

Adults and Health Committee

Agenda

Date: Friday, 2nd February, 2024
Time: 2.00 pm
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 foot of each report.

It should be noted that Part 1 items of Cheshire East Council decision making and Overview and Scrutiny 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 interests, other registerable interests, and non-registerable interests in any item on the agenda.

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

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 January 2024.

For requests for further information

Contact: Karen Shuker

Tel: 01270 686459

E-Mail: karen.shuker@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. **Medium Term Financial Strategy Consultation 2024/25 - 2027/28 Provisional Settlement Update (Adults & Health Committee)** (Pages 11 - 26)

To consider the proposals within the budget consultation relating to the Committee's responsibilities.

THERE ARE NO PART 2 ITEMS

Membership: Councillors S Adams, A Burton, D Clark, J Clowes, N Cook, D Edwardes, M Edwards, S Gardiner, A Kolker, A Moran (Vice-Chair), J Place, J Rhodes (Chair) and L Wardlaw

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Adults and Health Committee**
held on Monday, 22nd January, 2024 in the Committee Suite 1,2 & 3,
Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor J Rhodes (Chair)
Councillor A Moran (Vice-Chair)
Councillors S Adams, C Bulman, D Clark, J Clowes, N Cook, D Edwardes,
M Edwards, S Gardiner, A Kolker, J Place and L Wardlaw

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Shelley Brough, Acting Director of Commissioning, and Integration
Jill Broomhall, Direct of Adult Social Care
Helen Charlesworth-May, Executive Director Adults, Health, and Integration
Katie Jones, Business Manager, Cheshire East Safeguarding Adults Board
Stephen Kelly, Senior Communications Officer
Sandra Murphy, Head of Adult Safeguarding
Karen Shuker, Democratic Services Officer
Dr Matt Tyrer, Director of Public Health
Janet Witkowski, Head of legal and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Nikki Wood-Hill, Lead Finance Business Partner

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Kevin Bennett, Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board

The Chair announced a variation to the order of business that Item 6 Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022 – 2023 would be taken before item 5 Third Financial Review of 2023/24.

41 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Burton and Councillor C Bulman attended as a substitute.

42 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In the interests of openness and transparency the following declarations were made:

Councillor L Wardlaw declared that she occasionally worked for the Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

Councillor J Place declared that he was a member of the Together Trust in Cheadle.

43 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2023 be approved as a correct record

44 PUBLIC SPEAKING/OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public present.

45 THIRD FINANCIAL REVIEW OF 2023/24

Cllr A Moran joined the meeting during consideration of this item.

The Committee received a report which provided the third review of the Cheshire East Council forecast outturn for the financial year 2023/24.

Members were asked to consider the serious financial challenges being experienced by the Council (and other councils) and to recognise the important activities outlined which aimed at minimising the impact on services.

Officers reported that there were two key things that were driving the overspend which were inflation on placements which was primarily residential nursing care and supported living placements and an increase in people with more complex and greater needs than there was prior to the pandemic. It was thought that two of the reasons for that were due to the way the pandemic had affected people's mental health and an aging population.

In response to Members comments and questions officers reported that

- A short stay bed was more expensive than a long-term package of care, so the decision was taken not to sustain the 200 short stay beds. The Council would go back to pre-pandemic levels that worked out at 50 short term beds and the costings around that were calculated last year in preparation for 23/24 budget. This would achieve savings as a result of a mixture of less care in some cases where that had been the assessed need, lower cost care such as care at home, or more income as people had moved from a short stay bed into a long stay bed.
- The Council was currently out to consultation on a new Direct Payment strategy. It had increased the payment that it was making for direct payments so that it would become a more attractive option because overall that was a cheaper way of delivering care than either through commissioned domiciliary care or through a bed.
- In respect of the home care provision there were currently no individuals waiting for home care which indicated that the strategic approach to increase capacity was working.

- There were issues in terms of international recruitment, which the Council was supporting providers with alongside government funding.
- The Cared Cubed tool used national benchmarking data in respect of cost of care and there was lots of data available for the Council to use in comparison with its neighbours, regionally and nationally.
- Work was underway with legal colleagues to review the recovery of debt which was over 6 months.
- In respect of being able to identify potential clients in advance there was data and projections that were built into the forecast. There was also a Preparing for Adulthood program that is developing projections in terms of young people who will transition into adult social care.
- The interface between the provision of social care and NHS care and the respective criteria for each, is under constant review and work was ongoing.

An amendment to the recommendations in the report was moved and seconded which sought to amend the word 'consider' to 'note'. This was carried by majority.

The Committee thanked officers for the work that they have done in meeting the budgetary targets that they had set under very difficult circumstances.

RESOLVED:

That the Adults and Health Committee:

1. Note the report of the Finance Sub Committee: Finance Sub Committee, 11th January 2024.
2. Note the factors leading to a forecast adverse Net Revenue financial pressure of £5.0m against a revised budget of £136.5m (3.7%), for Adults and Health Committee services.
3. Note the forecast and further mitigations needing to be identified, aimed at bringing spending back in line with budget.
4. Note the in-year forecast Capital Spending of £0.02m against an approved MTFS budget of £0.47m, due to slippage that has been re-profiled into future years, in respect of Adults and Health Committee projects.
5. Scrutinise the contents of Annex 1 and Appendix 2 and note that any financial mitigation decisions requiring approval will be made in line with relevant delegations.

46 SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2022 - 2023

The Committee received the annual report of the Local safeguarding Adults Board 2022/2023 which described the role, structure, and governance of the Safeguarding Board. During the last 12 months Kevin

Bennett had been appointed as the Independent Chair and the 3-year strategy had been updated which reflected the vision, aims and objectives for the Board going forward from 2022 to 2025 respectively.

Following questions and comments from members, officers reported that

- Future reports would include progress in comparison to previous years, long term successes and work would be carried out around the template used for the report.
- Cheshire East figures mirrored those nationally.
- The Board had sought scrutiny from SERCO in respect of hotels for asylum seekers and professionals who provide services in Cheshire East and had gained confidence following the information that had been presented to the Board.
- Work was being undertaken with the Community Development Team to help support those hard-to-reach groups.
- The reference to funding and budgets was not in respect of the Adults Safeguarding Board it was a reflection of how demand for care and pressure on social care budgets and the NHS are driving behaviours and activities that were leaving some vulnerable adults at greater risk.
- The issue of carer stress is included within the Carers Strategy
- The issue of on-line abuse and scams is fed into the Safer Cheshire East Partnership and related boards.

The Board and the officers are thanked for all their hard work.

RESOLVED:

That the Cheshire East Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022-23 be noted.

47 MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE EAST HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Following questions and comments from members, the Director of Public Health reported that:

- Numbers of COVID had spiked over the Christmas period but numbers had come back down.
- Numbers of influenza had increased slightly over the Christmas period and were continuing to increase as would be expected, but levels were lower than previous flu seasons and there was nothing that would be unexpected for this time of year.
- Steps were being taken within the local health protection system to try and increase the uptake of the MMR vaccine following the announcement that measles had been declared a national incident over the weekend by the UK Health Security Agency.

- Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments were routinely undertaken, and the Council had a statutory duty to assess whether or not the need was adequate, but pharmaceutical services were provided by NHS England, not by the Council or the Public Health team.

RESOLVED:-

That the minutes of the Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board be received and noted.

48 WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the work programme. It was agreed that officers would work on bringing reports to committee which would provide a review of implementation for those 2022/23 strategies which the Committee had previously approved and these would be for scrutiny rather than for decision.

Members requested that consideration be given to:-

- Learning Disabilities Board – Members requested to see a report in respect of the work carried out by the Learning Disabilities Board.
- A review of the SARs which had previously been discussed at Committee – It was agreed that this would come to the March Committee.
- A request for a report which would enable Committee to provide scrutiny in respect of Care4CE and the service it delivers.
- A request for a report which would enable Committee to provide scrutiny in respect of the Supported Employment Programme the Council provided.

RESOLVED:

That the work programme be noted.

49 REPORTING OF URGENT DECISIONS

RESOLVED

That the Committee noted that an urgent decision was taken under Procedure Rules 2.10 and 2.11 by the Chief Executive on 29th November 2023 to accept a grant for the Local Authority Urgent and Emergency Care support fund 2023/24 to strengthen performance and resilience this winter.

The Committee adjourned for a short break.

50 ADULTS, HEALTH AND INTEGRATION - MTFS BUDGET PRESENTATION

The Committee received a presentation which outlined the budget challenges faced within Cheshire East Adult Social Care. The primary cause of the financial pressures were due to inflation, demand and interest rates.

It was proposed that the budget for Adult Social Care for 2024/25 would be £4.5m less than anticipated in February 2023. That would mean that instead of a proposed budget of £142.4m there would be a proposed budget of £137.7m. Therefore, savings had to be identified to bring it back down to the proposed budget. It was noted that this is less than the department is currently spending.

The options available to achieve net budget reductions were outlined which included increasing Council tax and increasing charges, focusing on reducing and eliminating subsidies for services and doing things differently for less, which could result in reducing the level of service provided.

The Council had set up a CE Budget Emergency Response Team (CEBERT) whose purpose was to update on progress towards financial stability, make decisions and set out next steps and co-ordinate activity to reduce net spending.

High level business cases were being prepared as part of the budget process which would be discussed at the full Council meeting in February 2024.

Additional work had been undertaken to bring the pressure on the budget down. A list of activities which had already been delivered was outlined and discussions with health colleagues had taken place to try and seek savings collectively.

The majority of the adult social care budget (70%) went on commissioned care, and approximately 25% went on the Council's employed workforce which meant that focus needed to be on commissioned care if overall spend was to be reduced. There were 3 areas to focus on to reduce spend in Adult Social Care

- Services and contracts to be cost efficient and increase productivity
- Diverse service offers to ensure service mix is cost effective
- Change traditional models of care

The focus of the proposals would be around making services and contracts more efficient and increase productivity and diversify the service offer. Other savings included the following areas

- Client contribution yield offsetting growth
- Maximisation of Supported Living

- Fees and Charges currently subject to the outcome of consultation
- Older People - Reduce, Prevent, Delay
- Working Age Adults - Prevent, Reduce, Delay

A list of activities was outlined which would not identify cashable savings but would concentrate more on cost avoidance.

- Preparing for Adulthood - Prevent, Reduce, Delay
 - Investment in new accommodation
 - Investment in new models
 - Investigation of alternative funding approaches
- Pricing for care – Care Cubed and Joseph Rowntree Foundation
- Extra care

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be noted.

The meeting commenced at 10.05 am and concluded at 12.35 pm

Councillor J Rhodes (Chair)

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OPEN

Adults and Health Committee

Friday, 2 February 2024

Medium Term Financial Strategy

Consultation 2024/25 - 2027/28

Provisional Settlement Update (Adults & Health Committee)

Report of: Alex Thompson, Director of Finance and Customer Services (s151 Officer)

Report Reference No: AH/14/2023-24

Ward(s) Affected: (All Wards);

Purpose of Report

- 1 The Adults and Health Committee is being asked to provide feedback, as consultees, on the development of the Cheshire East Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 to 2027/28. Feedback is requested in relation to the responsibilities of the Committee.
- 2 The Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) sets out how the Council will resource the achievement of the Corporate Plan and the budget change proposals within that report are subject to consultation and approval on an annual basis.
- 3 Developing the MTFS requires a wide range of stakeholder engagement. Members are key stakeholders in their capacity as community leaders and also have specific responsibilities as decision makers in setting the Council's budget.
- 4 All feedback will be collated and provided as evidence to the Corporate Policy Committee on 13 February 2024.
- 5 Final approval of the 2024/25 budget will take place at full Council on 27 February 2024 following recommendation from the Corporate Policy Committee.

Executive Summary

- 6 Financial strategies underpin how Cheshire East Council will allocate resources, achieve the Corporate Plan and provide in the region of 500 local services every day. The strategies must be affordable, based on robust estimates and balanced against adequate reserves.
- 7 Committees are responsible for overseeing the achievement of the Council's priorities contained within the Corporate Plan. Resources for the 2023/24 financial year, including Revenue, Capital and Reserves were allocated by the Finance Sub-Committee in March 2023, following the budget Council. All resources are allocated to a specific Service Committee or the Finance Sub-Committee.
- 8 The reports received by Committees in November 2023 set out the indicative budget envelopes for Committee budgets for 2024/25. The reports recommended that officers work with Members to develop further proposals to enable budgets to be set within each envelope for 2024/25.
- 9 The indicative budget envelopes for 2024/25 for all Committees were set as follows:

	2023/24 Original Approved budget	2024/25 Revised indicative budget envelope*	2024/25 Roll forward proposals	2024/25 Target growth/ savings	2023/24 Pay inflation shortfall	2024/25 Overall Committee target
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Adults and Health	136.3	137.7	+6.1	-5.5	+0.8	+1.4
Children and Families	79.1	89.0	+2.9	+6.4	+0.6	+9.9
Corporate Policy	41.0	41.2	+1.0	-1.2	+0.4	+0.2
Economy and Growth	25.0	27.0	+2.4	-0.7	+0.2	+2.0
Environment and Communities	48.3	47.2	-0.3	-1.6	+0.7	(1.1)
Highways and Transport	11.0	12.3	+1.5	-0.4	+0.1	+1.3
Finance Sub (Central)	12.4	18.4	+6.1	-	-	+6.0
TOTAL	353.1	372.7	+19.6	-2.8	+2.8	+19.6

Note 1 - Full list of budget proposals for 2024/25 is included at Appendix A

Note 2 – there may be roundings present in the table totals and when compared to Appendix A due to the presentation to one and three decimal places respectively.

** virements between Committees during 2023/24 will revise the figures for the 2024/25 permanent budgets and will be set out within the MTFS budget report.

- 10 Work by members and officers has been undertaken since these meetings to put forward key change proposals for 2024/25 that help to align budgets to these targets, exceeding targets wherever possible.
- 11 The key budget change proposals are contained within the Budget Consultation survey which was launched on 9 January 2024. The consultation is due to run until 28 January 2024. Feedback received up to the close of 22 January will be shared with all members as soon as is available.
- 12 The budget items identified in the consultation were insufficient to ensure long term financial viability for the council. It is therefore necessary to raise additional income or reduce expenditure further and additional general themes/options were put forward in the consultation for consideration of how to achieve this. The consultation proposals are summarised in the table below:

Proposal details included at Appendix A	Overall Committee target £m	Budget change proposals (growth) £m	Budget change proposals (savings) £m	Shortfall (-) / exceeding (+) target £m
Adults and Health	+1.4	+10.8	(9.7)	+0.3
Children and Families	+9.9	+15.6	(5.7)	-
Corporate Policy	+0.2	+2.5	(5.2)	+2.9*
Economy and Growth	+2.0	+4.9	(1.6)	(1.3)
Environment and Communities	(1.1)	+8.2	(8.2)	(1.1)
Highways and Transport	+1.3	+5.8	(1.0)	(3.5)
Finance Sub (Central)	+6.0	+14.6	-	(8.6)
Finance Sub (Funding)	-	-	(18.2)	(1.4)
TOTAL	+19.6	+62.4	(49.6)	(12.7)

*includes cross cutting savings proposal of £3.2m relating to agency and overtime costs which will be apportioned across service committees

- 13 Committees should aim to put forward additional change proposals to either meet or exceed their committee target to ensure that an overall balanced position for the Council can be recommended by Corporate Policy to full Council on 27 February 2024.
- 14 The Provisional Local Government finance settlement was received on 18 December 2024. There was no material impact on the target funding envelope for the Adults and Health Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Adults and Health Committee are being asked to:

- (a) Recommend to the Corporate Policy Committee, for their meeting on 13 February 2024, all proposals within the budget consultation, as related to the Committee's responsibilities, for inclusion in the Council's budget for 2024/25.
- (b) Identify further budget change proposals, as related to the Committee's responsibilities, that could assist Corporate Policy Committee in presenting an overall balanced budget to Council for 2024/25.

Background

- 15 The Council's financial resources are provided from a combination of local taxes, government grants, investment returns on assets and other direct contributions from individuals or organisations. Financial plans are based on estimated spending and income over the next four years and the report of the Chief Finance Officer brings Members' attention to the processes and risks associated with developing these estimates.
- 16 The Council aims to achieve value for money based on Economy (how much we pay for things), Efficiency (how well we use things) and Effectiveness (how we use things to achieve outcomes). Public feedback and internal and external scrutiny create the necessary framework to hold the Council to account for achieving these aims.
- 17 All councils are legally required to set a balanced budget each year and the immediate focus will be on balancing the 2024/25 financial year rather than on the whole medium term as has been the case previously. This reflects the extremely challenging circumstances all councils are facing currently.
- 18 The budget consultation is based on the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2024/25. This was released on 18 December 2023. The final settlement is expected in early February 2024 with a debate by Members of Parliament in the House of Commons expected in mid-February (after the publication date of this report to Committee) to agree the final position.

- 19 The provisional settlement set out the Core Spending Power for the authority, based on the assumption that council tax will be increased in line with the maximum allowable before a referendum would have to be held (4.99%). Some of the grants included in the Core Spending Power calculation are ringfenced for use within the relevant service. There was no material impact on the target funding envelope for the Adults and Health Committee.
- 20 Any changes made as a result of the engagement process and further debate will be reported to Members at the Council meeting on 27 February 2024.

Consultation and Engagement

- 21 This report forms part of the consultation process for Members on the budget setting for 2024/25. Each committee will receive a report covering their own area of responsibilities.
- 22 All feedback from each Committee will be presented to the Corporate Policy Committee. That Committee will then make recommendations on spending and income estimates for 2024/25 to the full Council meeting on 27 February 2024.
- 23 This report and other committee meeting debates will form part of a series of engagement events with wider stakeholders to gather opinion and collate feedback on the final budget for 2024/25.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 24 In accordance with the Constitution, Committees play an important role in planning, monitoring and reporting on the Council's finances. Each Committee has specific financial responsibilities.
- 25 The Council's annual budget must be balanced. The proposals within it must be robust and the strategy should be supported by adequate reserves. The assessment of these criteria is supported by each Committee having the opportunity to help develop the financial proposals before they are approved by full Council.

Other Options Considered

- 26 The Council has a legal duty to set a balanced annual budget taking regard of the report from the Chief Finance Officer. As such options cannot be considered that would breach this duty. Any feedback from the Committee must still recognise the requirement for Council to fulfil this duty.

- 27 There is no option to “do nothing”. The Council has statutory obligations to provide certain services, which would be unaffordable if the Council failed to levy an appropriate Council Tax

Implications and Comments

Monitoring Officer/Legal

- 28 The Council should have robust processes so that it can meet statutory requirements and fulfil its fiduciary duty.

Section 151 Officer/Finance

- 29 The Council's financial resources are agreed by Council on an annual basis and aligned to the achievement of stated outcomes for local residents and communities. Monitoring and managing performance helps to ensure that resources are used effectively, and that business planning and financial decision making are made in the right context.
- 30 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.
- 31 The requirement to use reserves to fund annual spending is not sustainable. The unplanned use of financial reserves will therefore require the Council to deliver a greater level of future savings to replenish reserve balances and reduce the level of risks associated with the development of the Reserves Strategy in future.
- 32 The risk associated with the scale of the current financial challenges, in line with many councils in England, is that the Council could act illegally, triggering the requirement for a Section 114 report from the Chief Financial Officer. Illegal behaviour in this context could materialise from two distinct sources:
- (a) Spending decisions could be made that exceed the available resources of the Council. This would unbalance the budget, which is unlawful.
 - (b) Spending decisions to restrict or hide pressures could be made that avoid an immediate deficit, but in fact are based on unlawful activity.

- 33 The consequences of the Council undermining a budget with illegal activity, or planned illegal activity, is the requirement to issue a s.114 report. Under these circumstances statutory services will continue and existing contracts and commitments must be honoured. But any spending that is not essential or which can be postponed must not take place.
- 34 Further consequences would be highly likely and could include the appointment of Commissioners from the DLUHC, and potential restrictions on the decision-making powers of local leaders.

Policy

- 35 The existing Corporate Plan and the refreshed plan due to be approved later in 2024 will drive and inform Council policy and priorities for service delivery. The priorities and actions may have direct policy implications and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

An open and enabling organisation
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Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- 36 Under the Equality Act 2010, decision makers must show “due regard” to the need to:
- (a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
 - (b) Advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not share it; and
 - (c) Foster good relations between those groups.
- 37 The protected characteristics are age, disability, sex, race, religion and belief, sexual orientation, gender re-assignment, pregnancy and maternity, and marriage and civil partnership.
- 38 Having “due regard” is a legal term which requires the Council to consider what is proportionate and relevant in terms of the decisions they take.
- 39 The Council needs to ensure that in taking decisions on the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and the Budget that the impacts on those with protected characteristics are considered. The Council undertakes equality impact assessments where necessary and continues to do so as proposals and projects develop across the lifetime of the Corporate

Plan. The process assists us to consider what actions could mitigate any adverse impacts identified. Completed equality impact assessments form part of any detailed Business Cases.

- 40 The proposals within the MTFS include positive and negative impacts. A separate Equality Impact Assessment for the budget as a whole is routinely included in the full MTFS report each year.
- 41 The Corporate Plan's vision reinforces the Council's commitment to meeting its equalities duties, promoting fairness and working openly for everyone. Cheshire East is a diverse place and we want to make sure that people are able to live, work and enjoy Cheshire East regardless of their background, needs or characteristics.

Human Resources

- 42 Consultation on the budget change proposals will include staff. Any changes involving staff will be managed in consultation with staff and Trade Unions.

Risk Management

- 43 Cheshire East recognises that in pursuit of its objectives and outcomes, it may choose to accept an increased degree of risk. Where the Council chooses to accept an increased level of risk it will do so, subject always to ensuring that the potential benefits and threats are fully understood before developments are authorised, that it has sufficient risk capacity and that sensible measures to mitigate risk are established.
- 44 The Council also establishes a level of reserves that are adequate to protect the Council against financial risks, such as emergencies, which are not specifically budgeted for in individual years.
- 45 The Council will continue to be flexible about investing revenue funding in maintaining sustainable services and reflecting changes to the risks facing the Council. The full Budget Report will include a revised Reserves Strategy for 2024/25 to provide further detail on estimated balances and the application of reserves in the medium term.

Rural Communities

- 46 There are no direct implications for rural communities.

Children and Young People including Cared for Children, care leavers and Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

- 47 Budget change proposals and further mitigations that need to be identified which will affect the Children's area of the budget have been set out in the report to the Children and Families Committee.

Public Health

- 48 There are no direct implications for Public Health due to the nature of this budget being ringfenced.

Climate Change

- 49 The current Corporate Plan has a very strong environmental thread throughout with a specific aim for the Council to be 'Greener'.
- 50 Budget change proposals which would affect the Council's commitment of being carbon neutral by 2025 will be included in the relevant Committee report to which they relate.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Alex Thompson, Paul Goodwin, Honor Field alex.thompson@cheshireeast.gov.uk, paul.goodwin@cheshireeast.gov.uk, honor.field@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Appendices:	Appendix A – Extract from Budget Consultation and Detailed list of proposals
Background Papers:	Outturn Report 2022/23 Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-27 First Financial Review 2023/24 Second Financial Review 2023/24 Third Financial Review 2023/24

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Extract from Budget Consultation:

Adults and Health Committee proposals

Details about the purpose and responsibilities of the Adults and Health Committee can be found [here](#).

The Adults and Health Committee Budget for 2023/24 is £136.3 million. Expenditure is forecast to increase by £10.8 million next year, nearly 80% of this relates specifically to growth in population, complexity of care needs and market prices for care packages. The remainder of the growth relates to other inflation factors such as pay.

When reviewing the Council's funding from 1 April 2024 Councillors agreed that the affordable budget for Adults and Health could only increase by £1.4 million. This means savings of £9.4 million would have to be identified. Additional grant funding of £3.6 million is expected next year, and pensions costs have reduced by £0.5 million, which still means savings of £5.3 million are required to mitigate the increasing expenditure. Managing large scale change presents financial risks, but the Council has very low reserves to protect against risk. The Council should therefore aim to over-achieve savings targets where possible.

A total of 4 savings proposals have been put forward from services overseen by the Adults and Health Committee, totalling £5.6 million of savings for 2024/25, and brief detail of each of these proposals are given below.

More details of how these savings will be delivered will be presented in High level business cases that will be considered by committees in January and February 2024.

Proposal AH1: Fees and Charges

Increase in income from client contributions primarily to remove subsidy from people currently assessed to fund their own care. This is subject to the outcome of a specific separate consultation, on a new social care charging policy, primarily with people who use care services.

The consultation started on 30 October 2023 and is closing on 21 January 2024. The consultation can be found [here](#).

The estimated budget impact of the proposed changes is £1.8 million

Generally speaking, do you support or oppose this proposal? *Tick one box only*
Your support or opposition for a proposal does not constitute a 'vote' for or against - this consultation informs a decision making process - as such it is important that you provide additional information about why you support, oppose or are not sure.

- ☐ Support
- ☐ Oppose
- ☐ Not sure

Do you have any comments about this proposal? *Write in below*

Appendix A – Adults and Health Budget Consultation proposals

Proposal AH2: Client Contributions Increase

Increase in income from client contributions arising from the inflation increase for pensions and benefits paid to individuals. Offsets against expenditure growth proposals.

Potential saving for 2024 / 25 = £0.8 million

Generally speaking, do you support or oppose this proposal? *Tick one box only*

Your support or opposition for a proposal does not constitute a 'vote' for or against - this consultation informs a decision making process - as such it is important that you provide additional information about why you support, oppose or are not sure.

- ☐ Support
- ☐ Oppose
- ☐ Not sure

Do you have any comments about this proposal? *Write in below*

Proposal AH3: Working Age Adults - Prevent, Reduce, Delay

We aim to improve our services by doing things differently. Building on work done in 2023/24 we will apply the Care Act principles of prevent, reduce, delay, seeking to reduce reliance on one-to-one services, support families to support their adult children through the expansion of direct payments and shared-lives arrangements.

Potential saving for 2024 / 25 = £1.46 million

Generally speaking, do you support or oppose this proposal? *Tick one box only*

Your support or opposition for a proposal does not constitute a 'vote' for or against - this consultation informs a decision making process - as such it is important that you provide additional information about why you support, oppose or are not sure.

- ☐ Support
- ☐ Oppose
- ☐ Not sure

Do you have any comments about this proposal? *Write in below*

Proposal AH4: Older People – Prevent, Reduce, Delay

Building on work done in 2023/24 we will apply the Care Act principles of prevent, reduce, delay. This means expansion of community equipment and technology enabled care, greater reliance on

Appendix A – Adults and Health Budget Consultation proposals
voluntary sector organisations, and increased involvement of families. We will continue to focus on the delivery of care at home where it is the most cost-effective means of delivering services.

Potential saving for 2024 / 25 = £1.56 million

Generally speaking, do you support or oppose this proposal? *Tick one box only*

Your support or opposition for a proposal does not constitute a 'vote' for or against - this consultation informs a decision making process - as such it is important that you provide additional information about why you support, oppose or are not sure.

- ☐ Support
- ☐ Oppose
- ☐ Not sure

Do you have any comments about this proposal? *Write in below*

Appendix A – Adults and Health Budget Consultation proposals

Detailed list of proposals:

Reference	Item	Description	2024/25 budget change £m
AH1	Fees and Charges	As per consultation extract	(1.800)
AH2	Client Contributions Increase	As per consultation extract	(0.800)
AH3	Working Age Adults - Prevent, Reduce, Delay	As per consultation extract	(1.467)
AH4	Older People – Prevent, Reduce, Delay	As per consultation extract	(1.566)
Saving included in narrative section (see consultation extract)	Market Sustainability and Workforce grant	Grant income - Market Sustainability and Workforce grant for 2024/25 only.	(1.100)
Saving included in narrative section (see consultation extract)	Revenue grants for Adult Social Care	Increase to current income budget associated with specific grants for social care to address hospital discharge. The corresponding expenditure is reflected in the investment to Adult Social Care proposal. Reversal of the total income budget is reflected in 2025/26 to reflect the latest confirmed funding commitment from the Department of Health and Social Care.	(2.480)
Saving included in narrative section (see consultation extract)	Pension Costs Adjustment	This item relates to pension contributions funded by the Council. Contributions can be reduced from 2023/24. This results from a successful financial strategy to secure stability in the funding of future pension liabilities. The effect is a reduction in overheads in pay cost budgets following a change in the employer's contribution rate confirmed by the Cheshire Pension Fund	(0.493)
Growth included in narrative section (see consultation extract)	Investment in Adult Social Care	Forecast growth, to be funded by the Council, arising from demographic changes including an ageing population and increased levels of need for care and support for adults of a working age.	+7.600
Growth included in narrative section (see consultation extract)	Pay inflation (including additional pay inflation required for 2023/24 shortfall)	This proposal includes incremental increases for eligible staff and nationally negotiated pay awards. Average increases are forecast at c.3% for 2024/25. This may not apply evenly across pay bands due to implications of the Living Wage. The proposal also recognises the additional impact of the higher than budgeted 2023/24 final pay award.	+1.892
Growth included in narrative section (see	Resettlement Revenue Grants	Reversal of grant funding income budget which contributed towards work within the communities team supporting refugees from Ukraine and Afghanistan during 2023/24.	+0.850

Appendix A – Adults and Health Budget Consultation proposals

Reference	Item	Description	2024/25 budget change £m
consultation extract)			
Growth included in narrative section (see consultation extract)	ASC Transformation Earmarked Reserve Release	Reversal of budget saving made in 2023/24 associated with releasing the ASC Transformation Earmarked Reserve	+0.500
Overall Committee Target			+1.347
Total growth proposals			+10.842
Total savings proposals			(9.706)
Exceeding against Target			+0.211

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