



Memorandum

Date: 7/14/2026

Meeting of: Committee of the Whole - Finance, Administration, and Communications

File No. CM 26-407

Type: Committee Memo

TO: Committee of the Whole - Finance, Administration, and Communications

FROM: Mayor Angela Birney

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR CONTACT(S):

Finance	Kelley Cochran	425-556-2748
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DEPARTMENT STAFF:

Finance	Haritha Narra	Deputy Finance Director
Finance	Hailey Zurcher	Financial Planning Manager

TITLE:

Budget Process Update: Long-Range Financial Strategy, Fiscal Policies, Budget Ground Rules, and Communications and Engagement Plan

OVERVIEW STATEMENT:

The Long-Range Financial Strategy and the Fiscal Policies documents are updated to reflect changing economic conditions, emerging community priorities, and best practices in municipal Finance. A Study Session is scheduled for July 28, and Finance staff would like to review the proposed discussion items to ensure the presentation is complete. Additionally, in preparation for upcoming Council budget deliberations in the fall, the Council budget review ground rules were provided in June for Council's review and approval to move forward to the consent agenda. Furthermore, as part of the budget process, a Communications and Engagement Plan for the 2027-2028 budget has been developed, and an overview will be provided.

☒ **Additional Background Information/Description of Proposal Attached**

REQUESTED ACTION:

☐ **Receive Information**

☒ **Provide Direction**

☐ **Approve**

REQUEST RATIONALE:

- **Relevant Plans/Policies:**
City of Redmond Long-Range Financial Strategy
City of Redmond Fiscal Policies
- **Required:**
City policies require routine updates to the Long-Range Financial Strategy.
City and State policies require routine updates to the Fiscal Policies.
- **Council Request:**

N/A

- **Other Key Facts:**

The review and update process for the Long-Range Financial Strategy and Fiscal Policies is included in the biennial budget process. The current update is significant, and it is important to discuss the recommended changes with Council.

OUTCOMES:

The Long-Range Financial Strategy provides a forward-looking framework that forecasts revenues and expenditures over multiple years. It helps identify potential gaps, assess financial risks, and guide decision-making to maintain structural balance. Fiscal Policies establish the rules and standards that govern how financial decisions are made and implemented. The policies cover areas such as reserve levels, debt management, and revenue diversification. The discussion during the FAC meeting will be an opportunity to provide feedback to inform preparation for the July 28 Study Session.

Additionally, the Council budget review ground rules will be reviewed in preparation for adoption at an upcoming business meeting.

The 2027-2028 Budget Communications and Engagement Plan has been prepared to inform Council of the outreach and engagement efforts and methods being utilized as part of the budget development process.

Attachments will be provided to Council prior to the July 14 FAC meeting.

COMMUNITY/STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH AND INVOLVEMENT:

- **Timeline (previous or planned):**

March-November 2026

- **Outreach Methods and Results:**

Focus Groups (community members, Board Members and Commissioners, and CBOs)

Budget Questionnaire (launched July 1, 2026)

Refreshed city webpages regarding the budget

Stickers, Yard Signs, Flyers, Utility Bill Inserts

Public Hearings for the Budget Process

News Releases

Social Media

Promotional Videos

City eNews & Other Newsletters

Focus Article

- **Feedback Summary:**

Focus group feedback will be presented to Council in September 2026.

Budget Questionnaire feedback will be presented to Council in the fall.

BUDGET IMPACT:

Total Cost:

N/A

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Approved in current biennial budget:

☐ Yes

☐ No

☒ N/A

Budget Offer Number:

N/A

Budget Priority:

Strategic and Responsive

Other budget impacts or additional costs:

☐ Yes

☐ No

☒ N/A

If yes, explain:

N/A

Funding source(s):

N/A

Budget/Funding Constraints:

N/A

☐ Additional budget details attached

COUNCIL REVIEW:

Previous Contact(s)

Date	Meeting	Requested Action
3/10/2026	Committee of the Whole - Finance, Administration, and Communications	Provide Direction
4/14/2026	Committee of the Whole - Finance, Administration, and Communications	Receive Information
4/14/2026	Study Session	Receive Information
5/12/2026	Committee of the Whole - Finance, Administration, and Communications	Receive Information
6/9/2026	Committee of the Whole - Finance, Administration, and Communications	Provide Direction

Proposed Upcoming Contact(s)

Date	Meeting	Requested Action
7/28/2026	Study Session	Provide Direction

Time Constraints:

The final Long-Range Financial Strategy and Fiscal Policies documents will be proposed for approval as part of the budget adoption packet in November.

ANTICIPATED RESULT IF NOT APPROVED:

The City will continue to utilize the existing Long-Range Financial Strategy and Fiscal Policies.

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ATTACHMENTS:

N/A