

COUNCIL
26 MARCH 2026

OVERVIEW OF ECONOMY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee has undertaken.

Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring Quarter 3 2025/26

2. We received a report for us to consider the Project Position Statement and Capital Monitoring for Quarter 3.
3. We considered the report which provided information on the delivery of the Council's capital programme and a summary of current construction projects. The report included the projected outturn of the Capital Programme is £340.048m against an approved programme of £340.168m.
4. Discussion ensued around the Skinnergate Project, we wanted clarification around the demolition progress and the reasons behind the delays. It was explained to us that in December the contractor encountered asbestos which was reported to the Health and Safety Executive which ultimately caused further delays. We asked what the current end date was and the revised schedule following on from the delay.
5. We queried the closeout process for the projects rated green and concerns were raised around the 'Homes Upgrade Grant', we agreed to submit a Quad of Aims to review this in further detail.

Revenue Budget Monitoring Quarter 3 2025/26

6. We received a report providing an early forecast of the 2025/26 revenue budget outturn as part of the Council's continuous financial management process to be presented on 3 February Cabinet.
7. We were provided with the third revenue budget management report 2025/26 which included financial records to November and managers projections for the remainder of the year. Assumptions had been made concerning the future demand for services over the final quarter.
8. The report included the Council's projected revenue reserves position at the end of 31 March 2026 are £9.787m, £1.398m more than the initial 2025-29 MTFP position. The position related to a decline in corporate resources of £0.481m, offset by £0.390m of departmental savings and £1.489m of additional balances following the 2024/25 outturn.
9. We raised concerns around the underperformance in Hopetown and proposed to submit a quad of aims to review the financial performance of Hopetown at a future meeting.
10. We sought clarification on section 38 fees and developer roads, particularly regarding delays in adoption due to unsatisfactory standards.

Performance Indicators

11. We received a report providing us with an update on performance against key performance indicators at Quarter 2 2025/26.
12. It was reported that of the 22 indicators reported to this Scrutiny Committee, 18 of the had been updated on a six-monthly basis and all 22 annually.
13. We entered discussion around the economic activity rate not improving, though monthly unemployment payments had improved. We requested some narrative on the drop of 250,000 town centre visits and the drop in council tax arrears collected. We queried whether footfall data could be differentiated between daytime and night-time.

Councillor Rebecca Baker
Chair Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee