

OFFICIAL

Cabinet

23rd February, 2026

PRESENT:-

Councillors Chambers, Dad, Dolman, Drake Davis, Haines, Ieronimo, Pritchard, Quinn, Ross and Tock.

IN ATTENDANCE:-

M. Jukes (Chief Executive), D. Bell (Executive Director of Corporate Resources), C. Jackson (Executive Director of Regeneration and Partnerships), T. Meyerhoff (Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health (DASS)), M. Nearney (Executive Director of Housing and Communities), P. Turner (Director of Children and Young People's Services), L. Dixon (Assistant Director Legal Services and Governance), and L. Hawkins (Democratic Services Officer).

R. Roberts (Strategic Lead for Early Help and Prevention) minute 73, D. Akester (Head of Service (Area & Neighbourhood Management) and B. Smith (Head of Service (Contracting and Investment) minutes 74-75, M. Kenworthy (Assistant Director Digital & ICT) minute 76 and T. Parker (Assistant Director of Finance and Transformation) minutes 77- 83.

APOLOGIES:-

None.

| Minute No. | Description/Decision | Action By/Deadline |
|-------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| PROCEDURAL ITEMS | | |
| 70. | DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST No declarations were received in relation to the items that follow below. | |
| 71. | MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26TH JANUARY 2026 Agreed – that, the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 26 th January, 2026, be taken as read and correctly recorded and be signed by the Chair. | |
| 72. | PUBLIC QUESTIONS No public questions were received. | |
| NON-EXEMPT ITEMS | | |
| Key Decisions | | |
| 73. | BEST START FAMILY HUBS AND HEALTHY BABIES PROGRAMME 2026-2029 The Director of Children, Young People and Families Services and Director of Public Health submitted a report which informed | |

the Cabinet of the proposed implementation plans and indicative budget for the delivery of the Department for Education (DfE) and Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) programme 'Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies'. The report also sought approval for the decisions necessary to enable delivery of the programme.

Members commented that the programme would help deliver a number of projects. It was acknowledged that the targets set by the Government were challenging however the programme was starting from a place of strength and there were good partnerships which would assist with delivery.

The comments of the Children, Young People and Families Overview and Scrutiny Commission held on 16th February 2026 were noted.

Moved by Councillor Tock and seconded by Councillor Ross

That Cabinet approves the proposed programme approach within the funding for the 'Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies' programme 2026-29, specifically:

- To accept the provisional grant allocation of £5,503,700 for 2026-29.
- To continue to place the governance and oversight of the programme with the First 1001 Days Steering Group, led jointly by Public Health and Children's Services and the Early Years Education Board. These are both multi-agency partnerships inclusive of both public and voluntary sector representatives and will ensure Hull builds on the work of the previous programme 'Family Hubs and Start for Life' and adds value to all mainstream delivery of support across the early years landscape.
- To delegate authority to the Director of Children and Families Services and Director of Adult Social Care and Health in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Children's Services and Health and Well Being and the Assistant Director of Legal Services and Governance to authorise procurement processes and the award of any contracts and make decisions necessary to deliver the programme.

Motion carried.

Reasons for recommendations

- Between April 2022 and March 2026 the government funded 75 target Local Authority areas under the Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme. Hull City Council received approximately £1.4m per year for the delivery of a range of activities and services including: Parent Carer

Panels; Parent Infant Relationship Support; Peri-Natal Mental Health Support; Parenting Programmes; Infant Feeding Support; alongside a small capital element of funding to support Family Hub developments, including new branding and signage.

- The current government is committed to breaking the link between background and success, ensuring that whoever you are and wherever you're from you have the opportunities that set you up to achieve your ambitions in life. As part of this, the government has committed to raising the healthiest generation of children ever and making sure that every child has the best start in life. The foundations for lifelong success, health and learning are laid in early childhood. This programme aims to ensure families are supported in providing the nurturing care that children need to thrive. This support will be embedded at the heart of Hull's communities and bring together health, education and community services to make it easier for families to access early, joined-up support, building on the strong partnership offer already in place across the city via our Family Hubs.
- On 7 July 2025, the Department for Education published 'Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life' a landmark strategy bringing together early years and family services to improve child development, backed by close to £1.5 billion over the next 3 years. This investment will help meet the Government's Plan for Change ambition to ensure that a record 75% of children aged 5 achieve a Good Level of Development (GLD) by 2028, reinforcing the commitment to early intervention and boosting long-term outcomes.
- The Good Level of Development (GLD) targets for each local authority are part of the Best Start in Life Strategy, which aims to ensure that 75% of 5-year-olds nationally reach a GLD by 2028. The targets are set to increase the proportion of children achieving a GLD by 9 percentage points from 2023/24 levels. All local authorities
- received a letter in August 2025 from the DfE with information about their respective Best Start local targets and the need to develop a Best Start local plan. These targets were confirmed in further letters to local authorities on 17 November 2025, along with further information about what the Best Start local plans should cover. The GLD target is contained in the new Local Government Outcomes Framework (LGOF) which is to be published shortly, as a priority outcome: "Best start in life Improve early child health, family support and early education to give children in every part of the country the best start in life".
- The GLD target to be achieved by children finishing their school reception year in July 2028, set for Hull this is:

- All children – 73.5%, currently 65.3%
- FSM eligible children – 64%, currently 55.9%

This is a challenging and ambitious target given that over the last 4 years GLD outcomes have not moved by any considerable amount. The Best Start programme and investment is just one small piece of the system wide approach to improving children’s readiness for school and GLD figures. A system wide, integrated approach in Hull continues to be strengthened and built upon including midwifery, primary care, health visiting, social care, specialist health services such as speech and language therapy, voluntary sector partners and very importantly schools, nurseries, childminders and parents/carers.

| GLD outcomes | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2027/28 Target |
|-------------------------|-------|------|-------|-------|----------------|
| All children | 65.0 | 65.5 | 64.5 | 65.3 | 73.5% |
| National | 65.0 | 67.5 | 67.7 | 68.3 | |
| Gap to national | -0.2 | -9.0 | -3.2 | -3.00 | |
| | | | | | |
| FSM | 59.8 | 56.5 | 55.0 | 55.9 | 64% |
| National | 49 | 52 | 52 | N/A | |
| Local Disadvantaged gap | -5.2 | -9.0 | -9.5 | -9.4 | |
| Gap to national | +10.8 | +4.5 | +3.00 | N/A | |

- In 2024/25, nationally 68.3% of children achieved a good level of development, up from 67.7% in the previous year. The prime areas of learning that children must reach the expected level in are communication and language, personal, social and emotional development, and physical development. Literacy and Mathematics are also included in the assessment framework. Despite a modest rise in overall levels of children reaching a good level of development, these figures still fall below pre-pandemic levels. The government has set an overall national target of 75% of children reaching a good level of development by 2028, but the current trends indicate a need for continued improvement to meet this goal.

74.

INTRODUCTION OF A SERIOUS INCIDENT POLICY FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS & HOUSING

The Executive Director of Housing and Communities submitted a report which requested the Cabinet to formally approve and adopt Neighbourhoods and Housing’s Serious Incident Policy.

A discussion took place and it was commented that the proposed policy formalised the processes and procedures that were already in place; that the Housing Regulator had highlighted the need for good governance and had suggested that assurance frameworks were in place, and that this policy would form part of that assurance framework.

The comments of the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Commission held on 12th February 2026 were noted.

Moved by Councillor Drake Davis and seconded by Councillor Dad

- a. That Cabinet agrees to formally approve / adopt Neighbourhoods and Housing's Serious Incident Policy, and
- b. That Cabinet agrees that delegated authority be granted to the Executive Director for Housing and Communities in conjunction with the designated Portfolio Holder to make future revisions of the N&H Serious Incidents Policy where required for operational efficiency and best practice in delivering services to customers.

Motion carried.

Reasons for recommendations

- A serious incident in N&H can, on most occasions, be managed within the resources it has at its disposal.
- This means that a combination of staff from different disciplines are able to manage the incident effectively, often working with blue light services. One of the lessons learnt from the high-rise flats leak was that greater clarity of staff roles and responsibilities was needed to ensure that each member of staff / cohort of staff can concentrate on the roles and responsibilities and associated tasks allotted to them in the procedures.
- Staff involved in serious incidents can differ dependant on the nature of the serious incident, but will always include, property surveyors to, when safe to do so, assess the damage caused by the incident to the property / properties. Staff could also include area and neighbourhoods staff who need to communicate with the effected customers on what is happening and if those effected can stay put. Access and Wellbeing staff will need to be involved to source and allocate temporary accommodation for the effected customers and their families if the property is / properties are uninhabitable.
- Other staff who may be involved include anyone who is made aware of a serious incident and who needs to record the details and advise others a serious incident is in progress (most probably Call Centre staff or Housing

Facility Officers in high rise flats) and N&H communications staff who may need to work with corporate staff to develop and implement a communications plan. The most significant group of staff who will be involved are N&H's Incident Managers.

- N&H Incident Managers rely on information and understanding of a serious incident, including who is doing / has done what, to allow them to be assured that the serious incident can be managed within N&H's own resources and therefore they do not need to advise corporate colleagues that the serious incident is / has the potential to become a major incident.
- Conversely, information and understanding of a serious incident allows the Incident Manager to advise corporate colleagues as early as possible that a serious incident that is currently being managed by N&H staff could become or is a major incident. For example, a fire or flood in a block of flats may spread or have the potential to effect more than just the occupants of one house or flat.
- It has been agreed that certain types of serious incidents have a greater potential to become major incidents and therefore Incident Managers will advise corporate colleagues of the serious incident automatically. This places other corporate services on standby should their support be needed. This would include the implementation of corporate communications protocols.
- These incidents are detailed below

| Type of Incident | Fire | Flood | Explosion | Environmental / Biohazard |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Type of Property | | | | |
| Individual property but could affect others | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| More than one property affected (not High Rise) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| More than one property affected (High Rise) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- The Serious Incidents Policy and in particular the associated procedures are vital to ensure that there is a systematic process for reporting, managing and learning from serious incidents and that is clear on roles and responsibilities and gives clarity to what is a N&H serious

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| | <p>incident and what Incident Managers need to do and when they need to seek support to declare a major incident.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To help embed the Policy and in particular the associated procedures, there will be a training session for key personnel focused on their individual and the collective response to a N&H serious incident and the actions relating to ensuring resident safety in the case of an evacuation. | |
| 75 | <p>AUTHORISATION TO SEEK COMPETITIVE TENDERS FOR THE PROVISION OF THE DELIVERY OF LOFT AND CAVITY WALL INSULATION INCLUDING CLEARANCES</p> <p>The Executive Director of Housing and Communities submitted a report which sought Cabinet approval to initiate the procurement process for the provision of loft and cavity wall insulation, as well as associated works such as loft clearances and vermin remediation where required.</p> <p>A discussion took place and members commented that the proposed contract was part of a programme on significant investment and was evidence of the Council properly investing in its properties.</p> <p>The comments of the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Commission held on 12th February 2026 were noted.</p> <p>Moved by Councillor Drake Davis and seconded by Councillor Ross</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> That the Executive Director of Housing and Communities, in consultation with the Assistant Director of Legal Services and Governance, is authorised to undertake the procurement via an Open Tender process. This will cover the delivery of loft and cavity wall insulation works, including associated loft clearances and vermin remediation where necessary. The contract will be for a period of three years, with the option to extend up to 12 months, subject to need and contractor performance. This timeframe aligns with the Council's ongoing Stock Condition Survey programme. That the evaluation criteria be set at 60% quality and 40% price. This weighting reflects the Council's commitment to securing insulation services that not only meet technical and regulatory standards but also deliver long-term benefits for tenants and sound customer service. The quality component will assess bidders on factors such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical capability and experience in delivering loft and cavity wall insulation | |

- Approach to tenant engagement and minimising disruption during works
- Health and safety standards
- Environmental sustainability and compliance with energy efficiency regulations
- Capacity to deliver vermin remediation and loft clearance services effectively
- The price component will ensure cost-effectiveness and financial sustainability of the contract.

This balanced approach is designed to secure a contractor who can deliver reliable, high-performing insulation solutions that contribute to improved EPC ratings across the housing stock, enhance tenant comfort, and support the Council's wider carbon reduction and housing quality objectives.

- d. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director of Housing and Communities, in consultation with the Assistant Director of Legal Services and Governance and the Portfolio Holder of Economic Renewal, Housing and Organisational Development to award the contract to the most economically advantageous tender received through the procurement process. Furthermore, authority is granted to agree, at their discretion, to the contract extension outlined in 2.2 above, subject to satisfactory supplier performance and continued alignment with service requirements.

Motion carried.

Reasons for Recommendations

- The proposed procurement of these works is essential to support the Council's strategic objectives around housing quality, energy efficiency, and regulatory compliance. The works will be delivered by HCCs Housing Investment Services, ensuring alignment with existing operational structures and expertise.
- The Council is currently undertaking a comprehensive programme of Stock Condition Surveys, with a target of 5,800 surveys per year to assess the full housing stock over a four-year period (under review) Findings from the first year of surveys have already identified a significant need for loft insulation top-ups and re-lays. These measures are critical to improving the E P C ratings of Council-owned properties, in preparation for future regulatory requirements mandating a minimum EPC rating of C by 2030.
- The 3-year contract duration, with the option to extend up to 12 months, is recommended to ensure continuity of service and alignment with the survey programme timeline. This will enable the Council to respond effectively to the insulation needs identified through the

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| | <p>surveys, while maintaining flexibility to adapt to evolving policy and budgetary considerations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of an Open Tender process will promote transparency, competition, and value for money, while ensuring that the appointed contractor meet the necessary standards for quality, safety, and environmental performance. | |
| 76 | <p>EXTENSION OF CURRENT CIVICA CONTRACT</p> <p>The Executive Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report which sought approval to procure a 2-year contract by direct award through the CCS VAS Framework to Civica to enable continuation of services. The proposed contract would commence on 1st April 2026. The report also sought approval to review the systems currently provided through the Civic contract and carry out the appropriate procurement to either replace or extend those systems.</p> <p>The Cabinet was informed that it was expected that there would be benefits in relation to efficiencies and customer experience by undertaking a procurement process.</p> <p>A discussion took place and members commented that the proposed two year contract extension would provide an opportunity to undertake a full review of the systems.</p> <p>The comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee held on 20th February 2026 were noted.</p> <p>Moved by Councillor Dad and seconded by Councillor Drake Davis</p> <p>a. That Cabinet approves the procurement of a 2 year Contract through the CCS VAS Framework to enable continued delivery of services provided under the Civica contract.</p> <p>The systems which make up the current contract are: - Civica OpenRevenues (on premise) Revenues and Benefits System. Civica CX (cloud) – Public Protection, Licencing and Housing Assistance system. Civica iCasework – Coroners System.</p> <p>Costs</p> <p>Original Contract rate for 2years £ 907,154 New contract rate for 2 years £1,199,592</p> <p>The new figure is based on applying average inflation uplift of 5% over the previous 5 year term and re basing</p> | |

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| | <p>The starting figure as no annual inflation figure added during the period of the original contract. Costs to be met from Revenue Budget. (Cost break down - appendix 1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. That Cabinet approves the review of each of these systems by the most appropriate method; c. that Cabinet agrees to authorise the Assistant Director (Legal, Capital Delivery and Governance) to undertake the appropriate procurement processes (during the contract extension) to identify the contractual arrangements to be utilised to support the future delivery of these systems, and d. That Cabinet agrees to authorise the Executive Director of Corporate Resources in consultation with the Assistant Director (Legal, Capital Delivery and Governance) to enter into the relevant contracts to replace or extend these systems following the conclusion of the procurement process. <p>Motion carried.</p> <p><u>Reasons for recommendations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recommendations are based on the need to continue to be able to carry out our statutory duties and service delivery. • The 2-year contract will allow the Council to review the viability of these systems and procure suitable replacements by the most appropriate method, whilst the services under that current contract are continued. The implementation of large systems as such as the revenues and benefits system is complex and takes from 18 months to 2 years to complete. | |
| <p>77.</p> | <p>FINAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE SETTLEMENT 2026/27 – UPDATE TO BUDGET</p> <p>The Executive Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report which provided the Cabinet with an update to the Budget Report previously circulated, following the publication of the Final Local Government Finance Settlement published on 9th February 2026 and also provided the Cabinet with a on overview of the proposed amendments to the budget report due to be presented to Full Council on 26th February 2026.</p> <p>The Cabinet was informed that the 2026/27 Budget that had been circulated for the Council to be held on 26th February 2026 had been amended to reflect the changes as a result of the Final Local Government Finance Settlement; that there was now less of a gap in funding which would allow the Council to protect key services; that there was still significant uncertainties around the</p> | |

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| | <p>Designated Schools Grant (DSG), and that it was expected that the Government would announce a similar arrangement for the DSG deficit as it had for the SEND deficit.</p> <p>A discussion took place and members commented that they were pleased that the Council had been allocated additional funding, and that officers should be thanked for their work in updating the budget following the Final Local Government Finance Settlement.</p> <p>Moved by Councillor Ross and seconded by Councillor Dad</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. That Cabinet notes the report, alongside the 2026/27 Budget Report included elsewhere on the agenda, and specifically the impact on the Medium-Term Financial Plan, and b. That Cabinet notes the comments of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources (Section 151 Officer) and the impact of the proposed changes to the Council's Reserves. <p>Motion carried.</p> <p><u>Reasons for Recommendations</u> The Council is required to set a balanced budget which is sufficient to meet estimated expenditure.</p> | |
| 78. | <p>COUNCIL BUDGET REPORTS 2026/27</p> <p>The Executive Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report which presented the suite of reports to be considered by Council on 26th February 2026.</p> <p>The Executive Director of Corporate Resources explained that with the increase in the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside and Fire Authority precepts there was an overall increase in 5.15% to the Council Tax charges for 2026/27.</p> <p>The comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee held on 13th February 2026 were noted.</p> <p>Moved by Councillor Ross and seconded by Councillor Dad</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. That Cabinet approves the Leader's Budget Proposals for 2026/27 and beyond as set out in the recommendations of each report and specifically; b. Endorse the levels of Council Tax, noting the precepts of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside and the Fire Authority which will be confirmed prior to the Council meeting; c. Note the comments of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources (Section 151 Officer) on the robustness of the | |

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| | <p>budget and the adequacy of reserves as set out in section 12 of the General Fund Report. iv) Subject to the agreement of the budget envelope by Council, to approve the:</p> <p>a) Council's 2026/27 Revenue Budget savings and service expenditure allocations as set out in Appendices B (ii), (iii) and C to the Council revenue report.</p> <p>b) Council's 2026/27 to 2028/29 Capital Programme as set out at Appendix A to the Capital Strategy</p> <p>c) The HRA Revenue Budget as at section 8 of the HRA report.</p> <p>Motion carried.</p> <p><u>Reasons for Recommendations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To agree a balanced budget which is sufficient to meet estimated expenditure informed by consultation through the Council's formal processes. • To approve the savings necessary to deliver that balanced budget and the service allocation of the funds that are available within the funding envelope to be proposed by the Leader to Council. | |
| 79. | <p>GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2026/27 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2026/27 TO 2028/29</p> <p>The Leader of the Council submitted a report which presented his General Fund Revenue Budget 2026/27 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2026/27 to 2028/29.</p> <p>The Executive Director of Corporate Resources brought members attention to his comments which were set out at section 12 of the report.</p> <p>The comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee held on 13th February 2026 were noted.</p> <p>Moved by Councillor Ross and seconded by Councillor Dad</p> <p>that Cabinet supports the recommendations as set out in section 3 of the report.</p> <p>Motion carried.</p> | |
| 80. | <p>REVIEW OF LOCALLY DEFINED DISCOUNTS FOR COUNCIL TAX IN 2026/27</p> <p>The Executive Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report which outlined the Council Tax Discounts Policy Framework proposed for 2026/27. The report also included details of the locally defined Council Tax discounts in the city of</p> | |

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| | <p>Hull, in line with legislation and local priorities for the next 12 months (2026/27).</p> <p>The comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee held on 13th February 2026 were noted.</p> <p>Moved by Councillor Ross and seconded by Councillor Dad</p> <p>that Cabinet supports the recommendations as set out in section 2 of the report.</p> <p>Motion carried.</p> | |
| 81. | <p>CAPITAL STRATEGY REPORT</p> <p>The Executive Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report which presented the Council's 2026/27 Capital Strategy which incorporated the 2026/27 to 2028/29 Capital Programme.</p> <p>The comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee held on 13th February 2026 were noted.</p> <p>Moved by Councillor Ross and seconded by Councillor Dad</p> <p>that Cabinet supports the recommendations as set out in section 2 of the report.</p> <p>Motion carried.</p> | |
| 82. | <p>HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2026/27 AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2026/27 TO 2028/29</p> <p>The Leader of the Council submitted the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2026/27 for consideration.</p> <p>The comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee held on 13th February 2026 were noted.</p> <p>Moved by Councillor Ross and seconded by Councillor Dad</p> <p>that Cabinet supports the recommendations as set out in section 3 of the report.</p> <p>Motion carried.</p> | |
| 83. | <p>TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT, MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2026-27</p> <p>The Executive Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report which provided details of the Treasury Management</p> | |

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| | <p>Strategy Statement (incorporating Prudential and Treasury Indicators), Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy proposed for the financial year 2026-27.</p> <p>The comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee held on 13th February 2026 were noted.</p> <p>Moved by Councillor Ross and seconded by Councillor Dad</p> <p>that Cabinet supports the recommendations as set out in section 2 of the report.</p> <p>Motion carried.</p> | |
| 84. | <p>ADJOURNMENT</p> <p>Agreed – that the meeting be adjourned.</p> | |

The above Executive Decisions will come into force and may be implemented on expiry of five working days after the publication of the decisions i.e. 6th March 2026, unless called in by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

Published – 26th February 2026