

Environment and Communities Committee

Agenda

Date: Thursday, 30th March, 2023
Time: 10.30 am
Venue: Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields, Middlewich Road,
Sandbach CW11 1HZ

The agenda is divided into 2 parts. Part 1 is taken in the presence of the public and press. Part 2 items will be considered in the absence of the public and press for the reasons indicated on the agenda and at the top of each report.

It should be noted that Part 1 items of Cheshire East Council decision making meetings are audio recorded and the recordings will be uploaded to the Council's website

PART 1 – MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS PRESENT

1. **Apologies for Absence**

To note any apologies for absence from Members.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

To provide an opportunity for Members and Officers to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in any item on the agenda.

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** (Pages 3 - 10)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 February 2023.

For requests for further information

Contact: Josie Lloyd

Tel: 01270 686466

E-Mail: josie.loyd@cheshireeast.gov.uk with any apologies

4. **Public Speaking/Open Session**

In accordance with paragraph 2.24 of the Council's Committee Procedure Rules and Appendix on Public Speaking, set out in the [Constitution](#), a total period of 15 minutes is allocated for members of the public to put questions to the committee on any matter relating to this agenda. Each member of the public will be allowed up to two minutes each to speak, and the Chair will have discretion to vary this where they consider it appropriate.

Members of the public wishing to speak are required to provide notice of this at least three clear working days in advance of the meeting.

5. **2022/23 Financial Update** (Pages 11 - 38)

To receive the financial update for the year 2022/23.

6. **Standing Item: Members Advisory Panel: Cheshire East Cemeteries Strategy Review**

To receive a verbal update from the Chair of the Member Advisory Panel.

7. **Standing Item: Working Group: Household Waste & Recycling Centres**

To receive a verbal update from the Chair of the Working Group.

8. **Work Programme** (Pages 39 - 40)

To consider the work programme and determine any required amendments.

Membership: Councillors Q Abel, S Akers Smith (Vice-Chair), M Benson, J Bratherton, J Buckley, L Crane, T Dean, A Farrall, L Gilbert, P Groves, C Leach, J Parry and M Warren (Chair)

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment and Communities Committee**
held on Thursday, 2nd February, 2023 in the Committee Suite 1,2 & 3,
Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor S Akers Smith (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Q Abel, J Bratherton, J Buckley, L Crane, T Dean, A Farrall,
P Groves, C Leach, J Parry, S Holland, C Browne and K Parkinson

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Tom Shuttleworth – Interim Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods
Jane Gowing – Interim Director of Planning
Peter Skates – Director of Growth and Enterprise
Ralph Kemp – Head of Environmental Services
David Malcolm – Head of Planning
Tracey Bettaney – Head of Regulatory Services
Kim Evans – Licensing Team Leader
Chris Allman – Head of Neighbourhood Services
Tracy Baldwin – Principal Accountant
Wendy Broadhurst – Lead Finance Partner
James Thomas – Principal Solicitor – Planning & Highways
Josie Lloyd – Democratic Services Officer

ALSO PRESENT

Cllr Nick Mannion

54 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Benson, Cllr Gilbert and Cllr Warren. Cllr Browne, Cllr Holland and Cllr Parkinson attended as substitutes.

55 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In the interest of openness and transparency in relation to item 5, Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-27 Budget Consultation, Cllr Akers Smith declared that she was a Trustee of the Everybody Health and Leisure Board.

56 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2022 be agreed as a correct record.

57 PUBLIC SPEAKING/OPEN SESSION

There were no public speakers.

58 MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2023-27 CONSULTATION

The Committee received a report on the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2023-2027 and the revenue and capital proposals contained within the MTFS relating to the Committee's responsibilities. As part of the consultation process, Members were asked to consider the proposals within the remit of the Committee and provide comments and feedback to the Corporate Policy Committee for consideration on 9 February 2023 before a balanced budget was presented to the full Council meeting of 22 February 2023 for final review and approval.

The following comments were raised:

- Cllr Dean raised concerns around the consultation process and that Committee Members had not been consulted or involved in the drawing up of the proposals before them in the report. Committee Members requested that consideration is given to future consultation to ensure there is a clear process for the Committee to be properly consulted on the proposals and detail surrounding them.
- *Proposal 92: Review Waste Collection Service* – Cllr Dean queried how much it would cost for a green bin to be emptied, what the current position was across the wider local authority sector and what market research had been undertaken to date.
- Cllr Farrall referred to a similar project by Trafford Borough Council which appeared unsuccessful and was later withdrawn.
- Members felt that the proposals could be counterproductive and queried if the proposals would:
 - a) lead to an increase in fly-tipping and food wastage
 - b) lead to any public health consequences as a result of home composting
 - c) encourage residents to blow leaves and other debris onto the highway potentially leading to blocked gullies and flooding

Members expressed a view that waste collection was something Cheshire East did well so it was disappointing that savings could not

have been found elsewhere, particularly given the cost of living crisis and some residents struggling financially.

- *Proposal 83: Planning and Building Control Income* - Cllr Farrall queried if there was anything that Cheshire East could implement at a local level to generate revenue, such as adding a surcharge for fast-tracking planning applications. Members also suggested that the Council lobby Central Government further on the issue of planning application fees and the need to be able to vary these locally.
- *Proposal 90: Strategic Leisure Review* – Members received an update on the detail behind this proposal. Members raised concerns around some of the proposals being put forward to achieve the budget saving which they felt should have been shared at an earlier stage.

Cllr Groves felt that the introduction of a parking permit scheme would have a detrimental impact and further highlights the need for a fair car parking policy to be introduced.

Members highlighted the significant costs associated with heating swimming pools and queried if there was any work underway to actively reduce the cost of energy usage. Cllr Abel referred to the potential to use solar power to heat pools.

- *Proposal 91: Maintenance of Green Spaces* – Members queried the savings attached to this proposal and the proposed operational review which will look at reducing existing maintenance regimes. Members requested further background information to the proposal and queried what the anticipated outcome of the review was. Members were advised that the proposal had not been changed but was re-profiled to develop a more considered implementation process.
- *Proposal 93: Libraries – Service Review* – Members raised concerns around the potential reduction in opening hours during the week and the impact this would have on the use of the buildings as ‘warm spaces’ and their intended use for other key services to be delivered within them. Members stressed the importance of libraries and how they are a hub for local communities including children, students and the elderly.

Cllr Buckley suggested that there should be a review of library services across the borough including looking at technological development.

Cllr Browne referred to Hartlepool Council which recently converted their libraries into community hubs and delivered a vast range of local services to residents. This generated significant savings for the local authority and also enabled longer opening hours. Cllr Browne welcomed the approach to review the use of Cheshire East's buildings. Cllr Browne also referred to the use of volunteers at the local library within his Ward and how this had enabled the library to remain open.

Cllr Abel suggested that revenue generation within libraries is explored further, including the sale of refreshments.

- *Proposal 97: Review closed landfill sites* – Members requested that the landfill site list be shared with all Committee Members.

RESOLVED:

1) That the Committee notes:

- a) the year-end forecast outturn position for 2022/23, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.
- b) the financial context and proposals contained within the Executive Summary of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (as set out in the MFTS report at Annex C, Section 1).
- c) the Revenue Grant Funding, as set out in Appendix 4 to the report.
- d) the Earmarked Reserves, as set out in Appendix 5 to the report.

2) The Committee feedback be noted on the proposals within the MFTS, as related to the Committee's responsibilities, that can support and advise full Council in fulfilling its responsibilities to approve a balanced budget for 2023/23 in the following areas:

- a) Revenue Proposals, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report
- b) Capital Programme, as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report.

59 MID-YEAR PERFORMANCE REVIEW - ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

The committee received the report which provided an update on the performance across Environment and Neighbourhood Services for the first half of 2022-23 against the relevant priorities, actions and measures of success within the Council's Corporate Plan 2021-25.

A query was raised as to vacancies within the Planning team and the current backlog of planning applications. The committee were advised that there were vacancies across the service which had not been possible to fill and that there was a contract with Capita to assist with the backlog. The contract was due to end in the next few months due to existing officers

having gained more experience. It was agreed that a breakdown of the cost of this contract and how many applications it had dealt with would be shared with the Committee. A further request was made by Cllr Dean for the Committee to receive figures on what the backlog was and what it is now.

A query was raised regarding the prices for hackney carriage hire in Congleton as this appeared to be lower than other areas in the borough and could create an issue with retaining taxi companies in the town. The committee were advised that the set prices were subject to consultation with the companies in the town and that previously Congleton had objected to increases on the basis that they were too high. The Licensing Committee could look at reviewing this if taxi companies in the area wish to raise this.

RESOLVED:

That the committee note the performance of the department.

60 ANIMAL WELFARE LICENSING POLICY

The committee received the report which sought approval of a new Animal Welfare Licensing Policy. Following this, the policy would be published and implemented by the Animal Welfare Team as part of animal welfare licensing activities.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

That Environment and Communities Committee approves the proposed Animal Welfare Licensing Policy contained as Appendix 1 to this report.

61 CARBON NEUTRAL PROGRESS UPDATE

The committee received the report which provided an update on the progress the Council had made towards being a carbon neutral council by 2025 and a carbon neutral borough by 2045.

A query was raised regarding peat restoration and the report which the Council had commissioned to evaluate peatland and mosses within the borough. It was noted that this piece of work would fall under the Economy and Growth Committee but it was agreed that the Environment and Communities Committee could be provided with a copy of the report.

A further query was raised regarding tree planting in Congleton and whether that had been included in the figures presented. Officers undertook to provide a written response to confirm this detail. The Council was currently working with Mersey Forest to assess the failure rate of the tree planting and to re-plant so information on this and lessons learned could be shared once the assessment was complete.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

That the Environment and Communities Committee:

1. Note the progress made towards the Council's target to be carbon neutral for its own emissions by 2025.
2. Note the contents of the borough wide baseline report 2045 (Appendix 1) and authorise the Head of Environmental Services to develop proposals with regional and local partners for priority action areas to begin to influence a reduction in borough wide carbon emissions towards the 2045 target.

62 NOTICE OF MOTION: SAFE NIGHT-TIME TRAVEL FOR WORKERS

The Committee considered a report in response to a Notice of Motion put to full Council in October 2022. The motion, which had been proposed by Cllr Laura Smith and seconded by Cllr Sally Handley, proposed a number of actions to improve night-time travel for workers.

Cllr Bratherton, who addressed the Committee on behalf of Cllr Handley, asked what powers the Council had, if any, which would allow the Licensing Committee to include additional criteria when considering applications. It was requested that consideration was given to establishing a Working Group to look at this area of work.

Officers referred to the Statement of Licensing Policy which provided guidance for applicants and information relating to expectations under legislation. The Licensing Act restricted what could be taken into consideration. It was noted that Cheshire East was bound by case law that identified what could be included in the Statement of Licensing Policy. It was highlighted that, should any additional requirements be included in the policy that were wider than the Council's powers as the Licensing Authority, the policy would be deemed unlawful and decisions made under the policy would be subject to challenge.

Officers undertook to provide a written response to the questions raised by Cllr Handley.

RESOLVED (by majority):

That the Environment and Communities Committee:

1. Note the national and local policy and guidance in relation to licensing late night refreshment and the taxi and private hire vehicle regime.
2. Note the planned review of the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy during 2023.

63 NOTICE OF MOTION - HYDRAULIC FRACTURING (FRACKING)

The committee received the report in response to a Notice of Motion put to full Council in October 2022.

Members raised a concern that the recommendations were to note the report and that this could mean no further action is taken. A motion was therefore moved and seconded which sought to amend the second recommendation to strengthen the wording and refer the item to the Economy and Growth Committee, to explore the options available within that committee's remit. The motion was carried.

RESOLVED (by majority):

That the Environment and Communities Committee:

1. Note the national and local planning guidance and policy in relation to hydraulic fracturing.
2. Note there are more controls the Council can put in place on land within its ownership and refer the matter to the Economy and Growth Committee to be explored.

64 STANDING ITEM: MEMBERS ADVISORY PANEL: CHESHIRE EAST CEMETERIES STRATEGY REVIEW

Councillor Joy Bratherton, Chair of the Cemeteries Strategy Review Member Advisory Panel, provided a verbal update to the committee.

The public consultation had ended on 23 December 2022. The timeframe for this had been extended to allow proper consultation across the community and, as a result, had increased the number of responses by 42%.

The consultation of the evaluation report may have to be set back slightly from 1 March. It was hoped that a strategy document could be shared with the committee in June and be brought to committee for a decision in August/September.

The areas that were being looked at were changing needs and expectations in the public, a range of memorial options, expanding cemeteries where the land is available, planting trees and encouraging wildlife into cemeteries, looking into woodland burial sites and exploring the option of transferring cemeteries to town and parish councils.

65 STANDING ITEM: WORKING GROUP: HOUSEHOLD WASTE & RECYCLING CENTRES

Cllr Laura Crane, Chair of the Household Waste and Recycling Centres Working Group, provided a verbal update to the committee.

The group had met a couple of times but had taken a brief pause while consultation for the MTFs was ongoing as a lot of the work may be dependent on the outcome. A further update would come to the next committee meeting.

66 WORK PROGRAMME

The committee considered the work programme.

It was noted that the Review of the Cemeteries Strategy would be deferred to August/September.

It was requested that a briefing be arranged on the Cleaner Crewe project.

RESOLVED:

That the work programme be noted.

The meeting commenced at 10:30 and concluded at 13:45

Councillor S Akers Smith



Working for a brighter future together

Environment and Communities Committee

Date of Meeting:	30 March 2023
Report Title:	2022/23 Financial Update
Report of:	Alex Thompson, Director of Finance and Customer Services (Section 151 Officer)
Report Reference No:	EC/03/22-23
Ward(s) Affected:	Not Applicable

1. Recommendations

That Environment and Communities Committee:

- 1.1.** Notes the report of the Finance Sub-Committee ([Agenda for Finance Sub-Committee on Wednesday, 8th March, 2023, 2.00 pm | Cheshire East Council](#)), specifically the recommendations of that committee.

1.1.1. Finance Sub-Committee recommend Service Committees to:

1.1.1.1. note the financial update and forecast outturn relevant to their terms of reference.

1.1.1.2. note the delegated decisions relating to supplementary revenue estimates for specific grants coded directly to services in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules as detailed in **Appendix 5, Section 2, Table 2.**

- 1.2.** Notes Appendix 5 and the following sections specific to this Committee:

- Changes to Revenue budget 2022/23
- Corporate Grants Register
- Debt Management
- Capital Strategy
- Reserve Strategy

2. Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1. Committees are responsible for discharging the Council's functions within the Budget and Policy Framework provided by Council. The Budget will be aligned with Committee and Head of Service responsibilities as far as possible.
- 2.2. Budget holders are expected to manage within the budgets provided by full Council. Committee and Sub-Committees are responsible for monitoring financial control and making decisions as required by these rules.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Alex Thompson Director of Finance and Customer Services (Section 151 Officer) alex.thompson@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Appendices:	Finance Sub Committee 2022-23 Financial Update which includes: Covering Report Annex 1: Appendix 5 Environment and Communities Committee.
Background Papers:	Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2022-26 First Financial Review, Item No.14 Financial Review 2022/23, Item No. 5 Financial Review Update 2022/23, Item No. 52 Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2023-27



Working for a brighter future together

Finance Sub-Committee

Date of Meeting:	8 March 2023
Report Title:	2022/23 Financial Update
Report of:	Alex Thompson: Director of Finance and Customer Services
Report Reference No:	FSC/14/22-23
Ward(s) Affected:	Not applicable

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The report provides Members with an update on financial management for the year 2022/23.
- 1.2. The in-year forecasts remain the same as reported to the Finance Sub-Committee on 19 January 2023 as part of the draft Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2023-27, which was subsequently presented to Corporate Policy Committee on 9 February, and Council on 22 February 2023.
- 1.3. This report includes requests for formal approvals of various matters, including fully funded supplementary budgets, as required in line with the Constitution.
- 1.4. Members are being asked to note the on-going serious financial challenges being experienced by the Council, due to global/ national economic circumstances which are raising prices and demand for services, and where local needs are becoming increasingly complex.
- 1.5. Mitigating activity continues, to minimise the impact on services and the outturn position.
- 1.6. Reporting the financial forecast outturn supports the Council's vision to be an open Council, as set out in the Corporate Plan 2021 to 2025 - in particular, the priorities for being an open and enabling organisation, and ensuring that there is transparency in all aspects of Council decision making.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1.** The Council aims to operate a financial cycle of planning, monitoring and reporting. This update is part of the monitoring cycle providing the forecast outturn position and any impacts on planning for next year's budget. The issues raised in this report are also seriously impacting on the planning cycle of the Council.
- 2.2.** This report supports the Council priority of being an open and enabling organisation, ensuring that there is transparency in all aspects of Council decision making.
- 2.3.** The Council set its 2022/23 annual budget in February 2022. The budget was balanced, as required, and included important planning assumptions about spending in the year. The budget is part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2022 to 2026.
- 2.4.** The provisional financial outturn for 2021/22 was reported in July 2022 and recognised emerging pressure within the final quarter of the year up to 31 March 2022. This was particularly linked to rising inflation and complexity of demand for care. It was also acknowledged specific risks remained unmitigated in respect of the Council's Private Finance Initiative and High Needs within the Dedicated Schools Grant.
- 2.5.** National increasing inflation during 2022/23 is having a significant impact on the cost of Council services as well as on the cost of living for local residents.
- 2.6.** The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy recognises that the Council has relatively low levels of reserves as funding is instead utilised to manage ongoing service demand. This means mitigation of spending pressures must come from a combination of activities, such as:
 - 2.6.1.** Additional use of grants and balances: Covid-19 grants to be fully utilised alongside appropriate application of Public Health Grants; integrated use of grants with Health Partners; drawing down from MTFS Reserve, General Reserves and specific service and company reserves where practical. Flexible use of capital receipts has also been reviewed, allowing eligible one-off revenue transformation expenditure by services to be funded from the proceeds of asset sales, in accordance with regulations.
 - 2.6.2.** Further efficiencies and income generation: Services are limiting all non-essential spending requirements; efficiencies will be sought beyond the current MTFS; project spending will be delayed where this is cost effective; charging will be reviewed to ensure discretionary services are properly funded.
- 2.7.** The report sets out details of the latest Financial Review of the Council's forecast financial performance for 2022/23:

Annex 1: 2022/23 Financial Update

- **Financial Stability:** Provides information on the overall financial stability and resilience of the Council. It demonstrates how spending in 2022/23 is being funded, including the positions on overall service budgets, centrally held budgets, council tax and business rates. Further details are contained in the appendices.
- **Appendices:**
 - Appendix 1** Adults and Health Committee.
 - Appendix 2** Children and Families Committee.
 - Appendix 3** Corporate Policy Committee.
 - Appendix 4** Economy and Growth Committee.
 - Appendix 5** Environment and Communities Committee.
 - Appendix 6** Finance Sub-Committee.
 - Appendix 7** Highways and Transport Committee.

3. Recommendations

Finance Sub-Committee is asked to:

- 3.1.** Note the forecast adverse Net Revenue financial pressure of £7.7m against a revised budget of £328.3m, as previously reported to Finance Sub-Committee on 19 January 2023
- 3.2.** Note the forecast Capital Spending of £125.2m against an approved MTFS budget £185.2m.
- 3.3.** Note the contents of Annex 1 and each of the appendices.
- 3.4.** Approve supplementary revenue estimates for specific grants coded directly to services up to and including £1,000,000 in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules as detailed in **Appendix 6 Finance Sub-Committee, Section 3 Corporate Grants Register, Table 3.**
- 3.5.** Approve the drawdown from MTFS reserve for transport detailed in **Appendix 6, Section 5.**
- 3.6.** Note that Council will be asked to approve:
 - 3.6.1.** Fully funded supplementary revenue estimates for specific grants coded directly to services over £1,000,000 in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules as detailed in **Appendix 1, Section 2 Corporate Grants Register, Table 2, Appendix 2, Section 2 Corporate Grants Register, Table 2 and Appendix 3, Section 2 Corporate Grants Register, Table 2.**
- 3.7.** Recommend to Service Committees to:
 - 3.7.1.** Note the financial update and forecast outturn relevant to their terms of reference.

3.7.2. Note the delegated decisions relating to supplementary revenue estimates for specific grants coded directly to services in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules as detailed in **Section 2 of each Committee Appendix**.

4. Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1. The overall process for managing the Council's resources focuses on value for money, good governance and stewardship. The approach to these responsibilities is captured in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.
- 4.2. The budget and policy framework sets out rules for managing the Council's financial affairs and contains the financial limits that apply in various parts of the Constitution. As part of sound financial management and to comply with the constitution any changes to the budgets agreed by Council in the MTFs require approval in-line with the financial limits within the Finance Procedure Rules.
- 4.3. This report provides strong links between the Council's statutory reporting requirements and the in-year monitoring processes for financial and non-financial management of resources.
- 4.4. In approving the Cheshire East Council Medium-Term Financial Strategy members of the Council had regard to the robustness of estimates and adequacy of reserves as reported by the s.151 Officer. The s.151 Officer's report highlighted the importance of each element of the MTFs and the requirement to achieve all the proposals within it. The recommendations of this report highlight the need for ongoing activity to manage the financial pressure being experienced by the Council.
- 4.5. Financial plans are predicated on robust estimates and supported by adequate reserves. The issues raised in this report present significant challenges to this assessment due to ongoing uncertainty about costs, achievement of actions and use of reserves. It is therefore important for ongoing effort to be put into achievement of the Action Plans and associated financial targets.

5. Other Options Considered

- 5.1. None. This report is important to ensure members of the Committee are sighted on the financial pressure the Council is facing and the activity to date to try and mitigate this issue. Activity is required to ensure the Council balances its expenditure and income without serious impact on essential Council services.

6. Background

- 6.1. Managing performance is essential to the achievement of outcomes. This is especially important in evidencing the achievement of value for money across an organisation the size of Cheshire East Council. The Council is the third largest Local Authority in the Northwest of England, responsible for approximately 500 services, supporting over 398,000 local people. Gross annual spending is over £700m, with a revised net revenue budget for 2022/23 of £328.4m.

- 6.2.** The management structure of the Council is organised into four directorates: Adults, Health and Integration; Children’s Services; Place; and Corporate Services. The Council’s reporting structure provides forecasts of a potential year-end outturn within each directorate during the year, as well as highlighting activity carried out in support of each outcome contained within the Corporate Plan.
- 6.3.** The political structure of the Council is organised into six committees, with a single sub-committee, all with financial responsibilities acutely aligned to the management structure. Performance against the 2022/23 Budget within each Committee, and the sub-committee, is outlined in Table 1 below.
- 6.4. Table 1 – Revenue Outturn Forecast split by the Six Service Committees and the Finance Sub-Committee**

2022/23	Revised Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast Variance	Change since Second Review
(GROSS Revenue Budget £474.2m)	(NET) £m	£m	£m	£m
Service Committee				
Adults and Health	121.1	130.0	8.9	0.0
Children and Families	74.2	77.7	3.5	(0.5)
Corporate Policy	40.6	41.0	0.4	(0.0)
Economy and Growth	23.6	22.8	(0.8)	(1.0)
Environment and Communities	44.4	47.3	2.9	1.2
Highways and Transport	13.8	13.6	(0.2)	(0.7)
Sub-Committee				
Finance Sub	(317.7)	(324.7)	(7.0)	-
TOTAL	-	7.7	7.7	(1.0)

- 6.5.** The Council set a balanced net revenue budget of £327.7m at its meeting in February 2022. Current forecasts against the revised budget of £328.3m, shows a potential net expenditure of £336.0m. This position is despite significant and challenging mitigation work by staff. All staff were issued with information on spending controls, with ongoing communication planned on this topic.
- 6.6.** In December a forecast outturn of £8.7m net overspend was reported at the Corporate Policy Committee. The make-up of the changes in the forecast position to £7.7m is outlined in the following paragraphs:
- 6.6.1. Increased care commitments within Adults, Health and Integration are being offset by further income, for example, from direct payment reimbursements and external grants (no change).
- 6.6.2. Children and Families Directorate (-£0.5m) - Additional costs of home to school transport from increasing SEND demand, fuel costs and contract costs offset by charging additional amounts to transformation costs to

capital receipts and additional underspending in Strong Start from holding vacancies. This forecast assumes that £1.6m of resettlement funding can be applied to costs incurred in 2022/23 and that piece of work is ongoing. Pressure remains on the DSG high needs block as a result of the growth in the number of pupils with an education, health and care plan. The Council holds an unusable reserve to manage DSG balances without impacting on the Council's General Reserves. The balance on the DSG reserve is forecast to be £45.6m deficit at 31 March 2023. That position is under review and may be under additional pressure.

- 6.6.3. Environment and Neighbourhood Services (£1.1m) - Company pay pressures of £1.4m are partially offset by a number of vacancies within the Planning service which will not be filled before the year end -£0.2m and lower waste tonnage and premises costs.
- 6.6.4. Growth and Enterprise (-£0.9m) - Cost reduction in Estates of £0.3m due to deferral of some non-essential maintenance work. £0.4m due to release of reserve for the ELENA project and £0.2m grant received relating to Reopening High Streets Safely.
- 6.6.5. Highways and Infrastructure (-£0.7m) - Improved position due to continuing high levels of income which is contributing a further £0.5m in 2022/23, costs of the RJ contract are predicted to be £0.2m lower than budget.
- 6.6.6. Increase in the forecast overspend within the Transactional Service Centre due to additional temporary staff in recruitment and pay, external consultants costs (Agylisis), and additional Governance & Support staff costs. Fall in the underspend being forecast by Customer Services due to test & trace final grant income no longer being received, and back pay costs for staff regrades in the newly formed continuous improvements team (£0.4m).
- 6.6.7. Confirmation of new burdens funding within the Elections Service and lower than previously forecast electoral registrations costs (-£0.2m).
- 6.6.8. Improvement within ICT due to the use of capital reserve for laptop replacement and an improved revenue contracts forecast decreasing the ICT Strategy overspend (-£0.2m).
- 6.6.9. No change in forecast for Central Budgets.
- 6.7.** General Reserve balances are risk assessed and it was highlighted in the MTFS that emerging risks such as inflation and particularly the DSG deficit, have no alternative funding. To address the issue of emerging financial pressure senior officers set up Action Plans, which continued to be developed to identify activities required to bring spending back in line with the MTFS. Actions may be required in-year to provide financial stability for future years.

Such decisions will be appropriately governed and communicated ensuring relevant consultation and impact assessments are addressed.

- 6.8. There is a clear ambition for each Committee to achieve spending in-line with the approved MTFS for all years. However, in some cases, given the seriousness of the financial pressure being put on the Council, Committee Members should consider options to exceed financial performance targets to retain an overall balanced position.
- 6.9. Whilst some inflation factors may be temporary, the Action Plans must also consider the medium-term resilience of mitigation activity. For example, the use of one-off balances, to mitigate in-year spend, may be effective in the short term, but would not be effective if spending is likely to recur in later years.

7. Consultation and Engagement

- 7.1. As part of the budget setting process the Pre-Budget Consultation provided an opportunity for interested parties to review and comment on the Council's Budget proposals. The budget proposals described in the consultation document were Council wide proposals and that consultation was invited on the broad budget proposals. Where the implications of individual proposals were much wider for individuals affected by each proposal, further full and proper consultation was undertaken with people who would potentially be affected by individual budget proposals.

8. Implications

8.1. Legal

- 8.1.1. The legal implications surrounding the process of setting the 2022 to 2026 Medium-Term Financial Strategy were dealt with in the reports relating to that process. The purpose of this paper is to provide a progress report for 2022/23.
- 8.1.2. Other implications arising directly from this report relate to the internal processes of approving supplementary estimates and virements referred to above which are governed by the Finance Procedure Rules.
- 8.1.3. Legal implications that arise when activities funded from the budgets that this report deals with are undertaken, but those implications will be dealt with in the individual reports to Members or Officer Decision Records that relate.

8.2. Finance

- 8.2.1. The Council's financial resources are agreed by Council and aligned to the achievement of stated outcomes for local residents and communities. Monitoring and managing performance help to ensure that resources are used effectively, and that business planning and financial decision making are made in the right context.

- 8.2.2. Financial plans are predicated on robust estimates and supported by adequate reserves. The issues raised in this report present significant challenges to this assessment due to ongoing uncertainty about costs, achievement of actions and use of reserves. It is therefore important for ongoing effort to be put into the achievement of the Action Plans and associated financial targets.
- 8.2.3. Reserve levels are agreed, by Council, in February each year and are based on a risk assessment that considers the financial challenges facing the Council. If spending associated with in-year delivery of services is not contained within original forecasts for such activity it may be necessary to vire funds from reserves.
- 8.2.4. The unplanned use of financial reserves could require the Council to deliver a greater level of future savings to replenish reserve balances and / or revise the level of risks associated with the development of the Reserves Strategy in future.
- 8.2.5. As part of the process to produce this report, senior officers review expenditure and income across all services to support the development of mitigation plans that will return the outturn to a balanced position at year-end.
- 8.2.6. Forecasts contained within this update provided important information in the process of developing the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. Analysis of variances during the year identified whether such performance is likely to continue, and this enables more robust estimates to be established.

8.3. Policy

- 8.3.1. This report is a backward look at Council activities and predicts the year-end position.
- 8.3.2. The forecast outturn position, ongoing considerations for future years, and the impact on general reserves will be fed into the assumptions underpinning the 2023 to 2027 Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

8.4. Equality

- 8.4.1. In setting the 2022/23 budget, an Equality Impact Assessment was prepared to show that proposals included positive and negative impacts in headline terms. Any equality implications that arise from activities funded by the budgets will be dealt within the individual reports to Members or Officer Decision Records to which they relate. These will be reviewed, as appropriate in the light of the mitigation actions referred to in this report.

8.5. Human Resources

8.5.1. This report is a backward look at Council activities and states the forecast year-end position. Any HR implications that arise from activities funded by the budgets that this report deals with will be dealt within the individual reports to Members or Officer Decision Records to which they relate.

8.6. Risk Management

8.6.1. Performance and risk management are part of the management processes of the Authority. Risks are captured at Strategic and Operational levels, both in terms of the risk of underperforming and risks to the Council in not delivering its objectives for its residents, businesses, partners and other stakeholders.

8.6.2. Financial risks are assessed and reported on a regular basis, and remedial action taken if and when required. Risks associated with the achievement of the 2021/22 budget and the level of general reserves were factored into the 2022/23 financial scenario, budget and reserves strategy.

8.7. Rural Communities

8.7.1. The report provides details of service provision across the borough.

8.8. Children and Young People/Cared for Children

8.8.1. The report provides details of service provision across the borough.

8.9. Public Health

8.9.1. Public health implications that arise from activities that this report deals with will be dealt with as separate reports to Members or Officer Decision Records as required.

8.10. Climate Change

8.10.1. Climate change implications that arise from activities that this report deals with will be dealt with as separate reports to Members or Officer Decision Records as required.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Alex Thompson Director of Finance and Customer Services (Section 151 Officer) alex.thompson@cheshireeast.gov.uk 01270 685876
Appendices:	Annex 1 including: Section 1 provides information on the overall financial stability and resilience of the Council. Further details are contained in the appendices. Appendix 1 Adults and Health Committee. Appendix 2 Children and Families Committee. Appendix 3 Corporate Policy Committee. Appendix 4 Economy and Growth Committee. Appendix 5 Environment and Communities Committee. Appendix 6 Finance Sub-Committee. Appendix 7 Highways and Transport Committee.
Background Papers:	The following are links to key background documents: Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2022-26 First Financial Review, Item No.14 Financial Review 2022/23, Item No. 5 Financial Review Update 2022/23, Item No. 52 Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2023-27



2022/23 Financial Update

March 2022

This report receives scrutiny and approval from Members of Cheshire East Council. As a public report, the Council welcomes feedback to the information contained here.

Anyone wanting to comment is invited to contact the Council at:

RandC@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Introduction

Cheshire East Council is the third largest Council in the Northwest of England, supporting over 398,000 local people with annual spending of over £470m.

Local government is going through a period of financial challenges, with a combination of the impact of increasing demand for services and rising costs due to inflation. There is also increasing uncertainty associated with income from business rates and government grants.

Demand for Council services is increasing, with more individuals and families needing support and services than ever before. This reflects an increase in population but also reflects changes in demographics and the national cost of living increases. This demand is resulting in forecast outturn of £336.0m against a net revenue budget of £328.3m, with the most significant impact within the rising complexity of needs in Adult Social Care.

When the 2022/23 budget was set, in February 2022, it was highlighted that the use of reserves was not sustainable in the medium term. Net spending therefore needs to be contained within the estimates of expenditure that form the budget. Early in the year forecasts highlighted pressures due to demand, inflation and pay negotiations. The pressures affecting the medium term finances of the Council have been addressed as part of the MTFs process for 2023 to 2027.

To support openness and transparency, and provide evidence of strong governance, the report has a main section, to provide background and context, and then seven supporting appendices with detailed information about allocation and management of public money during 2022/23:

The **Financial Stability** section provides information on the overall financial stability and resilience of the Council. It demonstrates how spending in 2022/23 is being funded, including the positions on overall service budgets, centrally held budgets, council tax and business rates. Further details are contained in the appendices.

- **Appendix 1** Adults and Health Committee.
- **Appendix 2** Children and Families Committee.
- **Appendix 3** Corporate Policy Committee.
- **Appendix 4** Economy and Growth Committee.
- **Appendix 5** Environment and Communities Committee.
- **Appendix 6** Finance Sub-Committee.
- **Appendix 7** Highways and Transport Committee.

Alex Thompson

Director of Finance and Customer Services
(Section 151 Officer)

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2022/23 Outturn Forecast - Financial Position

2022/23	Revised Budget
(GROSS Revenue Budget £474.2m)	(NET) £m
SERVICE DIRECTORATES	
Adults, Health and Integration	121.1
Children's Services	74.2
Place	81.8
Corporate Services	40.6
CENTRAL BUDGETS	
Capital Financing	19.0
Transfer to/(from) Earmarked Reserves	(3.2)
Transfer from MTFs Earmarked Reserve	-
Corporate Contributions / Central Budgets	(5.2)
TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE	328.3
Business Rates Retention Scheme	(49.1)
Specific Grants	(24.5)
Council Tax	(254.7)
Net Funding	(328.3)
NET (SURPLUS) / DEFICIT	-

Financial Stability

Introduction

1. The Council has a track record of sound financial management. Nevertheless, in common with all UK local authorities the Council finds itself in a position where pressures on the revenue budget are intensifying as a result of rapid inflation, the legacy impact of the Coronavirus pandemic and increasing cost of living pressure on households. These issues have the effect of increasing the demand for services and increasing costs of services.
 2. Complexity and market sustainability in Adults' and Children's Social Care remains the most significant financial pressure for the Council in the medium term. Rising inflation in fuel, utilities and wage levels are affecting costs across all services.
 3. In December a forecast outturn of £8.7m net overspend was reported at the Corporate Policy Committee (The full report can be found [Agenda for Corporate Policy Committee on Monday, 1 December, 2022, 10.00 am, Item 10 | Cheshire East Council](#)).
 4. The outturn position is now forecast to be an overspend of £7.7m due to the following changes since the second review:
 - Increased care commitments, within Adults, Health and Integration, are being offset by income, for example, from direct payment reimbursements and external grants. This results in no net change to the forecast.
 - The Children and Families Directorate forecast has improved by -£0.5m. Additional costs of home to school transport from increasing SEND demand, fuel costs and contract costs is being offset by charging additional amounts to transformation costs to capital receipts and additional underspending in Strong Start from holding vacancies. This forecast assumes that £1.6m of resettlement funding will be applied to costs incurred in 2022/23. Pressure remains on the DSG high needs block as a result of the growth in the number of pupils with an education, health and care plan. The Council holds an unusable reserve to manage DSG balances without impacting on the Council's General Reserves. The balance on the DSG reserve is forecast to be at least £45.6m deficit as at 31 March 2023.
- Environment and Neighbourhood Services forecast pressures have changed by £1.2m. Environmental services operational costs of £1.3m are partially offset by lower premises costs, and vacancies within the Planning service which will not be filled before the year end.
 - Growth and Enterprise forecast has improved by -£1.0m. Cost reduction in Estates of £0.3m due to deferral of some non-essential maintenance work. £0.5m due to release of reserve for the ELENA project and £0.2m grant received relating to Reopening High Streets Safely.
 - Highways and Infrastructure forecast has improved by -£0.7m. Continuing high levels of income is contributing a further £0.5m in 2022/23, costs of the Ringway Jacobs contract are predicted to be £0.2m lower than budget.
 - Increase in the forecast overspend within the Transactional Service Centre due to additional temporary staff in recruitment and pay, external consultants costs (Agyllis), and additional Governance and Support staff

costs. Fall in the underspend being forecast by Customer Services due to test and trace final grant income no longer being received, and back pay costs for staff regrades in the newly formed Continuous Improvements team (£0.4m).

- Confirmation of new burdens funding within the Elections Service and lower than previously forecast electoral registrations costs (-£0.2m).
 - Improvement within ICT due to the use of capital reserve for laptop replacement and an improved revenue contracts forecast decreasing the ICT Strategy overspend (-£0.2m).
 - No change in forecast for Central Budgets.
5. This forecast may be subject to variation in the final quarter, as budget managers will continue to take robust actions to control costs and reduce non-essential expenditure to improve this position further.
6. Individual pressures identified above are reflected in the MTFS for 2023/24 to 2026/27. Any betterment to the forecast outturn position should be utilised to replenish reserves in line with the priority of the Corporate Plan.

Table 1 - Service Revenue Outturn Forecasts

2022/23	Revised Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast Variance
(GROSS Revenue Budget £474.2m)	(NET)		
	£m	£m	£m
SERVICE DIRECTORATES			
Adult Social Care - Operations	117.5	126.1	8.6
Commissioning	3.6	3.9	0.3
Public Health	-	-	-
Adults and Health Committee	121.1	130.0	8.9
Directorate	1.0	0.6	(0.4)
Children's Social Care	47.0	49.5	2.5
Strong Start, Family Help and Integration	7.7	6.0	(1.7)
Education & 14-19 Skills	18.5	21.6	3.1
Children and Families Committee	74.2	77.7	3.5
Directorate	0.8	0.7	(0.1)
Growth & Enterprise	22.8	22.1	(0.7)
Economy and Growth Committee	23.6	22.8	(0.8)
Environment & Neighbourhood Services	44.4	47.3	2.9
Environment and Communities Committee	44.4	47.3	2.9
Highways & Infrastructure	13.8	13.6	(0.2)
Highways and Transport Committee	13.8	13.6	(0.2)
Directorate	1.4	1.3	(0.1)
Finance & Customer Services	12.5	13.1	0.6
Governance & Compliance Services	11.9	11.3	(0.6)
Communications	0.7	0.7	-
HR	2.4	2.2	(0.2)
ICT	9.8	10.5	0.7
Policy & Change	1.9	1.9	-
Corporate Policy Committee	40.6	41.0	0.4
TOTAL SERVICES NET EXPENDITURE	317.7	332.4	14.7
CENTRAL BUDGETS			
Capital Financing	19.0	19.0	-
Transfer to/(from) Earmarked Reserves	(3.2)	(9.2)	(6.0)
Corporate Contributions / Central Budgets	(5.2)	(6.2)	(1.0)
Finance Sub-Committee - Central Budgets	10.6	3.6	(7.0)
TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE	328.3	336.0	7.7
Business Rates Retention Scheme	(49.1)	(49.1)	-
Specific Grants	(24.5)	(24.5)	-
Council Tax	(254.7)	(254.7)	-
Finance Sub-Committee - Net Funding	(328.3)	(328.3)	-
NET (SURPLUS) / DEFICIT	-	7.7	7.7

Outturn Impact

7. It is planned that £5.2m will be used from the MTFs reserve to mitigate the overspend. The residual impact on General Reserves would be a reduction of £2.5m, decreasing the forecast closing balance of £14.9m to a potential closing balance of £12.4m, which is aligned to the risk assessed level of reserves for the 2023/24 Budget.
8. The Council will continue to manage and review the financial forecasts in response to emerging pressures and how this affects the Council's revenue budget.

Collecting Local Taxes for Local Expenditure

9. Cheshire East Council collects Council Tax and Non Domestic Rates for use locally and nationally.

Council Tax

10. Council tax is set locally and retained for spending locally. Council tax was set for 2022/23 at £1,626.24 for a Band D property. This is applied to the taxbase.
11. The taxbase for Cheshire East reflects the equivalent number of domestic properties in Band D that the Council is able to collect council tax from (after adjustments for relevant discounts, exemptions and an element of non-collection). The taxbase for 2022/23 was agreed at 156,607.48 which, when multiplied by the Band D charge, means that the expected income for the year is £254.7m.
12. In addition to this, Cheshire East Council collects council tax on behalf of the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner, the Cheshire Fire Authority and Parish Councils. **Table 3** shows these amounts separately, giving a total budgeted collectable amount of £313.8m.

13. This figure is based on the assumption that the Council will collect at least 99% of the amount billed. The Council will always pursue 100% collection, however to allow for non-collection the amount billed will therefore exceed the budget.
14. This figure may also vary during the year to take account of changes to Council Tax Support payments, the granting of discounts and exemptions, and changes in numbers and value of properties. The amount billed to date is £315.6m.

Table 3 – Cheshire East Council collects Council Tax on behalf of other precepting authorities

	£m
Cheshire East Council	254.7
Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner	36.9
Cheshire Fire Authority	12.9
Town and Parish Councils	9.3
Total	313.8

15. **Table 4** shows collection rates within three years, and demonstrates that 99% collection is on target to be achieved within this period.

Table 4 – 99% of Council Tax is collected in three years

Financial Year	CEC Cumulative			
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
	%	%	%	%
After 1 year	98.2	97.9	97.4	97.8
After 2 years	99.0	98.8	98.3	**
After 3 years	99.2	98.9	**	**

**data not yet available

16. The council tax in-year collection rate for the period up to the end of December 2022 is 82.9%. This is a small decrease of 0.5% on the previous year, indicating current cost of living pressures. Facilities are in place for residents to extend payments where needed and staff are engaging with residents who need additional support.
17. Council tax support payments were budgeted at £18.4m for 2022/23 and at the end of December the total council tax support awarded was £18.7m.
18. During 2021/22 there was a consultation and review of the Council Tax Support scheme resulting in some amendments being made. The revised scheme was confirmed by full Council in December 2021.
19. Council tax discounts awarded are £29m which is a slight increase in comparison to the same period in 2021/22. A small increase is attributable to work related to raising awareness of the discounts available to residents.
20. Council tax exemptions awarded is £7.7m which although broadly in line with previous years shows a slight increase due to reasons shown at 19.

Non-Domestic Rates (NDR)

21. NDR is collected from businesses in Cheshire East based on commercial rateable property values and a nationally set multiplier. The multiplier changes annually in line with inflation and takes account of the costs of small business rate relief.
22. The small business multiplier applied to businesses which qualify for the small business relief was set at 49.9p in

2022/23. The non-domestic multiplier was set at 51.2p in the pound for 2022/23.

23. **Table 5** demonstrates how collection continues to improve even after year end. The table shows how over 99% of non-domestic rates are collected within three years.
24. The business rates in-year collection rate for the period up to the end of December 2022 is 80.8%. This is a significant increase on last year and begins to revert collection rates back to pre-pandemic figures. A return to standard collection processes and government support through additional reliefs has assisted the recovery in collection.

Table 5 – Over 99% of Business Rates are collected within three years

Financial Year	CEC Cumulative			
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
	%	%	%	%
After 1 year	98.5	98.2	92.4	95.6
After 2 years	99.4	98.4	97.4	**
After 3 years	99.4	99.2	**	**

**data not yet available

Appendices to the 2022/23 Financial Update

March 2022

Appendix 5 : Environment and Communities Committee

Contents

Environment and Communities Committee Extracts

1. Changes to Revenue Budget 2022/23 since Financial Review Update

2. Corporate Grants Register

Table 1: Environment and Communities Committee Grants

**Table 2: Delegated Decision Additional Grant Funding (General Purpose)
£500,000 or less**

3. Debt Management

4. Capital Strategy

5. Reserves Strategy

Appendix 5

Environment and Communities Committee

1. Changes to Revenue Budget 2022/23 since Financial Review Update

	Second review Net Budget £000	Additional Grant Funding £000	Restructuring & Realignments £000	Revised Net Budget £000
Environment and Communities				
Environment & Neighbourhood Service	44,365	-	44	44,409
	44,365	-	44	44,409

2. Corporate Grants Register

Table 1 – Corporate Grants Register

Corporate Grants Register	National Allocation 2022/23 £m	Revised Forecast 2022/23 £000
SPECIFIC USE (Held within Services)		
Environment and Communities Committee		
Bikeability Grant	not available	240
Enforcement Grant (Planning) - brought forward	not available	30
Air Quality Grant - brought forward	not available	18
Air Quality Grant scheme	not available	55
Offensive weapons	not available	4
Cosmetic fillers	not available	7
Food Information Grant - Natasha's Law - brought forward	not available	1
Food Information Grant - Natasha's Law	not available	10
Section 31 grant - Biodiversity net gain	not available	20
Natural England - Stewardship scheme	not available	2
Total		387
GENERAL PURPOSE (Held Corporately)		
Environment and Communities		
Neighbourhood Planning Grant	not available	35
Total		35
Total Environment and Communities Committee		422

3.1 Cheshire East Council receives two main types of Government grants; specific use grants and general purpose grants. Specific use grants are held within the relevant service with a corresponding expenditure budget. Whereas general purpose grants are held in central budgets with a corresponding expenditure budget within the allocated service area.

3.2 Spending in relation to specific use grants must be in line with the purpose for which it is provided.

3.3 **Table 2** shows additional grant allocations that have been received which are £500,000 or less and are for noting only.

Table 2 – Note Delegated Decision - Supplementary Revenue Estimate Requests for Allocation of Additional Grant Funding (General Purpose) £500,000 or less

Committee	Type of Grant	£000	Details
Environment and Communities	Neighbourhood Planning Grant for Local Planning Authorities	25	This grant is from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). The conditions of grant mean that this funding could be used across the wider Spatial Planning area. This level of funding would be intended to support a number of Community Neighbourhood Plans across the borough.
Total General Purpose Allocations less than £500,000		25	

3. Debt Management

	Outstanding Debt £000	Over 6 months old £000
Environment and Communities Committee		
Environment and Neighbourhood Services	1,141	198
	1,141	198

4. Capital Strategy

Environment and Communities											CAPITAL			
CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023/24-2026/27														
Scheme Description	Total Approved Budget £000	Forecast Expenditure						Total Forecast Budget 2023/27 £000	Forecast Funding					Total Funding £000
		Prior Years £000	Forecast Budget 2022/23 £000	Forecast Budget 2023/24 £000	Forecast Budget 2024/25 £000	Forecast Budget 2025/26 £000	Forecast Budget 2026/27 £000		Grants £000	External Contributions £000	Revenue Contributions £000	Capital Receipts £000	Prudential Borrowing £000	
Committed Schemes														
Environment Services														
Arnold Rhodes Public Open Space Improvements Phase 2	94	89	0	5	0	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	0	5
Barony Skate Park Refurbishment	100	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	100	0	0	0	0	100
Carbon Offset Investment	1,000	0	125	125	250	500	0	1,000	0	0	0	0	1,000	1,000
Congleton Household Waste Recycling Centre	50	20	15	15	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	0	30	30
Energy Improvements at Cledford Lane	985	825	20	140	0	0	0	160	0	0	0	0	160	160
Fleet Vehicle Electric Charging	585	0	65	225	179	116	0	585	0	0	0	0	585	585
Future High Street Funding - Sustainable Energy Network	2,577	149	153	2,275	0	0	0	2,428	2,428	0	0	0	0	2,428
Green Investment Scheme (Solar Farm)	3,950	64	400	3,486	0	0	0	3,886	0	0	0	0	3,886	3,886
Household Waste Recycling Centres	860	0	50	810	0	0	0	860	0	0	0	0	860	860
Litter and Recycling Bins	208	56	50	50	52	0	0	152	0	0	0	0	152	152
Park Development Fund	946	496	64	236	150	0	0	450	0	0	0	0	450	450
Pastures Wood Decarbonisation	50	27	11	12	0	0	0	23	0	0	23	0	0	23
Solar Energy Generation	14,180	0	20	280	13,880	0	0	14,180	0	0	0	0	14,180	14,180
Victoria Park Pitch Improvements	29	5	12	12	0	0	0	24	0	24	0	0	0	24
Total Environment Services Schemes	25,613	1,732	985	7,770	14,511	616	0	23,882	2,528	29	23	0	21,302	23,882
Neighbourhood Services														
Congleton Leisure Centre	12,225	6,272	5,903	50	0	0	0	5,953	0	0	0	0	5,953	5,953
Macclesfield Leisure Centre Improvements	3,865	3,398		467	0	0	0	467	0	0	0	0	467	467
Libraries - Next Generation - Self Service	374	322	1	51	0	0	0	52	0	0	0	0	52	52
Poynton Leisure Centre	4,606	391		2,000	2,215	0	0	4,215	0	0	0	0	4,215	4,215
Total Neighbourhood Services	21,070	10,383	5,904	2,568	2,215	0	0	10,687	0	0	0	0	10,687	10,687
Planning Services														
Replacement Planning & Building	410	320	45	45	0	0	0	90	0	0	0	0	90	90
Regulatory Services & Environmental Health ICT System	313	240	50	23	0	0	0	73	0	0	0	0	73	73
Total Planning Services	723	560	95	68	0	0	0	163	0	0	0	0	163	163
Total Committed Schemes	47,406	12,674	6,984	10,406	16,726	616	0	34,732	2,528	29	23	0	32,152	34,732
New Schemes														
Environment Services														
Fleet EV Transition	6,897	0		1,605	1,991	3,301	0	6,897	0	0	0	0	6,897	6,897
Total New Schemes	6,897	0	0	1,605	1,991	3,301	0	6,897	0	0	0	0	6,897	6,897
Total Environment and Communities Schemes	54,303	12,674	6,984	12,011	18,717	3,917	0	41,629	2,528	29	23	0	39,049	41,629

5. Reserves Strategy

Environment and Communities Committee

Name of Reserve	Opening Balance 1st April 2022 £000	Forecast Movement in Reserves 2022/23 £000	Forecast Closing Balance 31st March 2023 £000	Notes
Environment and Neighbourhood Services				
Strategic Planning	568	(287)	281	To meet costs associated with the Local Plan - site allocations, minerals and waste DPD.
Trees / Structures Risk Management	202	(52)	150	New reserve to respond to increases in risks relating to the environment, in particular the management of trees, structures and dealing with adverse weather events.
Spatial Planning - revenue grant	89	(47)	42	Funding IT costs over 4 years.
Neighbourhood Planning	82	(38)	44	To match income and expenditure.
Air Quality	36	0	36	Air Quality Management - DEFRA Action Plan. Relocating electric vehicle chargepoint in Congleton.
Street Cleansing	26	(26)	0	Committed expenditure on voluntary litter picking equipment and electric blowers, due to be fully utilised in 2022/23.
Custom Build & Brownfield Register	19	(19)	0	
Community Protection	17	(17)	0	
Licensing Enforcement	15	(15)	0	Three year reserve to fund a third party review and update of the Cheshire East Council Taxi Licensing Enforcement Policies.
Flood Water Management (Emergency Planning)	2	0	2	Plans to draw down the reserve in 2023/24 relating to Public Information Works.
ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITIES TOTAL	1,056	(501)	555	

Work Programme – Environment and Communities Committee – 2022/23

A Report title in Bold indicates that this is a significant decision

Reference	Committee Date	Report title	Purpose of Report	Report Author /Senior Officer	Consultation and Engagement Process and Timeline	Equality Impact Assessment Required and Published (Y/N)	Part of Budget and Policy Framework (Y/N)	Corporate Plan Priority	Exempt Item and Paragraph Number
EC/01/23-24	June 2023	Notice of Motion: Silica Extraction Site Buffer	To consider the Notice of Motion raised at Council on 22 February 2023.	Director of Planning	No	No	No	Green	N/A
EC/27/22-23	September 2023	Review of the Cemeteries Strategy	To consider the review of the Cemeteries Strategy initiated by the Environment and Communities Committee in November 2021 of which a Member Advisory Panel was established to advise the review.	Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services	Yes	Yes	Yes	Listen, learn and respond to our residents, promoting opportunities for a two-way conversation	N/A

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