

# THE CHARTER TRUSTEES FOR POOLE



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| Report subject             | <b>Finance Update February 2026</b>  |
| Meeting date               | 5 March 2026   |
| Status                     | Public   |
| Executive summary          | The forecast for the 2025/26 financial year is that the Charter Trustees of Poole will underspend against the budget set. This is due to spend to date and planned activity for the rest of the year being lower than originally envisaged. The forecast underspend for the year is £25,151 which allows for an estimated reserve of £90,487 to be passed over and split between the Poole and Broadstone Town Councils. |
| <b>Recommendations</b>     | <b>It is RECOMMENDED that:</b><br><br><b>The Charter Trustees note the in-year budget position for 2025/26 and other finance updates set out in the report.</b>  |
| Reason for recommendations | To inform the Charter Trustees of the budget position for the current financial year   |
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## Budget forecast position 2025/26

1. The Charter Trustees of Poole approved the 2025/26 budget at their meeting of 29 January 2025. Agreed total expenditure was £158,389 which will be funded from the council tax precept of £132,324, reserve contribution of £25,065 and £1,000 from investment income.
2. Appendix A of this report provides a detailed breakdown of the agreed budgets and the latest financial forecast for 2025/26 against budget headings. The current forecast is that budgets will be underspent at the year-end because of spend to date and planned activity for the rest of year will be less than previously expected. This will create a forecast underspend of £25,151 which is the difference between forecast drawdown of reserves and what was budgeted for.
3. The reserves of the Charter Trustee of Poole are forecasted to decrease to a closing position of £90,487.

## **Annual Governance and Accountability Return**

4. The external audit for 2025/26 accounts will carry on as planned with the completed Annual Governance and Accountability return being presented to the Town Councils in the new financial year.
5. In support of the return an internal audit has been carried out, and full details have been included in Appendix B. We will work with the Town Councils wherever possible to ensure they are aware of any ongoing concerns or risks identified.

## **Summary of finance Implications**

6. As detailed in the report.

## **Summary of legal Implications**

7. None

## **Summary of human resources implications**

8. None

## **Summary of sustainability impact**

9. None

## **Summary of equality impact**

10. None

## **Summary of risk impact**

11. The monitoring of the in-year budget position and early engagement on the 2025/26 budget setting process minimise the risks that budgets are insufficient to meet expenditure, or that in-year overspends occur.

## **Appendices**

Appendix A – February 2026 Budget Forecast

Appendix B – Internal Audit Report 2025/26