parishes expressed support, given the cost of running standalone elections. The Council's full response was submitted to MHCLG on 17 February.

The Leader then advised that a cross-party committee of the Council, comprising group leaders and Cabinet members, had been established to guide the Council's work on reorganisation. The Leader stressed that although the Council was preparing on the basis that reorganisation would proceed, recent uncertainties such as changes to national policy and the evolving position on

devolution meant that this could not be taken for granted. Therefore, this should be borne in mind when considering the council's budget.

Regarding Devolution, it was reported that all upper-tier authorities had now taken decisions via their full councils enabling the structural change order for devolution to progress, with respective cabinet meetings due to take place over the next few weeks. The Leader acknowledged that the upper-tier authorities had secured an improved financial settlement, increasing the combined authority's interim funding from one-third to 40% before a mayor was appointed. Of particular relevance to districts was the newly secured Strategic Place Partnership with Homes England, which would be important for housing delivery, regeneration, and planning matters. The Leader emphasised the need for strong district involvement in this work.

Finally, the Leader reported that scaffolding would be erected around the Buttercross in Winchester shortly to enable refurbishment works to begin.

The Chief Executive announced apologies for the meeting.

4. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

One written question had been received from a member of the public, who attended the meeting to present it. A supplementary question was also asked. The question and response are set out on the [council's website](#).

5. **TO CONSIDER AND DETERMINE THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDED MINUTES: CABINET HELD 12 FEBRUARY 2026 - HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGET 2026/27 (CAB3540 - REVISED)**

Councillor Cutler (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation) moved that the recommended minute of Cabinet be approved and adopted (seconded by Councillor Tod, Leader and Cabinet Member for Regeneration).

Council noted a correction of a typographical error at Recommendation 11 of Report CAB3540 and the recommended minute. Reference to the CPI figure should read September 2025, not 2024.

Council proceeded to ask questions and then debate the matters in the recommended minute and report.

RESOLVED:

That the recommended minute of Cabinet held 12 February 2026 (as follows) be approved and adopted (with the correction referred to above):

1. That the HRA Financial Plan operating account, including annual working balances be noted, as detailed in Appendix 6 of the report.
2. That the 2026/27 Housing Revenue Account budget be approved, as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report.

3. That the proposed capital programme for maintenance, improvements and renewals totalling £162.7m be approved.

4. That capital expenditure be approved and authority be delegated to the Strategic Director with responsibility for housing to enter into necessary contracts for the 2026/27 capital programme of £22.8m, as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report in accordance with Financial Procedure Rule 7.4.

5. That a change in approach to delivery of retrofit installation of solar panels and batteries to achieve best value for money following the decision by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero to withhold Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund grant on battery installations be approved, as outlined at paragraphs 11.56 to 11.63 of the report.

6. That the proposed 10 year capital programme for new homes totalling £202.8m, and expenditure of £21.8m in 2026/27 be approved, as detailed in Appendix 4 of the report in accordance with Financial Procedure Rule 7.4.

7. That the financing of the HRA Capital Programme be approved as detailed in Appendix 5 of the report, (noting the planned repayment of borrowing following the 1000 homes programme).

8. That the revenue savings target of £1.13m at Appendix 7 of the report as amended be approved, which was outlined to Cabinet in November 2025 (CAB3523) and includes additional savings as outlined at paragraphs 11.32-11.38 of the report.

9. That the Section 151 Officer be authorised, in consultation with the Strategic Director with responsibility for Housing to approve buybacks of individual former HRA properties sold under the Right to Buy during 2026/27, following positive financial appraisal, utilising the unallocated New Homes budget (see paragraph 11.26 of the report).

10. That subject to the acceptance of the expression of interest to the Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) round 4:

a. the Strategic Director with responsibility for Housing be authorised to enter into a revised Memorandum of Understanding with Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government to secure additional LAHF funding.

b. Authority be delegated to the Section 151 Officer to approve capital expenditure (subject to financial appraisal, in accordance with Financial Procedure Rule 7.4) of up to £12m to purchase up to 30 properties between 2026/27 and 2029/30 using the approved HRA unallocated new build budget, to be part-financed by LAHF grant with any balance via prudential borrowing.

c. The Corporate Head – Asset Management and the Strategic Director with responsibility for Housing be authorised to purchase up to 30 properties. (Paragraphs 11.74-11.78 of the report).

11. That the average rent increase for 2026/27 for all affordable, Shared Ownership and social housing of 4.8% be approved, based on the September 2025 CPI figure of 3.8% +1% (Paragraphs 11.6-11.8 of the report).

12. That amendments to HRA tenant service charges in 2026/27 be approved to reflect cost recovery based on 2024/25 actual costs (see paragraphs 11.41 to 11.45 of the report).

13. That it be noted that the draft HRA Business 30-year Plan is viable and sustainable and has the capacity to support the delivery of 1,000 new affordable homes.

6. **TO CONSIDER AND DETERMINE THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDED MINUTES: CABINET HELD 12 FEBRUARY 2026 - GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2026/27 (CAB3541 - REVISED)**

Councillor Cutler (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation) moved that the recommended minute of Cabinet be approved and adopted (seconded by Councillor Tod, Leader and Cabinet Member for Regeneration).

Council proceeded to ask questions and then debate the matters in the recommended minute and report.

AMENDMENT – Moved by Councillor Lee and seconded by Councillor Bailey-Morgan:

Add new Recommendation 6 (d).

£130,000 to establish a two-year fixed-term River Catchment Officer post and associated project costs, to provide strategic leadership and coordinate delivery of work to strengthen river protection and recovery across the district, funded from the Transitional Reserve.

Councillor Lee introduced the Amendment. Following continuation of the debate of the original motion (the recommended minute of Cabinet), a second Amendment was then proposed.

AMENDMENT – Moved by Councillor Godfrey and seconded by Councillor Bolton:

Add new Recommendation 6 (d).

A £1m business support budget to provide hospitality venues across the Winchester district with a one off 15% Hospitality Relief for 2026/2027 for properties subject to a business rates increase in 2026/2027 and a further

one off 15% Hospitality Relief for hospitality venues not in receipt of Pub Relief for 2026/2027, with the cost, including £15,000 for scheme administration, to be met from the transitional reserve.

The Mayor then called for an adjournment to the meeting whilst the first Amendment above was circulated in writing and for the groups to informally discuss. The second Amendment above had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Upon its reconvening, Council proceeded to firstly debate the matters in the first Amendment above (Moved by Councillor Lee and seconded by Councillor Bailey-Morgan).

At conclusion of debate, following the seconder of the Amendment speaking (Councillor Bailey-Morgan - having reserved his right), Councillor Cutler was then invited to exercise his right of reply before Council then voted on the Amendment.

In accordance with legislative requirements on recorded votes at Budget meetings, a recorded vote was taken on the Amendment before Council.

The following Members voted in favour of the Amendment before Council:

1. Councillor Liam Bailey-Morgan
2. Councillor Neil Bolton
3. Councillor Caroline Brook
4. Councillor Susan Cook
5. Councillor Patrick Cunningham
6. Councillor Stephen Godfrey
7. Councillor Caroline Horrill
8. Councillor Paula Langford-Smith
9. Councillor Danny Lee
10. Councillor Malcolm Wallace
11. Councillor Jan Warwick
12. Councillor Suzanne White

The following Members voted against of the Amendment:

1. Councillor James Batho
2. Councillor Kathleen Becker
3. Councillor Michael Bennett
4. Councillor Adrian Brophy
5. Councillor Chris Chamberlain
6. Councillor Angela Clear
7. Councillor Steve Cramoysan
8. Councillor Neil Cutler
9. Councillor Nathan Eve
10. Councillor Russell Gordon-Smith
11. Councillor Brian Laming
12. Councillor Ritchie Latham
13. Councillor Kelsie Learney

14. Councillor Jonny Morris
15. Councillor Richard Murphy
16. Councillor Jerry Pett
17. Councillor Clare Pinniger
18. Councillor Margot Power
19. Councillor Jane Rutter
20. Councillor Jamie Scott
21. Councillor Anne Small
22. Councillor Lucille Thompson
23. Councillor John Tippet-Cooper
24. Councillor Martin Tod
25. Councillor Chris Westwood
26. Councillor Jonathan Williams

The following Members abstained from voting:

1. Councillor Sudhakar Achwal

The following Members were absent during voting:

1. Councillor Jackie Porter

AMENDMENT LOST.

Following its introduction by the proposer (Councillor Godfrey), Council then proceeded to debate the matters in the second Amendment.

At conclusion of debate, following the seconder of the Amendment speaking (Councillor Bolton - having reserved his right), Councillor Cutler was then invited to exercise his right of reply before Council then voted on the Amendment.

In accordance with legislative requirements on recorded votes at Budget meetings, a recorded vote was taken on the Amendment before Council.

The following Members voted in favour of the Amendment before Council:

1. Councillor Neil Bolton
2. Councillor Caroline Brook
3. Councillor Susan Cook
4. Councillor Patrick Cunningham
5. Councillor Stephen Godfrey
6. Councillor Caroline Horrill
7. Councillor Paula Langford-Smith
8. Councillor Jan Warwick

The following Members voted against of the Amendment:

1. Councillor Liam Bailey-Morgan
2. Councillor James Batho
3. Councillor Kathleen Becker
4. Councillor Michael Bennett

5. Councillor Adrian Brophy
6. Councillor Chris Chamberlain
7. Councillor Angela Clear
8. Councillor Steve Cramoysan
9. Councillor Neil Cutler
10. Councillor Nathan Eve
11. Councillor Russell Gordon-Smith
12. Councillor Brian Laming
13. Councillor Ritchie Latham
14. Councillor Kelsie Learney
15. Councillor Danny Lee
16. Councillor Jonny Morris
17. Councillor Richard Murphy
18. Councillor Jerry Pett
19. Councillor Clare Pinniger
20. Councillor Jackie Porter
21. Councillor Margot Power
22. Councillor Jane Rutter
23. Councillor Jamie Scott
24. Councillor Anne Small
25. Councillor Lucille Thompson
26. Councillor John Tippet-Cooper
27. Councillor Martin Tod
28. Councillor Malcolm Wallace
29. Councillor Chris Westwood
30. Councillor Suzanne White
31. Councillor Jonathan Williams

The following Members abstained from voting:

1. Councillor Sudhakar Achwal

AMENDMENT LOST.

Following summing up by Councillor Cutler who was the proposer of the original substantive motion (which was the Recommended Minute of Cabinet), and the seconder (Councillor Tod) then exercising his right to speak, in accordance with legislative requirements on recorded votes at Budget meetings, a recorded vote was first taken regarding Recommendations 1 – 7 of the Recommended Minute of Cabinet.

The following Members voted in favour Recommendations 1 – 7 of the Recommended Minute of Cabinet:

1. Councillor Liam Bailey-Morgan
2. Councillor James Batho
3. Councillor Kathleen Becker
4. Councillor Michael Bennett
5. Councillor Adrian Brophy
6. Councillor Chris Chamberlain
7. Councillor Angela Clear

8. Councillor Susan Cook
9. Councillor Steve Cramoysan
10. Councillor Neil Cutler
11. Councillor Nathan Eve
12. Councillor Russell Gordon-Smith
13. Councillor Brian Laming
14. Councillor Ritchie Latham
15. Councillor Kelsie Learney
16. Councillor Danny Lee
17. Councillor Jonny Morris
18. Councillor Richard Murphy
19. Councillor Jerry Pett
20. Councillor Clare Pinniger
21. Councillor Jackie Porter
22. Councillor Margot Power
23. Councillor Jane Rutter
24. Councillor Jamie Scott
25. Councillor Anne Small
26. Councillor Lucille Thompson
27. Councillor John Tippet-Cooper
28. Councillor Martin Tod
29. Councillor Malcolm Wallace
30. Councillor Chris Westwood
31. Councillor Suzanne White
32. Councillor Jonathan Williams

The following Members voted against Recommendations 1 – 7 of the Recommended Minute of Cabinet:

1. Councillor Neil Bolton
2. Councillor Caroline Brook
3. Councillor Patrick Cunningham
4. Councillor Stephen Godfrey
5. Councillor Caroline Horrill
6. Councillor Paula Langford-Smith
7. Councillor Jan Warwick

The following Members abstained from voting:

1. Councillor Sudhakar Achwal

RESOLVED:

That the recommended minute of Cabinet held 12 February 2026 (Recommendations 1 – 7, as follows) be approved and adopted:

1. That the level of General Fund Budget for 2026/27 be agreed and the summary be recommended as shown in Appendix A of CAB3541, as amended, due to the late change in the Government's local government financial settlement announced by MHCLG on 10 February 2026.

2. That in relation to the Greener Faster Council Plan priority:
a. a growth of £30,000 be approved to increase the annual Town Account tree maintenance budget as a result of risks associated with the effects of climate change and associated tree disease.

3. That in relation to the Healthy Communities priority of the new Council Plan:
a. the revised income bands for the Council Tax Reduction scheme for working age applicants (set out in Appendix E of the report) be approved, that ensure claimants continue to receive the appropriate level of support after the DWP's increase in Universal Credit rates with effect from 1 April 2026.

4. That in relation to the Efficient and Effective priority:
a. a growth to the annual expenditure budget of £89,000 be approved for improvements to make the way our residents' contact us is easier and faster.

5. That other service expenditure annual budgets be amended as follows, in response to revised estimates:

- a. Utility budget increased by £150,000 in order to cover the additional forecast utility costs from 2026/27.
- b. An additional budget of £115,000 per annum from 2026/27 for the Corporate Head of Resources.
- c. A growth of £130,000 to reflect the net budget pressure of the migration of the Land Charges service to HM Land Registry.
- d. A net budget saving of £215,000 per annum to reflect changes to forecast employers' pension contributions and rates.

6. That one-off service expenditure budgets be approved as follows:

a. A £470,000 digital transformation budget, relating to the implementation of improvements to make our residents' digital contact with us easier and faster, with £400,000 funded from the digital transformation reserve and £70,000 funded from the transitional reserve.

b. A Town Account budget of £15,000 for feasibility work related to speed indicators within the town area, funded by the town reserve.

c. £1.7m for essential structural and repair works to the Guildhall to maintain this listed civic building (and required prior to further decision making on the future operating model of the Guildhall and Abbey House) funded from Property - Asset Management Reserve, and delegates authority to:

- i. the Strategic Director to appoint, in accordance with the council's Contract Procedure Rules (CPRs), all necessary consultants to prepare design work for the works required to the Guildhall through a competitive bid process or framework;
- ii. the Strategic Director to undertake a procurement exercise to obtain bids or use of a framework to appoint a

- contractor(s) for the works required to the Guildhall, in accordance with the council's CPRs;
- iii. the Strategic Director to appoint the relevant contractors and to negotiate and agree contractual heads of terms with the contract appointment; and
 - iv. the Service Lead: Legal to prepare and enter into all relevant agreements, negotiate the contractual agreements and see them to completion to enable the Guildhall works.

7. That following a review of earmarked reserves they be amended as follows:

- a. £2m of the Major Investment Reserve be re-allocated to the Property Reserve to fund maintenance requirements of corporate properties.
- b. £1m from the Major Investment Reserve be re-allocated to the Car Parks Property Reserve to fund maintenance of and investment in parking.
- c. An additional £500,000 per annum be set aside into the Property Reserve, for the maintenance of and investment in operational assets.

In accordance with legislative requirements on recorded votes at Budget meetings, a recorded vote was then taken regarding Recommendations 8– 12 of the Recommended Minute of Cabinet.

The following Members voted in favour Recommendations 8 – 12 of the Recommended Minute of Cabinet:

1. Councillor Liam Bailey-Morgan
2. Councillor James Batho
3. Councillor Kathleen Becker
4. Councillor Michael Bennett
5. Councillor Neil Bolton
6. Councillor Adrian Brophy
7. Councillor Chris Chamberlain
8. Councillor Angela Clear
9. Councillor Susan Cook
10. Councillor Steve Cramoysan
11. Councillor Patrick Cunningham
12. Councillor Neil Cutler
13. Councillor Nathan Eve
14. Councillor Stephen Godfrey
15. Councillor Russell Gordon-Smith
16. Councillor Caroline Horrill
17. Councillor Brian Laming
18. Councillor Paula Langford-Smith
19. Councillor Ritchie Latham
20. Councillor Kelsie Learney
21. Councillor Danny Lee
22. Councillor Jonny Morris
23. Councillor Richard Murphy

24. Councillor Jerry Pett
25. Councillor Clare Pinniger
26. Councillor Jackie Porter
27. Councillor Margot Power
28. Councillor Jane Rutter
29. Councillor Jamie Scott
30. Councillor Anne Small
31. Councillor Lucille Thompson
32. Councillor John Tippet-Cooper
33. Councillor Martin Tod
34. Councillor Malcolm Wallace
35. Councillor Jan Warwick
36. Councillor Chris Westwood
37. Councillor Suzanne White
38. Councillor Jonathan Williams

No Members voted against Recommendations 8 – 12 of the Recommended Minute of Cabinet.

The following Members abstained from voting:

1. Councillor Sudhakar Achwal
2. Councillor Caroline Brook

RESOLVED:

That the recommended minute of Cabinet held 12 February 2026 (Recommendations 8 – 12, as follows) be approved and adopted:

8. That the sum of £1,434,779 be treated as Special Expenses under Section 35 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 in respect of the Winchester Town area as set out in section 17 and Appendix D of the report.

9. That the Council Tax for the Special Expenses in the Winchester Town area at Band D for 2026/27 be increased by 5% (£4.50) to £94.58.

10. That the surplus balance on the Council Tax Collection Fund for distribution to this Council, calculated in January 2026 of £107,910, be approved.

11. That the level of Council Tax at Band D for City Council services for 2026/27 be increased to £168.49, an increase of £4.83 reflecting an average Council tax increase of 2.95% (the maximum allowed under the referendum limit of 2.99% when combined with the increase to the Special Expenses for the town area).

12. That the carry forward of the balance of the Council Tax Exceptional Hardship Fund in 2025/26 to 2026/27 be approved in order to extend this vital support for those on low income.

Council Tax for the City of Winchester for the year commencing 1 April 2026.

In accordance with legislative requirements on recorded votes at Budget Meetings, a recorded vote was then taken regarding the Council Tax Resolutions (1 – 7), as set out on pages 93 – 99 of the agenda pack.

The following Members voted in favour of the Council Tax Resolutions (1 – 7):

1. Councillor Liam Bailey-Morgan
2. Councillor James Batho
3. Councillor Kathleen Becker
4. Councillor Michael Bennett
5. Councillor Neil Bolton
6. Councillor Caroline Brook
7. Councillor Adrian Brophy
8. Councillor Chris Chamberlain
9. Councillor Angela Clear
10. Councillor Susan Cook
11. Councillor Steve Cramoysan
12. Councillor Patrick Cunningham
13. Councillor Neil Cutler
14. Councillor Nathan Eve
15. Councillor Stephen Godfrey
16. Councillor Russell Gordon-Smith
17. Councillor Caroline Horrill
18. Councillor Brian Laming
19. Councillor Paula Langford-Smith
20. Councillor Ritchie Latham
21. Councillor Kelsie Learney
22. Councillor Danny Lee
23. Councillor Jonny Morris
24. Councillor Richard Murphy
25. Councillor Jerry Pett
26. Councillor Clare Pinniger
27. Councillor Jackie Porter
28. Councillor Margot Power
29. Councillor Jane Rutter
30. Councillor Jamie Scott
31. Councillor Anne Small
32. Councillor Lucille Thompson
33. Councillor John Tippet-Cooper
34. Councillor Martin Tod
35. Councillor Malcolm Wallace
36. Councillor Jan Warwick
37. Councillor Chris Westwood
38. Councillor Suzanne White

The following Members abstained from voting:

1. Councillor Sudhakar Achwal

RESOLVED:

That the Council Tax for the City of Winchester for the year commencing 1 April 2026 (as follows) be approved and adopted:

1. That any expenses incurred by the Council in performing in a part of its area a function performed elsewhere in its area by a Parish Council/Town Council/Parish Meeting shall not be treated as special expenses for the purposes of Section 35 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, except in the case of the following special items relating to the non-parished area the aggregate amount of which is £1,434,779 and which is shown within the total of special items at paragraph 4(e) below:-
 - a) Magdalen Hill and West Hill Cemeteries;
 - b) Allotments;
 - c) Town centre Christmas lighting;
 - d) Footway lighting;
 - e) Grants and Vision Delivery (“parish” element);
 - f) Recreation Grounds & Open Spaces (except Abbey Gardens, Riverside Walks, the Weirs and St Giles Hill);
 - g) Neighbourhood Services;
 - h) Public Conveniences
 - i) Maintenance work to Council Owned Bridges
 - j) Night Bus Contribution
 - k) Neighbourhood Plans
 - l) Community Infrastructure
 - m) administration of the Town Forum
2. That it be noted that the Head of Revenues, in consultation with the Corporate Head of Finance calculated the Council Tax Base for 2026/27 at
(a) 56,017.20
being the amount calculated by the Council for the whole Council area, in accordance with Section 31B(1) (Item T) of the Local Government Act 1992, as amended (the “Act”), as its Council Tax base for the year.
(b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish/Town precept relates as in the attached Annex 1 at [page 97 of the report pack](#).

3. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2026/27 (excluding Parish Precepts) is £10,873,117.

4. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2026/27 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
 - (a) £142,222,053
being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
 - (b) £126,181,417
being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
 - (c) £16,040,636
being the amount by which the aggregate at 4(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 4(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
 - (d) £286.35
being the amount at 4(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (2(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish Precepts).
 - (e) £6,602,298
being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Annex 2 at [page 99 of the report pack](#))
 - (f) £168.49
being the amount at 4(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 4(e) above by Item T (2(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates.

5. That it be noted for the year 2026/27, Hampshire County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner - Hampshire have stated, and the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority has recommended the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

<u>Precepting Authority</u>	<u>Precept Amount</u>
Hampshire County Council (HCC)	£94,675,230
Police and Crime Commissioner – Hampshire (PCCH)	£16,270,756
Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority (HFRA)	£5,200,637

<u>Valuation Bands</u>	<u>HCC</u>	<u>PCCH</u>	<u>HFRA</u>
A	1,126.74	193.64	61.89
B	1,314.53	225.91	72.21
C	1,502.32	258.19	82.52
D	1,690.11	290.46	92.84
E	2,065.69	355.01	113.47
F	2,441.27	419.55	134.10
G	2,816.85	484.10	154.73
H	3,380.22	580.92	185.68

6. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in columns 2-9 of Annex 2 as the amounts of Council Tax for 2026/27 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings shown.
 7. That the Council determines that the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2026/27 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
7. **TO CONSIDER AND DETERMINE THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDED MINUTES: CABINET HELD 12 FEBRUARY 2026 - CAPITAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2026 - 36 (CAB3539)**

Councillor Cutler (Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance) moved that the recommended minute of Cabinet be approved and adopted (seconded by Councillor Tod, Leader and Cabinet Member for Asset Management).

Council proceeded to ask questions and then debate the matters in the recommended minute and report.

RESOLVED:

That the recommended minute of Cabinet held 12 February 2026 (as follows) be approved and adopted:

1. The Capital Investment Strategy be approved including:
 - a) the Capital Programme and Capital Programme Financing (Appendices A and B to the report);
 - b) the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement (Appendix E of the report);
 - c) the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy (Appendix G of the report); and
 - d) the prudential indicators detailed in the report and Appendix F of the report.

8. **TO CONSIDER AND DETERMINE THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDED MINUTES: CABINET HELD 12 FEBRUARY 2026 - TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2026/27 (CAB3538 - REVISED)**

Councillor Cutler (Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance) moved that the recommended minute of Cabinet be approved and adopted (seconded by Councillor Tod, Leader and Cabinet Member for Asset Management).

Council proceeded to ask questions regarding the matters in the recommended minute and report. There was then no debate before Council then considered the recommendations before it.

RESOLVED:

That the recommended minute of Cabinet held 12 February 2026 (as follows) be approved and adopted:

1. That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement which includes the Annual Treasury Investment Strategy for 2026/27 (and the remainder of 2025/26) is approved.
2. That authority be delegated to the Section 151 Officer to manage the council's pooled property investment and long-term borrowing according to the Treasury Management Strategy Statement as appropriate; and
3. That authority be delegated to the Section 151 Officer, who in turn discharges this function to Hampshire County Council's Director of Corporate Operations, as agreed in the Service Level Agreement, to manage all council investments (other than the high yield portfolio) and short-term borrowing according to the Treasury Management Strategy Statement as appropriate.

9. **CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**

There were no changes to committee memberships for Council to note.

10. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

8 written questions had been received which were heard at the meeting along with associated supplementary questions. The questions received and their response were subsequently set out on the [council's website](#).

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and concluded at 10.45 pm
(adjourned between 8.10pm and 8.30pm)

The Mayor