

**Executive response to a recommendation from Overview and Scrutiny Committee relating to item 8 on the agenda for the 17 January 2024  
Executive meeting: Draft Budget 2024/25**

Recommendation arising from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 10 January 2024.

**Context**

The Committee noted that the provisional local government finance settlement for the financial year was announced on 18 December 2023. The lateness of the announcement each year, just before the Christmas break, makes the budget setting process more difficult not only because the funding is not known until this late stage, but also because the budget scrutiny and review process then must be fitted into a matter of weeks in the first few months of the year.

Earlier, ideally multi-year, settlements would allow councils to plan in a more considered manner.

Recommendation	Agree (Y / N)	Comment	Responsible Executive Member	Lead Officer
Recommendation 1 – That the Cabinet Member for Finance writes to the Minister for Local Government requesting that local government finance settlements be announced earlier in future.	Y		Councillor Alaric Smith, Executive Member for Finance	Madhu Richards, Director of Finance