

on the use of reserves;

- (c) That approval be given to the projected provisional revenue budgets for 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29, set out in the revised Appendix B to the report, including the growth and savings for those years as set out in the revised Appendix C, allowing the undertaking of preliminary work, including business case development, engagement and equality and human rights impact assessments, as may be necessary to achieve the savings specified for those years including savings under development, set out in Appendix D;
- (d) That approval be given to the early achievement of savings that are included in the MTFs, as may be necessary, along with associated investment costs, subject to the Director of Corporate Resources agreeing to funding being available;
- (e) That the level of the general fund and earmarked reserves as set out in Appendix K be noted and the planned use of those earmarked reserves as indicated in that appendix be approved;
- (f) That the amounts of the County Council's Council Tax for each band of dwelling and the precept payable by each billing authority for 2025/26 be as set out in Appendix M;
- (g) That the Chief Executive be authorised to issue the necessary precepts to billing authorities in accordance with the budget requirement above and the tax base notified by the District Councils, and to take any other action which may be necessary to give effect to the precepts;
- (h) That approval be given to the 2025/26 to 2028/29 capital programme, totalling £439m, as set out in Appendix F;
- (i) That the Director of Corporate Resources following consultation with the Lead Member for Resources be authorised to approve new capital schemes, including revenue costs associated with their delivery, shown as future developments in the capital programme, to be funded from funding available;
- (j) That the financial indicators required under the Prudential Code included in Appendix N, Annex 2 be noted and that the following limits be approved:

	2025/ 26 £m	2026/ 27 £m	2027/ 28 £m	2028/ 29 £m
Operational boundary for external debt				
i) Borrowing	201	197	232	271
ii) Other long term liabilities	6	6	6	5
TOTAL	207	203	238	276
Authorized limit for external debt				
i) Borrowing	211	207	242	281
ii) Other long term liabilities	6	6	6	5
TOTAL	217	213	248	286

- (k) That the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to effect movement within the authorised limit for external debt between borrowing and other long-term liabilities;
- (l) That the following borrowing limits be approved for the period 2025/26 to 2028/29:
- (i) Maturity of borrowing:-

	<u>Upper Limit</u>	<u>Lower Limit</u>
	%	%
Under 12 months	30	0
12 months and within 24 months	30	0
24 months and within 5 years	50	0
5 years and within 10 years	70	0
10 years and above	100	25

- (ii) An upper limit for principal sums invested for periods longer than 364 days is 20% of the portfolio.
- (m) That the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to enter into such loans or undertake such arrangements as necessary to finance the capital programme, subject to the prudential limits in Appendix N;

- (n) That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2025/26, as set out in Appendix N, be approved including:
 - (i) The Treasury Management Policy Statement, Appendix N; Annex 4;
 - (ii) The Annual Statement of the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision as set out in Appendix N, Annex 1;
- (o) That the Capital Strategy (Appendix G), Investing in Leicestershire Programme Strategy (Appendix H), Risk Management Policy and Strategy (Appendix I), Earmarked Reserves Policy (Appendix J) and Insurance Policy (Appendix L) be approved;
- (p) That it be noted that the Leicester and Leicestershire Business Rate Pool will continue for 2025/26;
- (q) That School funding is subject to a 0.5% transfer of funding to the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant;
- (r) That the Leicestershire School Funding Formula is subject to capping at 0.28% per pupil and continues to reflect the National Funding Formula for 2025/26;
- (s) That delegated authority be given to the Director of Children and Family Services, following consultation with the Lead Member for Children and Family Services, to agree the funding rates for early years providers.”

ITEM 7B

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH: LEICESTERSHIRE'S HEALTH - INEQUALITIES IN HEALTH.

“That the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2024 be noted with support”

ITEM 7C

ENGLISH DEVOLUTION WHITE PAPER: LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION.

“That the report and supplementary report on the English Devolution White Paper: Local Government Reorganisation including urgent action taken, considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 7 February, be noted.”

ITEM 8A

CHANGES TO THE CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES FOLLOWING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROCUREMENT ACT.

- “(a) That the new Contract Procedure Rules, set out in the Appendix to this report, be approved;
- (b) That the Director of Corporate Resources, in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance be authorised to approve minor amendments to the Rules up to 24 February 2025.”

ITEM 9A

NHS AND SOCIAL CARE SYSTEM.

- “(a) This Council notes:
 - (i) That the NHS and social care system face multiple crises of access, staff retention, long waiting times, missed targets and poor outcomes;
 - (ii) That people across Leicestershire are struggling to access health and care services;
 - (iii) That despite this, primary care providers have not been given the funding to employ more GPs, leaving qualified doctors facing unemployment;
 - (iv) That there is a national dentistry crisis as increasing numbers of practitioners leave the NHS;
 - (v) That the Adult Social Care and Education and Children’s Care budgets face significant pressure to continue to deliver savings in 2025/26 in the context of increasing demand for services;
 - (vi) That difficulty accessing services increases pressure on acute care such as Accident & Emergency as well as undermining overall population health;
 - (vii) That both The King’s Fund and the new Secretary of State for Health and Social Care have acknowledged the positive vision the Liberal Democrats have for social care reform and that cross-party working is the only way to achieve this.
- (b) This Council advocates for cross-party collaboration both locally through the Health and

Wellbeing Board and nationally through a long-term agreement on funding and provision of social care.

- (c) This Council resolves to:
 - (i) Continue to work with local NHS commissioners and providers to ensure and equitable and consistent delivery of health and care funding aligned to national frameworks and policy for residents of Leicestershire;
 - (ii) Request the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to reconsider his decision to delay critical and long-awaited investment in Leicester's Hospitals, as work is now not expected to start on site until between 2030 and 2035."