

Adults and Health Committee

Agenda

Date: Monday, 24th July, 2023
Time: 10.00 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 - 6)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 June 2023.

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. **Cheshire East Falls Prevention Strategy** (Pages 7 - 58)

To consider the Falls Prevention Strategy.

6. **Final Outturn 2022/23** (Pages 59 - 124)

This report outlines how the Council managed its resources to achieve both positive outcomes and value for money in the delivery of services during the 2022/23 Financial Year. The purpose of the report is to note and comment on the final financial and performance outturn positions and (if necessary) to approve Supplementary Estimates and Virements.

7. **COVID-19 Update** (Pages 125 - 136)

To receive an update on the recovery and reset from the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, including an update on current epidemiology and vaccination statistics.

8. **Work Programme**

To consider the Work Programme and determine any required amendments.

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, 26th June, 2023 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, A Burton, D Clark, J Clowes, N Cook, D Edwardes,
M Edwards, S Gardiner, A Kolker, J Place and L Wardlaw

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Roisin Beressi, Principal Lawyer (Adults & Education)
Jill Broomhall, Director of Adult Social Care
Shelley Brough, Acting Director of Commissioning and Integration
Stephen Kelly, Senior Communications Officer
Karen Shuker, Democratic Services Officer
Nikki Wood-Hill, Lead Finance Business Partner

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor S Gardiner declared that in his paid job he had regular contact with HMP Altcourse and Cheshire and Wirral Mental Health Trust.

Councillor L Wardlaw declared that she occasionally worked for Cheshire Wirral Partnership.

Councillor N Cook declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of being a non-paid trustee of the charity Alternative Futures Group which had a commissioning relationship with Cheshire East Council.

Councillor A Burton declared that she worked for the charity Women's Aid.

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2023 be approved as a correct record.

4 PUBLIC SPEAKING/OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public present.

5 ADULTS AND HEALTH COMMITTEE BUDGETS 2023/24

The committee considered the report on the allocation of the approved budgets for 2023/24 to the Adults and Health Committee.

The Finance Sub-Committee at its meeting on 8 March 2023 had approved the allocation of the approved capital and revenue budgets, related policy proposals and earmarked reserves to each of the service committees.

Following comments and feedback from members officers reported that

- More information in respect of Private Finance Initiative (PFI) would be circulated to members
- Further information on how the outcome of the current ballot in respect of pay would affect the Adults Service budget would be circulated to members.
- Officers would review the request for members to have more engagement and consultation with the MTFS planning going forward so that a list of priorities could be drawn up for consideration.

Councillor J Clowes requested that it be minuted that the Conservative group did not vote for the MTFS at Council in February 2023 in part as it was felt that members did not have ownership of the budget in any regard. However that was not to say that they would not support colleagues and committees going forward.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

That the committee

1. Note the decision of the Finance Sub Committee to allocate the approved revenue and capital budgets, related budget policy changes and earmarked reserved to the Adults and Health Committee as set out in Appendix A.
2. Note the financial reporting timetable for 2023-24 set out in Appendix B due to be approved at Finance Sub Committee on 7 June 2023.

6 DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REPORT - PAM

The committee considered a briefing report about the Domestic Homicide Review regarding "PAM". The Domestic Homicide Summary Report had

been written by an Independent Author and had recently been published by the Home Office following a delay due to the covid pandemic.

The Domestic Homicide review was a review of the circumstances and to identify lessons learned.

The committee extended their sympathies and condolences to the family and agreed that the report indicated that there were missed opportunities for agencies, specifically in respect of the perpetrators mental health as well as their physical health.

Members felt that it was important for the Adults and Health Committee to ensure that the recommendations from the review would be put in place. It was proposed and seconded that:

- a report on a review of progress towards lessons learnt going forward be brought to committee at a future date, and
- for the committee to have sight of any other Domestic Homicides and Safeguarding Adult Reviews.
- The Domestic Homicide Review be published on the Safer Cheshire East website.

This was voted on and was carried unanimously.

The committee thanked all those involved in the review.

RESOLVED (Unanimously):-

1. That the report be noted and a report on the review of progress towards lessons learnt be brought back to committee at a future date.
2. That the committee have sight of any other Domestic Homicides and Safeguarding Adult Reviews taking place.
3. That the review be published on the Safer Cheshire East website.

7 APPOINTMENTS TO SUB-COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS, PANELS, BOARDS AND JOINT COMMITTEES

The committee considered its appointments to the Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board and the Joint Extra Care Housing Management Board, with one member to be nominated by the committee to each.

In addition to the nominations to the board it was proposed and seconded that a report from the Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board be brought to the Adults and Health Committee, this was voted on and was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED (Unanimously) That:-

1. Councillor J Rhodes be appointed to the Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board as one its three voting councillors.
2. Councillor A Moran be appointed to the Joint Extra Care Housing Management Board as one of the council's three members represented on the Board.
3. the terms of reference of the bodies referred to in the report be noted.
4. a report on the Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board be added to the Adults and Health Committee work programme.

8 WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the committee's work programme. It was noted that the September meeting was a heavy agenda and that officers would review this. It was requested that should the agenda remain as it was then the meeting either be extended or an additional meeting added in October and that members be notified as soon as possible if either of these options were agreed.

Following a request that any reports which were to note be discussed in a separate session rather than at committee it was agreed that this would reduce the valuable information members of the committee would receive in respect of the operational day to day activities of the service.

It was requested that items for decision be added at the start of the agenda and any items for noting be added at the end of the agenda.

RESOLVED:

That the work programme be noted.

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and concluded at 11.03 am

Councillor J Rhodes (Chair)

OPEN/NOT FOR PUBLICATION

By virtue of paragraph(s) X of Part 1 Schedule 1 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Adult and Health Committee**24th July 2023****Cheshire East Falls Prevention Strategy**

Report of: Helen Charlesworth-May, Executive Director of People**Report Reference No: AH/08/2023-24****Ward(s) Affected: All****Purpose of Report**

- 1 This report provides a summary of the work that has taken place to develop the new Cheshire East falls prevention strategy 2023-2026. In addition, it seeks approval for this strategy to be adopted and to be circulated to the Health and Wellbeing Board for information.

Executive Summary

- 2 Falls are a significant public health issue with a substantial proportion of residents aged 65 and over falling each year. A fall can have severe health impacts on the individual such as a fracture, soft tissue damage or even death. Consequently, it can also lead to increased usage of health and social care services including residential care.
- 3 A new falls prevention strategy has been developed to tackle this complex issue. This has the vision of, “preventing and reducing the impact of falls to enable people in Cheshire East to live independently for longer”.
- 4 The strategy aims to build on work conducted to date. This includes; the commissioning of strength and balance classes, recruitment of falls coordinators; and promotion of the issue of falls (such as via an annual falls awareness week).
- 5 The approach meets the corporate plan aim of being a Local Authority that, “empowers and cares about people”. As part of this it addresses the priority of reducing, “...reliance on long-term care”.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Adult and Health Committee is recommended to:

1. Endorse the adoption of the new Cheshire East Falls Prevention Strategy
2. Approve the report being circulated to the Health and Wellbeing Board

Background

- 6 Falls are a significant problem in Cheshire East with around 2,275 people aged 65 and over undergoing an emergency admission to hospital each year as a result of this issue. On a wider basis, it is estimated that one in three people fall each year ¹. Cheshire East has 89,148 residents within this age group ².
- 7 The consequences of falling can be significant. These can include fracture, pain, greater fear of falling, social isolation, frailty and increased use of health and social care services (including residential care) ³.
- 8 However, falls are a complex health challenge to tackle with over one hundred risk factors identified as potential causes of falls. These include: age; medication; medical conditions; fear of falling and having a visual impairment ⁴. There is also some national and local evidence of a relationship between falls and deprivation ⁵. This means a multi-faceted approach is needed.
- 9 A new falls prevention strategy has been developed to address this challenge. This has the vision of “preventing and reducing the impact of falls to enable people in Cheshire East to live independently for longer”. This is accompanied by a series of aims which are: to identify those at

¹ NICE. Falls in older people: assessing risk and prevention: NICE; 2013 [Available from: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg161/chapter/1-Recommendations>.]

² OSN, Population estimates for the UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland - Office for National Statistics

³ Institute of Medicine (US) Division of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention; Berg RL, Cassells JS, editors, Washington (DC): National Academies Press (US); 1992., <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK235613/>

⁴ Epidemiology, Deandrea S, Lucenteforte E, Bravi F, Foschi R, La Vecchia C, Negri E. Risk factors for falls in community-dwelling older people: a systematic review and meta-analysis; 2010 Sep;21(5):658-68. doi: 10.1097/EDE.0b013e3181e89905

⁵ WHO, Chris J. Todd and Claire Ballinger and Sarah H. Whitehead, Reviews of socio-demographic factors related to falls and environmental interventions to prevent falls amongst older people living in the community, 2007

risk of falling; help individuals at risk through the provision of evidence-based services and support; and to assist individuals who do fall to reduce the risk of this recurring in the future.

- 10 A number of actions have been implemented to date to address this challenge. For instance, this includes commissioning strength and balance classes; the introduction of two falls coordinators who will review practice in relation to falls and deliver multifactorial falls risk assessments; the commissioning of a falls pick-up service via the Council's Assistive Technology contract.
- 11 In addition to this, a Cheshire East falls prevention week has been promoted and a Cheshire falls booklet has been distributed to a range of locations such as sheltered housing, care homes and libraries on how falls risk can be reduced.
- 12 The strategy and actions have been steered by the Cheshire East Falls Prevention Group. This has included representation from the Integrated Care Board; East Cheshire Trust and Mid Cheshire Hospital Trust; Cheshire East Council and the Voluntary Sector.
- 13 This group would take forward the action plan which derives from the strategy (see Appendix 3. Note: this document will expand over time). This includes the following tasks: publicising the issue of falls (including a new campaign to promote the falls classes and conducting outreach work with community groups on this topic); further engagement with wider stakeholders inc. housing associations; involving the public in implementation of falls related actions (such as via a falls event which will also include gathering further views on this subject) and monitoring progress against key population health indicators.

Consultation and Engagement

- 14 The falls prevention strategy was developed via a range of measures.
- 15 Firstly, the strategy was drafted through co-production work with the Cheshire East falls prevention group. It was then further refined via a formal consultation process which took place from 16 January- 27 March 2023. This included visits to falls prevention classes and older people's groups to discuss the issue of falls with local residents. 77 people were present at these meetings.
- 16 The survey was also circulated to members of the Council's digital influence panel and published on the Council's website. In total, 28 surveys were completed on the strategy and 267 residents completed a survey also encompassing wider falls issues.

- 17 Promotion took place via emails to key stakeholders, use of social media and via third party organisations such as Healthwatch.
- 18 A specific engagement session was held with Members in March to brief on the issue of falls and work around the strategy.
- 19 Key findings from the consultation were that: 88% agreed with the strategy vision; 85% agreed with the priorities and 81% agreed with the aims.
- 20 Comments made included: that the strategy needed to encompass those aged less than 65 but at higher risk of falling; the importance of emphasising exercise in general as a way of reducing falls risk; that the issue of pavements also needed to be considered. Please see Appendix 2 for further information.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 21 Falls can have a damaging impact on the health of individuals. Consequences can include fracture, pain, greater fear of falling, and increased use of services such as hospital and social care (including residential care). The Cheshire East Falls Prevention Strategy's aims to reduce this impact via implementation of a series of evidenced based preventative actions.
- 22 Substantial work has taken place with partners and residents to ensure the strategy is informed by their experiences and concerns. This includes via face-to-face discussions with groups of older people.

Other Options Considered

- 1. None

Implications and Comments

Monitoring Officer/Legal

- 23 There are no legal implications from this strategy.

Section 151 Officer/Finance

- 24 There are no new financial commitments for the Council as a result of this strategy. Falls prevention related services will be managed within existing budgets.

Policy

- 25 The approach meets the aim of the Council being one which "empowers and cares about people". As part of this it addresses the priority of

reducing, “the reliance on long-term care by improving services closer to home and providing more extra care facilities, including dementia services”.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- 26 The strategy has a positive impact on equality by reducing risk of ill-health and providing additional support for people with disabilities (e.g. linked to mobility or a visual impairment). An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed on this strategy (see Appendix 4).

Human Resources

- 27 N/A

Risk Management

- 6.1.1 Any risks will be reported through appropriate channels including Commissioning SMT and People’s DLT. Control of risks will take place via the Cheshire East Falls Prevention Group.

Rural Communities

- 28 Rural communities encounter their own challenges which would be addressed separately in the falls prevention action plan. For instance, roads are less likely to be gritted and it is also more complex for rurally located residents to access exercise and falls prevention classes.

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

- 29 N/A

Public Health

The strategy seeks to take preventative steps to reduce health need as well as reducing health inequalities via a vision, aims and action plan which targets areas of particular need.

Climate Change

- 30 Services commissioned as a result of the strategy will have individual reviews to ensure that they mitigate their carbon impacts. Such an approach will also be taken to marketing actions.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	<p>Nik Darwin, Acting Programme Lead - Living Well for Longer and Thriving and Prevention</p> <p>Nik.darwin@cheshireeast.gov.uk</p>
Appendices:	<p>Appendix 1 – Draft Cheshire East Falls Strategy</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Consultation Report</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Draft Action Plan</p> <p>Appendix 4 – Equality Impact Assessment</p>
Background Papers:	Corporate Plan and Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Appendix 1

Foreword

Every year older people in Cheshire East fall and injure themselves, sometimes severely. Often the fall results in the person needing to stay in hospital and can permanently reduce their physical and mental health and wellbeing. Sometimes these falls could have been prevented, or the repercussions of the fall reduced with timely intervention.

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This strategy aims to reduce the risk and severity of falls for people at risk in Cheshire East. This includes people aged 65+ and those with relevant medical conditions.

This Strategy is endorsed by Members of the Falls Prevention Group who are committed to reducing the impact of this health issue. It outlines the system wide approach to falls prevention that will be taken within Cheshire East over the next three years (2023-25).

Introduction

A fall can result in distress, pain and injury for the individual and even death in severe cases. In the longer term, it can also result in both a loss of confidence and loss of independence; for instance, through admission into residential care or due to social isolation.

Falls are also expensive for the health and social care system. This is not least because of the need to treat individuals admitted to hospital, for instance, due to a fracture. The total annual cost of fragility fractures to the UK has been estimated at £4.4 billion

1

Prioritising falls

Falls prevention work has been established as a priority in the following local documents:

- The Cheshire East Council Corporate Plan ²
- The Health and Wellbeing Strategy ³

It also connects with the:

- Living Well for Longer Plan.

Fall - definition

A fall is defined by the World Health Organization as, “an event which results in a person coming to rest inadvertently on the ground or floor or other lower level.” A distinction is sometimes made between this and a fall caused by a major medical event, such as a stroke.

Vision

.....

"To prevent and reduce the impact of falls to enable people in Cheshire East to live independently for longer."

.....

This vision provides the borough-wide direction for commissioning, service planning and delivery and will be implemented by the Cheshire East Falls Prevention Group. This Group consists of representatives from relevant local stakeholders such as Health, the Local Authority and the Voluntary and Community Sector. The Falls Prevention Group will report progress to Cheshire East Partnership Board over the next 3 years.

The strategy applies to people aged 65 and over within Cheshire East as well as younger adults whose medical conditions increase falls risk.

Aims

The aims of this strategy are to:

- Identify those at risk of falling
 - Help individuals at risk through the provision of evidence-based services and support
 - Assist individuals who do fall to reduce the risk of this recurring in the future

No single organisation can tackle these alone, so the intention is to work together as a place to deliver this, thus making best use of local knowledge, expertise and assets.

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Background

There were 2,275 hospitals admissions for falls in 2021/22 in those aged 65+ within the Cheshire East place. This is worse than the average admission rate in the North West. Around two thirds of these admissions were in people aged over 80, and around a quarter related to hip fractures. The exact numbers of people who fall who do not need hospital treatment is unknown but an estimate based on the Cheshire East population makeup is that there were 23,982 falls locally in 2020.

Priorities for action for the next three years

The following priorities seek to deliver the vision and the aims within this strategy. These build on the achievements in the previous falls strategy (see Appendix 1) and also align with NICE guidance⁴ and the wider evidence base.

-
1. Involve the public in the implementation of the strategy, for example:
 - a) Through the formal involvement of Healthwatch on the Falls Prevention Group
 - b) By all falls prevention services routinely obtaining the views of the people who have used them about their experiences and learning from this feedback
 - c) Through engagement with older people including survey work
-
2. Continue to commission and develop borough-wide evidenced based services which reduce the likelihood of falls and their severity
- For example, ensuring those at risk of falling and injuring themselves are able to:
- a) Access a formal risk assessment from an appropriate qualified professional
 - b) Access falls specific exercise classes that can improve their posture, balance and muscle strength

- c) Be provided with a home hazard check to reduce the likelihood of them falling
 - d) Access assistive technology and a falls response service which can help safeguard them at home
 - e) Access community equipment which can also reduce their risk of falling
 - f) Those in care homes, are provided with additional support to reduce the risk of falls within this setting.
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3. Communicate the issue of falls to professionals and the public

- a) Produce an updated Communications Plan to improve public awareness of the importance of falls prevention to their general health and wellbeing. This will have an annual falls awareness week as its focus.
 - b) Use the falls prevention group as a means of promoting falls initiatives
 - c) Ensure professionals discuss the issue of falls with those at risk and refer onto appropriate services
 - d) Ensure that falls prevention classes and physical activity are promoted via partnership work
-

4. Produce updated intelligence to help inform commissioning/delivery approaches

- a) Refresh the JSNA to ensure that it takes account of new data
 - b) Continuously monitor local progress by use of a falls dashboard
-

5. Ensure local authority, health and third-party colleagues take account of the importance of falls prevention within their strategic plans, so that:

- a) Any new relevant strategy and plan takes account of the issue of falls
-

How will we know and ensure we are making a difference?

An action plan will be developed from the 5 priority areas. Progress on this will be monitored via the Cheshire East falls prevention group.

In addition to this, the following key indicators from the Public Health Outcomes Framework will also be used to help measure success.

Public Health Outcomes Framework

- 2.24 Emergency hospital admissions for injuries due to falls in people aged 65 and over
- 2.24 Emergency hospital admissions for injuries due to falls in people aged 65 and over – aged 80+
- 4.14 Emergency hospital admissions for fractured neck of femur in people aged 65 and over
- 4.14 Emergency hospital admissions for fractured neck of femur in people aged 65 and over – aged 80+

Other indicators may also be utilised where relevant, for instance, the number of multifactorial risk assessments conducted in the community.

Appendix 1: Actions Completed 2019-2023

- Produced a falls Joint Strategic Needs Assessment which captures data and evidence in a single place
- Mapping completed of falls related services
- Commissioned and promoted local strength and balance classes to reduce the risk of falling for Cheshire East residents
- Commissioned a refreshed Assistive Technology service which provides falls pick up support. This includes enhanced support for people discharged from hospital.
- Produced and distributed a falls prevention leaflet and video to advise older people on how they can reduce their risk of falling
- Held a falls prevention weeks within Cheshire East to promote the issue of falls.
- A Cheshire East falls prevention group has met regularly to share knowledge and implement actions.

References

¹ Guidance: Applying All Our Health, OHID, February 2022, www.gov.uk/government/publications/falls-applying-all-our-health/falls-applying-all-our-health#:~:text=unaddressed%20fall%20hazards%20in%20the,2%20billion%20of%20this%20sum

² Cheshire East Council Corporate Plan 2021-25, www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/your_council/council_finance_and_governance/corporate-plan.aspx

³ Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2023-28, www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/pdf/council-and-democracy/health-and-wellbeing-board/joint-health-wellbeing.pdf

⁴ Nice Guidelines Clinical Guideline 161, www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg161, 2013

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A summary of responses to Cheshire East Council's

Falls Prevention Strategy Consultation 2023



Executive Summary

Introduction

Between 16 January and 27 March 2023 Cheshire East Council consulted on an updated version of its Falls Prevention Strategy, with feedback to be used to finalise the strategy prior to its adoption in 2023.

The consultation targeted 2 different stakeholder groups:

- A “Strategy Survey” targeted health practitioners, managers, policy makers, decision makers, and members of the public on the actual draft strategy itself.
- A “Resident Survey” targeted Cheshire East residents who might be at risk of falling, particularly those aged 65 plus.

In total, there were 297 consultation responses, including:

- 28 “Strategy Survey” responses
- 267 “Resident Survey” responses
- 2 email responses

Strategy survey feedback

Almost two-thirds of “Strategy Survey” respondents (63%) were aware of the Falls Prevention Strategy before taking the survey, and large proportions agreed that the vision (88% agree), aims (81% agree) and priorities (85% agree) of the draft strategy were suitable.

Respondents suggested the strategy could be improved by:

- Ensuring it covers those under 65 who also may be at risk of falling
- Ensuring it covers visitors to Cheshire East as well as residents
- Making more reference to exercise classes and community activities to help build fitness to in turn help prevent falls
- Making more reference to improving pavements in Cheshire East to prevent falls

Respondents listed their preferred methods of communicating about falls to professionals and the public as:

- Leaflets handed out to customers / residents, delivered in the post or distributed in libraries, GP surgeries, pharmacies
- Cheshire East Council website / Live Well website
- Email
- Facebook / On social media

Resident survey feedback

A high proportion of “Resident Survey” respondents (69%) were concerned about falling over, with 24% very concerned. In the last 3 years:

- 64% of respondents had experienced a fear of falling
- 40% of respondents had experienced a fall resulting in an injury
- 15% of respondents had experienced a fracture from a fall

In terms of physical exercise, respondents reported doing each of the following at least a few times a week:

- Housework or childcare (79%)
- Walking for pleasure or to commute (68%)
- Gardening or DIY (48%)
- Physical exercise (31%)
- Cycling (5%)

In terms of taking steps to prevent falls:

- 95% are aware of trips and hazards in their home
- 56% are aware that not drinking enough water can lead to a fall

Before taking this survey, 12% of respondents had heard of the “Cheshire Falls Prevention” leaflet, 86% had not, and the most popular ways of finding out falls prevention information in future would be:

- Online (61%)
- At a GP / Pharmacist (19%)

When asked if they had any suggestions as to how falls in Cheshire East could be reduced respondents suggested:

- Maintaining pavements better, and ensuring they are clear (140 comments)
- Improve local infrastructure, by removing street furniture and having more public seating (19 comments)
- Improving the physical health of the elderly and improving health services for the elderly (45 comments)
- Raising awareness of falls prevention (35 comments)

Email feedback

In total 2 emails were received during the consultation, including an email received on behalf of Sandbach Town Council (email response #2).

- Falls Prevention should include a Quick Response Falls Pickup service which has mobile teams that are on call to assist people who have fallen, such a service has been successfully employed in other areas and works well.
- Sandbach Town Council would like to include fall prevention for outside the home within the strategy – It is a concern that this strategy concentrates solely on residents falling within the home. Consideration should be given to linking the strategy with Highways and Planning to help minimise trip hazards.

Conclusions

Positive feedback on the strategy

Although the number of responses to the “Strategy Survey” was quite low (29 responses in total), it is extremely encouraging that feedback on the strategy itself was so positive, with very high proportions of respondents agreeing that its content is appropriate (81% plus) – this gives us a certain amount of confidence that the strategy is fit for purpose.

“Resident Survey” response

The response to the “Resident Survey” was much more significant (267 responses in total), probably because the “Resident Survey” was shorter, more engaging and did not require respondents to read a strategy document before responding.

Residents confirmed that falls are a problem among a certain cohort, with 40% having experienced a fall in the past 3 years.

Improving the Falls Prevention Strategy

Respondents suggested a number of ways the Falls Prevention Strategy could be improved, and these suggestions have been captured in detail within this report.

The main suggestions for improving the strategy seemed to be:

Improving pavements around Cheshire East – The number one suggestion within comments by “Resident Survey” respondents for improving the Falls Prevention Strategy was to improve pavements around Cheshire East to prevent falls. Some were concerned that the strategy only focuses on preventing falls inside the home, with no reference made to preventing falls outside the home. This may be an especially important priority given 68% of “Resident Survey” respondents walk for exercise several times a week, the second most popular form of exercise for those at risk of falls.

Improving physical health of the elderly – 31% of “Resident Survey” respondents do physical exercise at least a few times a week and many respondents suggested improving the physical health of those at risk of falls should be a key priority.

Respondents suggested this could be achieved by improving access to exercise classes and community groups for those with mobility problems.

Raise awareness of falls prevention – The main ways people wanted to be communicated with regarding falls prevention seemed to be online via the CEC website or by email, and through leaflets at GP surgeries. This would seem to be a key priority given just 12% of “Resident Survey” respondents had heard of the “Cheshire Falls Prevention” leaflet prior to the survey.

Not restricting the strategy to only those aged 65 and over, and only to Cheshire East residents – Respondents suggested the strategy could be made more inclusive by including more reference to these groups in it.

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Report produced 12 April 2023 by Ben Buckley of the Research and Consultation Team, Cheshire East Council. Email RandC@cheshireeast.gov.uk for further information.

Introduction

Purpose of the consultation

Between 16 January and 27 March 2023 Cheshire East Council consulted on an updated version of its Falls Prevention Strategy.

The consultation targeted 2 different stakeholder groups:

1. Health practitioners, managers, policy makers, decision makers, and members of the public.

Feedback was sought from this stakeholder group on the content of the draft strategy itself – this was collected through a “Strategy Survey”.

2. Residents of Cheshire East who might be at risk of falling, particularly those aged 65 plus.

Feedback was sought from this stakeholder group on their experience with falls and what could be done to prevent it in future – this was collected through a “Resident Survey”.

Feedback from these surveys would be used to inform the development of the strategy, before it is adopted by the council in 2023.

Consultation methodology

The consultation was widely promoted, most notably through:

- Media releases
- Emails to key stakeholders including all local Town and Parish Councils
- The council's Digital Influence Panel
- Social media

Consultation responses

In total, there were 297 consultation responses, including:

- 28 “Strategy Survey” responses
- 267 “Resident Survey” responses
- 2 email responses (see Appendix 1)

Reading this report

The main sections of the report (“Strategy Survey feedback” and “Resident Survey feedback”) summarise responses to the 2 different stakeholder surveys.

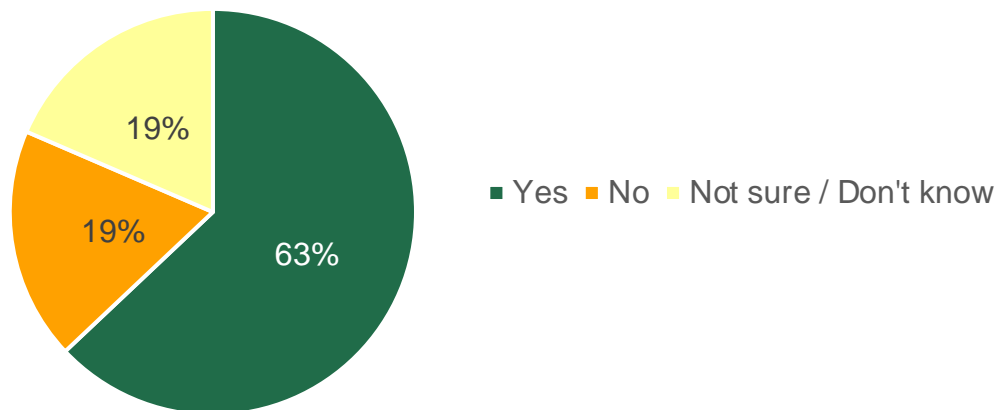
Appendix 1 then summarises and publishes the 2 emails received during the consultation.

Strategy Survey feedback

Awareness of the strategy

Almost two-thirds of “Strategy Survey” respondents (63%) were aware of the Falls Prevention Strategy before taking the survey.

Before taking this survey were you aware of the Falls Prevention Strategy?



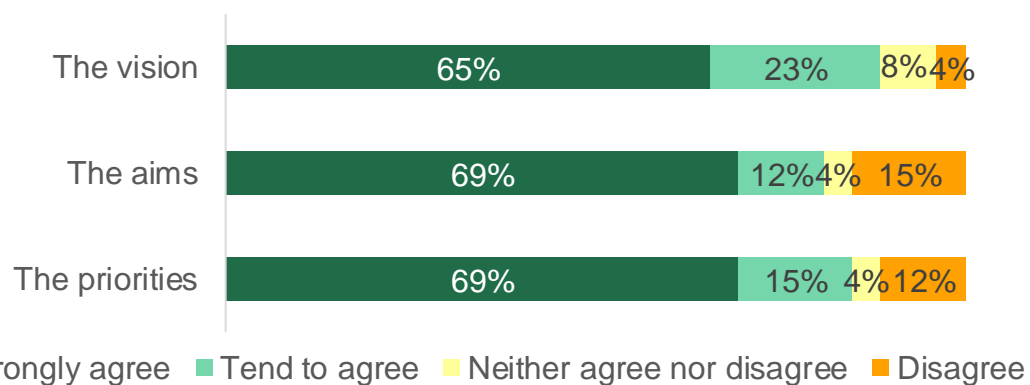
Number of responses = 27

Suitability of the vision, aims and priorities

Large proportions of “Strategy Survey” respondents agreed that the following are suitable for the strategy:

- The vision (88% agreed it was suitable, 4% disagreed)
- The aims (81% agreed they were suitable, 15% disagreed)
- The priorities (85% agreed they were suitable, 12% disagreed)

How strongly do you agree or disagree the following are suitable for the strategy?



Number of responses = 26

Improving the vision and aims

Respondents made 16 comments in reply to the question “How could the vision and aims be improved?” – these comments have been summarised in the table below.

How could the vision and aims be improved?	Count
Include more age groups, I have fallen twice in the last 12 months breaking bones on both occasions and am not yet 65. Could it include those who are not elderly, but who have sight and hearing problems?	3
Suggested vision wording change in italics: “Prevent and reduce the impact of falls to enable people in Cheshire East to live independently for longer <i>and to provide the opportunity to benefit from engaging in sociable community activities.</i> ”	1
Possible addition – Provide a sentence, or information / detail about exercises and classes that can help people build their fitness and how these will be promoted, including for those leaving hospital	4
Possible addition – Shouldn't it include pavements and dropped kerbs? Everybody is at risk of falling if pavements/walkways are not fit for walking on. Kerbsides not kept in good condition or dropped for ease of traverse	2
Possible addition – The strategy needs to also cover visitors to or through Cheshire East e.g. ensure visitors have access to drinks, footpaths and public spaces are safe from trip hazards	1
Possible addition – Joint working between NHS and Social Services	1
Possible addition – Raise awareness of Falls Prevention with all health and care professionals through training programmes and awareness for the general public	1
Possible addition – Equality and diversity inclusion	1
It could be improved by having no strategy. The strategy is very patronising and typical of state interference in people's lives. This must be about the 10 th Falls Prevention Strategy I have seen from CEC, what has been delivered? Stop with the strategies – start delivering.	2

Improving the priorities

Respondents made 7 comments in reply to the question “How could the priorities be improved?” – these comments have been summarised in the table below.

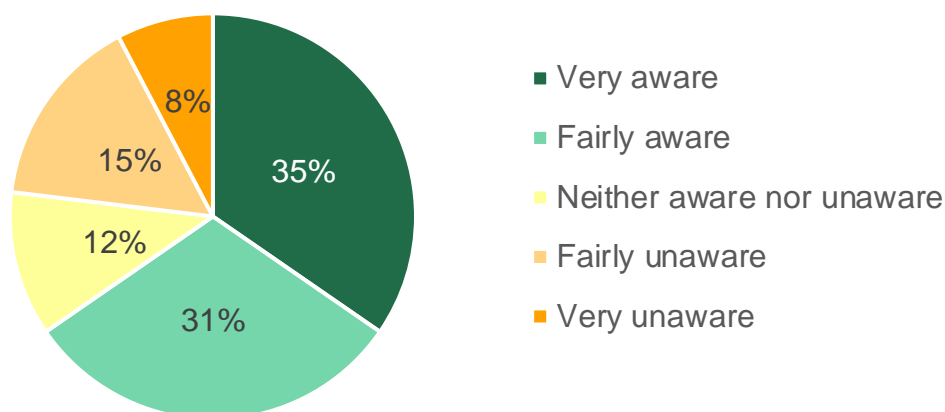
How could the priorities be improved?	Count
Possible addition – Education and information for the public i.e. leaflets at A&E, GP surgeries etc.	1
Possible addition – Joint working between the NHS and Social Services.	1
Possible addition – Smooth referral process for Social care staff to identify and refer those individuals who are identified as being vulnerable to falls.	1
Possible addition – Have medical help available, ambulances do not arrive for fall victims even for compound fractures	1
Possible addition – Not receiving timely medical help exacerbates the problem resulting in trauma and delayed treatment impacts on recovery and mental health	1

Possible addition – Involve the highways team and PROW depots at the start as it would start discussions on how improvements can be made to pavements/kerbs and prowl etc to meet your objectives	1
Possible addition – Need to include the risk to those visiting/traveling through Cheshire East, and ensure publicly accessible space is safe and free from trip hazards - would benefit all residents and visitors whatever their ages and physical ability.	1

Awareness of falls prevention services

65% of “Strategy Survey” respondents were aware of the services in Cheshire East that support falls prevention.

How aware are you of the services in Cheshire East that support falls prevention?



Number of responses = 26

Preferred method of communication

Respondents made 30 comments in reply to the question “Which is your preferred method of ensuring communication of the issue of falls to professionals and the public?” – these comments have been summarised in the table below.

Which is your preferred method of ensuring communication of the issue of falls to professionals and the public?	Count
Leaflets handed out to customers / residents, delivered in the post or distributed in libraries, GP surgeries, pharmacies	9
Cheshire East Council website / Live Well website	5
Email	4
Facebook / Social media	3
Posters	2
Public talks / Engagement events	2
Face to face conversations	1
Local newsletters	1
Radio / TV adverts	1
Through Town & Parish Councils	1
Word of mouth	1

Additional intelligence

Respondents made 7 comments in reply to the question “What additional intelligence do you have available that can help to inform commissioning and service development of falls prevention in Cheshire East?” – these comments have been summarised in the table below.

What additional intelligence do you have available that can help to inform commissioning and service development of falls prevention in Cheshire East?	Count
I don't have any data but there should be more intelligence around the causes of falls so you can identify the top reasons for falls and where/when they are most likely to happen.	1
Intelligence??? The NHS has a 10yr plan to get everyone walking. Suggest you work with all CE health workers and their third parties, Cheshire NHS, CE highways to make the roads safer, CE prow team, walking groups, town and Parish councils, schools and other educational establishments. CE departments who are responsible for air quality and environmental to push to reduce carbon emissions and meet targets.	1
Libraries could help to promote the strategy and its services - we have a large client base in the over 65s and we also deliver books to housebound, elderly and frail residents - information could be passed on through this service too. Staff are often asked to signpost people to this sort of service - as we're one of the few places where you can speak to a council employee in person. We also facilitate digital access and assist those who need help using online services.	1
Personal experience of falling, lack of medical provision and hospitalisations as a result of lack of initial medical support, i.e. NO AMBULANCES	1
Reablement staff regularly witness incidents of Falls and the outcomes. We have the potential to capture valuable data about the frequency of falls, types of falls and the impact of falls upon the different Services and resources.	1
The strategy covers falls specific exercise classes but not all people can easily access these or wish to access a group. My service supports therapy exercises in a person's home but is being impacted by the shortages of physiotherapists and being under utilised. I don't feel a large investment is needed to make a big impact. Services being more aware of what each other provide would also help in supporting or signposting for falls prevention.	1
There is a need to work closely with the medical community with regards to medicines management for individuals as multiple medications can lead to side effects which cause symptoms which might increase a persons falls risk. Regular BP checks for the at risk population widening the scope of social care staff in daily contact or during care delivery to engage with those at risk of falls, provide advice, support or encourage exercise plans etc improving accessibility of falls exercise groups/reducing charges for high risk groups of patients	1

Final comments

Respondents made 2 comments in reply to the question “Do you have any comments or additions that are not covered in the strategy?” – these comments have been summarised in the table below.

Do you have any comments or additions that are not covered in the strategy?	Count
A lot of elderly people fall within their own homes and do not necessarily require the intervention of a paramedic or hospital. If a task force was employed (of a nurse and a physiotherapist) to respond to incidents of falls, visit the individual in their home, assess the individual's health, and assist them up off the floor where appropriate this would help save Social Care and NHS resources and budgets.	1
Improve ambulance services or even have them available	1

Respondents made 2 comments in reply to the question “Are there any key areas missing or any general amendments you would suggest to the Falls Prevention Strategy?” – these comments have been summarised in the table below.

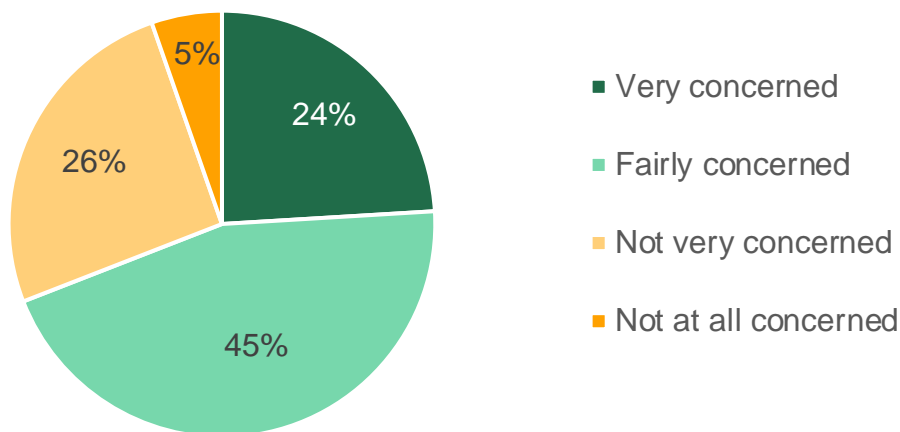
Are there any key areas missing or any general amendments you would suggest to the Falls Prevention Strategy?	Count
Accidents and falls don't just happen to residents, the strategy needs to relate to residents and visitors/travellers within Cheshire East.	1
Falls prevention needs to be ongoing so greater provision needs to be made for participants to continue with exercise at the end of the referral course even if that requires a monetary contribution per participant.	1

Resident Survey feedback

Level of concern about falling

69% of respondents were concerned about falling over, with 24% of respondents very concerned.

Generally speaking, how concerned are you about falling over?

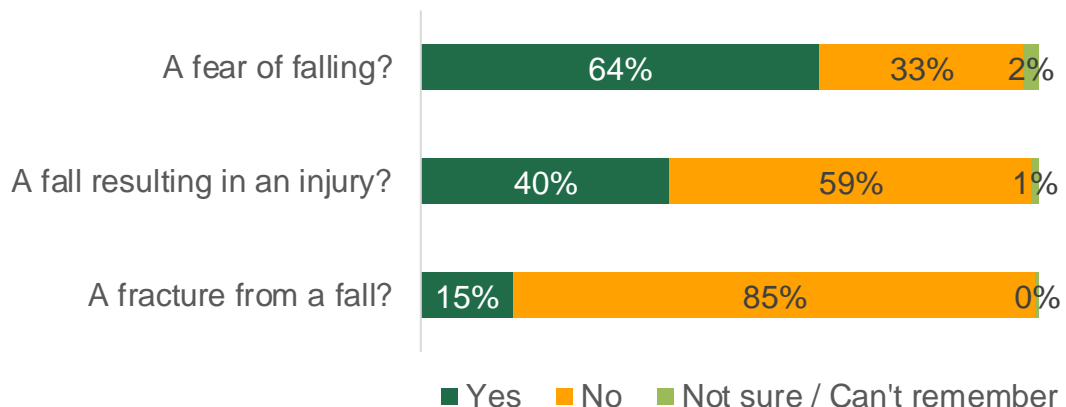


Number of responses = 262

In the last 3 years:

- 64% of respondents had experienced a fear of falling
- 40% of respondents had experienced a fall resulting in an injury
- 15% of respondents had experienced a fracture from a fall

Have you experienced any of the following in the last 3 years?



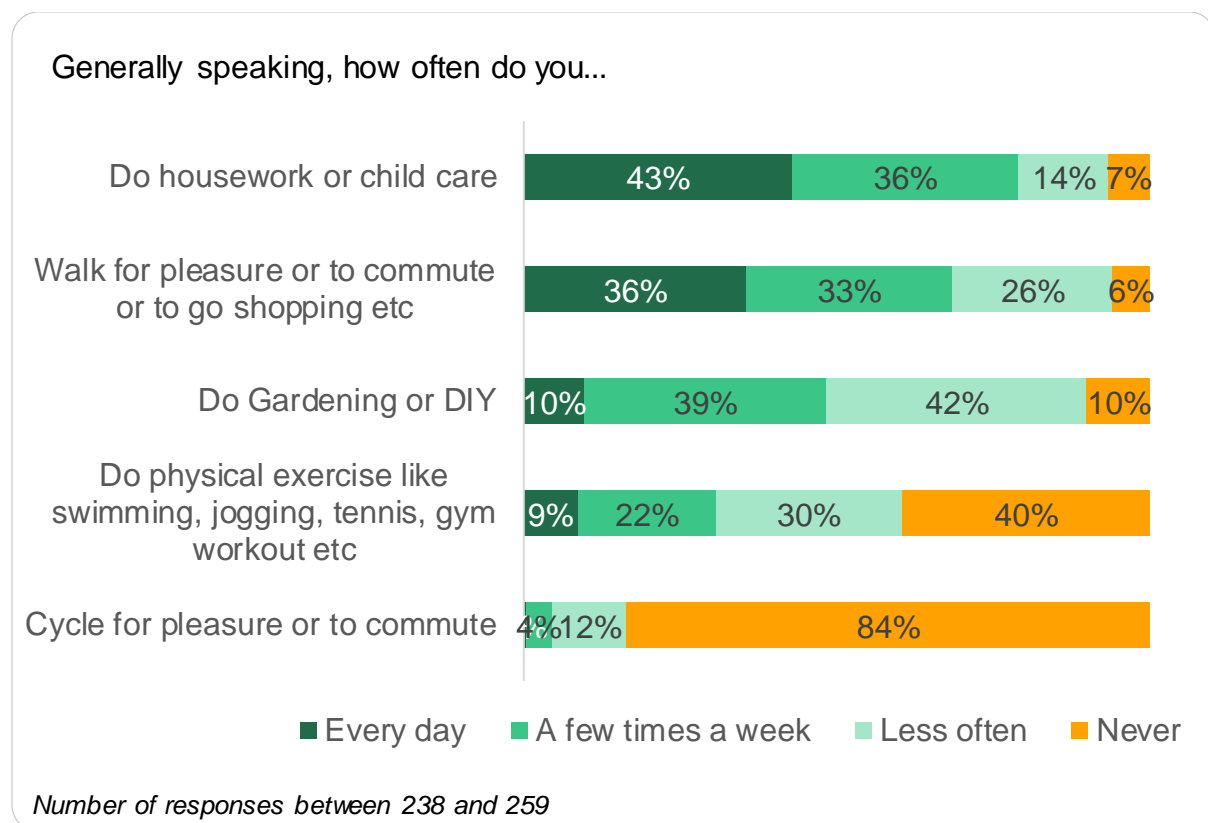
Number of responses between 230 and 246

Health and falls prevention

Respondents do the following at least a few times a week:

- 79% do housework or childcare
- 68% walk for pleasure or to commute
- 48% do gardening or DIY
- 31% do physical exercise
- 5% cycle

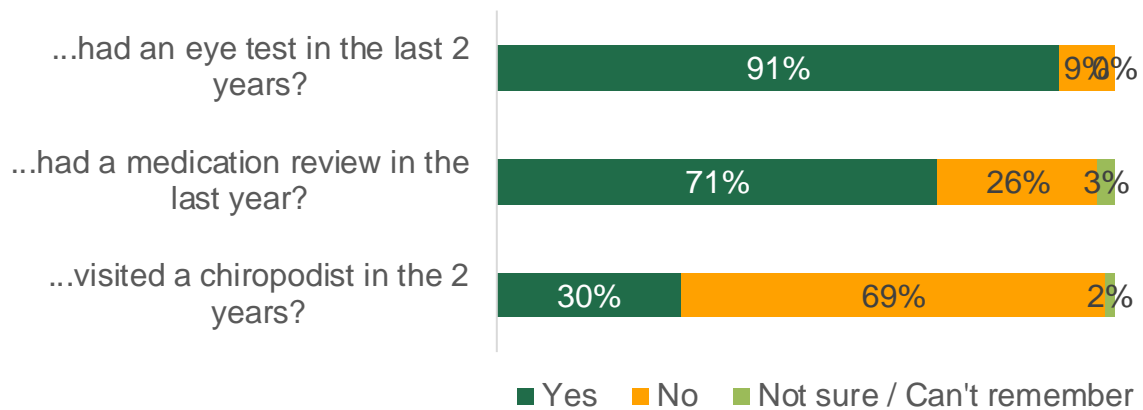
10% of respondents had not done any of these activities at least a few times a week.



In terms of getting medical assessments to help prevent falls:

- 91% have had an eye test in the last 2 years
- 71% have had a medication review in the last year
- 30% have visited a chiropodist in the last 2 years

Have you...

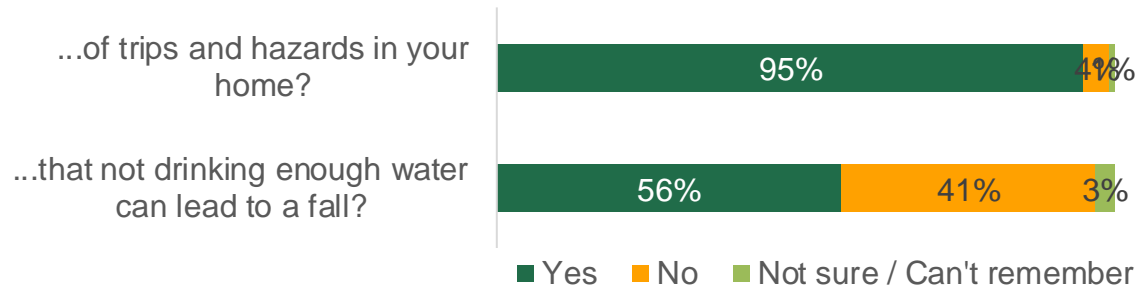


Number of responses between 257 and 264

In terms of taking steps to prevent falls in other ways:

- 95% are aware of trips and hazards in their home
- 56% are aware that not drinking enough water can lead to a fall

Are you aware...

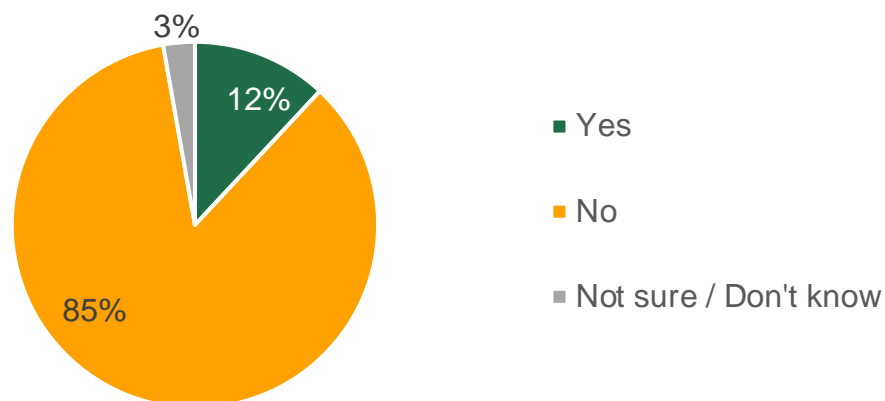


Number of responses between 259 and 260

Falls prevention information

Before taking this survey, 12% of respondents had heard of the “Cheshire Falls Prevention” leaflet, 86% had not.

Before taking this survey had you seen or heard of the "Cheshire Falls Prevention" leaflet?

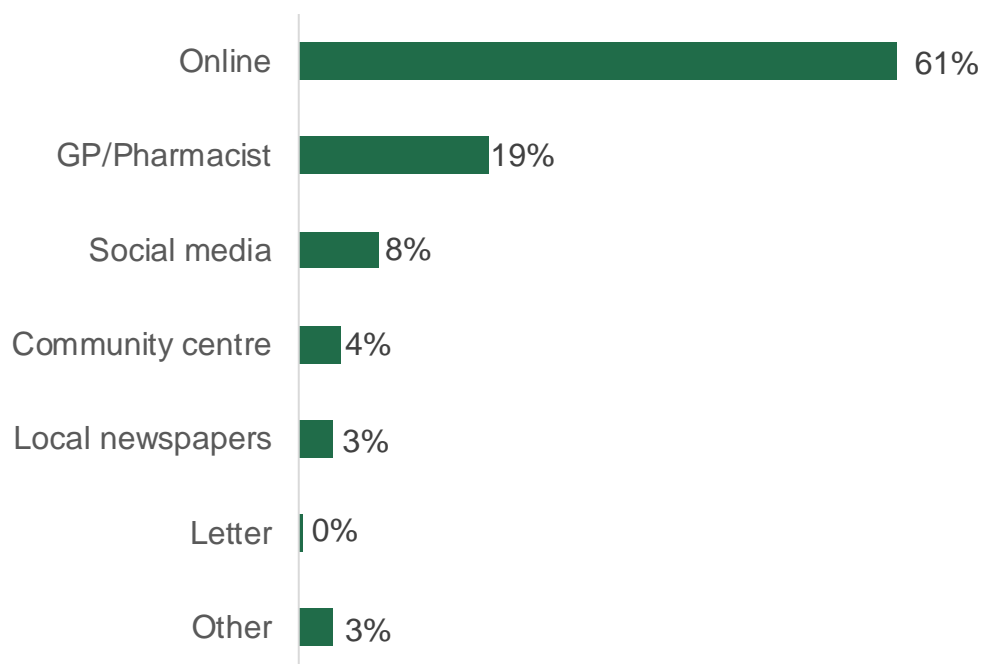


Number of responses = 251

The most popular ways of finding out falls prevention information in future would be:

- Online (61%)
- At a GP / Pharmacist (19%)

How would you prefer to find out information about falls prevention in Cheshire East?



Number of responses = 259

Suggestions for reducing falls in Cheshire East

Within the “Resident Survey”, respondents were asked if they had any suggestions how Cheshire East Council and partners could help to reduce the likelihood of falls in Cheshire East.

In total respondents made a total of 245 comments in reply between them. These comments have been summarised below.

Maintain pavements better and ensure they are clear

Respondents made 140 comments which suggested improving pavements in Cheshire East to help prevent falls – these comments have been summarised in the table below.

Maintain pavements better and ensure they are clear	140
Maintain pavements and roads better, they are in a poor state. Make sure pavements are level and not uneven or sloping. The main concern for falls is on streets with uneven cobblestones and paving blocks. Tripping on pavements is a major problem. Most elderly people can be seen walking with their heads down and leaning forward so that their backs are not straight and they are unbalanced, but they have to walk like this because the pavements are so bad. People should be able to walk looking in front of them, not down at their feet to avoid the unevenness.	97
Keep pavements clean and clear – Of snow and ice in winter. Make sure they are well salted, have more salting bins around.	26
Keep pavements clean and clear – Of leaves, twigs, overgrown shrubs / bushes / trees, tree roots, of flood water. These are all trip hazards.	8
Keep pavements clean and clear – Of cars which cause obstructions when parked on pavements and make them uneven, enforce no parking laws better. Ban vehicles from pedestrian areas to stop pavements getting ruined.	6
Keep pavements clean and clear – Of dog poo, which if stepped on can cause people to slide and fall.	1
Advertise fixmystreet better in towns, advertise it on lampposts near pavements etc. Act on reports quicker.	2
Make curbs easier to see.	1

Improve local infrastructure

Respondents made 19 comments which suggested improving local infrastructure in Cheshire East to help prevent falls – these comments have been summarised in the table below.

Improve local infrastructure	19
Stop shops from putting signs and street furniture on the street outside shops or using pavements. Shops need to be alert to their surfaces, mats, kerb edges, steps etc that present risk.	6
Have more public seating and benches so people can take rests.	3

Have better / fix public lighting and street lights.	3
Cluttered pavements (street furniture), shared vehicle and pedestrian areas, and in particular electric scooters or bikes ridden too quickly and in the wrong place are risks.	3
Provide more safe street crossings / pedestrian crossings.	2
Ensure new builds advertised on Cheshire Homechoice are safe and have everything they should have.	1
Provide free car parking in town centres for elderly people so they don't have to walk far.	1

Improve the physical health of the elderly and improve health services

Respondents made 45 comments which suggested improving the physical health of the elderly to help prevent falls – these comments have been summarised in the table below.

Improve the physical health of the elderly and improve health services	45
Put on more exercise classes for the elderly, help to develop muscle strength / core strength. Have free classes for the over 70s. Exercise classes strengthen muscles, build confidence, improve the knowledge and understanding of falls and of people's body and joints. Don't wait for people to have a fall before needing to be assessed to attend a class. Improve access to the classes – while they look great many people can't get there. Initiate exercise programmes for the elderly in easily reached venues, perhaps run a minibus to pick up those who live a distance from the venue. Have more community gatherings to make people more active. Older people concerned about falling could be given a voucher or publicise a gym such as the one I go to which is specifically for older people where we do particular exercises to prevent falling. Classes could include swimming classes, stand strong exercise classes, body balance classes, the ALIVE project etc.	18
Have better access to physiotherapy sessions, community physiotherapists and occupational therapy for assessments and advise. Current waiting lists for access to these in Cheshire East are far too long.	6
GPs – Have them check the balance of the elderly when they see them and to and communicate risks better.	4
Walking sticks / Shoes – Encourage their use more, especially for those that are afraid of falling. Reduce the stigma of using a stick, elderly people tend to think it's admitting that they're old. Ensure people are wearing proper shoes.	4
Promote the benefits of more light exercise – Standing on one leg for 5 minutes then the other is good exercise, encourage this daily, advise the elderly on what exercises to do. Residential homes should be encouraged to do daily specific exercises with their residents.	3
Have teams visits older people to risk assess their homes, and to follow up hospital admissions to ascertain the causes of falls experienced. People coming out of hospital or whose eyesight is getting poor could request a home visit by the team / an occupational therapist who can advise on hazards and how the risks could be removed or reduced. This should be linked up with existing voluntary groups who will install grab rails, tape rugs securely etc.	3

Balance – Encourage hospitals to promote exercise to aid balance rather than simply issuing walking aids.	2
Glasses – Encourage people not to wear bifocals or varifocals when standing, only when sitting.	1
Medication review – Sometimes falls can be because people take their medication at the wrong time.	1
Advise against loose bathroom mats and general rugs around the house. Provide stick on anti-slip pads for baths and showers.	1
Publicise the dangers of dehydration more widely especially for younger potential 'fallers'.	1
Make falls prevention programmes available to under 65 year olds who need it.	1

Raise awareness of falls prevention

Respondents made 35 comments which suggested raising awareness of falls prevention to help prevent falls – these comments have been summarised in the table below.

Raise awareness of falls prevention	35
Provide more information, raise awareness – Make people aware of what can contribute towards a fall and what solutions are available to help avoid them. Provide info in GP surgeries, community halls, churches, libraries, schools etc. Send leaflets of guidance to people's homes, especially those who are older. Do more courses on how to prevent falls. Guidelines and suggestions via social media platforms would be appreciated.	24
Contact older people's groups and U3A to give talks about falls prevention. I found 'stand strong' very helpful but it needs to be advertised more publicly, such as surgeries, libraries, physiotherapy clinics. Give talks at U3A, Inner Wheel, Ladies Circle, Rotary, Probus meetings. Go to the Tuesday Club. Set up "staffed tables" in public area so public can access the info easily.	11

Miscellaneous comments

Respondents made 6 miscellaneous comments about preventing falls – these comments have been summarised in the table below.

Miscellaneous comments	6
Data – Create a database of falls documenting what caused each fall then look for common causes which could be eliminated or other action taken. Establish a register of vulnerable people.	3
This should not be a priority for the council, fix the roads instead, stop wasting money on such surveys.	3

Conclusions

Positive feedback on the strategy

Although the number of responses to the “Strategy Survey” was quite low (29 responses in total), it is extremely encouraging that feedback on the strategy itself was so positive, with very high proportions of respondents agreeing that its content is appropriate (81% plus) – this gives us a certain amount of confidence that the strategy is fit for purpose.

“Resident Survey” response

The response to the “Resident Survey” was much more significant (267 responses in total), probably because the “Resident Survey” was shorter, more engaging and did not require respondents to read a strategy document before responding.

Residents confirmed that falls are a problem among a certain cohort, with 40% having experienced a fall in the past 3 years.

Improving the Falls Prevention Strategy

Respondents suggested a number of ways the Falls Prevention Strategy could be improved, and these suggestions have been captured in detail within this report.

The main suggestions for improving the strategy seemed to be:

Improving pavements around Cheshire East – The number one suggestion within comments by “Resident Survey” respondents for improving the Falls Prevention Strategy was to improve pavements around Cheshire East to prevent falls. Some were concerned that the strategy only focuses on preventing falls inside the home, with no reference made to preventing falls outside the home. This may be an especially important priority given 68% of “Resident Survey” respondents walk for exercise several times a week, the second most popular form of exercise for those at risk of falls.

Improving physical health of the elderly – 31% of “Resident Survey” respondents do physical exercise at least a few times a week and many respondents suggested improving the physical health of those at risk of falls should be a key priority. Respondents suggested this could be achieved by improving access to exercise classes and community groups for those with mobility problems.

Raise awareness of falls prevention – The main ways people wanted to be communicated with regarding falls prevention seemed to be online via the CEC website or by email, and through leaflets at GP surgeries. This would seem to be a

key priority given just 12% of “Resident Survey” respondents had heard of the “Cheshire Falls Prevention” leaflet prior to the survey.

Not restricting the strategy to only those aged 65 and over, and only to Cheshire East residents – Respondents suggested the strategy could be made more inclusive by including more reference to these groups in it.

Appendix 1 – Email feedback

In total 2 emails were received during the consultation, including an email received on behalf of Sandbach Town Council (email response #2).

Both emails have been published verbatim below in the date order they were received, and have been anonymised to protect the identity of the individual sending the response. Brief summaries of the content of each email have also been provided.

Email response #1 – A CE resident

Date email received: 20 January 2023

Summary of content:

Falls Prevention should include a Quick Response Falls Pickup service which has mobile teams that are on call to assist people who have fallen, such a service has been successfully employed in other areas and works well.

Full email text:

The local position in the Cheshire East Falls Prevention Strategy 2023-2025 states that there were 23,982 falls locally in Cheshire East in 2020. This led to 2,255 hospital admissions for falls so therefore 21,727 or about 90% were not admitted.

My proposal is that Falls Prevention should include a Quick Response Falls Pickup service which has mobile teams of two that are on call by phone and able to drive to a fall and use specialist portable blow-up equipment to lift people who have fallen. After picking the person up, they will organise an ambulance for the 10% that require further hospital treatment, complete all visit paperwork and conduct a Home Hazard check or organise a future one (if one hasn't been done before).

This Falls Pickup service has several advantages:

- Reduced 999 calls & ambulance demand - It de-escalates the many falls that are very trivial and do not warrant a 999 call, for example slipping from a seat or bed onto the floor. The vast majority of 999 calls for falls involve a pickup and do not require the faller to be brought to hospital. 23,982 999 calls per year or 66 calls per day could be diverted to the Falls Pickup service to relieve the 999 ambulance service. The pickup service can organise ambulances for the 10% that require further hospital treatment;
- Reduced paramedic manual lifting injuries - Paramedics will not be required to manually lift fallers because specialist portable blow-up equipment will be employed by the Falls Pickup team;

- Reduced paramedic paperwork - Paramedics will not be required to fill out all the paperwork associated with a visit because the Falls Pickup team will do this;
- Reduced hospital treatment - Falls will be attended to more quickly and thus avoid potential hospital treatment because the faller has been on the floor for a lengthy period.

This type of service has been successfully employed on the Wirral where I called them out several times for my father instead of dialling 999. The service was brilliant & free. I have also been in attendance when an ambulance was called instead. Everything about it was slower.

If the Falls Pickup service was seen to be quick & successful, I think people would pay for this service rather than wait for an ambulance. I certainly would.

Regards.

Email response #2 – Sandbach Town Council

Date email received: 24 February 2023

Summary of content:

Sandbach Town Council would like to include fall prevention for outside the home within the strategy – It is a concern that this strategy concentrates solely on residents falling within the home. Consideration should be given to linking the strategy with Highways and Planning to help minimise trip hazards.

Full email text:

Dear Officer,

Members of Planning and Consultation Committee would like to respond to the Falls Prevention Strategy Consultation 2023 after the committee meeting 13 February 2023.

The Members would like to include fall prevention for outside the home within the strategy, including reference to residents and visitors, for provision of safe environment where exercise is encouraged for maintaining condition to minimise risk of falls. It is a concern that this strategy concentrates solely on residents falling within the home. When including prevention of outdoor falls, consideration should be given to linking the draft document with Borough Highways and Planning, to ensure suitability of planting near to footpaths for avoidance of Highway Damage and future trip hazards.

Please find enclosed a copy of the thorough Town Centre public realm condition report as a reference to the response, highlighting accessibility restrictions, risks of fall and incident.

Thank you for you attention.



APPENDIX 3: DRAFT FALLS ACTION PLAN

Priority	Action	Progress	When
0) Strategy	Refresh falls prevention strategy	Underway	September 2023
1) Engagement	Conduct engagement on strategy with the Public	Complete	June 2023
1) Engagement	Re-engage with key stakeholders e.g. NWS, Housing Associations	Ongoing	September 2023
2) Services	Conduct refresh training on falls with care homes	Underway	September 2023
2) Services	Commission Home Hazard Assessments	Complete	December 2022
2) Services	Increase number of home hazard assessments conducted	Underway	November 2023
2) Services	Increase referrals to commissioned services for users at risk	Underway	November 2023
2) Services	Commission multi-factorial risk assessments in the community	Complete	March 2023
2) Services	Launch modified strength and balance programme in a care home	Underway	August 2023
2) Services	Reduce falls risk within residential homes via Falls Sensors	Underway	August 2023
2) Services	Explore outreach classes in other locations	Ongoing	December 2022
2) Services	Reduce falls risk within residential homes via Safe Steps project	Complete	December 2022
3) Comms	Work as a group to develop and implement new comms plan inc. promotion of classes	Underway	September 2023
3) Comms	Run a Falls Awareness Week (18-23 Sept 22)	Underway	September 2023
3) Comms	Run a Falls Prevention Event during falls week	Underway	September 2023
3) Comms	Falls Leaflet Dissemination	Complete but 2 nd wave required	January 2024
3) Comms	Promote issue of falls via meetings with community groups	Ongoing	October 2023
4) Data	Update the Falls JSNA	Underway	July 2023
4) Data	Ensure regular data on number of falls locally is produced	Complete	March 2023
4) Data	Gather more evidence on why people are falling	Underway	December 2023

4) Data	Refresh mapping document on falls service pathways	Ongoing	September 2023
5) Strategies	Ensure any new place related strategies consider falls	Ongoing	March 2024
5) Strategies	Link with Places over maintenance of pavements/gritting	Ongoing	December 2023

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL – EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Falls Prevention Strategy Consultation

VERSION CONTROL

Date	Version	Author	Description of Changes
04.01.23	0.1	Sharon Brissett	
06.01.23	0.2	Sharon Brissett	Comments Phil Christian
7.07.23	0.3	Sharon Brissett	

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL –EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Stage 1 Description: Fact finding (about your policy / service /

Department	People Directorate		Lead officer responsible for assessment		Sharon Brissett	
Service	Commissioning		Other members of team undertaking assessment		Nik Darwin	
Date	06.06.23		V 0.02			
Type of document (mark as appropriate)	Strategy x	Plan	Function	Policy	Procedure	Service
Is this a new/ existing/ revision of an existing document (please mark as appropriate)	New		Existing		Revision x	
Title and subject of the impact assessment (include a brief description of the aims, outcomes, operational issues as appropriate and how it fits in with the wider aims of the organisation) Please attach a copy of the strategy/ plan/ function/ policy/ procedure/ service	Falls Prevention Strategy The Falls Prevention Strategy (2022 – 2025) aims to reduce the risk and severity of falls for people at risk in Cheshire East. This includes people aged 65+ and those with relevant medical conditions. The Strategy has been endorsed by Members of the Falls Prevention Group who are committed to working to reduce the impact of this health issue. The Strategy also outlines the system wide approach to falls prevention that will take place in Cheshire East during the next three year period. The aims of the Falls Prevention Strategy are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify those at risk of falling 					

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help individuals at risk through the provision of evidence-based services and support • Assist individuals who do fall to reduce the risk of this recurring in the future <p>To note:</p> <p>No single organisation can tackle these alone, so the intention is to work together as a place to deliver this, thus making best use of local knowledge, expertise and assets.</p> <p><i>Local context</i></p> <p>During 2020/21 there were 2,255 hospital admissions for falls for those aged 65+. Around two thirds of these admissions were people aged over 80, and around a quarter related to hip fractures. The exact numbers of people based on an estimate on the Cheshire East population is that there were 23,982 falls locally in 2020 (source POPPI).</p> <p>Following public consultation and engagement with groups and stakeholders who represent those who share one or more protected characteristics a report and revised Falls Prevention Strategy will be taken to Adults & Health Committee to seek approval to implement the final Falls Prevention Strategy.</p>
<p>The Who are the main stakeholders, and have they been engaged with? (e.g. general public, employees, Councillors, partners, specific audiences, residents)</p>	<p>Initial engagement has taken place with the Cheshire East Falls Prevention Group, whose stakeholders include representatives from health, hospital trusts, commissioning, Healthwatch Cheshire East, and communities' team.</p> <p>The main stakeholders are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older people • Older people groups • Healthwatch Cheshire East • Occupational Therapists • Physiotherapists • GP's • Pharmacies via Pharmacy Council

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community and Hospitals (Care Communities & Acute Trusts) • Adult Social Care • One You (including stand strong attendees) • Other professionals • Members of the public
Consultation/ involvement carried out	Initial consultation and engagement via the Cheshire East Falls Prevention Group
What consultation method(s) did you use?	<p>A range of consultation methods have been undertaken, these include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face to face meeting (older people group/stand strong classes) • Cheshire East Falls Prevention Group • Survey – professionals and service users • Adult Social Care Operational • Healthwatch Cheshire East

Stage 2 Initial Screening

Who is affected and what evidence have you considered to arrive at this analysis? (This may or may not include the stakeholders listed above)	<p>The Falls Prevention Strategy applies to people aged 65 and over within Cheshire East, as well as younger adults whose medical conditions increase falls risk.</p> <p>This is evidenced in the World Health Organisation (WHO) report global report on falls prevention in older people, and the Cheshire East Joint Strategic Need Assessment (JSNA) falls chapter. Other sources include the Government applying the 'All Our Health' report. Falls: applying All Our Health - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p>
Who is intended to benefit and how	The Falls Prevention Strategy aims to reduce the risk and severity of falls for people at risk in Cheshire East, this includes people aged 65+ and those with relevant medical conditions and/or those who have experienced a fall.

Could there be a different impact or outcome for some groups?		Some groups may experience a higher negative impact than others if there was limited access to prevention initiatives and support available. Differing impacts are detailed in the sections below.							
Does it include making decisions based on individual characteristics, needs or circumstances?		As no single organisation can tackle falls prevention alone, the intention is to work together as a place to deliver the Falls Prevention Strategy making best use of local knowledge, expertise and assets, thereby supporting people at risk of falling and/or those who have fallen.							
Are relations between different groups or communities likely to be affected? (eg will it favour one particular group or deny opportunities for others?)		People aged 65+ and those with relevant medical conditions who are at risk of a fall.							
Is there any specific targeted action to promote equality? Is there a history of unequal outcomes (do you have enough evidence to prove otherwise)?		As noted above							
Age	X			Marriage & civil partnership			Religion & belief		
Disability	X			Pregnancy & maternity			Sex		
Gender reassignment				Race			Sexual orientation		

Stage 3 Evidence

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

What evidence do you have to support your findings? (quantitative and qualitative) Please provide additional information that you wish to include as appendices to this document, i.e., graphs, tables, charts		Level of Risk (High, Medium or Low)
Age	A key risk factor for those who fall is age. This is referenced in the JSNA section on falls. The strategy and accompanying action plan includes specific actions to support people in older age groups.	Medium / high
Marriage & civil partnership	No impacts were highlighted during the consultation or in the joint strategic needs assessment for falls on this protected characteristic. As such, the impact of the strategy is deemed neutral on this protected characteristic	N/A
Religion	No impacts were highlighted during the consultation or in the joint strategic needs assessment for falls on this protected characteristic. As such, the impact of the strategy is deemed neutral on this protected characteristic	N/A
Disability	A person at greater risk of a fall may include those who have a visual impairment, gait and balance difficulties, age related muscle weakness, those who are in receipt of more than 4 medications, including those with hypertension. These are referenced in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment – Falls chapter. Whilst age is a key risk factor for falls, it was highlighted during the consultation that conditions e.g. dementia and Parkinson's can affect the balance of those who are aged less than 65.	Medium/high
Pregnancy & maternity	No impacts were highlighted during the consultation or in the joint strategic needs assessment for falls on this protected characteristic. As such, the impact of the strategy is deemed neutral on this protected characteristic	N/A
Sex	No impacts were highlighted during the consultation or in the joint strategic needs assessment for falls on this protected characteristic. As such, the impact of the strategy is deemed neutral on this protected characteristic	N/A
Gender Reassignment	No impacts were highlighted during the consultation or in the joint strategic needs assessment for falls on this protected characteristic. As such, the impact of the strategy is deemed neutral on this protected characteristic	N/A

Race	No impacts were highlighted during the consultation or in the joint strategic needs assessment for falls on this protected characteristic. As such, the impact of the strategy is deemed neutral on this protected characteristic	N/A
Sexual Orientation	No impacts were highlighted during the consultation or in the joint strategic needs assessment for falls on this protected characteristic. As such, the impact of the strategy is deemed neutral on this protected characteristic	N/A

Stage 4 Mitigation				
characteristics	Mitigating action	How will this be monitored?	Officer responsible	Target date
Age	<p>Once you have assessed the impact of a policy/service, it is important to identify options and alternatives to reduce or eliminate any negative impact. Options considered could be adapting the policy or service, changing the way in which it is implemented or introducing balancing measures to reduce any negative impact. When considering each option you should think about how it will reduce any negative impact, how it might impact on other groups and how it might impact on relationships between groups and overall issues around community cohesion. You should clearly demonstrate how you have considered various options and the impact of these. You must have a detailed rationale behind decisions and a justification for those alternatives that have not been accepted.</p> <p>People aged 65+ are known to be at greater risk of falling.</p> <p>The falls action plan contains a series of actions to target this cohort. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioning and developing evidence-based services to support falls prevention in Cheshire East which reduce the likelihood and severity of falls amongst people who are older Communicating the issue of falls to professionals and the public inc. a falls 	<p>Falls Prevention Group (includes representatives from key organisations)</p> <p>Commissioning – Nik Darwin / Sharon Brissett</p>	<p>Senior Commissioning Manager / Integrated Commissioning Manager /</p>	

	<p>awareness week. Communication tactics will take account of the needs of older people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of updated intelligence to inform commissioning and delivery approaches including refreshing the Joint Strategic Need Assessment (JSNA) falls chapter. 	Health representative – John Grant	Health representative – John Grant	
Marriage & civil partnership	N/A			
Religion	N/A			
Disability	<p>The falls action plan contains a number of actions to target this cohort. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission and develop evidence-based services to support falls prevention in Cheshire East which reduce the likelihood and severity of falls. This will include eligibility criteria, promotion of services targeting this cohort. • Communicate the issues of falls to professionals and the public – this will include people with disabilities. • Production of updated intelligence to inform commissioning and delivery approaches including refreshing the Joint Strategic Need Assessment (JSNA) falls specific. This will include producing/reviewing intelligence related to disabilities. 	Falls Prevention Group (includes key stakeholders from number of organisations)	Senior Commissioning Manager / Integrated Commissioning Manager /	

Pregnancy & maternity	N/A			
Sex	N/A			
Gender Reassignment	N/A			
Race	N/A			
Sexual Orientation	N/A			

5. Review and Conclusion

Summary: provide a brief overview including impact, changes, improvement, any gaps in evidence and additional data that is needed :

A consultation took place over a falls strategy which has been developed in order to inform the Council's approach. Impacts identified within the Falls Prevention Strategy will be measured via an action plan, 5 key priority areas for this are as follows:

Impact will be measured via an action plan that will measure the 5 key priority areas:

- Public involved in the development of the Falls Prevention Strategy
- Commission and develop evidence-based services to support falls prevention in Cheshire East which reduce the likelihood and severity of falls
- Communicate the issues of falls to professionals and the public – continuing to raise awareness and the profile of falls across Cheshire East
- Production of updated intelligence to inform commissioning and delivery approaches including refreshing the Joint Strategic Need Assessment (JSNA) falls specific
- Ensure local authority, health and third party colleagues take account of the importance of falls prevention within their strategic plans

Specific actions to be taken to reduce, justify or remove any adverse impacts	How will this be monitored?	Officer responsible	Target date
As outlined in section 4	Via the Cheshire East Falls Prevention Group	Senior Commissioning Manager / Integrated Commissioning Manager	Ongoing, key review date Oct 23
Please provide details and link to full action plan for actions	N/A		
When will this assessment be reviewed?	The assessment will be reviewed once the strategy has been discussed by Adult and Health Committee and the Health and Wellbeing Board		
Are there any additional assessments that need to be undertaken in relation to this assessment?	No		
Lead officer sign off	Sharon Brissett	Date	06.07.23
Head of service sign off	Shelley Brough	Date	07.07.23

Please return to EDI Officer for publication once signed

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Adults and Health Committee

24 July 2023

Provisional Financial Outturn 2022/23

Report of: Alex Thompson: Director of Finance and Customer Services

Report Reference No: AH/10/2023-24

Ward(s) Affected: Not applicable

Purpose of Report

- 1 This report provides members with an overview of the Cheshire East Council provisional outturn for the financial year 2022/23. Members are being asked to consider the financial performance of the Council relevant to their terms of reference.
- 2 Reporting the financial outturn at this stage, and in this format 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 an open and enabling organisation, ensure that there is transparency in all aspects of council decision making.
- 3 The report also provides an early update on performance in 2023/24, in respect of the approved budget policy changes made in the MTFS 2023/24-27, at Council in February 2023.

Executive Summary

- 4 This report outlines how the Council managed its resources through sound financial planning, monitoring, and reporting to achieve outcomes and value for money. The report includes a narrative from the Council's Draft Group Accounts, to highlight financial performance within the year, as well as associated appendices to show how the Council has achieved against the priorities contained within the Corporate Plan as well as other important financial matters.
- 5 The full report was received by Corporate Policy Committee on 11 July. Service Committees will receive the sections relevant to their committee.

- 6 The Outturn is reported as part of the Statutory Accounts and is therefore subject to audit. The audited Accounts will be presented to the Audit and Governance Committee on 28 September 2023.
- 7 The annexes and appendices attached to this report set out details of the Council's financial performance:
- 8 Corporate Policy Committee Provisional Financial Outturn 2022/23 covering report.
- 9 **Annex 1** – Narrative from the Draft Group Accounts – Provides context of the area and its people, commentary on performance and introduces the financial statements of the Council and the wider Group of Companies for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.
- 10 **Annex 2** – Sets out the financial stability context and reasons for the outturn position. The annex contains the relevant appendix for each service committee relating to revenue and capital budgets, debt and reserves.
- 11 **Annex 3** – Update on performance from the MTFS 2023-27 on approved budget policy change items. A full review will be provided in at First Review in the September cycle of Committee meetings.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Adults and Health Committee to:

1. Consider the report of the Corporate Policy Committee ([Agenda for Corporate Policy Committee on Tuesday, 11th July, 2023, 10.00 am | Cheshire East Council](#)).
2. Consider the financial performance of the Council in the 2022/23 financial year relevant to their terms of reference.
3. Consider 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 (Annex 2)**.
4. Consider the update on performance with regard to the MTFS 2023-27 approved budget policy change items, in respect of Services within the remit of the Committee **(Annex 3)**.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 12 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.
- 13 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:	<p>Alex Thompson</p> <p>Director of Finance and Customer Services (Section 151 Officer)</p> <p>alex.thompson@cheshireeast.gov.uk</p> <p>01270 685876</p>
Appendices:	<p>Corporate Policy Committee Provisional Financial Outturn 2022/23 which includes:</p> <p>Annex 1 – Narrative from the Draft Group Accounts</p> <p>Annex 2 – Provisional Financial Outturn 2022/23</p> <p>Annex 3 – Update on tracked MTFS 2023-27</p> <p>Approved Budget Policy Change items</p>
Background Papers:	<p>The following are links to key background documents:</p> <p>Medium-Term Financial Strategy</p> <p>First Financial Review 2022/23</p> <p>Financial Review 2022/23</p> <p>Financial Review Update 2022/23</p> <p>2022/23 Financial Update</p> <p>Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement (cheshireeast.gov.uk)</p>

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Corporate Policy Committee

11 July 2023

Provisional Financial Outturn 2022/23

Report of: Alex Thompson: Director of Finance and Customer Services

Report Reference No: [To be provided by Democratic Services]

Ward(s) Affected: Not applicable

Purpose of Report

- 1 This report provides members with an overview of the Cheshire East Council provisional outturn for the financial year 2022/23. Members are being asked to consider the financial performance of the Council. The report also proposes treatment of year end balances that reflects risks identified in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy which was approved by Council in February 2023.
- 2 Highlighting financial performance across all Departments, and within Central Budgets shows how the Council is achieving its financial strategies and managing financial control and accountability.
- 3 Reporting the financial outturn at this stage, and in this format 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 an open and enabling organisation, ensure that there is transparency in all aspects of council decision making.
- 4 The report also provides an early update on performance in 2023/24, in respect of the approved budget policy changes made in the MTFS 2023/24-27, at Council in February 2023.

Executive Summary

- 5 This report outlines how the Council managed its resources through sound financial planning, monitoring, and reporting to achieve outcomes and value for money. The report includes a narrative from the Council's Draft Group Accounts, to highlight financial performance within the year, as well as associated appendices to show how the Council has

achieved against the priorities contained within the Corporate Plan as well as other important financial matters.

- 6 The Outturn is reported as part of the Statutory Accounts and is therefore subject to audit. The audited Accounts will be presented to the Audit and Governance Committee on 28 September 2023.
- 7 The annexes and appendices attached to this report set out details of the Council's financial performance:
- 8 **Annex 1** – Narrative from the Draft Group Accounts – Provides context of the area and its people, commentary on performance and introduces the financial statements of the Council and the wider Group of Companies for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.
- 9 **Annex 2** – Sets out the financial stability context and reasons for the outturn position. The annex contains an appendix for each service committee relating to revenue and capital budgets, debt and reserves. The Corporate Policy Committee will also receive appendices with updates to the Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy as at 31 March 2023.
- 10 **Annex 3** – Update on performance from the MTFS 2023-27 on approved budget policy change items. A full review will be provided in at First Review in the September cycle of Committee meetings.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Corporate Policy Committee is recommended to:

1. Consider the overall financial performance of the Council in the 2022/23 financial year, as contained within the report, as follows:
 - a) A Net Revenue Overspend of £6.0m against a revised budget of £318.7m (1.9% variance) funded by the drawdown of £5.2m from the MTFS Earmarked Reserve and a reduction in the planned contribution to General Reserves by £0.8m.
 - b) General Reserves closing balance of £14.1m.
 - c) Capital Spending of £116.4m against an approved programme of £125.2m (7.0% variance).
2. Consider the contents of each of the following annexes:
 - a) **Annex 1 – Narrative from the Draft Group Accounts** – Provides context of the area and its people, commentary on performance and introduces the financial statements of the Council and the wider Group of Companies for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

- b) **Annex 2 – Financial Stability** section 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.
 - **Appendix 8** Update to the Treasury Management Strategy.
 - **Appendix 9** Update to the Investment Strategy.
 - c) **Annex 3 – Update on tracked MTFS 2023-27 approved budget policy change items.**
3. Approve supplementary capital estimates (SCE) up to and including £1,000,000 and Capital Virements up to and including £5,000,000 in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules as detailed in **Annex 2: Appendix 6, Section 4, Table 5.**
4. Note that Council will be asked to approve:
 - a) Fully funded supplementary revenue estimates over £1,000,000 in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules as detailed in **Annex 2: Appendix 6, Section 2, Table 3.**
 - b) Capital Supplementary Estimates over £1,000,000 in **Annex 2: Appendix 6, Section 4, Table 6.**
5. Recommend to Service Committees to:
 - a) Consider the financial performance of the Council in the 2022/23 financial year relevant to their terms of reference.
 - b) Consider 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 (Annex 2).**
 - c) Approve supplementary revenue estimates (SRE) over £500,000 up to and including £1,000,000:
 - i) Children and Families Committee **Annex 2: Appendix 2, Section 2, Table 2.**
 - d) Consider the update on performance with regard to the MTFS 2023-27 approved budget policy change items, in respect of Services within the remit of the Committee.

Background

- 11 The recommendations within the 2022/23 Financial Reviews and the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) were clear in the treatment of the outturn and future reserve balances.
- 12 The MTFS recognised emerging risks such as inflation and particularly the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficit, which highlighted there is no alternative funding.
- 13 The financial outturn for Cheshire East Council is an overspend of £6.0m. This is net of appropriate allocations to useable reserves. Further detail is provided in **Table 1** and **Annex 2**.
- 14 **Table 1:** Total Net Revenue Budget is overspent by £6.0m

2022/23 Outturn Review	Revised Budget (NET) £m	Provisional Outturn £m	Provisional Outturn Variance £m	Change since Third Review £m
Service Committee				
Adults and Health	121.7	132.2	10.5	1.6
Children and Families	78.6	83.8	5.2	1.7
Corporate Policy	39.7	39.0	(0.7)	(1.1)
Economy and Growth	23.0	21.3	(1.7)	(0.9)
Environment and Communities	43.6	45.8	2.2	(0.7)
Highways and Transport	13.7	12.1	(1.6)	(1.4)
Sub-Committee				
Finance Sub	(320.3)	(328.2)	(7.9)	(0.9)
TOTAL	-	6.0	6.0	(1.7)
RELEASE OF RESERVES				
MTFS Reserve			(5.2)	-
General Fund Reserve			(0.8)	1.7
TOTAL			-	-

- 15 To balance this position £5.2m was drawn down from the MTFS reserve, as forecast at the Third Financial review, with only £0.8m being required from the General Fund Reserve (£1.7m less than forecast).
- 16 General reserves have increased from £12.6m to £14.1m following the planned contributions to reserves, partly offset by the utilisation of £0.8m as noted above.

- 17 Expenditure on the capital programme is £116.4m against a revised forecast of £125.2m that was reported to the Finance Sub Committee on the 8 March 2023 as part of the Financial Update report. The underspend of £8.8m will be slipped into 2023/24 and budgets will be re-profiled as part of the outturn reporting. This level of slippage, at 7%, is the lowest variance on the Capital Programme in several years.
- 18 The original budget set in February 2022 was £185.2m, during 2022/23 project managers were asked to re-profile their forecasts resulting in the revised forecast of £125.2m. Capital receipts in year amounted to £4.9m against a forecast of £1.0m, in the first instance this improvement reduces potential borrowing costs. Treatment of capital receipts will be considered as part of the review of the Capital Strategy.
- 19 **Table 2:** Total Capital Expenditure and Funding for the financial years 2022/23, and 2023/24 to 2025/26.

	Outturn 2022/23 £m	Three Year Forecast			Total £m
		2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	
Expenditure					
Children and Families	9.3	52.0	34.1	31.7	127.1
Adults and Health	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.5
Highways and Transport	65.6	69.6	77.4	128.4	341.0
Economy and Growth	21.0	93.4	55.2	78.7	248.3
Environment and Communities	13.2	11.3	16.7	0.6	41.8
Corporate Policy	7.3	13.6	9.7	5.9	36.5
Total Expenditure	116.4	240.4	193.1	245.3	795.2
Funding					
Grants and Other Contributions	53.8	159.9	141.6	139.1	494.4
Capital Receipts and Reserves	2.2	4.9	1.0	33.6	41.7
Borrowing	60.4	75.6	50.5	72.6	259.1
Total Funding	116.4	240.4	193.1	245.3	795.2

- 20 The Council's wholly owned companies' core contract expenditure was £37.94m in 2022/23, relating to services provided at cost for the Council. This position includes a net £1.5m of additional costs in year, relating to pay award pressures, significant inflation against contracts and materials, the legacy effects of Covid and increased demand for services; partly offset by improvements against waste tonnages, bereavement income and staffing vacancies, and other efficiencies. The net increase in cost is reflected in the Council's outturn position, mainly

against Environment & Communities Committee services, but also partly Highways & Transport Committee functions.

- 21 Ansa and Orbitas realised £0.356m in profits (after tax) from commercial activities. Although Transport Service Solutions (TSS) ceased trading on 31 March 2022, there were residual transactions in 2022/23, as part of winding down the company, generating a £0.106m surplus as at 31 March 2023, which will be paid as a final dividend in 2023/24. An interim dividend of £0.291m was paid in-year from TSS to the Council.
- 22 The Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) put in place revised regulations stated that for that came into force on 22nd July 2022. The regulations stated that for the years 2022/23 to 2027/28 the deadline for the accounts to be signed off by has been extended from the 31 July to the 30 September.
- 23 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.

Consultation and Engagement

- 24 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.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 25 The recommendations in this report support the 'Reporting' element of the financial cycle.
- 26 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. Financial changes take place during the year and are authorised in line with the Constitution. This report sets out where further approvals are required.

- 27 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.
- 28 Outturn reporting provides an opportunity to check performance and management of risks against the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. The four-year MTFS is balanced and approved by Council, but risks were identified as part of this process which could require access to reserves. Members had regard to such risks as the deficit in Dedicated School Grant reserves and potential liabilities associated with the Extra Care Housing PFI (Private Finance Initiative) Scheme when approving the budget. To ensure transparency on management of such risks it is proposed that the improvement in the outturn supports an increase in the General Reserves of the Council which enhances overall financial stability.

Other Options Considered

- 29 Outturn reporting could be delayed until post audit, to avoid the risk of provisional figures changing. This is not a recommended option as the audit completion certificate is not expected until September 2023. Delaying the reporting element of the financial cycle minimises the ability to react to issues during in-year monitoring. Provisional reporting has historically been accurate, so it is appropriate to react to the financial information provided in this report.
- 30 Positive variances, compared to the third quarter forecasts in 2022/23, could be allocated to budgets or reserves other than general reserves. This is not recommended as the MTFS has been agreed by Council with clear recognition of emerging risks that require mitigation. General Reserves are used to manage risk, in accordance with the Reserves Strategy. In the Planning cycle for the 2024/25 MTFS members will have to re-consider the robustness of all estimates and the overall adequacy of reserves based on up-to-date information and forecasts, which will include a review of the level of General Reserves

Implications and Comments

Monitoring Officer/Legal

- 31 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 at the final outturn stage in 2022/23.
- 32 Other implications arising directly from this report relate to the internal processes of approving supplementary revenue estimates,

supplementary capital estimates and virements referred to above which are governed by the Finance Procedure Rules.

Section 151 Officer/Finance

- 33 The Council's financial resources are agreed by Council and aligned to the achievement of stated outcomes for 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.
- 34 The Council's Audit & Governance Committee is responsible for reviewing and analysing the Council's audited position at year-end. The Committee received the Draft Group Accounts on 8 June 2023, with final accounts due for approval by 30 September 2023 following public scrutiny, external auditing, and any associated recommendations to the Committee.
- 35 The forecast outturn for 2022/23, as reported within the MTFS, was used to inform the budget setting process for 2023/24. Analysis of the final outturn helps to inform the Council of potential issues arising for the 2023/24 budget or highlights potential underlying issues that can be managed in future budget setting cycles. It is important to note that the variations reported at outturn have not identified any significant risks to the 2023/24 budget.

Policy

- 36 This report is a backward look at Council activities during the final quarter.
- 37 The final outturn position, ongoing considerations for future years, and the impact on general reserves will be fed into the assumptions underpinning the 2024-28 Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

- 38 Any equality 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.

Human Resources

- 39 This report is a backward look at Council activities at outturn and states the 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.

Risk Management

- 40 Financial risks are assessed and reported on a regular basis, and remedial action taken if required. Risks associated with the achievement of the 2022/23 budget and the level of general reserves were factored into the 2023/24 financial scenario, budget, and reserves strategy.

Rural Communities

- 41 The report provides details of service provision across the borough.

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

- 42 The report provides details of service provision across the borough and notes the overspend on Children in Care.

Public Health

- 43 This report is a backward look at Council activities at the fourth quarter and provides the year end position. Any public health 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.

Climate Change

- 44 There are no direct implications for climate change.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	<p>Alex Thompson</p> <p>Director of Finance and Customer Services (Section 151 Officer)</p> <p>alex.thompson@cheshireeast.gov.uk</p> <p>01270 685876</p>
Appendices:	<p>Annex 1 – Narrative from the Draft Group Accounts</p> <p>Annex 2 – Provisional Financial Outturn 2022/23</p> <p>Annex 3 – Update on tracked MTFS 2023-27</p> <p>Approved Budget Policy Change items</p>

<p>Background Papers:</p>	<p>The following are links to key background documents:</p> <p><u>Medium-Term Financial Strategy</u></p> <p><u>First Financial Review 2022/23</u></p> <p><u>Financial Review 2022/23</u></p> <p><u>Financial Review Update 2022/23</u></p> <p><u>2022/23 Financial Update</u></p> <p><u>Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement (cheshireeast.gov.uk)</u></p>
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Narrative Report 2022/23

An introduction to Cheshire East, the place

Cheshire East Council is an all-purpose 'unitary' local authority providing key public services to 398,800 local residents in Northwest England. The borders include the towns of Macclesfield, Congleton and Crewe. The area lies between the urban areas of Manchester to the North and Stoke-on-Trent to the South. Cheshire East covers a largely rural area of approximately 117,000 hectares, this makes the Council one of the largest local authorities in England.

The Council operates a model which matches the most appropriate service provider in terms of quality and cost to meet the needs of residents. The Group now consists of the Council and its wholly owned companies and associate. The accounts for all these organisations, where significant, are combined with the Council's accounts to produce the Cheshire East Group accounts.

The Group is focused on achieving outcomes, in line with the Corporate Plan, by providing quality local services that maximises value for money for local taxpayers.

Cheshire East Council is a multifunctional and complex organisation; its policies are developed by elected Councillors and implemented by professional officers.

During 2022/23 one company, partially owned by the Council (Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership Limited), also provided services to residents of Cheshire West and Chester and Warrington and is jointly owned with those Councils.

The most significant services provided by the Group are:

- Social Care
- Education
- Planning
- Highways
- Waste Management
- Economic Regeneration

Cheshire East, the people

Population: The Office for National Statistics released its latest (mid-2021) population estimates for local authorities in December 2022. These estimates show¹:

- Growth in the population for Cheshire East, which now stands at 400,500 residents – an increase of 29,800 from the mid-2011 figure.
- Cheshire East remains the third largest of the 39 district and unitary local authorities in the North West – behind Manchester and Liverpool – and fourteenth largest in England.
- The oldest age group (those aged 90 and above) increased by a third (33 per cent) in Cheshire East, which is above the England average (23 per cent).
- The largest percentage increase was in individuals aged 70 to 74, which was up by nearly half (45 per cent) – again above the England average (36 per cent). There was also an increase of 20 per cent more in the population aged 75 to 79 (up 36 per cent), 80 to 84 (20 per cent) and 85 to 89 (21 per cent); these were also above the England averages.

¹ Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS) mid-year population estimates for 2021 (December 2022 release) and 2011. ONS Crown Copyright.

- Some younger age groups also increased their numbers by 20 per cent or more: those aged 30-34 increased by a quarter (24 per cent), or twice the England average (12 per cent); and those aged 55 to 59 increased by 31 per cent (above the England average of 26 per cent).

Economy: Having a strong local economy is key to the Council's ambition to build economic growth, as is developing life skills to help people thrive and reach their potential. Economic data tells us:

- Cheshire East's unemployment rate is significantly below the regional and national averages. For the twelve-month period October 2021 to September 2022, the number of unemployed residents was estimated at 6,100. This equates to 3.2% of the economically active (employed or unemployed) population aged 16 and above (compared to 3.9% for the twelve-month period ending September 2021). The current rate is below the regional and national averages of 4.2% for the Northwest and 3.7% for Great Britain.²
- 5,520 of Cheshire East's residents were claiming out-of-work benefits as of January 2023, down from 5,645 in the previous month and 6,345 in January of 2022; this represents a continuing downward trend from the peak reached in January 2021 (10,165), a time when COVID-19 was still severely constraining economic activity. The current figure of 5,520 claimants equates to 2.3% of the Borough's working-age (16–64-year-old) population (down a little from the January 2022 rate of 2.6%, and well below the 4.2% rate recorded in January 2021); this is significantly less than the rates in the Northwest and the UK as a whole (4.1% and 3.6% respectively). For the Borough's 18–24-year-olds, the claimant rate is 3.9% (up slightly from 3.8% in January 2022, but lower than the 7.6% rate recorded for January 2021). This is higher than for other age groups (0.1% for 16–17-year-olds, 2.6% for 25-49s and 1.5% for those aged 50 to 64) but is below the rates for this age group in the Northwest and the UK as a whole (5.6% and 4.7% respectively).³
- Note that Government changes to the eligibility criteria for Universal Credit (in response to COVID-19) mean that claimants now include some people who are in work, but on low incomes.
- Average household income is high compared to the region and UK but fell slightly in 2020. The Borough's gross disposable household income (GDHI) per head for 2020 (£25,200) was 1.6% lower than the 2019 figure (£25,600); the UK as a whole also saw a decrease, but a proportionately smaller one (0.2%). It is likely that the 2019-20 changes partly reflect the impact of COVID-19 and the Government's policy response (of increased social support and redistributed public resources) benefiting some geographical areas of the UK more than others. Even so, GDHI per head in 2020 was 17.5% higher than in the UK (£21,400) and even further above the Northwest average (£18,900).⁴ Income levels vary widely within the Borough. In the financial year ending 2018, average (mean) gross annual household income in the Borough's MSOAs (the Middle Super Output Areas used by the Office of National Statistics) varied from an average of £32,700 in Cheshire East MSOA 036 (an area in the

² Source: Model-based estimates of unemployment, October 2020 – September 2021 to October 2021 – September 2022, ONS, NOMIS. ONS Crown Copyright. Note: Estimates of unemployment for regions and countries have been produced from Annual Population Survey data. Estimates at unitary authority level are from model-based estimates.

³ Sources: [1] Claimant Count, ONS, NOMIS. ONS Crown Copyright. Figures relate to January 2023, except where otherwise specified. [2] ONS mid-year population estimates for 2021 (December 2022 release). ONS Crown Copyright. Note: This claimant measure includes all Universal Credit claimants who are required to seek and be available for work, as well as all Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants.

⁴ Source: 'Regional gross disposable household income, UK: 1997 to 2020' data tables, ONS, October 2022. Figures quoted here are in current prices (that is, they include inflation).

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north of Crewe between Bentley and the train station, including part of Coppenhall) to £60,000 in MSOA 014 (the Tytherington part of Macclesfield).⁵

The Political Structure of the Council

As a politically led organisation Cheshire East has 82 elected members selected from 52 wards. The electorate in Cheshire East is one of the largest in the UK with almost 300,000 registered voters. Council Elections take place every four years.

During 2022/23 the political membership of the Council was as follows:

	2022/23
Conservative	30
Labour	24
Independent Group	17
Liberal Democrat	4
Non-grouped	4

The Council had three vacancies at the 31st March, following the deaths of two Councillors and one Councillor stepping down.

Details of Member Expenses for 2022/23 are available on the Cheshire East website.

The Council operates a 'committee system' form of governance, with six service committees, a Finance Sub-Committee, and a Scrutiny committee.

The Cheshire East Council Group Structure

Cheshire East Council is by far the largest service provider of the Group. It is important to recognise that the Council is a Local Authority whereas the other members of the Group are limited companies which are either wholly or partially owned by the Council. The Council must produce a balanced annual budget and aims to spend within that total. The private companies can focus on providing a profit from their commercial activities.

Cheshire East Residents First Limited (CERF) is the largest shareholder for Ansa Environmental Services Limited, Transport Service Solutions Limited and Orbitas Bereavement Services Limited. CERF owns an 80% shareholding in these companies with the remaining 20% being retained by Cheshire East Council. CERF is wholly owned by Cheshire East Council and acts as a holding company for the council owned companies.

Over the last three years the Council has been undertaking an extensive review of each of the wholly owned companies to consider the ever-changing environment in which services are

⁵ Source: Income estimates for small areas, England & Wales, financial year ending 2018, ONS, March 2020. Notes: [1] MSOAs are small geographical areas which the Office for National Statistics created for statistical purposes. They are intended to be of roughly equal size (in terms of population). There are just over 50 MSOAs in Cheshire East. [2] The figures quoted here do not take account of geographical differences in household size and composition, which will vary from MSOA to MSOA.

delivered, as well as the current strategic objectives of the Council and our future ambitions, as outlined in the Corporate Plan.

Decisions have previously been made to bring a number of the companies back in-house, these included Engine of the North and the Skills & Growth Company in 2019/20, Civicance Ltd from 1st April 2020 and Transport Service Solutions Ltd from 1st April 2022 noting that the strategic, planning, commissioning and procurement functions of these services are to be brought back in-house and delivered directly by Cheshire East Council from 1st April 2022 with operational functions being delivered through Ansa Environmental Services Ltd.

The Group Management Structure (2022/23)

Where services are not provided by directly employed staff the Council adopts a commissioning approach to ensure compliance and value for money. Although the Council owns the companies within the Group, either wholly or in part, each company is a single entity with its own governance arrangements which then reports into the Council's governance arrangements.

Supporting the work of elected Members is the organisational structure of the Council headed by the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT). This includes the key Statutory Officers to ensure they are represented at the senior level of the Council.

Company	Role	Name
Cheshire East Council	Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service)	Lorraine O'Donnell
(Gross Revenue Spend £793m; Capital Spend £116.4m)	Executive Directors:	
	• Executive Director Place	Jayne Traverse
	• Executive Director of Corporate Services	Jane Burns
	• Executive Director of Adults, Health and Integration	Helen Charlesworth-May
	• Executive Director of Children's Services	Deborah Woodcock
	Other Statutory Officers:	
	• Director of Governance and Compliance – Monitoring Officer	David Brown
	• Chief Finance Officer – Section 151 Officer	Alex Thompson
	• Director of Public Health	Matt Tyrer

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Wholly Owned Subsidiaries: 2022/23 position	Role	Name
Cheshire East Residents First (CERF)	Chair	Tom Shuttleworth
Ansa Environment Services Limited (Turnover £46m)	Chair	Cllr Steve Hogben
	Managing Director	Kevin Melling
Transport Service Solutions Limited (Turnover £0.6m)	Director	Tom Shuttleworth
Orbitas Bereavement Services Limited (Turnover £2.5m)	Chair	Cllr Joy Bratherton
	Managing Director	Kevin Melling
Tatton Park Enterprise Limited¹ (Turnover £0.86m)	Chair	Cllr Kathryn Flavell
	Directors	Cllr Kathryn Flavell Graham Jones Barry Burkhill (until 19th November 2022) Cllr Mark Goldsmith (appointed 3rd February 2023)
Associate:		
Cheshire & Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership Limited¹	Chair	Clare Hayward MBE, DL
	Chief Executive	Philip Cox

Note 1: Accounts for TPE & C&WLEP are not consolidated in 2022/23 on the grounds of materiality.

The subsidiary companies are led by management boards. These consist of a Managing Director, a Chairman and Directors. The Chairman and two directors are appointed from the elected representatives of the Council.

For a more complete list of appointments and further details on each organisation within the Cheshire East Group please refer to the following websites:

Cheshire East Council	www.cheshireeast.gov.uk
Ansa Environmental Services Limited	www.ansa.co.uk
Cheshire and Warrington Enterprise Partnership Limited	www.871candwep.co.uk

Accounts for Tatton Park Enterprise Limited will be published on the Tatton Park website:
www.tattonpark.org.uk

Accounts for each of the private companies within the Cheshire East Group will also be provided to Companies House as required.
(website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/companies-house>)

The Group has appropriate governance and control arrangements in place to support the proper management of resources. Each year the Council provides an Annual Governance Statement that

highlights how effective the processes and controls are during the year. The Audit and Governance Committee receive the Statement and consider any actions put in place in response to any issues being highlighted. It is important to read this Statement, which can be found on the Council's website alongside the Group Statement of Accounts to appreciate the proportionate level of control being exercised over the resources of the Group.

Group Employees

The Group employs a total of 4,082 people (excluding school-based employees).

	No.*	%
Cheshire East Council	3,599	88
Ansa Environmental Services Limited (ANSA)	443	11
Orbitas, Bereavement Services Limited	40	1
Total	4,082	100

*No. represents an average workforce for the year

The Corporate Plan

The Corporate Plan was approved by Council in February 2021. This sets out the three main Council priorities of Open, Fair and Green.

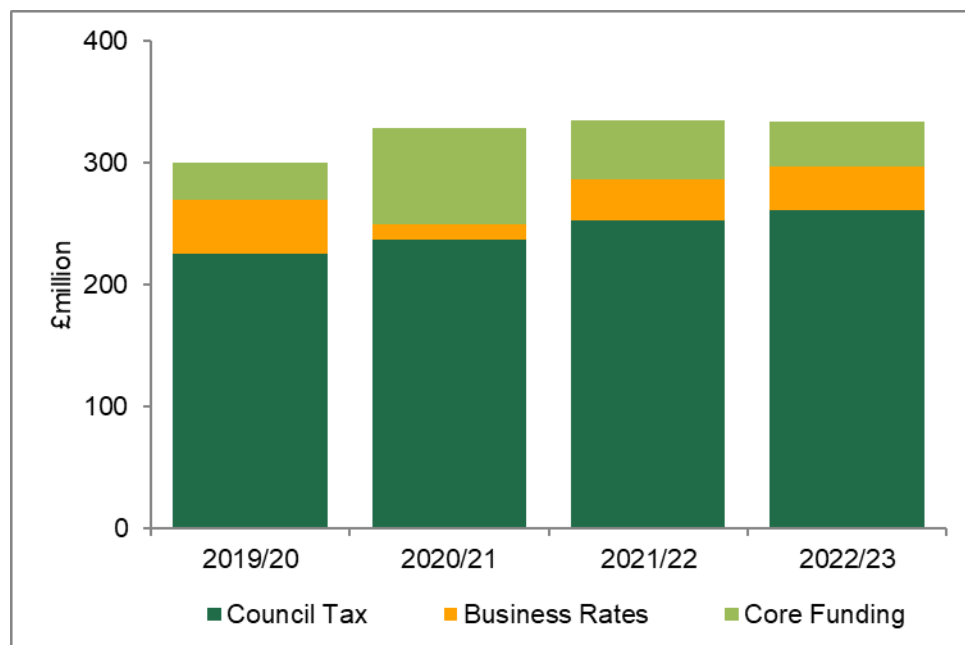


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Financial Overview

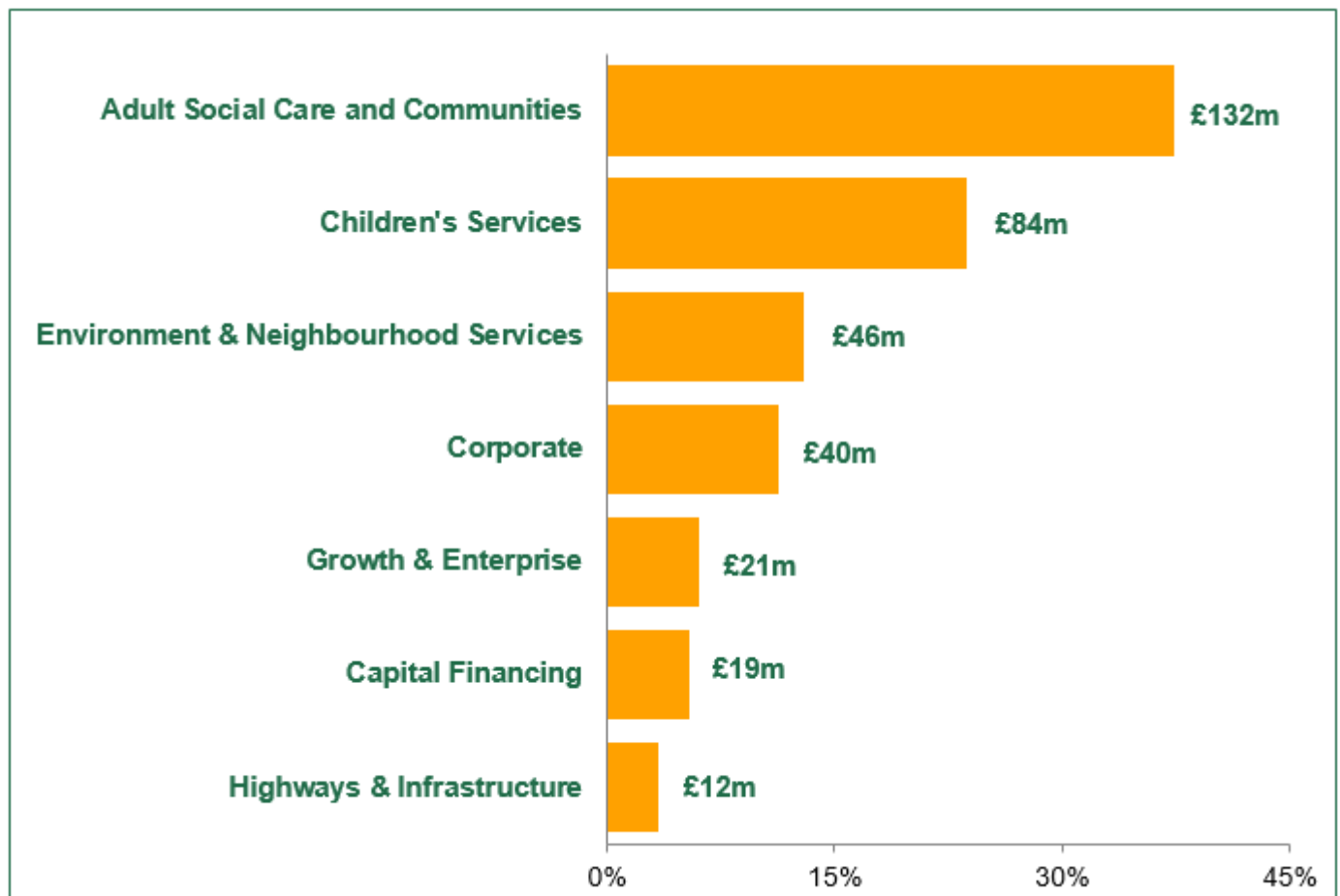
Compared to most other English authorities, Cheshire East is less reliant on Government revenue grant as local businesses and residents provide a high proportion of the overall funding through the payment of Council Tax and Business Rates.

Chart A: Most of the Council's funding comes from local tax payers.

**Most of the Council's £335m Services Net Budget is allocated to Social Care**

The Council invests in a wide range of service providers. Most of the money is spent on achieving social care and community outcomes. The difficult decisions to prioritise and allocate resources to commissioned services mainly rests with elected Members.

The significant majority of education funding is passed directly to maintained schools and payment of welfare benefits, although administered by the Council, are claimed back from the Government in full. These costs are not therefore included in the 'Net Budget'. At present public health expenditure is also ring-fenced for spending on public health services.

Chart B: Services for Children and Adults make up 61% of the Council's expenditure

Revenue Outturn position

The financial outturn for Cheshire East Council is an overspend of £6.0m. This is net of appropriate allocations to useable reserves.

The Council's wholly owned companies produced a positive outturn for the year, rebating £0.660m to the Council at outturn. This reflects the achievement of net cost savings against Council activities funded from the management fee. The wholly owned companies also realised £0.462m in profits from commercial activities. In addition, the Council received an interim dividend payment in-year from the Transport Service Solutions Ltd of £0.291m with a final dividend due upon closure of £0.106m in early 2023/24.

Overall revenue reserves of the Group have reduced from £100.3m to £81.1m. This is made up primarily from:

- General reserves for Cheshire East Council have increased from £12.6m to £14.1m.
- Earmarked reserves for Cheshire East Council of £61.6m
- Schools' reserves and balances of £5.4m.

The Council will be audited by Mazars LLP and each of the wholly owned subsidiaries of the Group will be separately audited by Grant Thornton UK LLP. Any findings will be reported to the relevant

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Board or Committee and the Audit and Governance Committee and reported on the website of each part of the Group.

Summary details of the relative management accounts for each entity within the Group are as follows:

Cheshire East Council reported an overspend of £6.0m to be funded from MTFs reserve (£5.2m) and General reserves (£0.8m)

2022/23 Outturn Review	Revised Budget (Net) £m	Third Quarter Over / (Underspend) £m	Final Outturn Over / (Underspend) £m
Service Directorates			
Adults, Health and Integration	121.7	8.9	10.5
Children and Families	78.6	3.5	5.2
Place	80.3	1.9	(1.2)
Corporate	39.7	0.4	(0.7)
Total Services Net Budget	320.3	14.6	13.8
Central Budgets			
Capital Financing	17.1	-	-
Transfer to / from Earmarked Reserves	(5.7)	(6.0)	(6.0)
Corporate Contributions / Central Budgets	(13.0)	(1.0)	(1.8)
Total Central Budgets	(1.6)	(7.0)	(7.8)
Total Net Budget	318.7	7.7	6.0
Business Rates Retention Scheme	(26.3)	-	-
Specific Grants	(36.5)	-	-
Council Tax	(253.8)	-	-
Funding	(318.7)	-	-
Net Position	(318.7)	7.7	6.0

The wholly owned subsidiaries reported an overall surplus.

Company	Turnover £000	Costs £000	Operating Profit/(Loss) £000	Interest Payable & Taxation £000	Net Profit /(Loss) £000
ANSA	45,614	45,160	454	171	283
TSS	595	513	82	(24)	106
Orbitas	2,502	2,432	70	(3)	73
Total	48,711	48,105	606	144	462

- Please note that a prior year adjustment of £455,000 that was not previously adjusted for in the Cheshire East Group Statement of Accounts for 2021/22, has been adjusted for in 2022/23, reducing the overall profit to £7,000.

National Economic pressures

2022/23 has been a particularly challenging year financially. Not only has the Council continued to deal with the legacy impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, but there have also been significant national economic pressures and a cost of living crisis, largely as a consequence of global events. Inflation, particularly driven by increases in fuel and energy prices, reached over 10 percent in 2022/23, compared to the Government's target of 2 percent. Interest rates reached 4.25 percent at end of March 2023, compared to 0.5 percent in February 2022. National economic forecasts suggest interest rates could continue to rise in 2023/24.

All services are impacted by rising inflation. The cost of delivering Council services and capital development activities are significantly increased. National wage inflation in 2022/23 was estimated at 6% and the average cost of council pay increases matched this.

In addition, like other councils across the country, Cheshire East Council is seeing increasing complexity and demand in services to support people who need additional help. More than 60 percent of the Council's net budget is spent on care services for adults and children.

To support Cheshire East residents, a Cost of Living Crisis Team has been created for those who are concerned about the increased cost of living; the Team advise residents on what support is available and where to get it.

The Council has also acted as an agent for Central Government, by passporting grants to residents and businesses affected by the cost of living crisis.

Performance Overview

The Council's outcomes, are achieved through a combination of staff, commissioners and providers targeting our performance ambition. Some of the key issues that have affected the level of service expenditure and performance against outcomes during the year are summarised below.

Adult Social Care, Commissioning and Public Health Services

A new, innovative programme, [Green Spaces for Wellbeing](#), has launched in Macclesfield and Crewe. Green Spaces for Wellbeing helps adults to improve their physical and mental health and wellbeing by engaging in nature-based activities. An experienced team of rangers offer friendly and welcoming groups that can help participants to build confidence, meet people locally, discover different interests, practice mindfulness, learn new skills, and give back to the local community.



We have been assessed as good by the Home Office, with a very strong leaning to outstanding (our overall score is 94%) for our response to Prevent and Channel. In five key areas we were rated as outstanding.

In June 2022 we held a Learning Disabilities conference, celebrating the lives of people with

The council have been working hard to support residents in response to the cost-of-

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<p>learning disabilities, and hearing about people's experiences of services – what is good and what needs to get better. We are changing our services based on this feedback.</p>	<p>living crisis. We set up dedicated webpages and a phone line to a cost-of-living team with advice and support.</p> <p>We launched Warm PlaCEs this year to ensure residents were warm over winter. Over 40 Warm PlaCEs across the Borough provided information and advice, warm drinks and hot food.</p> <p>We also provided a cost-of-living grant for voluntary sector organisations to apply for (total £200,000) to support organisations to continue to deliver much needed services despite additional cost pressures.</p>
<p>We have supported 639 Ukrainian people to safely connect with 323 UK Sponsors households. We have provided welcome payments, thank you payments, education, housing advice, integration support, employment opportunities have created a huge welcome to a vulnerable cohort. We also recently launched a campaign to recruit local sponsors to continue to house this cohort as the war continues.</p>	<p>We have launched our new Health and Wellbeing Strategy for 2023-2028. The strategy guides the work of the council, partners and stakeholders in improving health and wellbeing across Cheshire East and includes clear objectives to support people to improve their health and wellbeing.</p>
<p>The 'Stay Well Squad' provided dedicated support to the NHS and social care Winter Plan and flu vaccination campaign; undertook visits to Ukrainian refugees and their host families; supported the NHS with health care for asylum seekers, and provided health and wellbeing advice to local businesses and schools. In addition, they advised the public through their drop-in sessions at supermarkets and community venues. The Squad undertook health checks through their mobile service, helping people to better understand their health risks and signposting them to advice, guidance and services that would help them to improve or maintain their health and wellbeing.</p>	<p>We continue to integrate and align services with our health colleagues across Cheshire East Place. Notable successes include the establishment of Transfer of Care Hubs based in local hospitals which involves the co-location of health and social care services which play an important role in hospital discharge. This development has helped to reduce delays for people leaving hospital.</p>


The Adult Social Care (Operations and Commissioning) and Public Health budgets remain under continued pressure across the country. The rising cost of Social Care in Cheshire East is driven by increasing demand for services, increasing complexity of the demand and increasing costs in providing them. Demand for Social Care is therefore not driven exclusively by an ageing population, the prevalence of disability among working-age adults has also increased over recent years. In

addition to increasing demand, the unit cost of providing care services is also going up, driven mainly by workforce costs and this has been recognised in the 2023/24 budget where growth has been allocated.

Children's Services

<p>Crewe Youth Zone has been awarded a £7.0million Youth Investment Fund grant to build the new state-of-the-art youth centre. Subject to plans being approved, the Youth Zone is expected to open in Spring 2025. It will provide thousands of young people with opportunities to engage in activities and access support from skilled youth workers, helping them to develop their skills and reach their full potential. It will also create full and part-time jobs as well as volunteering opportunities.</p> <p>Crewe Youth Zone is being delivered by national charity OnSide, in partnership with Cheshire East Council and Crewe Town Board.</p>	<p>Cheshire East Council has been successful in its bid to secure government backing for two new free schools for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. The successful bid means the Department for Education will build two new special schools, located in Middlewich and Congleton. The schools will create 120 places for children and young people from five to 19 years old.</p> <p>These additional special school places will enable children and young people to remain within Cheshire East and avoid the need to travel a longer distance to go to school.</p>
<p>Cheshire East Council and partners have been selected to receive lottery funding of more than £250,000 for a pilot scheme to support survivors of domestic abuse, helping them to remain safely in their communities. The money will bring in support from charities including Standing Together against Domestic Abuse and Surviving Economic Abuse - strengthening the Borough's existing domestic abuse partnership and creating innovative and new ways of working. The focus of the work will be on a 'Whole Housing Approach' and means that services are strengthened to spot the signs of abuse and can support families earlier.</p>	<p>Cheshire East are developing Family Hubs supported by a successful bid for additional funding from the Department for Education. This model brings council, health, education and community services together so that families can access the right support at the right time. The council plans to develop existing children's centres to create the hubs for parents/carers of children of all ages, to ensure that they can access support across a range of services. A digital service will also be developed to provide advice and guidance.</p>
<p>Cheshire East Council, with the help of a wide range of local partners, distributed vouchers worth £4m on behalf of the Department of Work and Pensions to support the most vulnerable households across the county with food, utilities, housing costs, and other essentials over 2022/23. The programme released over 135,000 payments to over 12,500 individuals in need across Cheshire East, receiving over 95% approval from feedback collected from the community.</p>	<p>The Cheshire East Area Partnership attained the Youth Justice SEND Quality Lead status with a 'child first' commendation. The Cheshire East area is part of a youth justice service that spans Cheshire East, Cheshire West, Halton and Warrington. In 2018, the partnership was awarded quality mark status through developing more robust relationships with education services, social care and health, with strengths in the quality of their award-winning diversion activity. Since then,</p>

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	<p>Cheshire East has embarked on a focused journey of continuous improvement, which has resulted in the attainment of the coveted Quality Lead Award with a commendation for effective child first partnership practice.</p>
<p>Cheshire East Council offers a successful and diverse programme of training and support to its schools via its 'Continual Professional Development Pathway' programme. A wide range of expert providers are commissioned to deliver the training. To date, over 500 Cheshire East schools have accessed training.</p> <p>This ongoing training and development offer helps schools to develop their curriculum and continue to improve the support they offer to pupils.</p> 	<p>Cheshire East Council works with a range of holiday club providers to offer a range of free fun and exciting activities, alongside a nutritious meal, in the main school holidays as part of the holiday activities and food programme (HAF). The holiday activities are for school age children and young people, who are eligible for benefits related free school meals.</p> <p>During 2022, the programme has been able to offer over 39,000 holiday club places in over 60 locations across Cheshire East. During this time, the programme supported over 4,000 children and young people, including over 400 children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities, and provided over 25,000 nutritious meals.</p>

The Children and Families final outturn for 2022/23 reflects a £5.2m overspend. The breakdown of that position is shown in the main summary table.

The key pressure areas for the directorate include:

- Children's social care agency placements – where the number of children in care has continued to increase from 521 at April 2022 to 585 at April 2023 and placement costs are increasing by more than inflation.
- The increased use and cost of agency staff in children's social care to cover vacant posts.
- Higher legal costs within children's social care with longer processes and more challenge.
- Home to school transport costs – where a mix of increasing numbers of pupils with an education, health and care plan (EHCP), driver shortages and increasing fuel costs have seen overall costs rise.
- Educational Psychologists – where there is the need for agency staff to cover posts and challenges in recruiting and retaining staff.

The £5.2m reflects the position after £4m of one-off mitigating measures have been applied including resettlement funding, funding transformation costs from capital receipts and use of earmarked reserves. As a result, the underlying pressure is much greater.

A number of these items are reflected in growth allocations in the MTFS. However, the position will require careful management during 2023/24 and the Directorate is developing work plans.

Dedicated School Grant (DSG)

The key pressure on DSG relates to the high needs block where the SEND service continues to see a significant increase in the number of pupils with an EHCP.

This has placed pressure on the grant used to provide funding for children with SEND in various settings and led to a £21.2m overspend in 2022/23. This adds on to the brought forward deficit of £25.7m to take the DSG Reserve to a £46.9m deficit position.

This is in line with the budget gap as determined by the council's DSG Management Plan that was reported to Children and Families Committee in September 2022 and set out the planned expenditure and income on high needs over the medium term.

The deficit is currently being managed by an accounting override until 2026 which allows it to be treated as an un-usable reserve. At this stage the position is not recoverable unless there are significant changes to funding or demand or both.

Place

Carbon Net Zero

The Council's first large-scale solar farm is underway which will generate renewable energy and reduce carbon emissions as part of the Council commitment to be Carbon neutral by 2025. The 4.1-megawatt solar farm – enough to power about 1,200 houses – is being built by the council on land adjacent to the composting plant in Leighton Grange Farm in Crewe. The solar farm will provide renewable energy to power our composting plant – operated by Biowise – but will also put green energy back into the national grid, helping to offset a significant amount of the council's carbon emissions.

The Council has launched our new electric car club for business trips as a new way for us to manage our fleet of vehicles and will help us to reduce the impact on the environment while promoting cleaner, greener ways to travel. Over 50 council staff have joined and have driven 3615 miles, saving 619kgCO₂ which would have been released in the old petrol cars.



Nantwich Leisure Centre

The redevelopment of Nantwich Leisure Centre concluded early in 2022 and included:

- Extended Gym – helping to cater for current and future membership;
- Group Cycling Studio – the key suggestion by Nantwich members in Everybody annual surveys;
- Café and a larger, modern reception area; and,
- Extended changing provision – primarily to support the Outdoor Pool.

The project was procured and managed by CEC Assets, delivered by ENGIE Regeneration and achieved BREEAM Good along with the installation of smart technology, photovoltaics and LED lighting was added to the scope following the award of the contract to reflect the Council's carbon neutral aspirations.



Cultural Economy

Tatton Park

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This year saw Completion of a second large mural in Macclesfield as part of the Town Art Trail. Peachezz completed a mural, inspired by the illustrations of Macclesfield born Charles Tunnicliffe, of 'Swifts' at Macclesfield Station with funding from Avanti. This has become a much-loved addition to the town and joins the mural of Ian Curtis on Mill Street completed earlier in 2022.



The team has supported the creation of an LCEP (Local Cultural Education Partnership) for Crewe and surrounding area is bringing together professionals from the creative and education sectors to improve cultural opportunities for young people.

A major milestone for the Archives project was reached with an announcement of funding from National Lottery Heritage Fund. Almost £5million has been secured to deliver 2 new History Centres in Crewe and Chester.

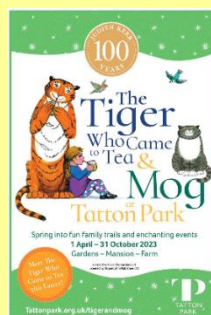
Public Access Improvements

The Public Rights of Way team continue to increase the accessibility of the path network, such as by replacing stiles with gates and enhancing path surfaces, on both leisure and active travel routes. The 2022 random survey of paths across the network undertaken by volunteers from the East Cheshire Ramblers and the Peak and Northern Footpaths Society classed 94% of the inspected paths as being in a good or acceptable condition.

Tatton Park has responded well despite a challenging year affecting visitor attractions nationally, with lower visitor numbers due to the cost of living. Among the many successes, a busy Christmas period saw the reintroduction of the popular 'Christmas in the Mansion' for the first time since the pandemic.

Other successes included being winner of Cheshire's 'Best Tourism Marketing Project of the Year 2021/22 for 'Percy the Parkkeeper' at Tatton Park, while Tatton's Green flag' and 'Green heritage site' awards were retained again. A successful bid was made for a £49,000 'Reimagine' grant from the Art Fund for proof of concept of two large scale, site specific, immersive artworks as part of a major Canaletto exhibition planned for 2025.

It is important to refresh Tatton's core visitor offer to attract new audiences and encourage existing visitors to return. Since 2022, Tatton has been developing a partnership with publishers Harper Collins to create a programme of special events and activities designed to celebrate the world of Judith Kerr's much loved children's stories, 'The Tiger who came to Tea' and the 'Mog' series of classic books. They will be launched from Easter 2023 with family activities in the Gardens, Mansion and Farm over the summer along with education workshops.



The team also launched a new website for the Tatton Park Charitable Trust, which provides for online donations for the first time and relaunches an animal adoption scheme. The Tatton Park Charitable Trust was created to support education, conservation and restoration projects for the benefit of all visitors to Tatton Park. It is a voluntary body

The team often receive appreciation from members of the public, including one which read *"I just wanted to say congratulations to you and the [National] Trust on the refurbishment of the restricted byway between Quarry Bank Mill and Bank House Farm. I walked along there the other day expecting to be up to my ankles in mud and water to find that it had been transformed. This is such an important link for walkers and horse riders in the Wilmslow network, and a historic one too as I'm sure you know. With many thanks to all involved"*

One example of improvement works would be those completed on Audlem Footpath No. 26: Audlem Ramblers, in partnership and using an innovative product called Flex MSE as well as standard materials, created a 65m long raised walkway over a section of footpath that was boggy the majority of the year and yet forms a popular circular route for residents, linking in with the Shropshire Union Canal towpath.



Before



After

run by local trustees, which aims to raise donations and secure grants to help to ensure this special place is here for future generations to enjoy.

The management and conservation of the 2000-acre historic estate, including Mansion, Park, Gardens and Farm continues across the year with deer management, woodland management, the best example of a Japanese Garden in Europe, a rare breed farm telling the story of food 'from field to fork' and artefacts from paintings to porcelain, ensuring that this is no 'run-of-the-mill' task. Welcoming hundreds of thousands of visitors, providing recreational and wellbeing opportunities, volunteering, staging major outdoor events, and contributing to the Borough's visitor economy are all part of the annual picture.

North West Crewe Highway Package

This is a 2.6km new single carriageway and 7 new roundabouts with junction improvements near Leighton Hospital and Bentley. The council's contractor, Balfour Beatty started work on site in May 2022 and Phase 1 of the scheme, which has involved the closure of the A530 Middlewich Road to the south of the new scheme, is nearly complete. Overall scheme completion is programmed for spring 2024.

Poynton Relief Road

Excellent progress was maintained throughout the year on the 3.5km Poynton Relief Road, working with our contractor, Graham Ltd. The road was opened on 3rd March 2023.

Major junction improvements at Adlington Junction and Bonis Hall Lane have also been completed this year to accommodate the increased traffic expected when the new road opens.

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Economic Development

The team has led and supported on a wide range of projects over the past 12 months in Crewe town centre. Projects include:

- The redevelopment of Lyceum Square into Ly² – a new cultural and events space in the heart of the town centre, utilising £750,000 of Government funding.
- The £23m Towns Fund programme, ensuring projects submit Green Book-compliant business cases, then appraising them and securing approval from Crewe Town Board and the Department for Levelling Up Homes & Communities. Following this, in response to the construction cost inflation, it led in reviewing and reprioritising funding to ensure the viability of the majority of projects. These include several led by other Council services and external partners, as well as others developed and led by the Regeneration team, such as the Mill Street Corridor – which will improve connectivity between the station and town centre - and a new grant scheme to supporting businesses taking on vacant town centre premises.
- It has also managed the £14m Future High Streets Fund programme, again supporting some projects led by other Council services, but leading specifically on Civic & Cultural Space (with a secured planning consent), and a new co-working space project (TADIC) which was approved to proceed.

Further key achievements have been:

- Leading a coordinated cross Directorate Council response to the UK Shared

Air Quality

A new Air Quality Analyser has been installed in Disley. The new equipment will have the ability to give more 'real time' information on levels of nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter. The project has been completed in conjunction with the Local Transport Planning Team.

Objectives within the Air Quality Action Plan continue to be delivered, including a series of highway network improvements and ongoing education campaigns.



A project amongst our local schools to design a poster around air pollution was won by a pupil from Brereton Primary School. The prize, which benefitted the whole school, was a scooter activity day, provided by Scoot Fit, which aimed to improve ability and confidence amongst children whilst encouraging active travel.

Funded by a grant from Defra the service has undertaken a Borough wide awareness raising campaign around the impacts to air quality and the environment as a result of domestic fuel burning and vehicle idling. All Cheshire East households have received a general information leaflet supported by a variety of media releases, an updated web page and a 'don't idle' visual on pay and display tickets.

Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) developing an Investment Plan and securing an £11.8M allocation for Cheshire East, which will be used to support communities, business and people across the Borough to March 2025.

- Leading a multi-service team responding to a Business Improvement District Proposal for Wilmslow Town Centre, enabling that proposal to be considered at a ballot and ultimately seeing it become the Borough's first Business Improvement District.

Separate Defra funding specific to a cycling-based project in Congleton has resulted in the installation of a number of cycle stands being installed in the town and local park. The service is looking to use the remaining money to support cycle stands within local schools.

Housing

The Housing team applied for £6.21million of Round 2 Home Upgrade Grant funding to improve the energy efficiency of off gas homes for Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester Councils, which was successful.

They are also delivering energy efficiency improvements into 164 homes in partnership with our Registered Housing Providers having successfully secured £1.5million Social Housing Decarbonisation Funding.

We completed the Green Homes Grant schemes this year, delivering 572 energy efficiency measures to 362 households.

In June 2022, the Housing Options Team achieved Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation, which is a scheme open to Housing Associations, Local Authority Housing Teams and Homelessness Providers across the UK to help improve their response to domestic abuse.

We secured £838,857 of Rough Sleeping Initiative funding over 3 years to establish a Multi-Agency Disciplinary Team and 8 units of supported accommodation, to help those who are rough sleeping to access the services to deal with complex behaviour and enable them to secure and sustain accommodation.

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Environment & Neighbourhood Services

Environment & Neighbourhood Services are reporting a pressure of £2.2m against a net budget of £43.6m. £1.9m of this relates to income pressures in Planning, Libraries and Licensing as a legacy of the COVID-19 pandemic. £0.4m relates to COVID-19 related costs as more people are working from home leading to increased tonnage growth. A net £0.9m non-COVID-19 pressure arises in Environmental Services due to wholly owned company pay increases, increased costs of the waste disposal contract, and waste transfer station maintenance, mitigated by a higher than expected bereavement income surplus. There is a large staffing underspend across the majority of services due to vacancies and delaying recruitment to improve the overall Council financial position, offset slightly by the pay rise pressure.

Growth & Enterprise

Growth & Enterprise have an underspend of £1.6m against a net budget of £22.3m. There were a number of measures taken to help with the Council's financial position including releasing funding in Economic Development of £0.8m, reduction in planned maintenance in Facilities Management and Farms, stopping non-essential spend and holding vacancies across the majority of the services. Growth & Enterprise had inflationary pressures from the pay rise, responsive maintenance and energy costs which reduced the underspend available.

Highways & Infrastructure

Highways & Infrastructure are reporting an underspend of £1.6m against a net budget of £13.7m. There is a pressure of £0.8m included within these figures for lower income received from pay and display car parks, annual and quarterly parking permits and from penalty charge notices within Parking. This has been offset by £1.3m of additional income from Highways and Infrastructure, releases of earmarked reserves to improve the Council position of £0.4m, vacancies and delayed recruitment across the majority of services and a LEP contribution towards HS2.

Corporate Services**Customer Services**

- We have implemented new technology within the Contact Centre improving the experience customers have when contacting the Council
- We have supported the delivery of Government initiatives including Homes for Ukraine, Energy Support Grants and Household Support Fund
- We have implemented new digital technologies including a Chatbot, Customer Account and improved on-line services
- We have improved Customer satisfaction when contacting the Council and customers say it is now easier to get their issues resolved.

Achievements

We have provided procurement advice and activity, project and programme management and finance support for the following projects:

- Roll out of Contract Management System and integrating Docusign
- Leighton Solar Farm Contract awarded £4m
- Car Club implemented £300,000 – looking to extend further
- Corporate Cleaning Contract awarded £500,000
- Handforth Garden Village project completed feasibility and due to commence Design Optimisation activities
- Various Local Bus Service contracts re-procured after TSS has come in-house
- Water Coolers removed – savings achieved
- £76,000 supplier rebates achieved

- £10,000 agency contract savings
- Carers hub £3.75m
- Translation and Interpretation £950,000
- Statutory Advocacy Service £4.19m
- DPS for Day Opportunities £7m and Family Support Service £22m
- Holiday Activity and Food Programme 26 providers £2.5m

Workforce and Organisational Development

- Provided professional guidance and support to services to meet their ongoing workforce needs including restructures, recruitment and retention and employee relations matters
- Delivered a further round of the Mutually Agreed Resignation Scheme across the organisation
- Introduced a new e-learning platform with increased functionality, including the tracking of training and a simplified process for the recording of PDRs
- Strengthened apprenticeship programme with new cohorts and new apprenticeship standards, providing 90 new apprenticeship starts during 2022-2023
- Established and delivered a programme of recruitment and retention priorities, including:
 - Improvements to recruitment process
 - Developed programme of recruitment fairs
 - Introduced monthly strategic workforce assessments
 - Identified additional staff rewards
 - Additional wellbeing staff support for cost of living.

Social value supplier survey over the last 3 years

	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
Number of suppliers surveyed	100	100	50
Number of suppliers responding	37	48	37
Response rate	37%	48%	54%
Percentage of total commercial spend accounted for	45%	44%	51%
Percentage of respondents from small and medium size enterprises, charities or trusts	54.05%	56%	56%

Social value survey highlights

Social value criterion	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
Estimated number of jobs provided by respondents for Cheshire East residents	853	3,317	3,317
Volunteer work hours provided by respondents	48,856	20,343	29,959
Employees paid living wage	91.36%	86.9%	85.6%
Estimated number of apprenticeships provided by respondents (not specifically for Cheshire East Council work)	2,342	1,688	1,003

ICT Services

- The ICT Strategy 2023-7 has been approved.
- Following security remediation activity, we have developed a Zero Trust strategy that

ICT Services continued

- We launched the ICT Communications hub – Lighthouse.
- We attend Managers Share and Support to promote ongoing Adoption and Change

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<p>will be progressed in 2023/24 alongside further adoption of single sign-on.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have implemented new security tools to improve protection, detection, and automation. • We have undertaken a complete refit of all end-of-life networking components in the data centre to ensure a secure and compliant infrastructure, to meet the demands of the councils PSN accreditation. • We have worked with Customer Services to deliver a new contact centre system for all contact centre staff and new digital technologies including a Chatbot, Customer Account and improved on-line services. • Cheshire Care Record, we have migrated social care feeds into the C&M shared care record. • The CCIS Youth Service has been migrated from Core IYSS to Liquidlogic. • We have implemented integrated information sharing for social workers and care brokers in the integrated discharge team at Macclesfield hospital. • We have rationalised Adult Social Care commissioning systems for contract performance. • We have ensured Assistive Digital Technology system integration and data quality improvements through monitored usage and outcomes. • We have a SEND parent portal operational use case. • Portal enhancements for Mental Health Reablement and Dementia Reablement referrals and workflow in ASC, the Fostering system portal and workflow optimisation. • Early Years payment process utilisation in ContrOCC. 	<p>Management (ACM) activities and BITesize eLearning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We continue to train and develop our Bright Spark IT Champions. • We undertook a Customer Satisfaction Survey to understand where we could improve further. • The MyCareView patient portal has 69,413 registrations, representing just under a quarter of the adult population over age 18. With 17,352 active users representing a quarter of the total user base. • Live well have become the de facto location for CEC public-facing Adult, Children, and Public Health service information. There have been 161,800 unique new users since February 2022. • We have implemented a Security Operations (SecOps) Team. • Cheshire East and West Councils have approved a new operating model for future ICT Services. • We have delivered over 60,000 hours of ICT developments in 2022/23. • Live Well Cheshire East is being expanded with online care need and carer assessments and financial eligibility checks. • We have a publicly available Information Asset Register which outlines all the Council's information assets. • Public Rights of Way (PROW) maps are now available digitally to the public. • We are harmonising information across the estate to produce a master 360-degree record for Resident, Employee, Address and Business. • We have deployed and transitioned to a centralised Business Intelligence platform. • We have implemented an Email Retention Policy for all Officers to support compliant and secure working with information.
<p>ICT Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have begun the roll out of Windows 11 to all users, to ensure we are able to use the latest security features. • We have migrated over 3000 SharePoint sites to the cloud SharePoint Online 	

platform, which will leverage enhanced information management and compliance functionality.

- We have digitised key elements of the corporate archive to protect and preserve the corporate memory.
- We have reduced our data centre Carbon Emissions (kgCO₂) by more than 22%.

The Corporate Services Directorate has reported an underspend against budget of £651,000.

The main underspends in the service were due to holding vacancies across many services in the Directorate, reduced non-essential spend, and, as a result of the continued impact of COVID-19 bounce-back, additional marriage income in Registrations. These underspends were partially offset by overspends in ICT Shared Services, and the shared Transactional Services Centre. There was also an overspend on Housing Benefits Payments Centre, which is a volatile budget and additional one-off costs relating from the implementation of the Unit 4/Best4Business System, which cannot be charged to the joint capital project with Cheshire West and Chester Council.

Changes in Pension Estimates

Due to the scale of the pension assets (£1.6bn) and liabilities (£1.4bn) detailed in the Accounts, even small percentage changes in assumptions regarding their value can have a noticeable impact on the reported position.

The net pension liability (deficit) reported in the Accounts in 2021/22 has now reduced and has created a net pension asset for 2022/23 (change of £645m).

Detailed actuarial valuations are carried out every three years and the formal valuations for English and Welsh Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Funds were concluded as at 31st March 2022. The balance sheet position for 2022/23 is based on the 2022 formal valuation rolled forward to 31st March 2023.

Council Tax

Cheshire East collects Council Tax for the whole area and the income is split between the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner, the Cheshire Fire Authority and Town and Parish Councils in addition to its own requirement. The total budgeted collectable amount for 2022/23 was £313.8m. The carried forward deficit on the Council Tax Collection Fund at the end of 2022/23 is £3.1m.

The Council Tax in-year collection rate for 2022/23 is 98.19%, a slight increase from the previous year's performance. The strong economy in Cheshire East also contributed to an increase in the overall tax base of 1.83% (from 153,796.10 to 156,607.48).

Business Rates

Cheshire East collects Business Rates for the whole area and the income is split 49% to Cheshire East, 50% to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and 1% to the Cheshire Fire Authority. The total budgeted collectable amount for 2022/23 was £137.2m as per the NNDR1 return. The carried forward deficit on the Business Rates Collection Fund at the end of 2022/23 is £15.2m, however £8.7m of this deficit is due to the accounting arrangements required

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for the COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund and will be repaid in full in 2023/24 with S31 grant that has already been received from DLUHC for the CEC share and the remaining 50% share will be repaid by Central Government.

The Business Rates in-year collection rate for 2022/23 is 98.23% which is an increase of 2.63% from the previous year's performance.

Financial Overview - Capital Programme

Capital expenditure represents money spent by the Group on purchasing, upgrading and improving assets that will be of benefit to the community over many years.

Total capital expenditure in 2022/23 was £116.4m compared to the original budget, as at February 2022, of £185.2m.

The forecast for planned spend is updated throughout the year and published in the Financial Review reports. During 2022/23 a number of major projects have either completed or got under way including Poynton Relief Road (£14.0m), Schools Improvement Programme (£9.1m), ICT Programme (£7.3m), Congleton Leisure Centre (£6.4m) and Public Sector De-carbonisation Funding (£3.9m).

Slippage against the revised forecast of £125.2m reported for the 3rd Financial update (March 2023) totalled £8.8m.

Capital receipts in-year amounted to £4.9m from the sale of surplus assets, including Alderley Cemetery Lodge (£0.2m), Land off Coppice Way (£1.9m), and former housing right to buy receipts (£2.1m).

The Council has succeeded in attracting £58.3m of grant funding and external contributions for capital improvements. This minimises the financial impact of the capital programme on the revenue budget, and so protects funding for other services such as social care.

The Council has an ambitious capital programme with the highest spending in Highways and Infrastructure, followed by Growth and Enterprise and the Children and Families programme:

	Outturn 2022/23 £m	Three Year Forecast			Total £m
		2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	
Expenditure					
Children and Families	9.3	52.0	34.1	31.7	127.1
Adults and Health	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.5
Highways and Transport	65.6	69.6	77.4	128.4	341.0
Economy and Growth	21.0	93.4	55.2	78.7	248.3
Environment and Communities	13.2	11.3	16.7	0.6	41.8
Corporate Policy	7.3	13.6	9.7	5.9	36.5
Total Expenditure	116.4	240.4	193.1	245.3	795.2
Funding					
Grants and Other Contributions	53.8	159.9	141.6	139.1	494.4
Capital Receipts and Reserves	2.2	4.9	1.0	33.6	41.7
Borrowing	60.4	75.6	50.5	72.6	259.1
Total Funding	116.4	240.4	193.1	245.3	795.2

Protecting Against Risks

The Council has a risk management framework with hierarchical risk registers forming part of the process which operate at strategic, operational and project levels. Emerging significant risks are escalated to senior members and/or officers, as appropriate, in line with the potential likelihood and impact of the risk upon objectives. Formal reports with regard to the risk management process are made throughout the year to senior officers and members.

During the year the strategic risk register has been reviewed and maintained to ensure that the strategic risks remain relevant and that risk interdependencies are understood. Operational risk registers are included within team plans.

The Council's key strategic risk register has recognised potential threats from increasing demand for services and managing the Council's financial resilience. It recognised the challenges the Council could face arising from cyber attacks and other disruptions, requiring us to have effective business continuity arrangements in place. The economic position and austerity challenges continue to be recognised for the impact on both the Council, its partners, and the potential negative impact on the achievement of objectives.

The register also includes a number of high impact projects and investments, which when successfully implemented will bring significant benefits for the area, but require careful and constant management to deliver.

Narrative Report – Expenditure and Income Commentary

Explanation of the Financial Statements

The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 require the Council to produce a Statement of Accounts for each financial year. These Statements are prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 ('the Code'), issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

The Group Accounts have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) which require that the Financial Statements of the reporting authority (Cheshire East Council) and its subsidiaries and associates shall be prepared as of the same date.

Subsidiaries have been consolidated into the Group Accounts on a line-by-line basis incorporating their income and expenditure fully in the relevant service revenue accounts. **Note 32** provides further details of the various companies in which the Council has an interest. Tatton Park Enterprises Limited and Cheshire & Warrington Enterprise Partnership Limited have been excluded from Cheshire East Council Group Accounts on the grounds of immateriality.

The Council is also required to produce Financial Statements as a single entity. The Cheshire East Council statements follow on from the Group Financial Statements.

The statements contain a number of elements which are explained below.

The Financial Statements

Movement in Reserves Statement - this shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Group, analysed into 'usable reserves' (those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other reserves. Usable reserves include the Capital Grants Unapplied Account which are grants received but not yet utilised.

The 'Surplus or (Deficit) on the provision of services' shows the true economic cost of providing the Group's services, which is shown in more detail in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. These are different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund Balance for Council Tax setting purposes.

The 'Net Increase / Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves' shows the statutory General Fund Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from earmarked reserves undertaken by the Council.

The Group's long-term strategy is to hold appropriate levels of general reserves to provide funds for investment and to protect the Group against financial risks.

General (£14.1m) and Earmarked reserves (£67.0m including Schools) have decreased in 2022/23 to £81.1m.

The minimum target level of reserves is quantified by a detailed risk assessment. This approach allows the Council to take account of local circumstances and the impact of economic forecasts. The impact of rising demand for services, the economic climate, emerging Government policies (particularly in relation to Business Rates), and pressure on public services to reduce overall expenditure are relevant, and these present the potential for significant emerging risk.

Resilience has been impacted over the last few years by the reliance on the use of reserves to balance the budget. Information from the CIPFA Financial Resilience data has shown that the level of general reserves held by the Council are significantly lower than our nearest neighbours. In line with a priority of the Corporate Plan, the Medium Term Financial Strategy will seek to increase the level of general reserve and replenish earmarked reserves.

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – this statement reflects the sum of all income, expenditure, gains and losses incurred by the Group in the last 12 months and explains how the Balance Sheet position has changed between the two financial years. This statement shows the financial position in accordance with accounting practice which means that the costs include notional charges for items such as depreciation, impairment, capital grants and capital charges.

Balance Sheet – this shows the value of the Group's asset and liabilities at the balance sheet date. These are matched by reserves which are split into two categories: usable and unusable reserves. Usable reserves (e.g., General Fund and earmarked reserves) can be used to support services or to reduce local taxation. Unusable reserves arise out of the interaction of legislation and proper accounting practice, either to store revaluation gains or as adjustment accounts to reconcile accounting requirements driven by reporting standards to statutory requirements. These reserves are not resource-backed and cannot be used for any other purpose.

Cash Flow Statement – this shows the changes in the Council's cash and cash equivalents during the reporting period. It shows how the Council generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities.

The advice from our treasury advisors, Arlingclose has been to borrow short-term from other local authorities, rather than take out long-term loans with PWLB (Public Works Loan Board) as short-term interest rates are currently lower than long-term rates, and it is likely to be more cost effective in the short-term to borrow short-term loans instead.

Collection Fund – this is an agent's statement that reflects the statutory obligation for Cheshire East Council, in its capacity as a billing authority, to maintain a separate Collection Fund. The statement shows the transactions of the billing authority in relation to the collection of Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates from taxpayers and the distribution to local authorities and the Government.

Statement of Responsibilities - this sets out the respective responsibilities of the Authority and the Chief Finance Officer – Section 151 Officer.

Independent Auditor's Report – gives the auditor's opinion on the financial statements and the auditor's conclusion on the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources.

Narrative Report – Future Opportunities and Challenges

Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2023/24 – 2026/27

To provide the best opportunity to achieve the Corporate Plan, and manage the ambitions of the area, the Council created a Medium-Term Financial Strategy for 2023 to 2027 that balances spending on services against resources across each of the next four years. This four-year balanced approach repeated the achievement of the previous MTFS, but high national inflation levels created the need for several important changes to the strategy.

The budget and future years estimates were prepared against material gross overspending forecasts. These were largely caused because of inflation running as high as 10%. National target inflation, which influenced many local budget forecasts, remains at only 2%. Increasing wages and energy costs exceeded forecasts as did legacy costs from the COVID-19 pandemic. The high inflation and demand for services has required a response at both a local and national level.

The Council was due to act as a trailblazer for Adult Social Care reform, but this policy was suspended by the Government, partially in recognition of the immediate financial pressure in the sector. Social Care grants have been increased, either direct to Local Government or in conjunction with the NHS. The Council contributed important insight for the Department of Health and Social Care prior to this change in policy. The Government also increased the thresholds for Council Tax increases, with a clear expectation that Council's would access additional funding from this change.

Despite additional government grants the Council recognised that expenditure would continue to rise. This created a requirement to increase Council Tax levels in line with Government expectations, which was **4.99%** in 2023/24. There are forecast increases of 4.99% in 2024/25 and then 2.99% thereafter. These may well need to be reviewed in-line with increasing inflation levels and future Government policy. 2% (£5.2m) of the Council Tax increase in 2023/24 will be solely utilised to fund increasing care costs within Adult Social Care.

The Fair Funding Review (FFR) and Business Rates Retention (BRR) have still not been implemented, but government settlements are working towards longer term certainty. This takes the form of multi-year settlements to Local Government as a sector, but this can still create challenges in understanding specific local allocations. Council officers will continue to work with the Government on informing the approach to funding for the next financial year and beyond.

Future Challenges

The medium-term outlook is one of continuing uncertainty. Locally the Council has, however, developed a balanced strategy, although this relies on several assumptions about ongoing support from government. The impact of cost-of-living increases and rising inflation remain as risk factors in the medium-term. In an effort to mitigate this risk, monitoring of the financial proposals within the MTFS is being enhanced to create more time to react to any required changes.

The Council will aim to review the Corporate Plan during 2023 which will of course reflect access to funding sources in the medium term. This is particularly important whilst the Council emerges from all-out local elections. The Council wants to be flexible and support new approaches, but the level of reserves will not sustain delays in achieving headline financial targets. The four-year forecasts will help with this longer-term planning and create helpful parameters for service planning.

The Council took part in the Department for Education's Delivering Better Value Scheme during 2022/23. The quality of information provided by the Council was highly regarded as the scheme organisers reviewed the Council's approach to managing expenditure in High Needs education. The

scheme will provide additional funding to manage further transformation in this important area, but the underlying financial risk has not changed.

The levels of expenditure on pupils with special educational needs and disabilities are unaffordable within the current funding levels of the Council, a result of higher demand and complexity. This has resulted in an increase to the deficit on the DSG reserve. This position is being managed through an accounting override, put in place by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, which allows the deficit to be treated as an unusable reserve. The override has been extended to 31st March 2026. But the deficit is still forecast to increase over the next three years to as much as £150m. The Council continues to liaise with DfE and DLUHC on managing this issue.

Acknowledgements

The production of the Statement of Accounts would not have been possible without the exceptional hard work and dedication of staff across the Council and its subsidiaries. I would like to express my gratitude to all colleagues, from my team and other services and organisations, who have assisted in the preparation of this document. I would also like to thank them for all their support and expertise during the 2022/23 financial year.

I hope you find this narrative and accompanying statements clear and informative. If you require any further information, please contact Cheshire East Customer Services on 0300 123 55 00 (all calls at local rates).

Alex Thompson FCPFA

Chief Finance Officer - Section 151 Officer



Provisional Financial Outturn 2022/23

July 2023

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 has resulted in a provisional outturn of £324.7m against a revised net revenue budget of £318.7m, an overall revenue budget overspend of £6.0m.

The likelihood of this negative outturn emerged through quarterly reporting and reflected the higher than forecast inflation in prices and wages. Within this overall position there was underspending within Place based services and within Corporate Services. The overspending pressure was mostly contained in care services and transport costs.

The Medium-Term Financial Strategy was significantly reviewed in the period November 2022 to January 2023 to respond to the emerging financial issue. 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 nine 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.
- **Appendix 8** Update to the Treasury Management Strategy.
- **Appendix 9** Update to the Investment Strategy.

Alex Thompson

Director of Finance and Customer Services
(Section 151 Officer)

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2022/23 Provisional Outturn - Financial Position

2022/23 Outturn Review	Revised Budget (NET)	Provisional Outturn	Variance Over / For further information please see (Underspend) the following sections
	£m	£m	£m
Service Directorates			
Adults, Health & Integration	121.7	132.2	10.5 Financial Stability and Appendix 1
Children and Families	78.6	83.8	5.2 Financial Stability and Appendix 2
Place	80.3	79.1	-1.2 Financial Stability and Appendix 4,5,7
Corporate	39.7	39.1	-0.7 Financial Stability and Appendix 3
Central Budgets			
Capital Financing	17.1	17.1	0.0 Appendix 6 - Section 4
Transfer to/(from) Earmarked Reserves	-5.7	-11.7	-6.0 Appendix 6 - Section 5
Corporate Contributions / Central Budgets	-13.0	-14.9	-1.9 Financial Stability
TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE	318.7	324.7	6.0
Business Rates Retention Scheme	-28.3	-28.3	0.0 Financial Stability
Specific Unringfenced Grants	-36.5	-36.6	0.0 Appendix 6 - Section 2
Council Tax	-253.8	-253.8	0.0 Financial Stability
FUNDING	-318.7	-318.7	0.0
NET (SURPLUS) / DEFICIT	0.0	6.0	6.0

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 March a forecast outturn of £7.7m net overspend was reported at the Corporate Policy Committee (The full report can be found [Corporate Policy Committee 23 March 2022](#))
4. The outturn position is now an overspend of £6.0m. **Table 1** provides a service summary of financial performance and the narratives provide further details in the following paragraphs.

Table 1 - Provisional Revenue Outturn

2022/23 Outturn Review	Revised Budget (NET) £m	Provisional Outturn Over / (Underspend) £m	Change from Third Review Over / £m
Service Directorates			
Adult Social Care	116.5	11.0	2.4
Commissioning	5.2	-0.5	-0.8
Public Health	0.0	0.0	0.0
Adults and Health Committee	121.7	10.5	1.6
Directorate	1.2	-0.6	-0.2
Children's Social Care	46.9	4.7	2.2
Education and 14-19 Skills	22.4	3.0	-0.1
Strong Start, Family Help and Integration	8.0	-1.9	-0.2
Children and Families Committee	78.6	5.2	1.7
Directorate	0.7	-0.1	0.0
Growth and Enterprise	22.3	-1.6	-1.0
Economy and Growth Committee	23.0	-1.8	-0.9
Environment & Neighbourhood Services	43.6	2.2	-0.6
Environment and Communities Committee	43.6	2.2	-0.6
Highways and Infrastructure	13.7	-1.6	-1.5
Highways and Transport Committee	13.7	-1.6	-1.5
Directorate	0.5	0.0	0.1
Finance and Customer Services	12.7	0.4	-0.2
Governance and Compliance Services	11.1	-0.8	-0.1
Communications	0.7	0.0	0.0
HR	2.5	-0.5	-0.3
ICT	10.0	0.3	-0.5
Policy and Change	2.3	0.0	0.0
Corporate Policy Committee	39.7	-0.7	-1.0
Total Services Net Budget	320.3	13.9	-0.7
Central Budgets			
Capital Financing	17.1	0.0	0.0
Transfer to/(from) Earmarked Reserves	-5.7	-6.0	0.0
Corporate Contributions / Central Budgets	-13.0	-1.9	-1.0
Total Central Budgets	-1.6	-7.9	-1.0
Total Net Budget	318.7	6.0	-1.7
Business Rates Retention Scheme	-28.3	0.0	0.0
Specific Grants	-36.5	0.0	0.0
Council Tax	-253.8	0.0	0.0
FUNDING	-318.7	0.0	0.0
Net Position	0.0	6.0	-1.7

5. Adults and Health Committee:

- The Adult Social Care (Operations and Commissioning) and Public Health budgets remain under continued pressure across the country. The rising cost of Social Care in Cheshire East is driven by increasing demand for services, increasing complexity of the demand and increasing costs in providing them. Demand for Social Care is therefore not driven exclusively by an ageing population, the prevalence of disability among working-age adults has also increased over recent years. In addition to increasing demand, the unit cost of providing care services is also going up, driven mainly by workforce costs and this has been recognised in the 2023/24 budget where growth has been allocated.

6. Children and Families Committee:

- The Children and Families final outturn for 2022/23 reflects a £5.2m overspend. The breakdown of that position is shown in the main summary table. The key pressure areas for the directorate include the following:
- Children's social care agency placements – where the number of children in care has continued to increase from 521 at April 2022 to 585 at April 2023 and placement costs are increasing by more than inflation.
- The increased use and cost of agency staff in children's social care to cover vacant posts.
- Higher legal costs within children's social care with longer processes and more challenge.
- Home to school transport costs – where a mix of increasing numbers of pupils with an education, health and care plan (EHCP), driver shortages and increasing fuel costs have seen overall costs rise.

- Educational Psychologists – where there is the need for agency staff to cover posts and challenges in recruiting and retaining staff.
- The £5.2m reflects the position after £4m of one-off mitigating measures have been applied including resettlement funding, funding transformation costs from capital receipts and use of earmarked reserves. As a result, the underlying pressure is much greater.
- A number of these items are reflected in growth allocations in the MTFs. However, the position will require careful management during 2023/24 and the Directorate is developing work plans.

Dedicated School Grant (DSG):

- The key pressure on DSG relates to the high needs block where the SEND service continues to see a significant increase in the number of pupils with an EHCP.
- This has placed pressure on the grant used to provide funding for children with SEND in various settings and led to a £21.2m overspend in 2022/23. This adds on to the brought forward deficit of £25.7m to take the DSG Reserve to a £46.9m deficit position.
- This is in line with the budget gap as determined by the council's DSG Management Plan that was reported to Children and Families Committee in September 2022 and set out the planned expenditure and income on high needs over the medium term.
- The deficit is currently being managed by an accounting override until 2026 which allows it to be treated as an un-usable reserve. At this stage the position is not recoverable unless there are significant changes to funding or demand or both.

7. Environment and Communities Committee:

- Environment & Neighbourhood Services are reporting a pressure of £2.2m against a net budget of £43.6m. £1.9m of this relates to income pressures in Planning, Libraries and Licensing as a legacy of the covid pandemic. £0.4m relates to covid related costs as more people are working from home leading to increased waste collection and transfer costs due to tonnage growth. A net £0.9m non covid pressure arises in Environmental Services due to the impact of the pay rise pressure on the cost of services delivered to the Council by it's wholly owned companies, plus increased costs as a consequence of significant inflation impacts against waste disposal contracts, together with waste transfer station maintenance and compliance measures. These costs increased have been mitigated to some extent by a higher than expected bereavement income surplus and a tonnage rebate from Ansa due mainly to lower organic waste in quarter 4. There is a large staffing underspend across the majority of services due to vacancies and delaying recruitment to improve the overall Council financial position, offset slightly by the pay rise pressure.

8. Economy and Growth Committee:

- Growth & Enterprise have an underspend of £1.6m against a net budget of £22.3m. There were a number of measures taken to help with the Council's financial position including releasing funding in Economic Development of £0.8m, reduction in planned maintenance in Facilities Management and Farms, stopping non-essential spend and holding vacancies across the majority of the services. Growth & Enterprise had inflationary pressures from the pay rise, responsive maintenance and energy costs which reduced the underspend available.

9. Highways and Transport Committee:

- Highways & Infrastructure are reporting an underspend of £1.6m against a net budget of £13.7m. There is a pressure of £0.8m included within these figures for lower income received from pay and display car parks, annual and quarterly parking permits and from penalty charge notices within Parking. This has been offset by £1.3m of additional income from Highways and Infrastructure, releases of earmarked reserves to improve the Council position of £0.4m, vacancies and delayed recruitment across the majority of services and a LEP contribution towards HS2.

10. Corporate Policy Committee:

- The Corporate Services Directorate has reported an underspend against budget of £651,000.
- The main underspends in the service were due to holding vacancies across many services in the Directorate, reduced non-essential spend, and, as a result of the continued impact of COVID bounce-back, additional marriage income in Registrations. These underspends were partially offset by overspends in ICT Shared Services, and the shared Transactional Services Centre. There was also an overspend on Housing Benefits Payments Centre, which is a volatile budget and additional one-off costs relating from the implementation of the Unit 4/Best4Business System, which cannot be charged to the joint capital project with Cheshire West and Chester Council.

11. Central Budgets:

- The Central Budgets are reporting an underspend of £7.9m against budget. This relates to the drawdown from reserves, for prior year funding that has been carried forward to 2022/23, to offset Covid scarring costs held within services and the over recovery of past service employer pension contributions compared to the budget set.

12. Other Companies:

- The Council's wholly owned companies' core contract expenditure was £37.94m in 2022/23, relating to services provided at cost for the Council. This position includes a net £1.5m of additional costs in year, relating to pay award pressures, significant inflation against contracts and materials, the legacy effects of Covid and increased demand for services; partly offset by improvements against waste tonnages, bereavement income and staffing vacancies, and other efficiencies. The net increase in cost is reflected in the Council's outturn position, mainly against Environment & Communities Committee services, but also partly Highways & Transport Committee functions.
- Ansa and Orbitas realised £0.356m in profits (after tax) from commercial activities. Although Transport Service Solutions (TSS) ceased trading on 31 March 2022, there were residual transactions in 2022/23, as part of winding down the company, generating a £0.106m surplus as at 31 March 2023, which will be paid as a final dividend in 2023/24. An interim dividend of £0.291m was paid in-year from TSS to the Council.

Outturn Impact

13. At the third financial update stage it was planned that £5.2m would be used from the MTFS reserve to mitigate the forecast overspend. The residual impact on General Reserves were planned to 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.
14. The actual overspend has allowed the use of the General Reserve to be reduced to £0.8m taking the closing balance to £14.1m.

Collecting Local Taxes for Local Expenditure

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

Council Tax

16. 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.
17. 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.
18. 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.
19. 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.
20. 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

21. **Table 4** shows collection rates within three years and, following a slight drop below this rate during the Covid-19 pandemic, demonstrates that 99% collection rate is on target to be achieved within this period for 2022/23.

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

Financial Year	CEC Cumulative			
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
	%	%	%	%
After 1 year	97.9	97.4	97.8	98.2
After 2 years	98.8	98.6	98.5	**
After 3 years	98.9	98.9	**	**

**data not yet available

23. The council tax in-year collection rate for the period up to the end of March 2023 is 98.2%. This is a small increase of 0.4% on the previous year, despite 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.

24. Council tax support payments were budgeted at £18.4m for 2022/23 and at the end of March 2023 the total council tax support awarded was £18.7m.
25. 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.
26. Council tax discounts awarded are £29.4m which is an increase of £1.9m in comparison to the same period in 2021/22. This increase is attributable to work related to raising awareness of the discounts available to residents.
27. Council tax exemptions awarded is £8.0m, which is a small increase of £0.4m compared with 2021/22.

Non-Domestic Rates (NDR)

28. 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.
29. 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.
30. **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.

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

Financial Year	CEC Cumulative			
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
	%	%	%	%
After 1 year	98.2	92.4	95.6	98.2
After 2 years	98.4	97.4	98.3	**
After 3 years	99.2	99.0	**	**

**data not yet available

32. The business rates in-year collection rate for the period up to the end of March 2023 is 98.2%. This is a 2.6% increase on last year and continues the growth of 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.

Provisional Financial Outturn 2022/23

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July 2023

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3. Debt Management

4. Capital Strategy

5. Reserves Strategy

Appendix 1

Adults and Health Committee

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

	Third review Net Budget £000	Additional Grant Funding £000	Restructuring & Realignments £000	Revised Net Budget £000
Adults and Health				
Adult Social Care Operations	117,515	-	(1,045)	116,470
Commissioning	3,638	-	1,608	5,246
Public Health	-	-	-	-
	121,153	-	563	121,716

2. Corporate Grants Register

Table 1 – Corporate Grants Register

Grants 2022/23	Revised Forecast FR3 2022/23 £000	Final Outturn 2022/23 £000	Change from Revised Forecast FR3 2022/23 £000	Treatment of Grant <i>Notes 2 - 5</i>
ADULTS & HEALTH				
Specific Purpose (Held within Services)	52,590	45,934	(6,657)	
General Use (Held Corporately)				
Social Care Support Grant	11,341	11,341	0	
Independent Living Fund	861	861	0	
Local Reform & Community Voices	213	208	(5)	
Social Care in Prisons	71	68	(3)	
War Pension Scheme Disregard	56	56	(0)	
Streamline ASC care assessment process and improve waiting times	0	142	142	SRE
TOTAL ADULTS & HEALTH	65,132	58,610	(6,523)	

Notes

- 1 The Dedicated Schools Grant, Pupil Premium Grant, Sixth Form Grant and Other School Specific Grant from the Education Funding Agency (EFA) figures are based on actual anticipated allocations. Changes are for in-year increases/decreases to allocations by the DfE and conversions to academy status.
- 2 SRE - Supplementary Revenue Estimate requested by relevant service.
- 3 ODR - Officer Decision Record to approve immediate budget change to relevant service.
- 4 Reserves - transfer to reserves at year end.
- 5 Balances - amount will be included as a variance to budget.

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 Spending in relation to specific use grants must be in line with the purpose for which it is provided.
- 2.3 The grant outturn position reflects the grant values that were used during the year. This may be different than the actual amount of grant received during the year. The remaining amounts from grants that are not used in full during 2022/23 are carried forward to meet expenditure in financial year 2023/24. The decrease in grants since the third review is due to the change in which year the grants will be used.
- 2.4 **Table 2** shows additional specific purpose grant allocations that have been received over £1m that Council will be asked to approve.
- 2.5 **Table 3** shows additional grant allocations that have been received which are £500,000 or less and are for noting only.
- 2.6 **Table 4** shows additional general use grant allocations that have been received which are £500,000 or less and are for noting only.

Table 2 – Note that Council will be asked to Approve Supplementary Revenue Estimates of Additional Grant Funding (Specific Purpose) over £1m

Committee	Type of Grant	£000	Details
Adults and Health	Afghan Wrap Around support (Specific Purpose)	1,061	This grant is from the Home Office. Funding allocated by the Home Office to support Cheshire East with providing Afghan Wrap Around support to families.
Total Specific Purpose Allocation for Council Approval		1,061	

Table 3 – Note Delegated Decision - Supplementary Revenue Estimate Requests for Allocation of Additional Grant Funding (Specific Use) £500,000 or less

Committee	Type of Grant	£000	Details
Adults and Health	Discharge Fund (Specific Purpose)	9	<p>This grant is from the Department for Health and Social Care and is an increase on the Financial Review 3 forecast. The aim of the grant is to provide patients with faster access to emergency treatment by freeing up hospital beds through quicker discharge, which will also help reduce ambulance handover times. Local authorities and Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) will work together to agree on spending across their regions, introducing tailored solutions which speed up discharge and benefit patients in their area.</p> <p>£300 million will be given to ICBs to improve bed capacity and £200 million for local authorities to bolster the social care workforce, increasing capacity to take on more patients from hospitals.</p> <p>All of the Cheshire East Place money is coming to the Council and is being managed through the Better Care Fund.</p>
Adults and Health	Asylum Dispersal Scheme (Specific Purpose)	135	This grant is from the Home Office. Funding allocated by the Home Office for Cheshire East to support the Asylum Dispersal Scheme.
Adults and Health	Syrian Resettlement Programme (Specific Purpose)	4	This grant is from the Home Office. Funding allocated by the Home Office for Cheshire East to support with the Syrian Resettlement Programme.
Adults and Health	Journey First (Specific Purpose)	445	This grant is from the Department for Work and Pensions. Increases in the grants received as claims to DWP / ESF are made on a quarterly basis reflecting match funded expenditure.

Adults and Health	Parents First (Specific Purpose)	446	This grant is from the Department for Work and Pensions. Increases in the grants received as claims to DWP / ESF are made on a quarterly basis reflecting match funded expenditure.
Adults and Health	Apprentice Incentive Scheme (Specific Purpose)	2	This grant is from the Department for Education. Incentive payments available for hiring a new apprentice. Employers are able to use their levy funds to cover the cost of an apprentice's training and assessment. Payments passported to schools. Grant conditions .
Adults and Health	CHAMPS SMS - inpatient detox (Specific Purpose)	20	This grant is from the CHAMPS Public Health Collaborative and is an increase on the Financial Review 3 position. Additional funding to support improvements in the quality and capacity of drug and alcohol treatment 2022/23 to 2024/25.
Total Specific Purpose Allocations less than £500,000		1,061	

Table 4 – Note Delegated Decision - Supplementary Revenue Estimate Requests for Allocation of Additional Grant Funding (General Use) £500,000 or less

Committee	Type of Grant	£000	Details
Adults and Health	Streamline ASC care assessment process and improve waiting times (General Use)	142	This grant is from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). The purpose of this grant is to provide support to local authorities in England towards expenditure lawfully incurred or to be incurred by them in funding adult social care.
Total General Use Allocations less than £500,000		142	

3. Debt Management

	Outstanding Debt £000	Over 6 months old £000
Adults and Health Committee		
Adults, Public Health and Communities	10,449	6,679
	10,449	6,679

4. Capital Strategy

Adults and Health								CAPITAL					
CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23 - 2025/26													
Scheme Description	Forecast Expenditure							Forecast Funding					
	Total Approved Budget	Prior Years	Actuals 2022/23	Forecast Budget 2023/24	Forecast Budget 2024/25	Forecast Budget 2025/26	Total Forecast Budget 2022/26	Grants	External Contributions	Revenue Contributions	Capital Receipts	Prudential Borrowing	Total Funding
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Committed Schemes													
Adults Services													
Electronic Call Monitoring System	389	0	0	389	0	0	389	0	0	389	0	0	389
People Planner System	90	38	3	49	0	0	52	52	0	0	0	0	52
Replacement Care4CE Devices	93	65	0	28	0	0	28	28	0	0	0	0	28
Total Adults Services Schemes	572	103	3	466	0	0	469	80	0	389	0	0	469

5. Reserves Strategy

Name of Reserve	Opening Balance 1 April 2022 £000	Movement in Reserves 2022/23 £000	Closing Balance 31 March 2023 £000	Notes
<u>Adult Social Care Operations</u>				
Adults Directorate	1,020	0	1,020	To support a number of widespread projects within the Adults and Health Directorate. Connected Community Strategy Developments activity has been delayed due to the Community Team focussing on resettlement schemes. Transformation and Improvement of ASC and Care4ce New Model of Care anticipate phasing of appropriation will match the original business case.
DOL's Assessments	397	(272)	125	Reserve required due to delays in DOLs assessment processing. Anticipated to be fully utilised in 2023/24.
Public Health (LAC funding)	162	(162)	0	Reserve has been fully utilised during 2022/23, matched off against LAC staff as per the original business case.
<u>Adults Social Care Commissioning</u>				
PFI Equalisation - Extra Care Housing	2,715	80	2,795	Surplus grant set aside to meet future payments on existing PFI contract which commenced in January 2009, and the anticipated gap at the end of the agreement.
NHB Community Grants Staffing	132	0	132	To support administrative staffing costs in relation to Central Government's New Homes Bonus guidance for community projects.
<u>Public Health</u>				
Public Health Reserve	3,220	(210)	3,010	Ring-fenced underspend to be invested in areas to improve performance against key targets. Including the creation of an Innovation Fund to support partners to deliver initiatives that tackle key health issues. Anticipated that the carry forward ringfenced grant will be spent across 2022/23 to 2025/26.
ADULTS AND HEALTH TOTAL	7,646	(564)	7,082	

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Annex 3 – Update on MTFS 2023-27 Approved Budget Policy Change Items

MTFS Ref No	Detailed List of Proposed Budget Changes – Service Budgets	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	RAG rating	Commentary
	Adults and Health Committee	15.274	6.077	4.751	5.116		
1	Demand in Adult Social Care - unit cost inflation	12.652	-	-	-		Care in line with forecasts at year end 2022/23.
2	Demand in Adult Social Care - complexity	10.351	-	-	-		Care in line with forecasts at year end 2022/23.
3	Investment in Adult Social Care	5.400	7.600	4.000	4.000		On track in line with the Market Sustainability Plan.
4	Pay inflation	3.155	1.269	1.089	1.116		The total cost of pay inflation may exceed 5% based on national pay negotiations. This may be mitigated through management of vacancies.
5	Care Fee Uplifts in Adult Social Care	2.000	-	-	-		Volatility creating risk above the Market Sustainability Plan.
6	Direct Payment (Personal Assistants) Uplift	0.691	-	-	-		On track.
7	Revenue grants for Adult Social Care	-3.600	-2.480	-	-		On track.
8	Home First Strategy - increased care at home capacity	-4.000	-	-	-		On track to reduce beds and short stay expenditure.
9	Pension Costs Adjustment	-2.082	-0.493	-0.517	-		On track, subject to ongoing monitoring, dependent on in-year staffing costs.
10	Learning Disabilities Future Service Development and Review	-1.750	-	-	-		On track.
11	Client contribution yield offsetting growth	-1.200	-0.800	-0.800	-		On track.
12	Home First Strategy - alternative care provisions	-1.000	-	-	-		Challenges with delivery, alternative mitigations are being investigated.

Annex 3 – Update on MTFS 2023-27 Approved Budget Policy Change Items

MTFS Ref No	Detailed List of Proposed Budget Changes – Service Budgets	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	RAG rating	Commentary
13	Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care - Grant Income	-0.979	-	0.979	-		On track.
14	Resettlement Revenue Grants	-0.850	0.850	-	-		On track.
15	Communities Team	-0.750	-	-	-		On track.
16	Direct Payment - Audit Recoveries	-0.750	-	-	-		On track.
17	ASC Transformation Earmarked Reserve Release	-0.500	0.500	-	-		On track.
18	Maximisation of Supported Living	-0.369	-0.369	-	-		On track.
19	Productivity and Efficiency in Adult Social Care	-0.271	-	-	-		Reprofile of staffing budgets being carried out.
20	Building Based Short Breaks	-0.250	-	-	-		Pending outcome of consultation process.
21	Adults and Health Non-Essential Commissioning/Contracts	-0.245	-	-	-		On track.
22	Building Based Day Services	-0.229	-	-	-		Pending outcome of consultation process.
23	Day Care Review	-0.150	-	-	-		On track.

OPEN

Adults and Health Committee

24 July 2023

Covid-19 Update

Report of: Dr Matt Tyrer, Director of Public Health

Report Reference No: AH/17/2023-24

Ward(s) Affected: All

Purpose of Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Adults and Health Committee with an update on the recovery and reset from the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, including an update on current epidemiology and vaccination statistics.
- 2 This report links to the aims and objectives of the council's [Corporate Plan 2021-2025](#), specifically its priorities to be an open, transparent and enabling organisation, and one that empowers and cares about people.

Executive Summary

- 3 In January 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the Covid-19 pandemic to be a global health emergency. Since March 2020 when the UK government first put in place Covid-19 restrictions, Cheshire East Council and partners have worked tirelessly to support residents and communities to be safe and healthy.
- 4 In February 2022, all Covid-19 restrictions ended when the government published its 'Living with Covid' plan. Since then, the council has continued to work with partners and care settings to support vulnerable residents and promote vaccine uptake across the population.
- 5 In July 2022, the UK Covid-19 Inquiry began hearing and considering evidence. Four distinct modules have begun through the Inquiry, investigating:
 - Resilience and preparedness (Module 1)

- Core UK decision-making and political governance (Module 2)
 - Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on healthcare (Module 3)
 - Vaccines and therapeutics (Module 4)
- 6 The Local Government Association (LGA) is a Core Participant for the Inquiry and is representing all English local authorities. Cheshire East Council continues to work with the LGA to submit information and evidence as requested to support the combined local authority response to the Inquiry's Modules.
- 7 Further updates to Covid-19 testing were brought into effect from 1 April 2023. This has significantly reduced testing requirements nationally. Testing does remain in place but is more closely aligned to the management of other common respiratory infections.
- 8 On 5 May 2023, the WHO declared that Covid-19 was no longer a global health emergency and reiterated that countries should now manage the virus in the same way as it would with other infectious diseases.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Adults and Health Committee is recommended to:

1. Receive and note the contents of this report.

Background

Update on Covid-19 testing

- 9 Changes to Covid-19 testing came into effect on 1 April 2023, to ensure testing continues to focus on those at highest risk, enables appropriate clinical treatment and supports the management of outbreaks in high-risk settings including health and social care.
- 10 Testing in England can now be more closely aligned with the management of other common respiratory infections (such as flu and the common cold), thanks to the ongoing success of the vaccination programme, increased access to therapeutic treatments and higher levels of immunity amongst the population.

What testing has ended?

- Routine asymptomatic testing, including testing on admission, for staff and patients across all health and social care settings including hospitals and care

	<p>homes (most of this testing had already been paused since August 2022).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine symptomatic testing of staff and residents in care settings. • Routine symptomatic testing in other settings including prisons and places of detention, homelessness and refuge settings, and asylum settings. • All PCR testing outside of NHS settings.
What testing will continue?	<p>Testing will continue – using LFD tests – for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People in the community and residents in care or other high-risk settings, if they have symptoms and are eligible for Covid-19 treatment, to enable rapid access to treatment. • Some NHS staff with symptoms working on inpatient wards with severely immunosuppressed patients. • Staff with symptoms who work in hospices. • All patients being discharged from hospitals into care settings. • Outbreak testing in the NHS, care settings, hospices, prisons and places of detention, homelessness and refuge settings, and asylum settings. • Some hospital patients with symptoms, when testing is needed to inform decisions such as ward transfers.

Update on Covid-19 guidance

- 11 The Covid-19 testing changes have been set out in detail in updated guidance, including for those working in NHS and social care settings, for example:
- *Covid-19 supplement to the infection, prevention and control resource for adult social care*¹
 - *Managing healthcare staff with symptoms of a respiratory infection or a positive Covid-19 test result*²
 - *Covid-19: information and advice for health and care professionals*³

Update on Covid-19 epidemiology (national and local)

- 12 The latest weekly figures for Covid-19 cases (i.e., confirmed cases reported over the most recent 7-day period), up to 7 June 2023, showed:

Cheshire East⁴	North West⁵	England⁶
43 cases (0.0002% of the population) 8% decrease on the previous 7-day period	537 cases (0.0002% of the population) 25% decrease on the previous 7-day period	4,331 cases (0.0002% of the population) 27% decrease on the previous 7-day period

It is important to note that, whilst cases and rates of Covid-19 have decreased overall, these figures are likely to also be impacted by the

¹ Department of Health & Social Care and UK Health Security Agency. 2023. *Covid-19 supplement to the infection prevention and control resource for adult social care*. [Updated 25 April 2023]. Available [here](#)

² UK Health Security Agency. 2023. *Managing healthcare staff with symptoms of a respiratory infection or a positive Covid-19 test result*. [Updated 31 March 2023]. Available [here](#)

³ UK Health Security Agency. 2023. *COVID-19: information and advice for health and care professionals*. [Updated 31 March 2023]. Available [here](#)

⁴ GOV.UK Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK. 2023. *Cases in Cheshire East*. [Updated 4 May 2023]. Available [here](#)

⁵ GOV.UK Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK. 2023. *Cases in North West*. [Updated 4 May 2023]. Available [here](#)

⁶ GOV.UK Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK. 2023. *Cases in England*. [Updated 4 May 2023]. Available [here](#)

ending of Covid-19 testing requirements and be an underestimate of the true value and rates per population.

- 13 The widespread rollout of the Covid-19 vaccine programme, together with improved treatments for the most vulnerable and high immunity amongst the population, has underpinned the national policy transition to 'Living with Covid'.
- 14 Accordingly, the approach to Covid-19 surveillance has continued to be reviewed to ensure it is proportionate, cost effective and considered alongside how other infectious diseases (that present similar risk to the public's health) are monitored. As of 21 March 2023, the Office for National Statistics' Coronavirus (Covid-19) Infection Survey has been paused⁷, with UKHSA reviewing its approach to Covid-19 surveillance moving forward.
- 15 While some surveillance of positive tests in hospital patients and care homes will remain, as well as the monitoring of vaccination rates, this decision marks a major reduction in the way Covid-19 is tracked. This is an important milestone in the move to living with Covid-19, using proportionate surveillance systems and genomics capabilities, reporting infection rates and hospitalisations, as well as the risks posed by new variants.

Update on Covid-19 vaccinations

- 16 Covid-19 vaccinations were first rolled out in the UK from 8 December 2020. The first vaccination programme lasted until June 2021 and was delivered in a phased approach based on age and clinical vulnerability^{8,9}. Since 8 December 2020 (through 12 June 2023), a total of 151,248,820 vaccines have been delivered in the UK through different phases of the vaccination programme¹⁰.

Covid-19 spring booster 2023

- 17 The latest phase is the Covid-19 spring booster 2023, which commenced on 17 April 2023 for all eligible people, with vaccinations in care homes being delivered from the week commencing 3 April 2023. The last date that members of the public will be able to book a spring booster vaccine through the National Booking System will be 30 June 2023.

⁷ Office for National Statistics (ONS). 2023. *Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey*. Available [here](#)

⁸ Department of Health & Social Care. 2021. *UK COVID-19 vaccines (Policy paper)*. Available [here](#)

⁹ Department of Health & Social Care. 2021. *Half of all adults in UK receive first dose of COVID-19 vaccine (Press release)*. Available [here](#)

¹⁰ GOV.UK Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK. 2023. *Vaccinations in United Kingdom*. [Updated 8 June 2023]. Available [here](#)

18 As per the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), spring booster 2023 vaccinations are being offered to:

- Adults aged 75 years and over
- Residents in a care home for older adults
- Individuals aged 5 years and over who are immunosuppressed

Covid-19 vaccinations in children in clinical risk groups

19 The JCVI has advised that clinically vulnerable children aged 6 months to 4 years old should be offered a Covid-19 vaccine¹¹.

20 Although young children are generally at low risk of developing severe illness from Covid-19, infants and young children who have underlying medical conditions are over seven times more likely to be admitted to Paediatric Intensive Care Units.

21 NHS England has confirmed it will begin offering vaccinations to those eligible in England from around the middle of June 2023. Parents, carers or guardians of eligible children should wait to be contacted before coming forward.

Cheshire East Covid-19 vaccination rates

22 The latest figures for Covid-19 vaccinations, correct up to 7 June 2023, show:

Cheshire East¹²	North West¹³	England¹⁴
First dose: 323,900 total (86.1%)	First dose: 5,605,863 total (79.3%)	First dose: 43,838,069 total (77.7%)
Second dose: 314,043 (83.5%)	Second dose: 5,342,696 (75.6%)	Second dose: 41,832,032 (74.1%)
Booster or third dose: 265,902 (70.7%)	Booster or third dose: 4,180,834 (59.2%)	Booster or third dose: 33,218,914 (58.9%)

¹¹ Department of Health & Social Care. 2023. *COVID-19 vaccination of children aged 6 months to 4 years: JCVI advice, 9 December 2022 (updated 26 April 2023)*. Available [here](#)

¹² GOV.UK Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK. 2023. *Vaccinations in Cheshire East*. [Updated 8 June, Accessed 13 June 2023]. Available [here](#)

¹³ GOV.UK Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK. 2023. *Vaccinations in North West*. [Updated 8 June, Accessed 13 June 2023]. Available [here](#)

¹⁴ GOV.UK Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK. 2023. *Vaccinations in England*. [Updated 8 June, Accessed 13 June 2023]. Available [here](#)

- 23 Cheshire East Council's Public Health Team continues to work closely with NHS partners, care home settings and other third sector partners to efficiently and effectively roll-out further Covid-19 booster programmes. It also continues to support the NHS Evergreen Offer – which offers first or second doses of Covid-19 vaccine to any eligible person (but is due to end on 30 June 2023¹⁵), and the local Living Well service which can travel to any location in the borough to provide vaccines and free NHS Health Checks.

Preventing transmission of Covid-19 and other respiratory infections in the workplace

- 24 Covid-19 is now managed in the same way as other common respiratory infections such as flu or the common cold. There is no longer any legal requirement for individuals to test themselves for Covid-19, or to isolate if testing positive. However, standard infection control practice should still be followed wherever possible, particularly when working with vulnerable people.
- 25 Updates have been issued to Cheshire East staff through its dedicated Covid-19 staff information page¹⁶. Further to this, all staff will be advised in the 21 June 2023 issue of Team Voice to visit the page to view these updates.
- 26 The updated guidance advises staff to help to prevent the transmission of infections in the workplace by staying at home and avoiding contact with other people if they have symptoms of a respiratory infection, a high temperature, or do not feel well enough to go to work and carry out their normal activities.
- 27 Although there is no longer a legal requirement for individuals to test themselves for Covid-19, or to isolate after testing positive, national guidance is to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days following a positive Covid-19 test result, and for 10 days with people who are at higher risk of becoming seriously unwell from Covid-19¹⁷. The latest guidance to staff will continue to be updated to ensure it is aligned with national guidance.
- 28 If a member of staff is in a situation where they have symptoms of Covid-19 or another respiratory illness, but they cannot stay at home and avoid contact with others, they are asked to follow simple, common-sense

¹⁵ Department of Health and Social Care et al. 2023. *Press release: People urged to get Covid-19 jab before offer ends*. Available [here](#)

¹⁶ Cheshire East Council. 2023. *Covid-19 – Information to staff*. Available [here](#)

¹⁷ UK Health Security Agency. 2022. *People with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19 (Guidance)*. Available [here](#)

measures to keep themselves, each other, and the residents we support safe:

- Try to keep a distance from people they live with, work with or support when they feel unwell and have symptoms of a common respiratory infection
- Ensure good hand hygiene and regular hand washing
- Cover mouths and noses when sneezing
- Consider wearing well-fitting face coverings made with multiple layers of fabric, or a surgical face mask, when living or supporting people whose immune system means that they are at higher risk of serious illness, despite vaccination
- Ensure rooms and offices are well ventilated
- Regularly clean frequently touched surfaces, such as door handles and remote controls, and shared areas including kitchens and bathrooms
- Advise those around them that they have symptoms, so that other people can take any precautions that they may wish to in order to protect themselves.

UK Covid-19 Inquiry

- 29 The UK Covid-19 Inquiry is the independent public inquiry set up to examine the UK's response to and impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and learn lessons for the future. The Inquiry is Chaired by Baroness Heather Hallett, a former Court of Appeal judge. The Inquiry has been established under the Inquiries Act (2005). This means that the Chair will have the power to compel the production of documents and call witnesses to give evidence on oath. Baroness Hallett was appointed to the Chair in December 2021 with the final Terms of Reference received in June 2022.
- 30 The Inquiry will be splitting its investigations into sections, or modules, which have different subject topics. This will ensure that the Inquiry's investigations have sufficient breadth and depth. The Inquiry has commenced four modules so far:
- 1) Resilience, planning and preparedness across the UK
 - 2) Core UK decision making and political governance
 - 3) Impact of the pandemic on health care

4) Vaccines and therapeutics

The Inquiry will announce further modules throughout 2023, which are expected to cover both ‘system’ and ‘impact’ issues including: care sector, government procurement, test and trace, government business and financial responses across the UK; health inequalities, education, public services, public sector.

- 31 The Inquiry held its first preliminary hearing for Module 1 on 4 October 2022, with evidential public hearings beginning on 13 June 2023.
- 32 All English local authorities, including Cheshire East Council, are being represented by the Local Government Association (LGA) at the Inquiry. The LGA are classed as a Core Participant, which gives them a formal role in proceedings receiving documentation, being represented and making legal submissions, suggesting questions and receiving advance notice of the Inquiry’s report.
- 33 Cheshire East Council has been, and continues to be, committed to assisting the LGA in producing combined local authority responses to the Inquiry’s questions and will continue to submit information and evidence as requested moving forward.

Consultation and Engagement

- 34 No consultation or engagement was required to take place for this report as there are no formal decisions that the Adults and Health Committee is being asked to make. This is a retrospective briefing report to update the committee on Covid-19 in Cheshire East.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 35 This report supports the council’s commitment to being an open, transparent and enabling organisation.

Other Options Considered

- 36 There were no other options considered. The nature of the report being a retrospective briefing update with no formal recommendations or decisions does not require an options appraisal to be completed.

Implications and Comments

Monitoring Officer/Legal

- 37 There are no legal implications expected to arise from this report.

Section 151 Officer/Finance

- 38 There are no financial implications expected to arise from this report.

Policy

39 There are no policy implications expected to arise from this report.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

40 Covid-19 has had a disproportionate impact on particular groups, including those from poorer areas, ethnic minority communities, disabled people, care home residents etc. Future vaccination programmes will target those at increased risk of Covid-19.

Human Resources

41 There are no human resources implications expected to arise from this report.

Risk Management

42 There are no risk management implications expected to arise from this report.

Rural Communities

43 There are no implications to rural communities expected to arise from this report.

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

44 There are no implications to children and young people, cared for children, care leavers, or children with special educational needs and disabilities expected to arise from this report.

Public Health

45 The information in this report pertains to public health, but there are no wider public health implications expected to arise from this report.

Climate Change

46 There are no climate change implications expected to arise from this report.

Access to Information	
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Appendices:	N/A
Background Papers:	N/A

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Adults & Health Committee Work Programme 2023-24

Committee Date	Title	Purpose of Report	Lead Officer	Consultation and Engagement Process and Timeline	Equality Impact Assessment	Corporate Plan Priority	Part of Budget and Policy Framework	Exempt Item and Paragraph Number
September 2023								
25/09/2023	Evaluation of the 2022/23 Winter Plan	To provide a briefing with regards to the review of the 2022/23 Winter Plan	Acting Director of Commissioning and Integration	TBC	TBC	Fair	TBC	TBC
25/09/2023	Universal Information and Advice Service Recommission	The purpose of the report is to provide an update regarding the Universal Information and Advice Service and provide recommendations in respect of the recommissioning of the service .	Executive Director Adults, Health and Integration	Yes	Yes	Fair	No	No
25/09/2023	Building Based Day Services – Proposal to Decommission service provision at the Stanley Centre	The Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2023-2027 included a proposal to decommission the building based day service provision at the Stanley Centre in Knutsford. This report will present a number of options and a recommended	Executive Director Adults, Health and Integration	Yes	Yes	Fair	Yes	No

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Adults & Health Committee Work Programme 2023-24

		option around the future of the Stanley Centre.						
25/09/2023	Emotionally Healthy Children and Young People Recommissioning	To provide information regarding coproduction that already taken place, present suggested model based on engagement findings and obtain approval to recommission service	Executive Director Adults, Health and Integration	Yes	Yes	Open;#Fair	No	No
25/09/2023	Direct Payments	The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the status of the Direct Payment workstream in Cheshire East, including policy development, personal assistant recruitment campaign, and financial transactions.	Executive Director Adults, Health and Integration	Yes	Yes	Fair	Yes	No
25/09/2023	First Financial Review of 2023/24 (Adults & Health Committee)	To note and comment on the First Financial Review and Performance position of 2023/24, including progress on policy proposals and material variances from the	Director of Finance and Customer Services	No	No	Open	Yes	No

Adults & Health Committee Work Programme 2023-24

		MTFS and (if necessary) approve Supplementary Estimates and Virements.						
25/09/2023	Extra Care	Extra Care development options	Executive Director Adults, Health and Integration	No	No	Fair	Yes	Yes
November 2023								
20/11/2023	One You Recommission	To be confirmed	Executive Director Adults, Health and Integration	TBC	TBC	Fair	TBC	TBC
20/11/2023	Cheshire East Place - Learning Disability and Mental Health Plans	The recommendations will be to approved the co-production of the Cheshire East Place - Mental Health Plan and Cheshire East Place - Learning Disabilities Plan	Development of a Care Provider Consortium	Yes	Yes	Fair	Yes	No
20/11/2023	A review of the Learning Disability Conference initiatives	To provide Adults and Health Committee with a progress update on the key priorities that were outlined at the Cheshire East Learning Disabilities Conference in June 2022, that have been taken forward by the Learning Disability Partnership Board	Development of a Care Provider Consortium	No	No	Fair	No	No
20/11/2023	Progress Update on the Day Opportunities Flexible Purchasing System	To provide an update on the Day Opportunities	Development of a Care Provider Consortium	No	No	Fair	No	No

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Adults & Health Committee Work Programme 2023-24

		Flexible Purchasing System.						
20/11/2023	Second Financial Review of 2023/24 (Adults & Health Committee)	This report outlines how the Council is managing resources to provide value for money services during the 2023/24 financial year. The purpose of the report is to note and comment on the Second Financial Review and Performance position of 2023/24 and approve Supplementary Estimates and Virements.	Director of Finance and Customer Services	No	No	Open	Yes	No
20/11/2023	Medium Term Financial Strategy Consultation 2024/25 - 2027/28 (Adults & Health Committee)	All Committees were being asked to provide feedback in relation to their financial responsibilities as identified within the Constitution and linked to the budget alignment approved by the Finance Sub-Committee in March 2023. Responses to the consultation would be reported to the Corporate Policy Committee to support that Committee in making	Director of Finance and Customer Services	Yes	No	Open	Yes	No

Adults & Health Committee Work Programme 2023-24

		recommendations to Council on changes to the current financial strategy.						
20/11/2023	Supported Employment Strategy and Implementation Plan	This report sets out the recommendations for a strategic approach to supported employment. This is about adult social care customers with complex needs and support into work	Executive Director Adults, Health and Integration	Yes	Yes	Open;#Fair;#Green	Yes	No
20/11/2023	ANTON - Safeguarding Adults Review Report	The purpose of the Report is to share the findings from a Safeguarding Adults Review with Adults, Health and Integration DMT	Executive Director Adults, Health and Integration	No	No	Open	No	TBC
20/11/2023	Development of a Care Provider Consortium	This report seeks approval to establish a shared marketplace for the future procurement of care and support services across both health and social care for individuals with complex needs, including those individuals in transition to adulthood who have a learning disability and or	Executive Director Adults, Health and Integration	No	Yes	Fair	No	No

Adults & Health Committee Work Programme 2023-24

		mental health support needs.						
January 2024								
22/01/2024	Substance Misuse Recommission	To be confirmed	Acting Director of Commissioning and Integration	Yes	Yes	Fair	No	No
22/01/2024	Third Financial Review of 2023/24 (Adults & Health Committee)	This report outlines how the Council is managing resources to provide value for money services during the 2023/24 financial year. The purpose of the report is to note and comment on the Third Financial Review and Performance position of 2023/24 and approve Supplementary Estimates and Virements.	Director of Finance and Customer Services	No	No	Open	Yes	No
22/01/2024	Medium Term Financial Strategy Consultation 2024/25 - 2027/28 Provisional Settlement Update (Adults & Health Committee)	All Committees were being asked to provide feedback in relation to their financial responsibilities as identified within the Constitution and linked to the budget alignment approved by the Finance Sub-	Director of Finance and Customer Services	Yes	No	Open	Yes	No

Adults & Health Committee Work Programme 2023-24

		Committee in March 2023. Responses to the consultation would be reported to the Corporate Policy Committee to support that Committee in making recommendations to Council on changes to the current financial strategy.						
March 2024								
25/03/2024	Charging Consultation - draft proposal	Briefing presentation highlighting a proposal for a charging consultation before we start a consultation	Executive Director Adults, Health and Integration	TBC	TBC	Open	TBC	TBC
June 2024								
24/06/2024	Service Budgets 2024/25 (Adults & Health Committee)	The purpose of the report is to set out the allocation of budgets for 2024/25, for all Committees, following Council's approval of the Medium Term Financial Strategy in February 2024	Director of Finance and Customer Services	No	No	Open	Yes	No

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