

Executive Scrutiny Board	
Recommendations from the meeting held on 18 December 2023	
Council Cabinet Agenda – 20 December 2023	
Item 8	Transforming the Council Using AI Technology
<p>The Board received a report of the Cabinet Member for Cost of Living, Equalities and Customer Inclusion and the Director – Digital & Physical Infrastructure and Customer Engagement on Transforming the Council Using AI Technology.</p> <p>The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to recommend to Council Cabinet that a troubleshooting point of contact be established between Councillors and an appropriate IT officer; and 2. to note the long-term potential of AI to transform services but urge caution in terms of outcomes and financial savings during financial year 24/25. Robust performance and financial reports and updates on the use and roll out of AI need to be taken, as a standing agenda item, to all relevant Overview and Scrutiny Boards throughout the 24/25 financial year. Personnel Committee and Unions should be engaged in regard to how the council workforce may change in the future as a result of AI. 	
Item 9	Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2026/27 – Update and proposed Consultation
<p>The Board received a report of the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Strategy, Governance and Finance and the Director of Financial Services on Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2026/27 – Update and proposed Consultation.</p> <p>The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to agree that it has been unable to fully and effectively scrutinise item 9, the MTFP 24/27 on the Council Cabinet agenda. Officers were unable to provide the meeting with any details of the proposals contained in the report. Details will not be provided until the next Scrutiny meeting on the 15th of January. The report clearly lacks sufficient detail on some of the proposals, there is a distinct lack of new proposed savings, the use of reserves and the over reliance on unproven AI are of very serious concern and need to be scrutinised in considerable detail. The timing and depth of the Scrutiny function of the Council should not be restricted and at a time when the finances are in such a precarious position, the MTPF should be fully examined. It is not appropriate that Scrutiny should be limited to questions put in advance to enable a suitable response to be prepared. The report and proposals contained in the MTFP item, does not represent an adequate consultation report for the public to be able to consider and give an informed response to the process; and 	

- 2. to note that regional LGA scrutiny training recommended that good budget scrutiny should be throughout the year, including scrutiny of the budget development process during the summer and autumn and requested that for the coming year Council Cabinet engage much more closely with the Scrutiny function throughout the year in the development of the 25/26 Budget.**