

Outcome 4 – Cheshire East is a green and sustainable place

What this means:	Cheshire East's rural and urban character is protected and enhanced through sensitive development, environmental management, transport and waste disposal policies.			
What the Council will focus on:	1. Sustainable Development	2. Waste Management	3. Environment	4. Highways and Parking
What this will look like:	We will deliver the right homes in the right places by unlocking brownfield sites and controlling new development through the planning process to ensure that it will fit within its local setting, help create a better place for residents to live and work in, and protect the areas urban and rural character.	We will promote sustainability through keeping the Borough clean, public engagement in waste reduction and reuse, introducing food waste recycling and disposing of the remaining waste to produce energy, minimising the use of landfill.	Cheshire East Council will continue to protect our countryside and ensure that new development appropriately contributes towards improved facilities needed as a result of increased housing. CEC will ensure that the environmental impact of new development is assessed and appropriate measures implemented to mitigate any harmful impacts. CEC is continuing to develop appropriate strategies and policies to protect our environment.	The Council has procured a new Highway Services Contract in order to improve transport connectivity through a well managed and maintained highway network. We will commence a programme of local transport and parking reviews to gather the evidence necessary for preparation of annual investment programmes and implementation of the Council's updated Local Transport Plan strategy to support sustainable growth. CEC will ensure that all new development makes provision where appropriate to transport infrastructure that supports public transport, cycling and walking wherever possible.

Key Priorities

The Council is focused on protecting and enhancing Cheshire East's rural and urban character through sensitive development and effective environmental management.

The Local Plan provides an effective strategic planning framework to control development in the Borough. This includes policies aimed at maintaining the quality of housing development in the Borough and we will continue to ensure our planning service has the resources it needs to continue to be effective.

We also understand that the maintenance and management of highways and parking are important issues for local residents and businesses.

We are therefore developing a Local Transport Plan which will promote sustainable transport in the Borough by promoting the use of cycling, walking and public transport. It will also include a comprehensive parking strategy for the Borough which will set the direction for the development of parking provision across the Borough.

We have also procured a new contract for the maintenance of highways which is aimed at reducing cost, improving the quality of service delivery and improving customer satisfaction rates with this important service.

Another important dimension to the way we manage the environment is our approach to waste management. We have a very effective waste management strategy which has enabled the Council to divert almost 100% of our waste away from landfill and has seen a significant increase in our recycling and reuse rates. We will continue to improve our waste management arrangements to ensure they are as efficient as possible whilst delivering the maximum level of benefit to the environment.

Challenges

- We have one of the busiest planning departments in the country and have significant numbers of complex applications to deal with. We therefore need to ensure we continue to get the balance between controlling development and providing a good level of customer service to applicants and residents.
- Whilst we have invested significantly in the highway network to protect this important asset, poor weather events will lead to the need to undertake further repairs on the highway.

Opportunities

- The local transport plan will create a framework to enable us to put further measures in to promote cycling, walking and the use of public transport.
- A fundamental review of parking in the Borough will enable us to set tariffs in a way which will support our economy and to promote alternative forms of transport.
- We will prioritise funding to enhance the quality and promote the accessibility to our countryside and open spaces in the Borough.

Proposals to vary the Budget under Outcome 4 (Environment) are focused on these areas:

Changing the way we work <i>Managing services in a way that gets more for less. Investing in modern technology to get better quality outputs, eliminating duplication and streamlining processes.</i>	2019/20 £m*	2020/21 £m*	2021/22 £m*
Markets Income (Revenue Income Foregone) [20] Our markets are undergoing significant change and investment and as a result of this the income target in the coming years needs to be changed to reflect this. The budget will need to be reset to reflect the transition of Crewe Markets to a new operating model. This proposal captures the necessary budget adjustments. <i>Impact on Environmental (incl. Bereavement) Service Budget =</i>	+0.087	+0.057	+0.042
Street Lighting improvements (Revenue Savings) [21] Following approval to fund a three year programme (2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19) of LED street light conversions, this project will allow for a reduction in the reactive revenue maintenance budget due to reduced maintenance requirements and extended life guarantees on the lanterns. <i>Impact on Highways Service Budget =</i>	-0.050	-0.050	-0.050
*Values represent a +/- variation to the Cheshire East Council approved budget for 2018/19 . Values are not cumulative			

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Highways Procurement (Revenue Savings) [22] <p>The Council has now completed the procurement of a new highway contract and therefore the budget that has been established to support the procurement project can now be removed.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Impact on Highways Service Budget =</i></p>			
	-0.100	-0.100	-0.100
<p><i>*Values represent a +/- variation to the Cheshire East Council approved budget for 2018/19.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Values are not cumulative</i></p>			

Income generation <i>Charging strategies for each service area to increase income where appropriate based on market rates and considering the price elasticity of demand for services.</i>	2019/20 £m*		2020/21 £m*		2021/22 £m*
Parking Strategy – Pay and Display Machines – maintenance saving (Revenue Investment) [23] This proposal is for a revised level of revenue maintenance funding for the Borough's new pay and display machines. This is lower than the previous maintenance costs following the investment in new machines. <i>Impact on Car Parking Service Budget =</i>	+0.041		+0.041		+0.041
LTP Parking Studies (Revenue Saving made in 2018/19) [24] The Council will undertake local transport studies and town-based parking reviews to gather the evidence necessary for preparation of a parking strategy. Income is expected in 2019/20 from studies carried out in 2018/19, but this has already been captured in the 2018/19 base budget. Income in subsequent years depends on the availability of one off funding. <i>Impact on Car Parking Service Budget =</i>	0.000		0.000		0.000
Bereavement Services Increased Income (Income Generation) [25] Increase to the income level anticipated to reflect the current levels of service demand since the completion of the improvement to the Crematorium at Crewe. <i>Impact on Environmental (incl. Bereavement) Service Budget =</i>	-0.045		-0.045		-0.045
<i>*Values represent a +/- variation to the Cheshire East Council approved budget for 2018/19. Values are not cumulative</i>					

Investment in services <i>Investment will be put into systems that support key services and into other assets to ensure they remain fit for purpose. The impact of capital spending will be managed at affordable levels.</i>	2019/20 £m*	2020/21 £m*	2021/22 £m*
Lead Local Authority Flood Grant Funding (Revenue Funding) [26] <p>The Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority contributes an annual sum to the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. This money is then available as a source of funding in addition to allowing access to wider Flood Defence Grant in Aid funds.</p> <p><i>Impact on Highways Service Budget =</i></p>	+0.001	+0.001	+0.001
Planning Reserve (Revenue from use of Reserve) [27] <p>Whilst we have adopted the Cheshire East Council Local Plan there is an ongoing work stream relating to other strategic planning documents that need to be prepared. There is a residual amount in the 2016/17 reserve which will be used to cover these additional costs for 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20.</p> <p><i>Impact on Spatial Planning Service Budget =</i></p>	-0.800	-1.000	-1.000
Environmental Services Base Budget (Revenue Investment) [28] <p>Substantial savings to the Environmental Services budget have been achieved by the Council since Ansa Environmental Services Ltd commenced in 2014/15. The base budget now needs to be rebased to reflect actual savings achieved and to ensure the Council meets its statutory requirements.</p> <p><i>Impact on Environmental (incl. Bereavement) Service Budget =</i></p>	+0.324	+0.309	+0.309
<p><i>*Values represent a +/- variation to the Cheshire East Council approved budget for 2018/19.</i></p> <p><i>Values are not cumulative</i></p>			

Managing waste <i>Reviewing our current Waste offer to ensure value for money is achieved</i>	2019/20 £m*	2020/21 £m*	2021/22 £m*
Ansa income generation and efficiencies (Revenue Savings) [29] Income generation through Ansa Environmental Services commercial approach to service delivery, benefit to the commissioner from Ansa's subsidiary joint venture (with two neighbouring authorities) and further efficiency savings based on a route and rota review. <i>Impact on Environmental (incl. Bereavement) Service Budget =</i>	+0.045	-0.580	-0.580
Housing Growth, Waste Contract Inflation and Tonnage Growth (Revenue Investment) [30] Housing growth to date and future projections will see a corresponding increase in collection costs and recycling and waste. In addition annual contract inflation and a rise in the quantity of waste per household is increasing waste handling and disposal costs. <i>Impact on Environmental (incl. Bereavement) Service Budget =</i>	+0.403	+0.753	+1.103
Food Waste Recycling (Composting Plant) (Revenue Investment) [31] This project enables the development of a composting plant to allow food waste recycling in 2019. Household food waste recycling is a key aim of the Council's Municipal Waste Strategy. The Council is seeking to expand its recycling service by enabling household food waste to be recycled within the garden waste bin. To achieve this a new green waste processing solution is required through the construction of a composting plant. <i>Impact on Environmental (incl. Bereavement) Service Budget =</i>	+0.220	+0.150	+0.150
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Managing waste <i>Reviewing our current Waste offer to ensure value for money is achieved.</i>	2019/20 £m*	2020/21 £m*	2021/22 £m*
Household waste recycling centre efficiencies (Reversal of Revenue Savings) [32] <p>The improvements and efficiencies to the Household Waste Recycling Centre service, have delivered savings through reducing opening hours, charging for rubble waste, the acceptance of trade waste and the closure of a site. A capital investment programme improving our sites is underway related to this savings package. The revenue budget now needs to be rebased to reflect actual savings achieved.</p> <p>However, as part of the Council's Municipal Waste Strategy 2030, an independent review of household waste recycling centre provision was carried out in 2016. Significant savings were identified and achieved and the next phase of these changes are being proposed for 2020 onwards.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Impact on Environmental (incl. Bereavement) Service Budget =</i></p>			
	+0.347	+0.247	+0.247
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