

**Agenda Item**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025/26 to 2027/28</b>	<b>Status</b>	For Publication
<b>Report to</b>	Authority	<b>Date</b>	13 February 2025
<b>Report of</b>	Chief Finance Officer Director		
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>	Not Required	Attached	No
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Will Goddard Head of Finance & Performance	<b>Phone</b>	01226 666421
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**1 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To present the Authority's Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025/26 to 2027/28 for consideration and approval.

**2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Members are recommended to:
- a. Approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025/26 to 2027/28**

**3 Link to Corporate Objectives**

- 3.1 The attached Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) sets out the forecast for the running costs of the Authority and for the estimated income and expenditure of the Fund over the next three years and sets the Authority's financial objectives for the period. The strategy is framed in terms of providing sufficient resources to support the delivery of all the corporate objectives set out below.
- 3.2 The MTFS preparation and approval process itself links to the 'Effective and Transparent Governance' objective by ensuring that the financial plans are transparent, are subject to proper scrutiny and oversight, and that the Authority is accountable for its use of resources.

**Customer Focus**

To design our services around the needs of our customers (whether scheme members or employers).

**Listening to our stakeholders**

To ensure that stakeholders' views are heard within our decision making processes.

## **Investment Returns**

To maintain an investment strategy which delivers the best financial return, commensurate with appropriate levels of risk, to ensure that the Fund can meet both its immediate and long term liabilities.

## **Responsible Investment**

To develop our investment options within the context of a sustainable and responsible investment strategy.

## **Scheme Funding**

To maintain a position of full funding (for the Fund as a whole) combined with stable and affordable employer contributions on an ongoing basis.

## **Effective and Transparent Governance**

To uphold effective governance showing prudence and propriety at all times.

## **Valuing and engaging our Employees**

To ensure that all our employees are able to develop a career with SYPA and are actively engaged in improving our services.

## **4 Implications for the Corporate Risk Register**

- 4.1 The financial objectives and forecasts outlined in the MTFS are designed to support strong financial management and ensure that sufficient resources are available for the risk mitigation actions being taken as set out in the Corporate Risk Register.

## **5 Background and Options**

- 5.1 The attached MTFS presents the financial forecasts for the Authority and for the Fund. The financial strategy is designed to support the delivery of the policy position and objectives set out in the Corporate Strategy and is updated annually at the same time as that strategy so that the financial objectives align with the corporate objectives.
- 5.2 The MTFS also provides a framework of rules within which the Authority will determine the resources available to fulfil its functions. In the updated MTFS attached, this framework remains in place and the specific measurable financial objectives and limits within it have been updated as appropriate to meet the needs and circumstances of the Authority over the next three years.

## **6 Implications**

- 6.1 The proposals outlined in this report have the following implications:

Financial	As set out in the MTFS attached.
Human Resources	The Authority operational budget includes an assumption of a pay award of 4% for 2025/26 and 3% p.a. over the remaining period of the MTFS; the actual pay award will be determined by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services.
ICT	No direct implications.
Legal	No direct implications.
Procurement	No direct implications.

**Gillian Taberner**

**Assistant Director – Resources**

**& Chief Finance Officer**

**George Graham**

**Director**

<b>Background Papers</b>	
<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>
Budget and MTFS working papers	Oakwell House, 2 Beevor Court, Pontefract Road, Barnsley, S71 1HG