

**Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Monitoring Committee
held in the Council Chamber, Whitworth Civic Hall on
Thursday 8th January 2026 at 7pm.**

Members Present:

Councillor Whitehead (Chair)

Councillor Greenwood

Councillor Neal

Councillor Ritson

Clerk of the Council: Miss R Hodson

No members of the public were present.

1. To receive apologies.

Apologies were received from Councillors Burton and Chorlton, with Councillor Ritson kindly agreed to substitute.

2. To consider the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8th December 2025, and to approve them by the signature of the Chairman as a correct record.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8th December 2025, copies of which had been circulated to each member, were correct and should be approved by the signature of the Chairman as a correct record. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Ritson.

3. To receive and note the 9-month outturn.

The clerk reported on the 9-month outturn and current projections for the 2025-2026 financial year.

It was resolved that councillors accept the 9-month outturn. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Greenwood.

4. To consider budget version 6 for 2026-2027 and consider recommending this to Full Council for approval.

It was resolved that Committee agree with budget version 6 for 2026-27 and agree to recommend this to Full Council for approval. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Ritson.

This resulted in a proposed precept of £83,914, £35.30 per Band D equivalent on a council tax base of 2,377, which is an annual increase of £1.44 or 4.3%.

5. To consider a quotation for replacement Christmas Lights in the Memorial Gardens.

Councillors discussed this and approved the clerk to liaise with Facilities at RBC regarding the Christmas Lights in the Memorial Gardens.

6. To review staff wages for 2026/27.

Councillors discussed this and agreed to increase pay rates for staff who are on NJC SCP rates to a minimum of the National Minimum Wage (£12.71) from 1st April, whilst pay negotiations for SCP rates for 2026/27 are undertaken. This was moved by Councillor Neal and seconded by Councillor Ritson.

7. Any other business.

Councillors requested that the Local Government Reorganisation working group feedback in the next Finance Monitoring Committee meeting.

8. To set the date for the next meeting

The next meeting will be arranged after consultation with the Local Government Reorganisation working group.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7:35pm.