

Appendix J: Budget Risks Register 2025-26

TOTAL £m	345.0	290.0
----------	-------	-------

Directorate	Risk Title	Source/Cause of Risk	Risk Event	Consequence	Current Likelihood (1-5)	Estimated Annual Financial Exposure £m	Estimated Lifetime Financial Exposure £m
Significant Risks (over £10m)							
CYPE	High Needs Spending	The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs Block does not meet the cost of demand for placements in schools, academies, colleges and independent providers.	The Safety Valve programme does not deliver the reduction to the in-year deficit on spending to support children with high needs as planned leading to a higher deficit. Whilst initial progress in 2022-23 and 2023-24 was positive the council was ahead of target, 2024-25 has been a more challenging year where the council is forecasting to be £10m off-target due to a combined effect of higher prices and significantly higher demand in financial support in mainstream schools. If compensating savings cannot be delivered and/or these pressures cannot be retained in future years, there is a risk the Council will become increasingly off target by the end of the agreement in 2027-28. In addition, the SEN deficit is currently not part of the Council's main accounts, the statutory override allowing the deficit to be held off balance sheet is currently due to end in March 2026, therefore there is a risk that if this is not extended or additional funding from central government is not received to clear the outstanding balance, this will have to be reflected in the Council's accounts in 2026-27.	The Department for Education withholds its contribution towards the accumulated deficit and/or the increased overspend leaves a residue deficit. The government requires the total deficit on the school's budget to be carried forward and does not allow authorities to offset from general funds anything above the amounts included in the Safety Valve agreement without express approval from Secretary of State. This approach does not resolve how the deficit will be eliminated and therefore still poses a significant risk to the council. If the statutory override is removed, and no additional funding is made available to pay off the residual deficit, the accumulated deficit will form part of the Council's accounts and the Council may not be able to set a balanced budget.	4		165.0
ALL	Non delivery of Savings and income and inability to replace one-off measures	Changes in circumstances, resulting in delays in the delivery of agreed savings or income and inability to replace one-off measures with sustainable permanent alternatives	Inability to progress with plans to generate savings or additional income as planned, due to changing circumstances	Overspend on the revenue budget, requiring alternative compensating in year savings or temporary unbudgeted funding from reserves. Potential recurring budget pressure for future years.	4	120.9	

Appendix J: Budget Risks Register 2025-26

TOTAL £m	345.0	290.0
-----------------	--------------	--------------

Directorate	Risk Title	Source/Cause of Risk	Risk Event	Consequence	Current Likelihood (1-5)	Estimated Annual Financial Exposure £m	Estimated Lifetime Financial Exposure £m
ASCH / CYPE	Market Sustainability	The long term impact of Covid-19 is still impacting on the social care market, as is several years of unfunded above inflation increases in the national living wage. There continue to be concerns about the sustainability of the sector as a result. At the moment all areas of the social care sector are under pressure in particular around workforce capacity including both recruitment and retention of staff especially for providers of services in the community, meaning that sourcing appropriate packages for all those who need it is becoming difficult. This is likely to worsen over the next few months with the pressures of winter, and increased activity in hospitals. Throughout this year we have continued to see increases in the costs of care packages and placements far greater than what would be expected and budgeted for, due to a combination of pressures in the market but also due to the increased needs and complexities of people requiring social care support.	If staffing levels remain low, vacancies unfilled and retention poor, then repeated pressure to increase pay of care staff employed in the voluntary/private sector in order to be able to compete in recruitment market. At the moment vacancy level said to be 1 in 10. The increases to the National Minimum and National Living Wage will create more challenges for the market to recruit and retain when other sectors may be paying more, so it may be that they will need to increase their wages accordingly. The changes to Employer National Insurance contributions affect all employers, but the reduction in the threshold to £5,000 pa hits this sector hardest because of the number of part-time and low paid employees.	Care provider closures are not an infrequent occurrence and whilst some providers that close are either too small or poor quality, others are making informed business decisions to exit the market. The more providers that exit in this unplanned manner further depletes choice and capacity to meet need, which can create pressures in the system regarding throughput and discharge from hospital thus potentially increasing price.	4	28.4	
	2024-25 potential overspend impact on reserves	Under delivery of recovery plan to bring 2024-25 revenue budget into a balanced position by 31-3-25.	Overspend against the revenue budget in 2024-25 required to be met from reserves leading to a reduction in our financial resilience	Insufficient reserves available to manage risks in 2024-25 and future years	3	23.3	
	Revenue Inflation	The Council must ensure that the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) includes robust estimates for spending pressures.	Inflation rises above the current forecasts leading to price increases on commissioned goods and services rising above the current MTFP assumptions and we are unsuccessful at suppressing these increases. Each 1% is estimated to cost £14m.	Additional unfunded cost that leads to an overspend on the revenue budget, requiring compensating in year savings or temporary unbudgeted funding from reserves. Potential recurring budget pressure for future years.	3	14.0	
	Distribution of Grant Settlements	The government's reforms to funding allocations, starting with targeted approach to additional funding in 2025-26 ahead of broader redistribution of funding through multi-year settlement from 2026-27 and the consolidation of existing funding streams	Allocations to fund services and activities in Kent are reduced	The council is unable to make consequential adjustments to spending on the same timescale as funding changes resulting in further calls on reserves	4	22.2	

Appendix J: Budget Risks Register 2025-26

TOTAL £m	345.0	290.0
-----------------	--------------	--------------

Directorate	Risk Title	Source/Cause of Risk	Risk Event	Consequence	Current Likelihood (1-5)	Estimated Annual Financial Exposure £m	Estimated Lifetime Financial Exposure £m
ALL	Demand & Cost Drivers	The Council must ensure that the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) includes robust estimates for spending pressures.	Non inflationary cost increases (cost drivers) continue on recent upward trends particularly but not exclusively in adult social care, children in care and home to school transport above the current MTFP assumptions and the Council is not able to suppress these	Additional unfunded cost that leads to an overspend on the revenue budget, requiring compensating in year savings or temporary unbudgeted funding from reserves. Potential recurring budget pressure for future years.	4	12.0	
CYPE	Market Sustainability	Availability of suitable placements for looked after children.	Continued use of more expensive and unregulated placements, where it is difficult to find suitable regulated placements as no suitable alternative is available.	Unfunded cost that leads to an overspend on the revenue budget, requiring compensating in year savings or temporary unbudgeted funding from reserves.	4	10.0	
CYPE	Home to School Transport	Lack of suitable local education placements for children with Special Education Needs	Parents seek alternative placements outside of their locality requiring additional transport support	Additional transport costs incurred resulting in an overspend on the revenue budget, requiring compensating in year savings or temporary unbudgeted funding from reserves and potential recurring budget pressure for future years; or seek to demonstrate that the available local placements are suitable for the child's needs	3	10.0	
GET/DCED	Changing Government focus on funding to support the Net Zero/Carbon Reduction green agenda (capital spend)	Government has previously provided 100% funding for certain Net Zero/green projects e.g. Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) Funding towards the Bowerhouse and Kings Hill Solar Farms (£20m in total on community/HQ buildings, and £2m on schools), as well as LED installation, heat network or heat source pumps (gas, water). The PSDS grant is now moving focus from LED/Solar - despite the Council requiring 2 more Solar Parks as part of its Net Zero ambitions - and towards Heat Networks. Not only this, but whereas some projects were previously match funded, Government is now looking at >50% match funding requirements. The latest PSDS funding secured only funded 18% of the project. The cost of one large and one small Solar Park is in the region of £22.5m, plus a need for gas boilers on the corporate and schools estate to be replaced by heat source pumps (and/or hydrogen in the future).	The risk is that the Council has to find much higher match funding for future Net Zero projects, or review its expectations with regards to Net Zero 2030 and 2050 ambitions.	The consequence is that the Council has to put forward match funding for capital projects which can only come from borrowing or reserves. Borrowing then has a revenue implication and adds to the financing cost budget which is currently unaffordable, or accept that we will have to meet the target in other ways.	4		30.0

Appendix J: Budget Risks Register 2025-26

					TOTAL £m	345.0	290.0
Directorate	Risk Title	Source/Cause of Risk	Risk Event	Consequence	Current Likelihood (1-5)	Estimated Annual Financial Exposure £m	Estimated Lifetime Financial Exposure £m
Non Attributable Costs	Insecure funding	The 2025-26 core budget includes £14.2m from insecure funding (company dividends, business rate pool and new homes bonus).	Previously it was recognised that core spending should not be funded from insecure/volatile sources and such funding should be held in reserve and used for one-off purposes	Funding is not secured at the planned level resulting in overspend on the revenue budget, requiring compensating in year savings or temporary unbudgeted funding from reserves. Potential recurring budget pressure for future years.	3	14.2	
GET	Waste capital infrastructure life expired and insufficient to cope with increased housing and population levels	A number of KCC's Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) and Waste Transfer Stations (WTS) are life expired (35-40 years old) and require significant repair or replacement/reconfiguration. In addition to this, District Local Plan targets mean additional houses, and increasing population, presents a capacity issue for the service. Council Tax allows price inflation, additional tonnes (demography) and legislative changes to be taken into account, but does not allow for renewing or adding new infrastructure. The service started securing s106 from 2023 onwards, but unless other (Government) funding can be secured, the Council will need to invest in both of these areas. The introduction of new legislation (Simpler Recycling, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)) brings with it additional requirements and costs on how certain materials can be segregated, disposed of and new levies (Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) - Jan 28) will further add to the cost of disposal (estimated £12m-17m) for all tonnes that are disposed via the Energy for Waste plant.	Unless grant or other funding (s106, CIL) can be secured, the Council will need to fund replacing and reconfiguring (due to Government legislative unfunded changes) the existing sites, as well as building new sites. Outside of the capital programme, which includes building one new WTS, there is up to £50m investment required and noted in the 10-year capital programme. Funding has not been identified for these schemes, which include two new WTS and renewing existing sites, but is an indication of the level of investment required over the medium to long term and for which there is no currently identified funding source (one WTS/HWRC could be partner funded). Funding will also need to be set aside to react/prepare for changes in legislation (Simpler Recycling, EPR, ETS), although some of the EPR income can be used to reconfigure sites due to the new legislation, as well as to enable behaviour change in terms of improved recycling, re-use and hence lower disposal costs.	The consequence is that the Council has to put forward match funding, or the entirety of funding, for the new sites and/or reconfigured sites which means additional borrowing and the financing/borrowing costs that go along with this. £50m is the maximum financial impact figure, or accept the consequential reduction in capacity in terms of Waste Infrastructure, with impact of ETS then being estimated at £12m -17m per annum.	4		50.0
Other Risks (under £10m - individual amounts not included)						90.0	45.0
ALL	Capital - Developer Contributions	Developer contributions built into funding assumptions for capital projects are not all banked.	Developer contributions are delayed or insufficient to fund projects at the assumed budget level.	Additional unbudgeted forward funding requirement and potential unfunded gaps in the capital programme	4		
ALL	Council Taxbase & Collection Fund assumptions	Collection authorities assume lower collection rates (increased bad debts) and/or change local discretionary discounts/premiums	Reduced council tax funding continues into 2026-27 and beyond	The existing smoothing reserve earmarked for this is insufficient to cover the ongoing base shortfall beyond 2025-26	4		

Appendix J: Budget Risks Register 2025-26

TOTAL £m	345.0	290.0
-----------------	--------------	--------------

Directorate	Risk Title	Source/Cause of Risk	Risk Event	Consequence	Current Likelihood (1-5)	Estimated Annual Financial Exposure £m	Estimated Lifetime Financial Exposure £m
ALL	Full year effect of current overspends	The Council must ensure that the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) includes robust estimates for spending pressures.	Increases in forecast current year overspends on recurring activities resulting in higher full year impact on following year's budget than included in current plan meaning services would start the year with an existing deficit (converse would apply to underspends). This risk is less significant than in previous year budget risk register due to a lower amount of base budget changes required in 2025-26 draft budget compared to 2024-25 budget	Additional unfunded cost that leads to an overspend on the revenue budget, requiring compensating in year savings or temporary unbudgeted funding from reserves. Potential recurring budget pressure for future years.	4		
GET	Capital – asset management and rolling programmes including: Highways, Country Parks, PROW	The asset management/rolling programmes for KCC Highways are annual budgets and are not increased for inflation each year, meaning that the purchasing power reduces year on year as inflation is compounded yet the budget remains fixed.	Inflation pressures are incurred annually on these budget areas but the funding sources (Council borrowing, DfT grant) remain fixed and therefore this contributes to the 'managed decline' notion in that these budgets do not even maintain steady state as often the level of investment is significantly below (risk accepted by the Executive) the required level of spend - steady state asset management principles recommend £170m pa is spent. Plus year-on-year inflation is not budgeted for so the level of works commissioned reduces year-on-year also, which was exacerbated in 2023 with BCIS reaching 29% and RPIX 12%+ (inflation is estimated at needing to be £4m pa) just to stand still, plus then a £110m pa shortfall on asset management "steady state" (£170m, less actual capital spend of c£60m).	A funding gap exists annually, so steady state cannot be achieved, so unless budget provision is made, the level of capital/asset management preventative works commissioned each year will reduce. This will present a revenue pressure, as more reactive works are likely to be required, plus the respective backlogs for Highways Asset Management (c£700m) will increase exponentially. The risk represents the level of annual inflation required to mitigate this risk or accept that the asset will deteriorate.	4		
GET	Highways asset defects/failures as a result of static asset management funding	New risk of highways failures due to inadequate provision for inflation in DfT grants and KCC capital borrowing, leading to reduction in real terms value of grant/funding to the quantum of asset management/replacement works that can be effected. KCC spend c£60m per annum (DfT and KCC borrowing) but asset management principles calculate the annual spend requirement to remain at "steady state" to be £170m per annum and hence a £110m per annum shortfall.	An increase in reactive general repairs (revenue) as well as increased Cat 1 and Cat 2 defects where assets on the highways network will need replacement or extensive repairs well before the end of their useful economic life	Current funding levels are insufficient to be able to react to such defects, so the asset management backlog increases and more reactive revenue repairs are needed whereas proactive asset management/replacement is the preference. Previously an annual borrowing funded Cat 1 budget but this ceased 3 years ago when the no new borrowing stance was enacted	4		

Appendix J: Budget Risks Register 2025-26

TOTAL £m	345.0	290.0
-----------------	--------------	--------------

Directorate	Risk Title	Source/Cause of Risk	Risk Event	Consequence	Current Likelihood (1-5)	Estimated Annual Financial Exposure £m	Estimated Lifetime Financial Exposure £m
ALL	Capital	Capital project costs are subject to higher than budgeted inflation.	Increase in building inflation above that built into business cases.	Capital projects cost more than budgeted, resulting in an overspend on the capital programme, or having to re-prioritise projects to keep within the overall budget. For rolling programmes (on which there is no annual inflationary increase), the level of asset management preventative works will reduce, leading to increased revenue pressures and maintenance backlogs.	4		
ALL	Contract retender	Contracts coming up for retender are more expensive due to prevailing market conditions and recruitment difficulties	This risk could result in a shortage of potential suppliers and/or increases in tender prices over and above inflation	Higher than budgeted capital/revenue costs resulting in overspends unless that can be offset by specification changes	4		
GET	Investment in the Public Rights of Way (PROW) network	Insufficient funding to adequately maintain the PROW network. Estimated shortfall compared to steady state asset management principles is an additional £2.5m pa.	Condition of the PROW network suffering from under-investment. A £150k allocation was included in the 2021-22 but additional one-off and base funding is likely to be needed for a service that is already operating at funding levels below best practice recommended asset management levels. This has been further exacerbated by the increased usage several years ago arising from the covid related restrictions and national lockdown	The potential for claims against the Council due to injury and from landowners and the need to undertake urgent works that lead to an overspend on the revenue budget, requiring compensating in year savings or temporary unbudgeted funding from reserves.	4		
GET	Revenue - drainage and adverse weather	Persistent heavy rainfall and more frequent storm events mean insufficient revenue and capital budget to cope with the reactive and proactive demands on the service	An additional £1m was put into the drainage budget in 2021-22 but this was below the level of overspends in the two prior years and the risk is therefore the budget is not being funded at the level of demand/activity. More erratic weather patterns also cause financial pressures on the winter service and many other budgets. The risk is that this weather pattern continues and additional unbudgeted funding is required. A £1m saving was put into the budget in 2023-24 with a view to reducing the service standards/intervention levels in this area but due to the climate/persistent rainfall, damage to the network meant that additional works were required. Despite provisionally including £1m back into the 2024-25 budget, there is still a view that the budget is £1m light due to the changing weather climate/events and that the budget could see activity/demand require an additional £1m-£1.5m being required to reduce potential for flooding on the road network and the level of defects that then arise.	Additional unfunded cost that leads to an overspend on the revenue budget, requiring compensating in year savings or temporary unbudgeted funding from reserves	4		

Appendix J: Budget Risks Register 2025-26

TOTAL £m	345.0	290.0
----------	-------	-------

Directorate	Risk Title	Source/Cause of Risk	Risk Event	Consequence	Current Likelihood (1-5)	Estimated Annual Financial Exposure £m	Estimated Lifetime Financial Exposure £m
GET	Changing Government focus on funding to support the Net Zero/Carbon Reduction green agenda (revenue spend)	The Sustainable Business and Communities team with Net Zero within its remit has received significant EU/Interreg funding which has helped plan and deliver the plan for Net Zero by 2030/2050. This funding ceased in 2023-24 and the Council has invested £0.7m (2023-24) into the base budget to create a permanent team, with £0.3m deferred until 2025-26 (budgetary constraints) to deliver this strategy/Framing Kent's Future priority. If such funding is unaffordable to the Council then Net Zero requirements won't be met.	The risk is that the Council has to fund any reduction or cessation of funding.	The consequence is an overspend against the revenue budget, requiring compensating savings or funding from reserves, as simply not delivering Net Zero by 2050 is not an option due to Government legislation being implemented.	4		
GET	Waste income, tonnage and gate fee prices	The current market has seen a considerable volatility in the income received for certain waste streams (potentially due to other supply shortages), as well as increased gate fees due to the double digit inflation seen in 2023 (majority of Waste contracts are RPI which was 12% during the year). The budget for 2024-25 includes not only significant price pressures for contract inflation, gate fees and HWRC management costs, but also realignment of budgets from 2023-24 where the actual inflation levels at the point the contracts are uplifted being higher than budgeted. Inflation is reducing, but November OBR showed a slowing rate of reduction than March OBR.	Projected levels of income fall, or gate fees/contractual price uplifts are above budgeted levels which leave an unfunded pressure.	This will result in an unfunded pressure that leads to an overspend on the revenue budget, requiring compensating in year savings or temporary unbudgeted funding from reserves. Potential recurring budget pressure for future years.	4		

Appendix J: Budget Risks Register 2025-26

TOTAL £m	345.0	290.0
-----------------	--------------	--------------

Directorate	Risk Title	Source/Cause of Risk	Risk Event	Consequence	Current Likelihood (1-5)	Estimated Annual Financial Exposure £m	Estimated Lifetime Financial Exposure £m
GET	Capital – Galley Hill cliff collapse and ongoing discussions regarding ownership and remedial costs to put right	<p>The privately owned cliff face at Galley Hill, Swanscombe collapsed, with the road atop the cliff (KCC’s responsibility) significantly damaged and has had to be closed and with diversions in place.</p> <p>Discussions are being had with the businesses at the base of the cliff as well as trying to ascertain ownership of the site and who would ultimately be responsible for any remedial works</p>	<p>The risk event is that costs to date of £1.162m since 2023-24, covered by a mix of reserves and forecast GET directorate overspend in 2024-25, would not be recovered and would be borne by KCC.</p> <p>Then the wider, and more costly risk, could be the decision to repair/reinstate the cliff so that the road can be re-constructed and re-opened, a cost which KCC would then have to bear, either partially or via insurance and the associated consequences of such a significant claim. Ongoing discussions are being had with relevant stakeholders, DfT, legal and with the insurers.</p>	<p>The consequence is that costs to date of £1.162m would not be fully recovered and that KCC may be liable for future capital works to restore and reopen the road.</p> <p>At this stage, there is uncertainty about the likelihood and costs cannot be estimated until quotes have been obtained for works and who is liable to fund what elements.</p> <p>Ultimately KCC’s road was only impacted/damaged due to the cliff collapsing – it was not a surface defect – so it is too early to estimate cost, timing or likelihood with any certainty.</p>	3		
CYPE	Recruitment, retention & cover for social workers	<p>Higher use of agency staff to meet demand and ensure caseloads remain at a safe level in children's social work. The Service has relied on recruitment of newly qualified staff however this is being expanded to include a more focused campaign on attracting experienced social workers.</p> <p>There are higher levels of sickness and maternity leave across children's social work</p>	Inability to recruit and retain sufficient newly qualified and experienced social workers resulting in continued reliance on agency staff, at additional cost. Higher levels of sickness and maternity leave resulting in need for further use of agency staff.	Additional unfunded cost that leads to an overspend on the revenue budget, requiring compensating in year savings or temporary unbudgeted funding from reserves. Potential recurring budget pressure for future years.	3		
DCED	Cyber Security	Malicious attacks on KCC systems.	Confidentiality, integrity and availability of data or systems is negatively impacted or compromised leading to loss of service, data breaches and other significant business interruptions.	Financial loss from damages and potential capital/revenue costs as a result of lost/damaged data and need to restore systems	3		
DCED	Strategic Headquarters	Sub optimal solution for the Council's strategic headquarters following the decision to market Sessions House as an entire site (with options on individual blocks)	Capital programme includes a capped £20m allocation for strategic assets project that limits the available options. Provision of a dedicated council chamber cannot be afforded within the current allocation. If the purchase falls through then KCC would need to re-assess all options.	Inability to address all backlog issues increases the risk of cost overruns and potential need for higher future maintenance, running and holding costs	3		
ALL	Capital - Capital Receipts	Capital receipts not yet banked are built into the budget to fund projects.	Capital receipts are not achieved as expected in terms of timing and/or quantum.	Funding gap on capital projects requiring additional forward funding.	3		

Appendix J: Budget Risks Register 2025-26

TOTAL £m	345.0	290.0
-----------------	--------------	--------------

Directorate	Risk Title	Source/Cause of Risk	Risk Event	Consequence	Current Likelihood (1-5)	Estimated Annual Financial Exposure £m	Estimated Lifetime Financial Exposure £m
ALL	Income	The Council must ensure that the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) includes robust income estimates.	Income is less than that assumed in the MTFP.	Loss of income or reduced collection of income that leads to an overspend on the revenue budget, requiring compensating in year savings or temporary unbudgeted funding from reserves. Potential recurring budget pressure for future years.	3		
GET	English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS) and Kent Travel Saver (KTS) journey levels	ENCTS journeys have reduced over time, more so during the pandemic, so a £3.4m reduction was reflected in 2022-23 budget with a further £1.9m reduction in the 2023-24 budget. Should custom/patronage return to pre-covid levels, this would lead to a £5.3m budget shortfall. This is a national scheme and the Council has to reimburse the operators for running this on the Council's behalf. There was initially a ringfenced grant for this service, it then became part of the Revenue Support Grant and now no specific grant exists so the taxpayers of Kent fund this scheme and would need to fund any update.	Activity levels return to a level of journeys in excess of the revised budget, therefore causing a financial pressure.	Additional unfunded cost that leads to an overspend on the revenue budget, requiring compensating in year savings or temporary unbudgeted funding from reserves. Potential recurring budget pressure for future years if current activity levels are not indicative of the new normal.	3		
Non Attributable Costs	Volatility on Investment Income	The 2025-26 budget for investment income from the treasury management strategy is £10.2m for 2025-26 and £9.9m for 2026-27. The outturn is heavily dependent on the path of short term interest rates, the level of cash that is available for investment, and the performance of investments. The budget already assumes a reduction in interest rates but a faster or more severe decline in rates could lead to underperformance versus the budget.	Performance of our investments falls below predicted levels as a result of volatility in the economy	Reduction in investment income leads to an overspend on the revenue budget, requiring compensating in year savings or temporary unbudgeted funding from reserves. Potential recurring budget pressure for future years.	3		
CYPE	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking (UAS) Children	Home Office Grant for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and (former UAS Children) Care Leavers permanently residing in Kent has not increased for inflation for several years	The Grant no longer covers the full cost of supporting UAS Children and Care Leavers permanently residing in Kent. The Home Office does not increase the rates with inflation.	Overspend on the revenue budget, requiring alternative compensating in year savings or temporary unbudgeted funding from reserves. Potential recurring budget pressure for future years.	3		

Appendix J: Budget Risks Register 2025-26

TOTAL £m	345.0	290.0
-----------------	--------------	--------------

Directorate	Risk Title	Source/Cause of Risk	Risk Event	Consequence	Current Likelihood (1-5)	Estimated Annual Financial Exposure £m	Estimated Lifetime Financial Exposure £m
CYPE / DCED	Reduction in DFE grants for central services for schools and review of school services provided by the Local Authority	Local Authority grant funding to support schools continues to be reduced, equating to a cumulative total reduction of nearly £5m for the Council since 2019-20. Consequently the Council needs to review its relationship with schools and the services it provides free of charge.	Long term solutions cannot be implemented within timescales and may require schools agreement (which may not be achieved). There is also a risk that passing greater responsibilities to schools could have a possible negative impact on other areas of Local Authority responsibility if schools do not comply (for example: school maintenance). There is also the risk of further cuts to the Local Authority Central Services for School Grants in the future.	If this remains unresolved there is a risk that this will also have to either be met from reserves in future years or result in an overspend until a longer term solution is identified	3		
ASCH (PH)	Uplift in Public Health Grant	The 'real' increase in the Public Health grant is insufficient to meet additional costs due to i) price increases (particularly those services commissioned from NHS staff where pay has increased) and/or increased demand; and/or ii) costs of new responsibilities.	The increase in the Public Health grant is less than the increases in costs to Public Health.	(i) Additional unfunded cost that leads to an overspend on the revenue budget, requiring compensating in year savings or temporary unbudgeted funding from reserves. (ii) Public Health Reserves could be exhausted	3		
ALL	Capital - Climate Change	Additional costs are incurred to comply with climate change policy	Project costs increase beyond budget	Overspend on the capital programme resulting in additional borrowing	3		
DCED	Enterprise Business Capabilities (EBC) - Now called Oracle Cloud Programme	Cost and/or timescale overruns on implementation phase for Oracle replacement	Unforeseen or higher than budgeted costs	Additional unfunded costs over and above the reserve set aside for the project	3		
DCED	Capital Investment in Modernisation of Assets	Unless the Council estate asset base is reduced sufficiently, there is risk of insufficient funding to adequately address the backlog maintenance of the Corporate Landlord estate and address statutory responsibilities such as Health & Safety requirements	Condition of the Corporate Landlord estate suffering from under-investment. Recent conditions surveys estimate an annual spend requirement of £12.7m per annum required for each of the next 10 years. Statutory Health & Safety responsibilities not met.	The estate will continue to deteriorate; buildings may have to close due to becoming unsafe; the future value of any capital receipts will be diminished. Potential for increased revenue costs for patch up repairs. Risk of legal challenge.	2		
ALL	VAT Partial Exemption	The Council VAT Partial Exemption Limit is almost exceeded.	Additional capital schemes which are hosted by the Council result in partial exemption limit being exceeded.	Loss of ability to recovery VAT that leads to an overspend on the revenue budget, requiring compensating in year savings or temporary unbudgeted funding from reserves. Potential recurring budget pressure for future years.	2		

Appendix J: Budget Risks Register 2025-26

TOTAL £m	345.0	290.0
----------	-------	-------

Directorate	Risk Title	Source/Cause of Risk	Risk Event	Consequence	Current Likelihood (1-5)	Estimated Annual Financial Exposure £m	Estimated Lifetime Financial Exposure £m
ALL	IFRS9	Local Authorities will be required to recognise the revenue impact on the General Fund of unrealised gains/ losses on pooled fund investments from 2025-26 when the statutory override ceases. The statutory override currently allows unrealised gains/losses resulting from changes in the fair value of pooled investment funds to be transferred to an unusable reserve until the gain/loss is realised once the financial asset has matured.	Any unrealised gain or loss as a result of stock market performance will impact on the General Fund. The likelihood and estimated financial exposure reflected reference an adverse scenario where the Council would need to recognise a significant loss on its investments, (as a scenario where the council recognises a significant gain, would be to our advantage and therefore not a budget risk).	A significant loss would reduce our General Fund and the council's financial resilience.	2		
CYPE	Capital - Basic Need Allocations	Estimates of future basic need allocations are included in the capital programme.	Basic need allocations are less than expected.	Funding gap for basic need projects which will need to be funded either by reprioritising the capital programme or by descoping.	2		
DCED	Highways unadopted land	Maintenance costs for residual pieces of land bought by Highways for schemes and subsequently tiny pieces not required or adopted.	Work becomes necessary on these pieces of land and neither Highways or Corporate Landlord have budget to pay for it.	Work needs to be completed whilst estates work to return the land to the original landowner	1		
DCED	Backlog of maintenance for properties transferring to Corporate Landlord	Maintenance backlog historically funded by services from reserves or time limited resources which have been exhausted. Properties that have been transferred to the corporate landlord require investment.	Urgent repairs required which cannot be met from the Modernisation of Assets planned programme within the capital budget	Unavoidable urgent works that lead to an overspend on the revenue budget, requiring compensating in year savings or temporary unbudgeted funding from reserves. Potential recurring budget pressure for future years.	1		

Likelihood Rating

Very Likely	5
Likely	4
Possible	3
Unlikely	2
Very Unlikely	1