

BUDGET & SPENDING REPORT - SELECT COMMITTEE MONITORING

Committee name	Children, Families & Education Select Committee
Corporate Director(s) responsible	Julie Kelly, Corporate Director Children's Services Sandra Taylor, Corporate Director Adult Social Care & Health
Papers with report	1. LACs Inspection Report 2. SEND Inspection Report 3. Adult Learning Inspection Report 4. Children's Home inspection reports x2
Ward	All

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Committee note the report, and agree the proposed approach to financial monitoring at this Select Committee as set out in this report.

HEADLINES

2. The financial period covered by this budget and spending update is April 2025 to March 2026
3. This monitoring report will provide an overview of financial performance relevant to the Select Committee. The proposed structure and approach to this report is detailed in the Supporting Information section below. Corporate Directors, supported by their Finance Business Partners, will attend the meeting to provide further details and clarifications.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

APPROACH

4. Financial reporting to this Select Committee is part of our commitment to transparency and ensuring rigorous scrutiny of the council's finances.
5. Table 1 below provides a detailed breakdown of the Children, Families & Education Select Committee's budgets by portfolio and service area including DSG budget breakdown. It includes adjustments made to the 2024/25 budget for inflation, corporate adjustments, growth and savings.
6. Table 2 provides a detailed breakdown of the 2025/26 savings by portfolio, and Table 3 provides a detailed breakdown of the 2025/26 savings by service area.
7. In the next Select Committee meeting on 18 June and in future meetings, we will report on the 2025/26 budget as shown Table 1. These reports will cover:
 - How much has spent during the year to date against the profiled budget.
 - The Area's delivery against the savings that are expected of it and any forecast variance.
 - Where there are variances against the budget as a whole and what is being done to

mitigate any adverse variances

8. We will report on the DSG recovery plan and budget in detail 2 x yearly on dates agreed by the Committee

OVERALL FINANCIAL POSITION

9. Future reports will deal with the issues as set out in section 7

SAVINGS

10. It is essential for the Select Committee to support and enable the council to deliver its services within budget. The next report will provide an update in the £4.628m savings to be achieved by the end of 2025/26

RISKS & MITIGATIONS

11. The monitoring report will identify key risks, along with the actions being taken to mitigate these risks.

Table 1: **2025/26 Budget Position**

Portfolio	Service	24/25 Budget	Inflation	Growth	Savings	Budget Transfers	25/26 Budget
		(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)
Executive Director Children and Young People's Services	Director, Children Social Care	37,418	869	2,936	-4,167	506	37,562
Executive Director Children and Young People's Services	Director, Education and SEND	4,349	-210	0	-46	-9	4,085
Executive Director Children and Young People's Services	Director, SPQR	11,235	288	96	-43	-498	11,079
Executive Director Children and Young People's Services Total		53,002	947	3,032	-4,255	0	52,725
Executive Director Adult Services and Health	Head of Child & Family Development (CFE)	9,152	258	0	-373	-379	8,658
Executive Director Adult Services and Health	Head of Direct Care Provision	15,374	419	702	-631	-451	15,412
Executive Director Adult Services and Health Total		24,526	676	702	-1,004	-830	24,071
Grand Total		77,528	1,623	3,734	-5,260	-830	76,796

Funding Block	DSG Funding 2025/26 without Schools Block Transfer	DSG Funding 2025/26 After Schools Block Transfer	Schools Block Transfer	2025/26 Forecast	Variance to Budget
Schools Block	299,426	297,929	-1,497	297,929	0
High Needs Block	71,633	73,130	1,497	86,876	13,746
Early Years Block	48,177	48,177	0	48,177	0
Central Services Schools Block	2,511	2,511	0	2,511	0
Grand Total	421,747	421,747	0	435,493	13,746

Table 2: 2025/26 Savings Proposals

Savings Proposals			
Portfolio	Service	Savings Proposal	2025/26 (£'000)
Executive Director Children and Young People's Services	Director SPQR	New Care Offer - (Operating Model)	-273
Executive Director Children and Young People's Services	Director Children Social Care	Semi / Shared Accommodation	-2,156
Executive Director Children and Young People's Services		Social Care Delivery Model	-495
Executive Director Children and Young People's Services	Director Children Social Care & Director SPQR	Reduction in Agency costs	-168
Executive Director Children and Young People's Services	Director Children Social Care & Director SPQR	Repeat pregnancies	-600
Executive Director Children and Young People's Services	Director SPQR	Special Guardianship Orders	-296
Executive Director Children and Young People's Services	Director Children Social Care	Managed Vacancy Factor	-179
Executive Director Children and Young People's Services	Director Education and SEND	Managed Vacancy Factor	-46
Executive Director Children and Young People's Services	Director SPQR	Managed Vacancy Factor	-43
Executive Director Children and Young People's Services Total			-4,255
Executive Director Adult Services and Health	Head of Child & Family Development	Review of Early Years Operating Model - Lease Income	-93
Executive Director Adult Services and Health	Head of Child & Family Development	Review of Early Years Operating Model - Residual EY Budget	-94
Executive Director Adult Services and Health	Head of Child & Family Development	Child and Family Support Service Staffing Review	-182
Executive Director Adult Services and Health	Head of Child & Family Development	Managed Vacancy Factor	-4
Executive Director Adult Services and Health	Head of Direct Care Provision	Post 16 Transport	-624
Executive Director Adult Services and Health	Head of Direct Care Provision	Managed Vacancy Factor	-7
Executive Director Adult Services and Health Total			-1,004
Grand Total			-5,259

Table 3: Savings Proposals by Service Area

Savings Proposals			
Portfolio	Service	Savings Proposal	2025/26 (£'000)
Executive Director Children and Young People's Services	Director Children Social Care	Various	-3,598
Executive Director Children and Young People's Services	Director Education and SEND	Managed Vacancy Factor	-46
Executive Director Children and Young People's Services	Director SPQR	Various	-611
Executive Director Children and Young People's Services Total			-4,255
Executive Director Adult Services and Health	Head of Child & Family Development (CFE)	Various	-373
Executive Director Adult Services and Health	Head of Direct Care Provision	Various	-631
Executive Director Adult Services and Health Total			-1,004
Grand Total			-5,259

RESIDENT BENEFIT

Regular monitoring of financial performance ensures that spending and savings targets are met, which supports the efficient delivery of services to residents. By closely tracking expenditure and identifying variances, the council can take timely corrective actions to address overspending and mitigate risks. This also enhances public transparency and accountability, providing residents with confidence that their Council is managing finances prudently and prioritising their needs. Overall, regular monitoring supports safeguarding the Council's finances and the delivery of quality services to residents.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This is primarily a finance report and the implications are set out in the main body of the report above.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct legal implications arising from regular monitoring of the Council's finances by Select Committees.

Democratic Services advise that effective overview and scrutiny arrangements require access to the information under the committee's purview and, in accordance with the 2024 Statutory Scrutiny Guidance, such information includes finance and risk information from the Council, and its partners where relevant.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL.

APPENDICES

1. LACs Inspection Report
2. SEND Inspection Report
3. Adult Learning Inspection Report
4. Children's Home inspection reports x2