

Report to Cabinet

15 September 2026



Financial and Performance Review Report – First Quarter 2026/27

Lead Member(s):

Cllr Martin Rogerson – Cabinet Member for Legal, Governance and Organisational Performance

Cllr Graham Shaw – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance

Lead Officer(s):

Georgina Evans-Stadward – Service Director for Strategy, People and Performance

Craig Turner – Service Director for Finance (Section 151 Officer)

Key Decision: No

Ward(s): All

Appendices: Financial information (Appendix A) and Performance Outturn (Appendix B)

Report Assurance:

	Name	Date
Lead Officer	Georgina Evans-Stadward	
Monitoring Officer	Olwen Brown	7/9/26
Section 151	Craig Turner	7/8/26
Chief Executive	Gordon Mole	7/9/26
Cabinet Member	Cllr Jonathan Gullis	

Report Summary

This quarterly report provides Members with a detailed update on how the Council has performed during the quarter by presenting performance data and progress summaries set within a financial context. The report provides broad financial information (Appendix A) and also details service performance (Appendix B) for the period to the end of quarter one in 2026/27.

Recommendations

That the Cabinet:

1. Approves the contents of the attached report and Appendices A and B and continue to monitor and challenge the Council's performance alongside its financial performance for the same period.

2. Background

- 2.1. This quarterly report provides Members with a detailed update on how the Council has performed during the quarter by presenting performance data and progress summaries set within a financial context. The report provides broad financial information (Appendix A) and also details service performance (Appendix B) for the period to the end of quarter one in 2026/27.
- 2.2. The Council approved a General Fund Revenue Budget of £17.642m on 11 February 2026. Further financial information is provided in Appendix A.
- 2.3. The Q1 report (April 2026 to June 2026) has been produced using business intelligence tools in order to automate and improve the monitoring, analysis and reporting of Council performance. In addition to reporting on key performance indicators, the report also includes progress summaries for each priority action, detailing the progress with the delivery of planned activities. The indicators and actions currently included in Q1 are those agreed as part of the 2022-2026 Council Plan and reflect the priorities for the Borough at that time. A new Council Plan is currently in development and once approved will have a revised set of indicators and planned activities which will form the basis of these reports going forward. This is likely to be from Q3 onwards, with the new Council Plan scheduled for October's Cabinet.
- 2.4. Contextual performance information is provided (indicators without a target), not only to ensure the monitoring of the corporate activities of the Council, but also to inform Members, businesses and residents of performance in their local area that the Council cannot directly control.
- 2.5. Any indicators failing to meet the set targets include a comment explaining the reasons behind the performance and what steps are being taken to ensure improvement in the future.
- 2.6. For this report a total of 43 indicators were monitored, 12 of these indicators were contextual and had no set target. Of these contextual measures that had historic trend data available, 55% showed an improvement or maintenance when compared to the previous year's performance. Of the remaining 31 indicators, the proportion which have met their target during this period stands at 77%, with the remaining 23% falling short of target. Five off-target measures this quarter show a negative trend

when comparing to the same time period of the previous financial year, two off-target measures show an improvement from the year before. It must also be noted that a small number of these 'off target' measures have more stretching targets this year, in line with benchmarking findings and council ambition. In terms of trend data overall, with measures where there is comparable data, the proportion of indicators showing an improvement or maintenance of the previous year's performance stands at 61%.

- 2.7. Five project/actions have been classified as completed by their respective owners this quarter
- 2.8. There are seven indicators 'off target' this quarter and officers do not feel that these give rise to serious cause for concern at present (see commentaries in Appendix B). The management of each of the service areas concerned continue to monitor and take steps to address performance improvement where feasible and appropriate.
- 2.9. There are three measures classified as non-returns this quarter due to data being unavailable. Further details are provided within this report. The three measures are: "Number of Fly-Tipping Incidents (as per the national measure)", "Average Number of Days from Report of Fly-Tipping to Clear-Up", and "Town Centre Footfall".
- 2.10. Progress on delivery of planned activities is summarised for each priority with two activity/actions being amber rated in Quarter One associated with Priority 2. The actions flagged as amber relate to the following with comments by action owners listed below;

Walleys Quarry odour problem

"Walleys Quarry entered into liquidation in February 2025. This process is ongoing.

In Q1 2026 the data shows:

- odour complaints reported to NULBC remain at a low level with the month of April reporting 2 complaints, May reporting 0 complaints, June reporting 1 complaint*
- there has been no weekly exceedance of the World Health Organisation [WHO] odour annoyance guideline level for hydrogen sulphide during this period*

The Environment Agency [EA] continue to use their discretionary power under Regulation 57 of the Environmental Permitting Regulations to arrange for steps to be taken to remove a risk of serious pollution. Works to date have included improvements to temporary capping and site containment, improved leachate management (including off-site disposal) and better surface water management within the void area.

On 1 April 2026, the EA announced that the Mobile Monitoring Facility (MMF) Maries Way would be removed. The EA are confident that removing this MMF does not negatively impact their ability to effectively monitor ambient air quality around the site, the MMF at Galingale View is remaining in place.

With effect from 13 April 2026, the EA is reporting the air quality data collected from the remaining Mobile Monitoring Facility (MMF) Galingale View and the number of odour reports, every fortnight, rather than weekly. The EA state that this will not compromise the standard of the ongoing monitoring and evaluation

of measured air quality, it only reduces the demand on internal resources. The EA will continue to provide monthly reports, which are published on the EA Air Quality page. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) will continue to provide monthly health risk assessments based on our monitoring data. The EA will continue to review the monitoring data and any odour reports and will consider a return to weekly reporting if the data indicates that may be appropriate."

3. Purpose

- 2.1 This report is for monitoring purposes. The report provides an opportunity for scrutiny of both the Council's performance in relation to its strategic objectives, and its expenditure against the agreed budget for the year.

4. Strategic Approach

- 3.1 The quarterly performance and finance report relates to all of the Council's strategic objectives as the indicators reported on within it are those agreed as part of the Council Plan process.

5. Finance & Resources

- 5.1. Any positive variance for the full year on the General Fund Revenue Account will enable that amount to be transferred to the Budget Support Fund and will be available in future years for use, as the Council considers appropriate. Conversely, if there is an adverse variance, the amount required to cover this will have to be met from the Budget Support Fund.
- 5.2. The capital programme will require regular monitoring to identify any projects which are falling behind their planned completion dates - this will be carried out by the Capital Programme Review Group, which meets on a bi-monthly basis.
- 5.3. Revisions to the approved Capital Programme for 2026/27 will be made quarterly via this report (Appendix A).

6. Legal & Governance

- 6.1. The Council has a Best Value duty to provide value for money services.
- 6.2. The ongoing changing market conditions represents the greatest risk to the revenue budget, particularly with regard to the impact it may have upon income receivable in relation to services where customers may choose whether or not to use Council facilities or in the case of the waste/recycling service where the volume of recycled materials is liable to fluctuate.

7. Supporting Information

- 7.1. Financial information (Appendix A) and Performance Outturn (Appendix B)
- 7.2. Working papers held by officers responsible for calculating indicators