Appendix A (i)

Summary of Consultation

Introduction

The Council regularly seeks the views of residents and partners on the priorities for investment, service provision and improvement through a variety of means to enable participation in the development of the budget. This includes using the People's Panel, which has now run over fifteen years alongside individual consultations which focus on specific changes to service provision.

This year's Council's Budget report will be considered by Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on the 13 February 2026 ahead of the final decisions by Cabinet on the 23 February 2026 and Council on the 26 February 2026. Formal comments from the public and stakeholders on the proposals were also invited to be submitted by the 16 February 2026 (8 working days before the final decision).

In addition, the consultation meetings have also taken place with representatives of the City's business community, voluntary sector and young people. In summary the engagements a shared understanding of the difficult financial environment in which the Council is operating and outlined the Council's desire to work together for the overall benefit and prosperity of the Hull within the constraints placed on it financially.

Businesses and the voluntary, community, and social sectors were informed of the key budget proposals and invited to provide feedback. In addition, representatives of young people have provided continuous feedback on their concerns and priorities for throughout the financial year. The main aim being to raise awareness of the Council's financial proposals, priorities for investment, improvements, and savings, together with the potential impacts relevant to their areas of interest.

The Assistant Director of Finance also provided an overview of the Council's budgetary position to the voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors at their Assembly Meeting held on the 15 January 26. This was attended by a broad range of organisations from across the sector, which provided feedback on the following areas:

- The specific financial pressures faced by the Council within the Medium Term Financial Plan and alignment of total funding model following Fair Funding 2.0
- Acknowledgement that all parts of public sector are facing the similar financial pressures and Hull is not alone in such challenges
- The funding settlement confirmed for the next 3 years and the opportunity this creates for longer term planning for VCSE
- The merit in continuing the dialogue with VCSE with the Council as services are shaped across the city
- Alignment of funding to reflect all communities within the city

Appendix A (i)

The Leader, Director of Finance and other officers met with a range of representatives from the business sector on 12 February 26. The background and context to the Council's budgets were discussed with particular emphasis placed on the following:

- The Council's planned capital investment programme
- Updates on Business Rates following Government policy changes
- A shared view of the importance of a thriving economy
- Updates on devolution and the Mayoral Combined Authority