

## Salisbury City Council

The Guildhall  
Market Place  
Salisbury  
Wilts  
SP1 1JH



**Contact:** Penny Muxworthy, Corporate Support Officer  
**Direct Line:** 01722 342860  
**Email:** [corporate@salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk](mailto:corporate@salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk)  
**Website:** [www.salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk](http://www.salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk)

# Minutes

**Meeting of** : The Finance Committee  
**Date** : 05 January 2026  
**Meeting held in** : The Guildhall, Salisbury  
**Commencing at** : 1830 hours

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Present:

Chair: Cllr S Charleston                      Vice Chair: Cllr A Hoque

Cllrs: A Bayliss, M Brown, S Hocking, T Last, P Podger, S Rideout, A Suddards

Officers: Asa Thorpe, Steve Bishop and Penny Muxworthy

Also present: Cllrs J Nettle, A Riddle and C Taylor

There was 1 member of the press and 1 member of the public present

1832 hours arrival – Cllrs A Bayliss and M Brown

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## 1. Apologies:

Cllr S Rideout substituted for Cllr R Rogers.

## 2. Public Questions/Statement Time:

There were no questions submitted from the public.

## 3. Councillor Questions/Statement Time:

There were no questions or statements submitted from councillors.

## 4. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the last meeting of the Finance and Governance Committee held on 24 November 2025 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**5. Declarations of Interest:**

No declarations of interest were received.

**6. Dispensations:**

No dispensations were requested.

**7. Chairman's Announcements:**

The Chairman thanked everyone involved in the budgeting process to date – both councillors and officers.

**8. Budget Monitoring Report for 2025/26:**

Steve Bishop, the Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) presented the Budget Monitoring Report for April–October 2025 (2025/26 financial year), comparing actual income and expenditure with the approved budget, in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations, and it was:

**Resolved that:**

8.1 The Committee notes the financial position at the end of October, officers' explanations for the variances over £50,000 and the predicted outturn underspend of £400k.

**9. Administration's Proposed Budget and Medium Term Plan for 2026/27:**

The RFO presented the Administration's proposed 2026/27 budget and 5-year medium term financial plan for 2026/27 – 2030/31, along with the proposed 2026/27 fees and charges. These budgets, medium term financial plan, bids and savings, fees and charges were presented with the approval of the Administration and have been developed in liaison with Councillors and Council officers.

**Proposed by:** Cllr T Last

**Seconded by:** Cllr S Charleston

A vote was taken, and it was:

**Resolved that:**

9.1 In light of the currently expected 2025/26 underspend there be further discussions to increase spending on future Christmas provisions at Full Council.

9.2 Consideration be given to Councillors Allowances at next week's Full Council meeting.

9.3 Officers present more in-year Business Cases to committees for councillors to review.

9.4 To note the 2026/27 fees and charges proposed by Officers.

9.5 To recommend the Administration's proposed 2026/27 Budget to Full Council for determination at its meeting on 12 January 2026.

**10. Opposition Groups' Proposed Budget and Medium Term Plan for 2026/27:**

The RFO presented the Conservative Group Opposition's proposed 2026/27 budget and 5-year medium term financial plan for 2026/27 – 2030/31, along with the proposed 2026/27 fees and charges. These budgets, medium term financial plan, bids and savings, fees and charges were presented with the approval of the Conservative Group and have been developed in liaison with Councillors and Council officers. The committee considered the recommendation to take the Conservative Group Opposition's proposed 2026/27 budget and medium-term financial plan to Full Council.

**Proposed by:** Cllr S Hocking  
**Seconded by:** Cllr A Suddards

A vote was taken, and it was **not carried**.

**11. Matters, if any, which by reason of special circumstances the Chairman decides should be discussed as a matter of urgency.**

There were no matters considered under this item.

The meeting closed at 2014 hours.

Signed versions of minutes are available upon request.