

APPENDIX C : RISK BASED ASSESSMENT OF THE LEVEL OF GENERAL FUND BALANCES 2025/26

Potential Risk Area	Comments including any mitigation factors		
Income from areas within the base budget where the Council raises "Fees and Charges"	Potential risk that the budgeted level of income from activities where the Council is charging for services will not be achieved. This is anticipated largely to be as a result of the downturn in economy and cost of living crisis, but could also be as a result of poor weather, new competition. All "fees and charges" income is reviewed as part of the monthly/quarterly budget monitoring process. All budgets are profiled over the year based upon previous experience.		
		Calculated Risk	
Specific Areas	Estimated Income	Likelihood Percentage	Balances Required
Parking Income* (on street/off-street)	£5,594,810	4.0%	£223,792
Development Control Income	£561,220	4.0%	£22,449
Recycling Income	£749,960	4.0%	£29,998
Garages	£4,134,200	1.0%	£41,342
Trade Refuse & Skips	£1,308,760	3.0%	£39,263
Indoor Market	£376,510	10.0%	£37,651
Commercial Property Income	£3,795,240	5.0%	£189,762
Lower fees and charges in excess of budgeted from continual post of Cost of Living			£250,000
Total			£834,257

* The council has a parking account which identifies how parking fees are spent on parking and related costs

Potential Risk Area	Comments		
Demand Led Budgets	Potential risk that spending on parts of the budget where the Council has a legal duty to provide the service increases significantly. Individual budgets reviewed as part of the monthly budget monitoring process. All budgets are profiled over the year based upon previous experience and so any variances should show up during the year.		
		Calculated Risk	
Specific Areas	Estimated Exposure	Likelihood Percentage	Balances Required
Housing Benefit maximum risk based on not meeting threshold for Local Authority errors.	£180,000	40%	£72,000
Loss of Business Rates yield	£3,379,025	maximum loss (7.5%)	£253,427
Lower S31 Grants than anticipated which means the NNDR yield would be higher but would not be returned to the General Fund until 2026/27.	£527,879	5%	£26,394
Increase in bad debts as a economic changes impacting on charging for services	£140,550	100%	£140,550
Bed and Breakfast budget been reduced based on current trends. However, there's a risk that demand could increase.	£80,000	75%	£59,400
risk of capital works requiring funding as a result of rephasing/deferring works in the Capital Strategy	£250,000	100%	£250,000
Housing Benefit overpayment net income reduces and results in a pressure on the General Fund	£576,960	10%	£57,696
Total			£859,467

Potential Risk Area	Comments including any mitigation factors		
Changes since budget was set	Potential risk that things change since the budget estimates were made and the estimates are then under budgeted for.		
		Calculated Risk	
Specific Areas	Estimated Exposure	Likelihood Percentage	Balances Required
Transitional Vacancy Rate 4.5%	£800,540	10.00%	£80,054
Less staff time charged to capital than budgeted	£528,410	5.00%	£26,421
REVISED: pay award is higher than budgeted for 1%	£24,804,893		£218,389
If General Fund underspends not achieved to fund the graduate posts in future years	£150,000	100.00%	£150,000
Contractual inflation 1% increase	£11,233,348	2.70%	£115,764
Utility and fuel inflation usage/costs increase	£1,549,264	10.00%	£154,926
Borrowing costs will be higher than estimated on new borrowing in Capital Strategy	£1,609,610	1% increase in borrowing costs for the garage programme	£16,096
Total			£761,649

Potential Risk Area	Comments including any mitigation factors		
Other Risks	Potential risk that savings options will not be realised as a result of delay or unforeseen circumstances.		
		Calculated Risk	
Specific Areas	Estimated Exposure	Likelihood Percentage	Balances Required
Savings Options	£1,171,682	10.00%	£117,168
Total			£117,168

Potential Risk Area	Comments including any mitigation factors		
Estimated balances required for any over spend or under -recovery of expenditure and income	This calculation replaces the calculation based on Net Expenditure		
		Calculated Risk	
Specific Areas	Estimated Exposure	Likelihood Percentage	Balances Required
Gross Income (excludes specific income listed above)	£26,995,436	1.50%	£404,932
Gross Expenditure (excludes specific expenditure listed above)	£29,610,113	1.50%	£444,152
Total			£849,083

Level of Balances Assumed in General Fund Based on risk

£3,421,625