

Environment and Communities Committee

Agenda

Date: Thursday, 5th June, 2025
Time: 10.30 am
Venue: The Capesthorne Room - Town Hall, Macclesfield SK10 1EA

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

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

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

1. **Apologies for Absence**

To note any apologies for absence from Members.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

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

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** (Pages 5 - 12)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 March 2025.

For requests for further information

Contact: Frances Handley

Tel: 01270 371378

E-Mail: CheshireEastDemocraticServices@cheshireeast.gov.uk

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.

Petitions - To receive any petitions which have met the criteria - [Petitions Scheme Criteria](#) and falls within the remit of the Committee. Petition organisers will be allowed up to three minutes to speak.

5. **Final Outturn 2024/25** (Pages 13 - 124)

To receive an overview of the Cheshire East Council final outturn for the financial year 2024/25.

6. **Macclesfield Town Centre Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) Renewal** (Pages 125 - 178)

To consider the extension of an existing Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) under section 60(2) of the Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (the ASB Act) for Macclesfield Town Centre.

7. **Notice of Motion: Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty** (Pages 179 - 184)

To consider the report in response to the notice of motion that was proposed at the full Council Meeting of 11th December 2024, with regard to a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty.

8. **Brighton Plus Helsinki Declaration - A Commitment To Achieve Gender Equality In Sport And Physical Activity** (Pages 185 - 190)

To consider the report which seeks approval for Cheshire East Council to become a signatory to the Brighton Plus Helsinki Declaration, an international treaty that signifies a commitment to achieving gender equality in sport and physical activity.

9. **Appointments to Sub-Committees, Working Groups, Joint Committees and Boards** (Pages 191 - 196)

To seek approval from the Environment and Communities Committee to appoint the bodies referred to in the report and to nominate members to them.

10. **Work Programme** (Pages 197 - 200)

To consider the Work Programme and determine any required amendments.

Membership: Councillors L Braithwaite, M Brooks, D Clark, T Dean, M Houston, D Jefferay (Chair), A Moran, H Moss, B Posnett, H Seddon (Vice-Chair), L Smetham, M Warren, H Whitaker and A Burton

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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment and Communities Committee** held on Thursday, 27th March, 2025 in The Capesthorne Room - Town Hall, Macclesfield SK10 1EA.

PRESENT

Councillor L Braithwaite (Vice-Chair)

Councillors D Clark, C Browne, L Crane M Brooks, T Dean, S Gardiner, D Jefferay, H Moss, C O'Leary, H Seddon, H Whitaker, G Marshall

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Phil Cresswell, Executive Director of Place
Chris Allman, Director of Planning and Environment
David Malcolm, Head of Planning
Ralph Kemp, Head of Environmental Services
Tom Evans, Strategic and Environmental Planning Manager
Mark Darbyshire, Bereavement Services Manager
Steve Reading, Principal Accountant
Mandy Withington, Principal Solicitor
Frances Handley, Democratic Services Officer

20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Warren, L Smetham, B Posnett, J Bratherton. Councillors G Marshall, C O'Leary, H Moss, L Crane and attended as substitutes.

21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In the interests of openness and transparency, in relation to agenda item 5 (Service Budgets 2025-26), Councillor C O'Leary declared that he was the administrator of the Save Bollington's Recycling Centre Facebook page.

22 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Chair proposed a minor amendment to the minutes of the previous meeting, as set out below:

That the line 'Cllr Douglas urged the committee to reject options do something 3 and 4' was changed to 'Cllr Douglas urged the committee to reject options do something 2, 3 and 4'. The committee supported this amendment.

The committee took the opportunity to thank Tom Shuttleworth, former Interim Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods, for all his hard work

during his time with Cheshire East and asked that this be recorded within the minutes.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2025, subject to the above amendment being made, be approved as a correct record, and signed by the Chair.

23 PUBLIC SPEAKING/OPEN SESSION

The Chair referred to the decision to disallow some visiting members and members of the public to speak at today's meeting in relation to Household Waste and Recycling Centres and the Strategic Leisure Review and confirmed that the decision was taken following advice from officers, as these items were not substantive items on the agenda. The Chair highlighted that an update on the Strategic Leisure Review would be presented to the committee in June, and visiting members/members of the public would be welcome to come to that meeting and ask a question/make a statement.

Councillor S Firkin, Congleton Town Council, addressed the committee in relation to agenda item 6 (Cemeteries Investment Programme). Cllr Firkin stated that there had been concerns in relation to Congleton cemetery, Howey Lane, and its limited future capacity for some time. It was stated that poor drainage onsite caused significant problems for burials on land previously thought to be suitable, and therefore, Congleton welcomed the commitment to invest in drainage and the potential future groundworks to mediate the site. Cllr Firkin asked what the current best/worst case scenarios were for continued operation onsite for burials. Finally, it was suggested that officers looked to utilise the Streetscape team, as originally intended, for ongoing maintenance and groundworks of the cemetery. Officers agreed to provide a written response.

Councillor K Edwards addressed the committee as a visiting member and spoke in relation to items 7 (Local Plan Next Steps: Local Development Scheme Update and feedback from the Issues Consultation 2024) and item 8 (Heritage and Local List Supplementary Planning Document). Councillor Edwards stated that Bollington Town Council had spent considerable time searching for indoor provision for youth activity, particularly during winter months, and that the Issues document did not reference the physical land needs of young people. Councillor Edwards asked the committee to ensure that the requirements and needs of young people were consulted upon and contained within future reiterations of the report. In response, officers confirmed that there would be further consultation on the issues throughout the local planning process and that part of the process would consider land use and the requirements of different age groups.

In relation to agenda item 8, Cllr Edwards welcomed the report and urged the committee to support the recommendations. Cllr Edwards stated that, in the future, the committee should consider moving from just a list of buildings to looking at particular areas of Cheshire East with significant common historical and heritage value.

Councillor J Place addressed the committee as a visiting member and spoke in relation to agenda item 7 (Local Plan Next Steps: Local Development Scheme Update and feedback from the Issues Consultation 2024). Councillor Place referred to the information provided by the council on its website, which was last updated in November 2024 and asked that this was updated regularly as the consultation process moved forward. Cllr Place stated that a communications strategy was key to ensuring that residents and members were regularly updated throughout what would be a complex and fast-moving process. Cllr Place referred to the Bollington Neighbourhood Plan and hoped that Neighbourhood Plans would still feature in future planning frameworks. In response, officers committed to ensuring that information published on the website was up-to-date and confirmed that Neighbourhood Plans were still very much active in planning policy at a national level.

24 SERVICE BUDGETS 2025/26 (ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE)

The committee received a report on the allocation of approved budgets for 2025-26 following approval of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2025-26 – 2028-29 by Full Council on 26 February 2025. The committee asked a number of questions, as summarised below.

It was highlighted that the Strategic Leisure Review Stage 2 budget line (74) reported an additional £403k spend compared to 2024-25. It was queried if this included the reduction of funding at Middlewich Leisure Centre. The decision relating to the asset disposal at Holmes Chapel and Middlewich, and alternative delivery models was also raised. It was queried that, as no alternative delivery models had been identified, should this have been considered by the committee as a policy matter. It was confirmed that the decision taken by the committee in March 2024 delegated authority to the former Interim Director Environment and Neighbourhoods to take all necessary steps to implement the proposals agreed by the committee however officers committed to reviewing the decision/delegation and providing a written response. It was confirmed that the £403k did include the reduction in the service budget spend at Middlewich Leisure Centre.

It was noted that the 2024-28 MTFS had estimated a £350k saving in relation to the Libraries Strategy – Stage 1, for 2024-25 and £250k saving for 2025-26 however there was an underachievement reported at Financial Review 3 of £74k. The 2025-26 budget suggested there would now be £100k saving for stage 1. It was queried where the remainder of the originally anticipated saving had gone and if the £100k saving was an

additional saving, or a saving previously agreed by the committee. In response, it was confirmed that the saving reduction was the result of the decisions made previously by the committee in relation to 'Tiers' and a reduction in opening hours. The second budget change line related to the 'Trust' for libraries, as when further explored this was not deemed appropriate at this stage.

It was highlighted that a recent Officer Decision Record (ODR) published on the mobile recycling service stated that there was no growth in 2025-26 however a net growth in environmental services was reported. It was queried if the ODR would result in a budget cut or was within current budgets and how this would sit within budget lines 83 and 84 (Environmental Services Growth 2025-26 onwards / Environmental Services Savings 2025-26 onwards). A detailed breakdown of lines 83 and 84 were requested. Officers committed to providing a written response.

In relation to Household Waste and Recycling Centres, it was noted that there was a total of £1.490m in capital projects, including £900k for a review. A detailed breakdown of this funding and what it would mean for Macclesfield HWRC was requested. Officers committed to providing a written response.

It was noted that, in relation to libraries, £297k income was anticipated. It was queried if this included an allocation for Town and Parish Council's contributing through the 'Top Up Service' and if so, how many T3 libraries had signed up to this. Officers committed to providing a written response.

Councillor Browne took the opportunity to highlight that Councillor Cllr Vince Fogharty, from Alderley Edge Parish Council, previously spoke at the committee in November 2024 and raised a number of questions in relation to the Library Strategy, and that a written response was promised, but still outstanding. Councillor Browne further highlighted that the Parish Clerk, Alderley Parish Council, had contacted the council in relation to an agreement however no response had been received. The Director of Planning and Environment agreed to follow this up and ensure responses were provided as soon as possible.

Questions were raised in relation to the Strategic Leisure Review. The Chair sought advice and confirmed that this matter was not a substantive item on the agenda and should not be debated during today's meeting. It was requested that a written response be provided to the committee setting out the grounds for not allowing questions on this matter.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

That the Environment and Communities Committee:

1. To note the decision of the Finance Sub-Committee to allocate the approved revenue and capital budgets, related budget changes items and

earmarked reserves to the Environment and Communities Committee, as set out in Annex A.

2. To note the financial reporting timetable for 2025/26 set out in Annex B as approved at Finance Sub-Committee on 10 March 2025.

25 CEMETERIES INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

The Committee considered a report which sought approval of the Cemeteries Design guide to progress cemetery development in accordance with the principles of the adopted Strategy and the Cemeteries Investment Programme for 2025/26 and 2026/27.

The Committee asked what facilities were provided at the major cemeteries within the borough and that some operate chapels that can be used for services however there were dormant chapels on other sites and queried what consideration was being given to bring those back into use.

The Committee noted that the two crematoriums operated in Crewe and Macclesfield have chapels that operate and early consideration was being given to the dormant sites.

It was suggested there be a review of sites currently owned by Cheshire East and queried the maintenance and encouraged discussions with Town and Parish Councils to consider taking on ownership of venues and sites.

The Committee noted that the maintenance of the sites are currently self funding through the services that they provide.

The Committee asked what areas were being considered to secure S106 funding for land expansion of cemeteries and what was being considered to secure money from developers.

Officers agreed that the current SPD be reviewed in terms of the ability to secure funding through section 106 contributions from applications should that be deemed to be appropriate in terms of public mitigation and whether developer contributions is justifiable in evidence which would have to be appropriate to each application.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

That the Environment and Communities Committee:

1. Approve the adoption of the Cemeteries Design Guide, as contained at Appendix A to this report.

2. Note the approach taken to prioritising future investment into the Council controlled cemetery sites and the need for this programme to be regularly reviewed to ensure that it remains relevant to the immediate and longer-term needs of the estate.

3. Approve the delivery of the Cemeteries Investment Programme for 2025/26 and 2026/27 and delegate authority to the Director Planning and

Environment, to take all necessary steps to implement the programme, subject to funding and grant availability.

26 LOCAL PLAN NEXT STEPS: LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME UPDATE AND FEEDBACK FROM THE ISSUES CONSULTATION (2024)

The committee considered the report which sought approval of an updated Local Development Scheme which sets out proposed next steps to support the preparation of the new Local Plan.

The Committee welcomed the report and noted that there were various versions of the plan however the update was provided to ensure that the dates will align correctly in the plan and to give a wider information on what was happening nationally and how that would impact the Local Authority in the months ahead. It was noted that there will be regular to the Committee and updates on the website with the Local Plan timetable.

The Committee queried whether there was a process for suggesting development sites and it was noted that the Council was not currently in an active plan making phase however through the plan making phase there would be an opportunity to submit potential sites.

The Committee asked for clarification on whether the brownfield register is up to date and it was confirmed that it is constantly reviewed and updated and Members will be kept informed on the housing monitoring update which is due to be published in the near future. The Committee were pleased to note aligning of the mineral plan with the local plan. Officers were encouraged to engage young people in the plan and to make them aware that the decisions that are being made currently will be those that impact their futures.

Officers committed to articulating the definition of sites such as 'brownfield' within the plan.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

That the Environment and Communities Committee:

1. Agree that the update to the Local Development Scheme, appended to this report (Appendix 2) is published on the Councils' web site; and
2. Agree that the Issues Consultation Report of Consultation is also published on the Councils' website

27 HERITAGE AND LOCAL LIST SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

The committee considered the report which set out proposals to consult on, and update the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), including the proposed selection criteria and methodology for designating a locally listed building. It was noted that the current 'Local List of Historic Buildings SPD' was adopted in 2010 and therefore was in need of a review and update.

The committee welcomed the report and the approach to ensure that the Local List could be updated more frequently, allowing the council to be more responsive to proposals for local listing and protecting local heritage assets across the borough. The committee were pleased to note that the council was proposing to move forward an 'evergreen' approach keeping a live catalogue, via a digital Local List, of local heritage assets and agreed that the digital approach should be adopted across all aspects of planning, where possible.

The committee noted the process for removing entries from The Local List and that this was the same as adding items to the Local List and followed the same decision-making process. It was suggested that the appeals process be reviewed, and that appeals should be heard by an officer group, alongside several councillors from the Environment and Communities Committee, rather than appeals being heard only by the Head of Planning in consultation with the Chair of the Environment and Communities Committee

RESOLVED (unanimously):

That the Environment and Communities Committee:

1. Agree to the publication of the first draft Heritage and Local List SPD (appendix 1) for public consultation, for a minimum of four weeks.
2. Publish the associated Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report ("SEA") (appendix 2).
3. Publish the associated Equalities Impact Assessment Screening Report ("EQIA") (appendix 3).

28 WORK PROGRAMME

The committee considered the Work Programme. The following was noted:

- The committee agreed to hold one twilight meeting during 2025-26. Due to the number of substitutes present at the meeting, it was suggested that an email be circulated to the committee to seek a preference on which meeting of the

committee be held as a Twilight meeting (starting no earlier than 5.30pm)

- CCTV Services Update would be moved to September 2025.
- Fossil Fuel Non Proliferation Treaty Notice of Motion received at Full Council would be added to the Work Programme and considered by the Committee in June 2025.
- Mobile waste recycling centres: officers agreed to provide an update to members on the pilot.
- Planning Enforcement: It was requested that a protocol be established to deal with planning enforcement, particularly in regards to the non-compliance of conditions attached to Planning Permission. It was confirmed that this would be picked up under the Corporate Enforcement Policy already on the Work Programme. It was requested that Cllr Gardiner pick this matter up outside of the meeting with the Director of Planning and Environment to ensure all his concerns were covered within the report.
- The committee discussed the issue of closing public facilities via delegated powers and felt that a better understanding of recommendations/delegations was needed going forward. Officers committed to taking this away and ensuring that future reports were clear on these matters and that when the committee felt the delegations were not clear, that these be reviewed with the Monitoring Officer to improve communication and understanding.

RESOLVED:

That the Work Programme be received and noted.

The meeting commenced at 16.00 and concluded at 17.55

Councillor L Braithwaite

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Environment and Communities Committee

05 June 2025

Final Outturn 2024/25

Report of: Interim Executive Director of Resources (s151 Officer)

Report Reference No: EC/01/25-26

Ward(s) Affected: Not applicable

For Decision and Scrutiny

Purpose of Report

- 1 This report provides members with an overview of the Cheshire East Council final outturn for the financial year 2024/25. 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 on 26 February 2025.
- 2 To highlight 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 effective and enabling Council as set out in the Cheshire East Plan 2025 to 2029.

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.
- 5 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 4 December 2025.
- 6 The Council set its 2024/25 annual budget in February 2024. The budget was balanced, as required by statute, with planned use of reserves of £22m, plus

£30m of savings to achieve in year, and included important assumptions about spending in the year. The budget is part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2024 to 2028.

- 7 The Third Financial Review (FR3) forecast revenue outturn was an adverse variance of £18.3m (prior to the application of any Exceptional Financial Support), an improvement of £1.8m from FR2.
- 8 Prior to the application of Exceptional Financial Support and a proposed £7.4m transfer to reserves (see para 68 below), the 2024/25 service outturn position is an adverse variance of £9.8m, reflecting an underlying improvement since FR3 of £8.5m, as detailed below in Table 1 (Total Service Expenditure plus Central Budgets).

Table 1	Revised	Outturn	Variance	Forecast	Movement
Outturn 2024/25	Budget			Variance	from FR3 to
	(NET)			FR3	Outturn
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Service Committee					
Adults and Health	137.1	154.7	17.6	20.0	(2.4)
Children and Families	92.6	96.1	3.5	5.4	(1.9)
Corporate Policy	44.2	41.9	(2.2)	2.5	(4.7)
Economy and Growth	27.9	22.7	(5.3)	(3.8)	(1.5)
Environment and Communities	47.8	46.3	(1.5)	(0.6)	(0.9)
Highways and Transport	16.2	14.4	(1.8)	(0.5)	(1.3)
TOTAL SERVICE EXPENDITURE	365.8	376.0	10.2	22.9	(12.7)
Finance Sub:					
Central Budgets	25.0	32.4	7.4	(4.6)	12.0
Funding	(390.8)	(390.8)	(0.0)	-	(0.0)
TOTAL FINANCE SUB	(0.0)	17.6	17.6	18.3	(0.7)
Exceptional Financial Support	-	(17.6)	(17.6)	(17.6)	-
GRAND TOTAL	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	0.7	(0.7)

- 9 Whilst an improvement on the Third Financial Review position of £8.5m, the service overspend of £9.8m remains a significant financial challenge for the Council. Cost pressures in Adults and Children's services remain a key issue. Details of in year pressures, ongoing impacts into 2025/26 and improvements against FR3 by Committee are reported in paragraphs 30 to 63 below.
- 10 The out-turn position, net of proposed transfers to useable reserves of £7.6m, is an overspend of £17.6m. This includes the setting up of a reserve to set

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aside sufficient one-off resources to be able to respond to the steps that will be necessary to support the delivery of our transformation, change and improvement activity especially in light of the recent publication of the non-statutory Best Value notice. This will be able to pump prime activities to ensure that change is made at pace to support our longer-term financial sustainability. Any use of this reserve will need to be recommended by the Chief Executive and Executive Director of Resources and any virements will then need to follow the usual approval processes.

- 11 As reported at FR3, in order to address the risk to services from the Council's budgetary pressures, there was an urgent report to Council on the 11 December 2024 on Exceptional Financial Support (EFS). The report sought the authority for the Chief Executive to request that the in-principle EFS of up to £17.6m by way of a capitalisation direction for 2023/24 and 2024/25 be able to be applied only in 2024/25, from the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government in order to address the Council's budgetary pressures during the financial year 2024/25. The costs of accepting the EFS support will impact over the medium term and these have been built into the 2025/26-2028/29 MTFS approved in February 2025.
- 12 As indicated in Table 2 below and recognising the request in the urgent report to Council on 11 December 2024, it is proposed that the full £17.6m conditional EFS is utilised for 2024/25 to cover the following:
 - Overall Council overspend in 2024/25 - **£9.8m**
 - Creation of a further earmarked reserve to cover the one off costs of change and improvement activity in 2025/26 and 2026/27 - **£5.3m**
 - Transfer to General Fund Reserves - **£2.5m** to increase financial resilience into 2025/26 and future years.
- 13 The reserves position, after agreed movements budgeted for in the MTFS and new additional requests noted below, are £29.6m, being £6.3m General Fund and £23.3m Earmarked.

Table 2: Exceptional Financial Support and Reserves - Outturn

£m

2024/25 overspend – outturn (including Service EMRs)	10.2
Improvement on central budgets - Surplus levy grant	(0.4)
Tfr to Cost of Change and Improvement Reserve	5.3
Tfr to General Fund	2.5
2024/25 Revised Out-turn	17.6
Exceptional Financial Support	(17.6)
Outturn 2024/25	-
Reserves	
General Fund	6.3
Earmarked Reserve	23.3
Total Reserves at 31 March 2025 – Outturn Final	29.6

14 The outturn expenditure level for capital spending for 2024/25 was £88.4m against the original MTFS budget set in February 2024 of £215.8m (FR3 £144.7m). The underspend of £56.3m (Out-turn compared to FR3) will be slipped into 2025/26 and future years. This level of slippage at 39% is a higher variance than 2023/24 (18%)

15 **Table 3** sets out the capital programme profiling changes from FR3:

Table 3	2024/25 Outturn £000	2025/26 Estimate £000	2026/27 Estimate £000	2027/28 Estimate £000	2024-28 Total £000
Capital Programme FR3	144,670	157,134	104,400	243,852	650,056
Funded by:					
Capital Programme Outturn	88,322	208,490	100,570	252,694	650,076
Funded by:					
Movement from FR3	-56,348	+51,356	-3,830	+8,842	+20

16 **Table 4** sets out the capital programme summary at the Outturn position by Committee:

Table 4	2024/25 Outturn £000	2025/26 Estimate £000	2026/27 Estimate £000	2027/28 Estimate £000	2024-28 Total £000
Adults and Health	280	468	0	0	748
Children and Families	9,722	56,131	21,604	20,749	108,206
Corporate Policy	5,465	10,125	1,173	0	16,763
Economy and Growth	25,723	56,534	32,905	81,762	196,924
Environment and Communities	5,915	18,606	2,184	15,301	42,006
Highways and Transport	41,217	66,626	42,704	134,882	285,429
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	88,322	208,490	100,570	252,694	650,076
Funding:					
Grants and Other Contributions	53,793	149,212	88,370	187,853	479,228
Capital Receipts and Reserves	901	2,500	1324	33,381	38,106
Borrowing	33,628	56,778	10,876	31,460	132,742
TOTAL FUNDING	88,322	208,490	100,570	252,694	650,076

- 17 During 2024/25 a capital review was carried out with a view to reducing and re-profiling the amount of capital spend funded by borrowing which has led to significant slippage. Continued scrutiny of the capital programme will be required to minimise and delay spend funded from borrowing to reduce the ongoing revenue in future years. The authority should aim to repay more historical borrowing than any new borrowing incurred in year to ensure that the total capital financing requirement begins to decrease and the long term position becomes more sustainable.
- 18 Capital receipts in year amounted to £2.2m against a forecast of £2m, of this £1.2 will be used to fund transformational costs with the remaining £1m supporting the capital financing budget as planned.
- 19 During 2024/25, we undertook a Balance Sheet review through our Treasury Advisors, Arlingclose Ltd. As part of that review, they considered the revenue impact of the current Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) and Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) policy currently in place and we asked them to assess our alignment with current Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) guidance. Changes to the Accounting Policy for MRP were set out in the 2025/26 – 2028/29 MTFS - in summary the out-turn impact for 2024/25 is an improvement of £3.1m against the Capital Financing Budget.
- 20 The annex and appendix attached to this report set out details of the Council's financial performance:
- 21 Annex 1: Outturn 2024/25 – Sets out detailed information for each of the following areas as at 31 March 2025 (per Committee area):
- **Section 1** 2024/25 Financial Outturn position
 - **Section 2** 2024/25 Approved Budget Change Items
 - **Section 3** Revenue Grants for approval and Grant Register
 - **Section 4** Capital
 - **Section 5** Reserves
 - **Section 6** Treasury Management
 - **Section 7** Investment Strategy

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Environment and Communities Committee is recommended to:

1. Consider the overall financial performance of the Council in the 2024/25 financial year, as contained within the report, as follows:
 - a) A Net Revenue Overspend of £17.6m against a revised budget of £365.8m (4.8% variance) funded by conditional Exceptional Financial Support (Capitalisation Direction) via borrowing.
 - b) General Reserves closing balance of £6.3m.

c) Capital Spending of £88.4m against an approved programme of £215.8m (59% variance).

2. Consider the contents of Annex 1.

3. Approve the Supplementary Capital Estimates (SCE) and Capital Virements between £500,000 and £1,000,000 in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules for the following Committee's as detailed in **Annex 1, Section 5, Table 4**

4. Approve the new Reserves in the Reserves Section (**Annex 1, Section 5, Table 1**) which includes proposed movements to reserves.

Background

22 This single view of the financial picture of the Council provides the overall financial context.

23 The financial outturn for Cheshire East Council is an overspend of £17.6m. This is net of appropriate allocations to useable reserves. Further detail is provided in **Table 1** and **Annex 1**.

24 On 1 April 2024 total Council reserves were £37.8m. The closing balance on 31 March 2025 is £29.6m, this represents an improvement vs forecast of £12.4m. This is partly due to lower drawdowns for services than previously forecast, plus the creation of new reserves as mentioned in paragraph 12 above.

25 Capital - The original budget set in February 2024 was £215.8m. During 2024/25 a review was carried out the aim of reducing and reprofiling the amount of capital spend funded by borrowing. At FR3 the forecast spend had reduced to £144.7m. Actual spend for 2024/25 outturn was £88.4m.

26 Capital receipts in year amounted to £2.2m against a forecast of £2m, of this £1.2m will be used to fund transformational costs with the remaining £1m supporting the capital financing budget as planned.

27 Capital Financing Budget – The impact of funding EFS via Capitalisation Directive/Borrowing over the term of the MTFs are shown in the table below (extract from MTFs Report Feb 2025).

Table 5: Capital Financing Budget - elements	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	2028/29 £m
Interest Payable – DSG Deficit	5.6	6.4	7.4	7.4
Interest Payable – EFS*	1.0	1.7	1.6	1.6
Interest Payable – Capital Borrowing	13.5	12.8	13.3	13.3
Interest receivable	(2.3)	(2.1)	(2.1)	(2.1)
Total Net Interest	17.8	18.8	20.2	20.2
MRP – EFS*	0.5	1.3	2.1	2.2
MRP – Capital Borrowing	16.7	18.7	19.6	20.8
Total MRP	17.2	20.0	21.7	23.0
Total CFB requirement	35.0	38.8	41.9	43.2

*EFS MRP/Interest above relates to both 2024/25 £17.6m and 2025/26 £25.3m

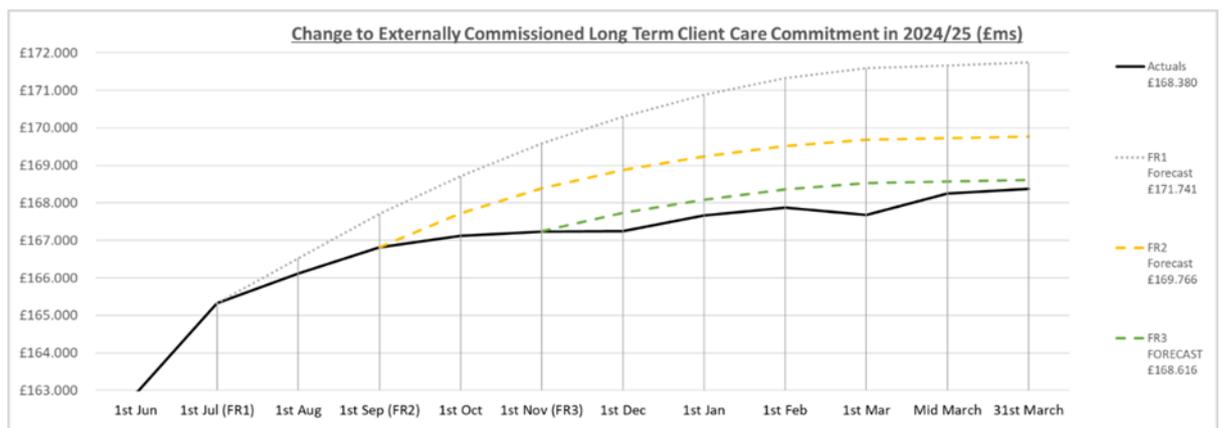
- 28 During 2024/25, we undertook a Balance Sheet review through our Treasury Advisors, Arlingclose Ltd. As part of that review, they considered the revenue impact of the current Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) and Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) policy currently in place. We asked them to assess our alignment with current Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) guidance. Changes to the Accounting Policy for MRP were set out in the 2025/26 – 2028/29 MTFS against the Capital Financing Budget (Refer to Appendix A, Annex 5, Section 3 of the MTFS – [Approved Feb 2025](#)).
- 29 Changes to the Accounting Policy needed to be made in 2024/25 due to new regulations coming in from 1 April 2025 and therefore have the benefit of reducing the 2024/25 charge to revenue with a betterment to the overall outturn position plus ongoing impacts from 2025/26 onwards have been reflected through the MTFS. In summary the out-turn impact for 2024/25 being is a net improvement of £3.411m.
- 30 There are a number of key issues that have caused the revenue overspend, including:
- Continued demand and complexity of care beyond levels previously identified in Adult’s services;
 - Increasing demands of Children’s Social care, in terms of complexity and the number of cases;
 - Increased borrowing costs associated with the unfunded Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficit;
 - Non delivery of some previously agreed savings and/or income targets;
 - The financial impact of investment in transformation and improvement activity over the medium term;
 - Under-recovery of rent allowances;
- 31 In order to mitigate the cost pressure facing the Council, various tasks to urgently review spend and identify additional savings have been undertaken in year through actions led by the Strategic Finance Management Board, which included:

- regular line by line reviews of budgets have been undertaken throughout the year to identify any additional funding or potential areas of underspend.
- The cessation of any non-essential spend
- Management of vacancies, particularly agency usage
- Review of Section 106 legacy budgets
- Identification of any other areas of discretionary spend including grants awarded, where spend can be reduced or stopped.
- Review Debt management / overall level of bad debt provision

Specific commentary on the forecast outturn position by Committee

Adults and Health adverse variance of £17.6m

- 32 Throughout 2024/25 the Adults, Health and Integration Directorate has been forecasting an overspend of up to £20m driven by increases in costs of individual placements for people who draw on care and support. This forecast position included mitigations which have been delivered through the year. The final outturn position is an overspend of £17.6m.
- 33 This position represents an improvement on the position that was reported at the Third Financial Review (TFR) of £2.4m. This further improvement results from a number of factors. First, the final outturn for external care costs was slightly lower than the TFR projection as demonstrated in the chart below. As shown in the graph the level of activity between December and March grew at a slower rate than in previous months and was anticipated at the end of quarter 3. At that time there was concern that activity would increase as a result of winter pressures and so a cautious approach was adopted in forecasting the outturn.



- 34 Secondly, smaller favourable variances in other areas have allowed more external care costs than previously anticipated to be funded using eligible external grants. The terms and conditions of these grants allow these costs to be funded if they have been defrayed before the end of the financial year. Finally, income levels continue to exceed earlier expectations for two reasons, income is driven activity and directly related to care costs and the new adoption of a new charging policy adopted in 2024/25.

- 35 This final position provides a secure foundation to build on in 2025/26 and beyond through the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) as new transformation projects (e.g. Prevent Reduce, Enable) are brought forward to improve outcomes for service users alongside containing the financial outlay for the Council in responding to ongoing high levels of demand. Although a small amount of the improvement between TFR and the Year End position is of a temporary nature, the outturn position provides greater confidence that the growth for care costs and income which are in the MTFS reflect the adjustment levels needed to re-size the service budget in 2025/26.

Public Health

- 36 There are various factors which have impacted the final position for the Public Health (PH) ringfenced grant reserve movement. Some of this links to additional grant received for PH outcomes, as well as work by the service to manage vacancies and reduce contract costs where possible. The service will continue to work with the wider council services when planning future years' expenditure. This will ensure the best possible VFM is achieved for CEC residents, whilst also ensuring that services funded from the grant continue to meet the statutory ringfenced criteria for PH outcomes. It is important to note that the reserve needs to be sufficient to ensure that when current contracts are re-commissioned they remain affordable, as there is no guarantee that the PH grant allocation will increase to cover cost increases.

Children and Families adverse variance of £3.5m

- 37 At the end of the last financial year the outturn for Children and Families was an overspend of £8.2m. The Medium-Term Financial Strategy included growth to address the pressures that were emerging throughout 2023/24. The costs of children's social care are a concern for many local authorities and not unique to Cheshire East.
- 38 The provisional outturn position for 2024/25 reflects a £3.5m in-year pressure. This is an improvement of £1.9m since the third financial review mainly due to: £0.7m drawdown from reserves to offset the costs relating to flexible capital receipts; £0.2m improved position on catering; £0.2m increase on transport; there was an increase £1.2m in Social Care Cost relating to support accommodation costs but other costs reduced by a similar amount across other placements; use of grants to reduce commissioning cost of children's contracts £0.2m; and reduced staffing cost due to vacancy management and use of grants in Education, Strong Start and Integration (£1.0m).
- 39 The key pressure areas for the directorate include:
- Children's social care placements (£3.4m adverse variance) where the complexity of children in care has continued to increase and the number of children in care has increased from 528 at April 2024 to 550 at March 2025 (compared to a decrease from 586 at April 2023 to 541 at March 2024). Placement costs are increasing by significantly more than inflation

and in-year growth is more than projected in the budget, particularly relating to supported accommodation costs.

- The use and cost of agency staff in children's social care to cover vacancies, sick absence, and maternity leave. The number of staff is greater than the planned establishment to ensure we are able to meet our statutory needs. A review of the staffing structure and establishment gap has been factored into the MTFs for 2025/26.
- Home to school transport costs (£0.5m adverse variance) – where a mix of increasing numbers of pupils with an education, health and care plan (EHCP), and increasing contract costs / direct payment costs.
- Schools Catering (£0.2m adverse variance) – where the costs of the service are above the current charged income level and base budget.

40 These in-year pressures were considered as part of the MTFs for 2025/26. These include:

- Reviewing costs of placements as more detailed reviews are underway focusing on the expected length that some placements may need to be in place for;
- Staffing establishment reviews now scheduled on a 6 weekly basis including a review of agency staff and alternative working;
- Reunification children to be identified with targeted work in place for individual cases;
- Tracking of similar spend across teams to be held in the same place as residential and supported accommodation spend to increase overall grip and understanding;
- Work on Edge of Care Service proposals to identify early intervention that may reduce admissions and costs.

41 Dedicated School Grant (DSG)

For details on DSG please see paragraph 66 below

Corporate Policy favourable variance of £2.2m

42 The Corporate Services Directorate has a net budget of £42.0m for 2024/25 and the final level of spending is £41.9m. Expenditure includes £3.8m on transformation that was not part of the original budget.

43 A number of adjustments have been processed to make an overall reduction to the level of expenditure. They are:

OFFICIAL

- Contributing to an Insurance Reserve (£0.3m).
- Contributing to an Elections Reserve (£0.3m).
- Creation of an ICT Reserve to assist with change in 2025/26 (£0.3m).
- Funding transformation spend from existing earmarked reserves (£3.1m).

44 As a result, the final outturn is an underspend of £2.2m. The main reasons for the underspend are as follows:

- Vacancy management ~ most services have contributed to a total underspend of £2.3m on staffing budgets from vacant posts, some of which are now filled. This has enabled the service to manage a £0.54m pressure from an MTFs savings target that could not be delivered.
- ICT underspend ~ ICT has delivered a £1.7m underspend. This is mainly due to the expenditure on contracts being lower than expected and a full review of pre-payments.
- Members allowances ~ the budget has underspent by £0.3m.
- Expenditure control ~ tighter control on non-pay spending across the Directorate has achieved savings in most services totalling £0.3m.
- Additional income ~ Registrations Service (£0.5m), Procurement (£0.1m), and Finance (£0.1m) along with additional grant, and court costs income in the Benefits Service (£0.2m).

45 However, these underspends have been offset by the following:

- Rent Allowances ~ under-recovery of £1.5m.
- Transactional Service Centre ~ overspend of £0.3m mainly due to the additional costs of the stabilisation programme which has been put in place to improve the performance of the service and recognises the need to change the way in which Unit4 is used.
- Unavoidable costs ~ External Audit costs, and Bank Charges in Finance of £0.4m.
- Income shortfalls ~ in Project Management Office, Internal Audit, and Legal Services totalling £0.5m.

46 At Third Finance Review (FR3), Corporate Services was forecast to overspend by £2.5m meaning the outturn has improved by £4.7m. The main reasons for such a major change are as follows:

- Transformation ~ forecast costs of £3.7m were included in the FR3 figures. At outturn £3.1m of these costs have been shown as funded from reserve reducing the outturn figure by a corresponding amount.
- ICT shift of £1.1m from contract spend review.
- Establishment Reset ~ after the production of FR3 figures, staffing budgets were re-aligned following an establishment review, and the impact of backdated pay award became much clearer meaning more accurate staffing forecasts were possible increasing the underspend at outturn by £0.5m.

Place Directorate total favourable variance of £8.6m.

- 47 Overall, the Place Directorate is reporting an underspend of 8.6m at outturn against a £92.2m budget. This represents a £3.7m improvement from FR3.
- 48 The key issues relate to holding vacancies with staffing - expenditure running 16% below budget totalling £5.9m, reduced utility costs of £2.3m and other net changes such as increased income of £0.6m. Previously reported pressures from planning income and waste etc have been managed.

Environment and Communities favourable variance of £1.5m

- 49 Environment and Neighbourhood Services is reporting an underspend of £1.5m against a net budget of £47.8m. This is a £1.9m improvement from FR3. The key reasons for the underspend are £1.6m underspend in the Planning Service comprising underspends in Development Management of £0.5m and Building Control of £0.4m, both mainly due to vacancies. Strategic Planning is £0.7m underspent due to £0.3m vacancies plus £0.3m delayed Local Plan costs. The overall improvement is £0.9m since FR3 due to Improved Planning application income £0.3m, vacancy management £0.4m and additional income/funding £0.1m.
- 50 Environmental Commissioning for ANSA has seen a £0.3m underspend from an increase on the surplus of the core contract, this is an improvement on FR3 of £0.3m. Environmental Commissioning Orbitas is also £0.3m underspent, this is from additional income, which is a £0.1m improvement on income since FR3. Carbon neutral is £0.1m underspent due to recharging staff time to capital schemes, Regulatory Services is a £0.4m underspend, this is £0.3m due to vacancies and £0.1m income, a £0.2m improvement from FR3. Libraries is £0.1m underspent mainly from vacancies and there has been a £0.9m overspend on Leisure Commissioning. This is due to non-delivery of MTFs savings and represents a £0.5m worsening since FR3, due to delayed closure of sites and historic MTFs items. Other services: £0.4m overspend mainly in relation to the HSE fine.

Economy and Growth favourable variance of £5.3m

- 51 The Growth and Enterprise Directorate and Place Directorate are reporting an underspend of £5.3m against a budget of £28.2m. This is £1.5m improvement from FR3.
- 52 The key reasons for the underspend are as follows:
- 53 Facilities Management is underspent by £1.8m, a £0.1m improvement from FR3 due to vacancies. There have been savings against gas and electricity compared to higher budgeted costs of £2.3m and an underspend on Business rates of £0.3m due to revaluations and appeals. Vacancy management, savings in supplies and additional income have contributed to the underspend by £0.7m. This has been offset by pressures against maintenance budgets of £0.6m; partial achievement of the office estate rationalisation savings target £0.3m, Disrepair claims which is a £0.3m pressure and Water and cleaning costs, a pressure of £0.2m.
- 54 Economic Development is £0.8m underspent, this is as a result of reduced cost of supplies £0.3m, increased income £0.3m and vacancy management £0.2m, this is a £0.2m improvement from FR3. The Housing outturn is £0.7m underspent, due to vacancies and some grant funding, this is a £0.1m improvement from FR3.
- 55 Tatton, Green infrastructure, Cultural Economy and Visitor Economy is £1m underspent, this is a £0.8m improvement from FR3 due to holding vacancies and increasing income.
- 56 The Assets service is underspent by £0.7m, £0.3m is due to vacancies, £0.3m from better income and £0.1m due to a reduction in maintenance spend. The £0.5m improvement from FR3 is mainly from additional income. Farms is underspent by £0.2 due to lower maintenance spend.

Highways and Transport favourable variance of £1.8m

- 57 Transport & Infrastructure is reporting an underspend of £1.8m against a net budget of £16.2m. This is an improvement of £1.3m since FR3.
- 58 The key reasons for the underspend are:
- Car Parking: £0.3m overspend, £0.4m vacancies are offset by reduced car park income £0.7m. This represents a £0.6m worsening since FR3 from reduced income.
 - Strategic Transport is a £1.2m underspend, largely due to vacancies, which represent a £1.1m improvement from FR3, there has also been a delay in new bus contracts taking effect.
 - An underspend of £0.8m across Ansa Transport commissioning, Infrastructure, Highways and Rail Transport Integration due to vacancies.

Finance Sub – Central items

59 Finance Sub Committee are reporting a variance of £7.4m, key variances relate to:

- Financing and Investment £1.1m net pressure reflecting £3.0m increased cost of interest payments on borrowing offset by £1.8m increased interest receipts from investments.
- (£0.2m) additional Flexible Capital Receipts above £1m budgeted.
- Reserves – transfers to / from of £10.6m (net) reflects the following:
 - +£1m reduction in available Capital Financing Reserve at outturn compared to forecast balance reflected in the February 2024 MTFS.
 - (£3.8)m use of the General Fund reserve forecast to fund transformation activities in services in year.
 - +£3.5m Transfer to Reserve as reflected in the 2025/26 MTFS (Forecast Reserves) to fund Transformation delivery in 2025/26.
 - +£5.3m Transfer to Reserve – as noted in paragraph 69 below
 - +£2.1m Transfer to General Fund – as noted in paragraph 69 below
 - +£2.5m new Earmarked Reserves
- As reported in the MTFS 2025/26 approved in February 2025, following a balance sheet review by our Treasury Advisors, Arlingclose Ltd, the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy has been revised and amended with effect from 1 April 2024, bringing it in closer alignment with CIPFA Guidance. The effect of this change has reduced the MRP charge to Revenue in 2024/25 by £3.4m, the ongoing improvement has been reflected in the MTFS/Budget for 2025/26.
- There is a further £1.88m positive variance as a result of in year balance sheet reviews against S106 balances/schemes and bad debt. The S106 Review identifying a one off contribution in year where work has been completed in prior years but has not been reflected in transferring money from S106 into the general fund, a reduction of £0.8m (£0.5m at FR3); £1.08m reduction in the bad debt provision following a review in year of the approach to Adult Social Care debts, further reviews are ongoing for Sundry Debts, the effects of which will be reflected in 2025/26 in year reporting.

Finance Sub – Exceptional Financial Support

60 Use of (£17.6m) Exceptional Financial Support – as reported at FR3, the Council proposed to utilise the full £17.6m conditional EFS in 2024/25 to cover the in year adverse overspend in order to protect and minimise the use

of reserves. The costs of accepting the EFS support will impact over the medium term. The financing of the use of EFS has been reflected in the MTFS/Budget for 2025/26 (see also para 27).

Companies

- 61 The Council’s wholly owned companies’ core contract expenditure was £43.7m in 2024/25, relating to services provided at cost for the Council. This position includes £1.1m of additional costs in year, relating to pay award pressures, Household waste recycling closure costs; offset by £1.2m in savings(including a £0.7m rebate on the Core contract), due to a reduction in inflation compared to budget and reduced tonnages against waste contracts, improvement in the recycling income, improvements against fuel spend, income, staffing vacancies, and other mitigations and efficiencies.
- 62 The net decrease in core contract costs is reflected in the Council’s outturn position, mainly against Environment & Communities Committee services, with a net reduction against Highways & Transport Committee functions. The companies rebated £0.7m management fee back to the Council, related to core contract underspend, reflected in the Council’s outturn position. In addition, in line with 2024/25 agreed policy proposals £1m of company reserves were returned to the Council as planned plus a further £0.5m agreed in year to assist with the Council’s in year position. Both amounts have been reflected in the out-turn position.
- 63 Ansa and Orbitas realised £0.334m in profits (after tax) from commercial activities.

Delivery of the 2024/25 approved budget change items

- 64 Table 6 presents a summary of the final progress on the delivery of the 2024/25 approved budget change items. For items rated as Amber these are for items where there are risks and/or mitigating actions in place. For items rated as red these are for items where services are reporting an adverse variance and there has been an in year non delivery/achievement. New mitigation items have also been included that have come forward since the approval of the MTFS to help the in-year position where identified.
- 65 The green and blue columns show that these budget change items are either delivered or even exceed in some cases. The table below summarises the final progress for the year by Committee.

Table 6: Summary of the final progress on the delivery of the 2024/25 approved budget change items

Committee	Approved Change Budget £m	Outturn £m	Completed £m	Green £m	Amber £m	Red £m	Mitigations £m
Adults & Health	+1.136	+18.707	-2.723	-10.955	-	+33.521	-1.136

Children & Families	+9.909	+13.375	+0.533	-1.001	+0.205	+15.431	-1.793
Corporate Policy	+0.489	-1.759	+0.193	-0.482	-	+1.581	-3.051
Economy & Growth	+3.316	-1.943	-0.061	+1.988	-0.836	+0.940	-3.974
Environment & Communities	-0.052	-1.587	+0.875	-2.012	-0.051	+2.397	-2.796
Finance Sub	-19.667	-12.277	-6.592	-22.583	+10.517	-	+6.381
Highways & Transport	+4.869	+3.084	+2.638	+0.707	+0.820	+0.351	-1.432
TOTAL	0	+17.600	-5.137	-34.338	-10.655	+54.221	-7.801

66 A complete list of all approved budget change items, with final progress noted against each item, can be found in **Annex 1, Section 2**.

Revenue Grants for Approval

67 Approvals for Supplementary Revenue Estimates for allocation of additional grant funding are detailed in **Annex 1, Section 3**.

Reserves Position

68 On 1 April 2024, Earmarked Reserves totalled £32.278m and the General Fund Reserve Balance totalled £5.580m. Of the total earmarked reserves, £13.7m has been transferred to the General Fund and £7m has been utilised to support the revenue budget for 2024/25. The General Fund reserves have been partially used to fund Transformation Costs of £3.8m and a contribution has been made to the revenue budget spend in year of £11.7m.

69 Table 7 shows the forecast level of Earmarked and General reserves at the end of 2024/25. This includes the creation of two new reserves :

- (i) an earmarked reserve to cover the one off costs of Transformation in 2025/26 and 2026/27 of **£5.3m** to help mitigate anticipated one off cost impacts of change.
- (ii) a Transfer to General Fund Reserves - **£2.5m** to increase financial resilience into 2025/26 and future years.

70 At outturn, some £2m of Earmarked reserves planned to be spent in 2024/25 have not been fully spent in year and therefore an additional slipped number of Earmarked reserves are being taken forward into 2024/25. There is planned spend in place for these earmarked reserves 2025/26.

71 New Earmarked reserve requests of £2.520m have been approved to fund some specific one-off items in 2025/26.

72 The Council outturn position is reporting £23.322m of earmarked reserves at the end of the financial year (MTFS Feb 2025 forecast £11.5m), of this £3.2m is considered ring-fenced, with special conditions limiting its use. The £11.8m change from the February 2025 forecast mainly reflects additional service requests of £2.6m, cost of transformation (£5.3m) and £3.9m lower than forecast planned use of reserves in year.

Table 7: General and Earmarked Reserves

Committee Reserves	Opening Balance 01 April 2024 £000	Transfers to General Fund £000	Drawdowns in year £000	Carry Forwards £000	New Requests Approved £000	Closing Balance Forecast 31 March 2025 £000
Adults and Health	5,226	(2,857)	9	(9)	835	3,204
Children and Families	1,724	0	(1,724)	0	456	456
Corporate Policy & Central	20,772	(9,276)	(3,878)	(50)	9,714	17,282
Economy and Growth	2,777	(1,008)	(866)	173	320	1,396
Environment and Communities	870	(390)	(328)	330	0	482
Highways and Transport	908	(205)	(215)	14	0	502
Earmarked Reserves Total	32,277	(13,736)	(7,002)	458	11,325	23,322
General Fund Reserve	5,580	2,082	(3,966)	139	2,473	6,308
Total Reserves	37,857	(11,654)	(10,968)	597	13,798	29,630

73 A full list of all earmarked reserves can be found in **Annex 1, Section 5**.

Dedicated Schools Grant Reserve

- 74 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 EHCPs, and the associated school placement costs.
- 75 This has placed pressure on the grant used to provide funding for children with SEND in various settings and led to a £31.7m deficit in 2023/24. This adds on to the brought forward deficit of £46.9m to take the DSG Reserve to a £78.6m deficit position at the end of 2023/24. This was an improvement on the budget gap as determined by the Council's DSG Management Plan that was reported to Children and Families Committee in April 2024 and set out the planned expenditure and income on high needs over the medium term. The gap has improved further during 2024/25 with an in-year deficit of £33.5m compared with £41.4m in the management plan. The overall deficit is £112.1m at the end of the year. Please note this includes an underspend on early years of £1.6m that is expected to be recouped in 2025/26.

Table 8 Dedicated Schools Grant

Dedicated Schools Grant Deficit	£m
Deficit Balance Brought forward	78.6
Additional In-year Pressures	33.5
Deficit Balance at 31 March 2025	112.1

Debt

- 76 Sundry debt includes all invoiced income due to the Council except for statutory taxes (Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates). The balance of outstanding debt at 31 March 2025 was £18.5m. This has increased by £1.6m since FR3 (end of November 2024).
- 77 Annually, the Council raises invoices with a total value of over £95m. Around 40% of the Council's overall sundry debt portfolio relates to charges for Adult Social Care, the remainder being spread across a range of functions including Highways, Property Services, Licensing and Building Control.
- 78 The Revenue Recovery team (using their experience gained in collecting Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates) engage with services to offer advice and assistance in all aspects of debt management, including facilitating access to debt collection services (currently provided by Bristow & Sutor).
- 79 The total amount of service debt over six months old is £11.9m; split as £10.5m of Adult Social Care debt and £1.4m of Sundry Debt. A provision of £6.1m was made at year ended 31 March 2025 to cover doubtful debt in the event that it needs to be written off. There has been an in year review of the Bad Debt provision which has to date focused on Adult Social Care debt. This has led to a reduction in the provision of £0.7m in the current year. Further work is planned for a review of debt across other service areas in 2025/26.
- 80 The level of Adult Social Care debt can fluctuate depending on when in the month the snapshot is taken, for example if it is before or after the Direct Debit income is received and allocated. The debt also has different levels of risk depending on the type of debt. For example, around £3.5m is linked to deferred arrangements which is debt that is secured on property or assets, and therefore carries a low risk. There is also around £9.4m of debt which is deemed to be lower risk as its linked to areas such as probate, property sales or deputyship.

- 81 The Highways position for outstanding debt is consistent throughout the year. The debt is generally made up of three elements: the movement of funds from Cheshire West and Chester Council and Warrington Borough Council in relation to the Cheshire Road Safety Group (these are settled quickly); third party claims for damage to the highway; and permit fees. The third party claims are often paid in instalments.
- 82 The previous outturn positions are:
- 31 March 2025 Outstanding debt £2.2m, over 6 months old £0.6m.
 - 31 March 2024 Outstanding debt £1.6m, over 6 months old £0.7m
- 83 The Council has robust processes in place to ensure that all outstanding debt is chased up (where commercially viable) and, where necessary, payment plans are put in place with advice from Legal Services.

Table 9 – Debt Summary as at 31 March 2025

DEBT SUMMARY as at 31st March 2025

	Outstanding Debt £000			Over 6 months old £000		
	FR3	Outturn	Increase / (Decrease)	FR3	Outturn	Increase / (Decrease)
Adults and Health Committee						
Adults, Public Health and Communities	14,170	22,614	8,444	9,325	10,556	1,230
Children and Families Committee						
Children's Social Care (Incl. Directorate)	189	500	311	1	1	(0)
Prevention and Early Help	51	157	107	(8)	(8)	1
Schools	17	20	2	3	1	(2)
Highways and Transport Committee						
Highways and Infrastructure	1,305	2,160	855	755	626	(129)
Economy and Growth Committee						
Growth and Enterprise	621	2,010	1,390	420	375	(45)
Environment and Communities Committee						
Environment and Neighbourhood Services	377	522	146	214	243	29
Corporate Policy Committee						
Finance and Customer Services	126	367	241	67	86	19
Governance and Compliance	0	46	46	-	0	0
Human Resources	-	94	94	-	-	-
ICT	3	1,573	1,570	2	0	(2)
Total	16,859	30,063	13,205	10,780	11,881	1,101

Council Tax and Business Rates

Council Tax

- 84 **Table 10** details each precepting authorities share of the budgeted collectable rates income.

Table 10 Share of Council Tax Collectable Rates	Band D Charge	Collectable Rates £m
Cheshire East Council	1,792.59	287.1
Town and Parish Councils	71.57	11.5
Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner	262.94	42.1
Cheshire Fire Authority	90.09	14.4
Total	2,217.19	355.1

- 85 The collectable rates valuation is based on the assumption that of the total amount billed, at least 99% will be collected. Table 11 demonstrates that, excluding a slight reduction during the Covid-19 pandemic, the target to collect at least 99% of Council Tax within three years continues to be achieved.

Table 11 Council Tax Collection Rates	2020/21 %	2021/22 %	2022/23 %	2023/24 %	2024/25 %
After 1 year	97.4	97.8	98.2	98.0	*97.8
After 2 years	98.6	98.5	98.8	98.6	**
After 3 years	98.9	99.0	99.1	**	**

** Data is not yet available.

- 86 After accounting adjustments, the Council Tax Collection Fund position at outturn was a £0.420m surplus for 2024/25, of which, £0.353m is attributable to Cheshire East Council. This is a £0.347m improvement to the declared surplus of £0.73m from January 2025 and will be held in the Collection Fund Adjustment Account until January 2026, when a revised declaration to take this final position into account can be made.

Non-Domestic Rates (NDR)

- 87 Collectable rates are distributed between Cheshire East Council (49%), Cheshire Fire Authority (1%), and Central Government (50%).
- 88 Non-domestic Rates valuations for 2024/25 were set out in the NNDR1 return to Central Government in January 2024. Any variance to this forecast is included in the following years' NNDR1 return and any gain or loss will be recovered in 2025/26. The total Net Rates Payable into the Collection Fund was forecast at £155.7m.
- 89 **Table 12** demonstrates that the target to collect at least 99% of Non-Domestic Rates within three years continues to be achieved.

Table 12 Non-Domestic Collection Rates	2020/21 %	2021/22 %	2022/23 %	2023/24 %	2024/25 %
After 1 year	92.4	95.6	98.2	97.7	97.9
After 2 years	97.4	98.3	98.8	99.0	**
After 3 years	99.0	99.2	99.4	**	**

** Data is not yet available.

- 90 After accounting adjustments, the Non-Domestic Rates Collection Fund is out-turning a final deficit of £2.288m for 2024/25, of which, £1.121m is attributable to Cheshire East Council. This deficit is £0.238m more than the declared deficit of £2.050m from January 2025 and will be held in the Collection Fund Adjustment Account until January 2026 when a revised declaration to take this final position into account can be made.

Treasury Management Strategy update

- 91 Treasury Management income for 2024/25 is £3.3m which is higher than the budgeted £1.9m. However, borrowing costs are also higher than budgeted at £18.9m compared to budget of £16.1m. The net additional financing costs (borrowing less investment interest) is therefore £1.4m in excess of that budgeted.
- 92 Interest rates have seen substantial rises over the last 3 years which has significantly increased the cost of borrowing. Borrowing costs have begun to fall and the expectation is that they will continue to fall although market uncertainty may impact on the timing of future reductions.
- 93 The cost of short-term borrowing from other local authorities has generally followed Base Rate over the year. However, liquidity in the market from October onwards caused rates to increase disproportionately compared to underlying Base Rates. The Councils application for Exceptional Financial Support also reduced the credit quality of the Council to some lenders which exacerbated the shortage of liquidity available. As a result some PWLB borrowing was undertaken with a mix of 1-2 year maturity loans and 2-3 year Equal Instalments of Principal (EIP) repayment loans. The average rate payable on these loans is 4.84%. This provides some surety of cost at lower rates than we could otherwise have achieved at the time and reduces over-reliance on short term borrowing. The relatively short period of these PWLB loans should provide opportunities to refinance at lower cost if rates fall in line with expectations.
- 94 The cost of short term borrowing in 2024/25 is 5.29% which is an increase from 4.82% in 2023/24. The average rate paid on all borrowing was 5.03%.

Investment Strategy

- 95 There have not been any material changes to the Investment Strategy since that reported at in the MTFFS for 2025/26 – 2028/29 in Feb 2025, see link [APPENDIX A MTFFS 2025-26 to 2028-29 FINAL](#). Annex 1, Section 7 to this report includes updates to the Investment Strategy indicators for 2024/25 out-turn where available.

Consultation and Engagement

- 96 The annual business planning process involves engagement with local people and organisations. Local authorities have a statutory duty to consult on their budget with certain stakeholder groups including the Schools Forum and businesses. In addition, the Council chooses to consult with other stakeholder groups. The Council continues to carry out stakeholder analysis to identify the different groups involved in the budget setting process, what information they need from us, the information we currently provide these groups with, and where we can improve our engagement process.
- 97 The Medium-Term Financial Strategy has been developed during 2024 and an online budget engagement survey was published on 19 December 2024.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 98 The recommendations in this report support the 'Reporting' element of the financial cycle.
- 99 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.
- 100 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.
- 101 Outturn reporting provides an opportunity to check performance and management of risks against the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. The four-year MTFFS is approved by Council, but risks were identified as part of this process which will require access to reserves and exceptional financial support. 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.

Other Options Considered

- 102 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 February 2026. 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.
- 103 General Reserves are used to manage risk, in accordance with the Reserves Strategy. In the Planning cycle for the 2026/27 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/Governance

- 104 The Finance Sub-Committee has responsibility for oversight of the Council's budget and treasury management responsibilities and therefore the recommendations fall within its remit. Its approval of the supplementary estimates and virements follows the Budget and Policy Framework Rules and it is recommended that each committee also approves them.²
- 105 The legal implications surrounding the process of setting the 2025 to 2029 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 2024/25.
- 106 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

- 107 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.
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- 108 The Council's Audit & Governance Committee is responsible for reviewing and analysing the Council's audited position at year-end. Final Group Accounts are due for approval by February 2026 following public scrutiny, external auditing, and any associated recommendations to the Committee.
- 109 The forecast outturn for 2024/25, as reported within the MTFs, was used to inform the budget setting process for 2025/26. Analysis of the final outturn helps to inform the Council of potential issues arising for the 2025/26 budget or highlights potential underlying issues that can be managed in future budget setting cycles.
- 110 At this stage further work is underway to identify whether the variations reported at outturn will form a significant risk to the 2025/26 budget.

Human Resources

- 111 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

- 112 Financial risks are assessed and reported on a regular basis, and remedial action taken if required. Risks associated with the achievement of the 2024/25 budget and the level of general reserves were factored into the financial scenario, budget, and reserves strategy.

Impact on other Committees

- 113 All Committees will receive this Outturn report.

Policy

- 114 This report is a backward look at Council activities during the final quarter.
- 115 The final outturn position, ongoing considerations for future years, and the impact on general reserves will be fed into the assumptions underpinning the 2026-30 Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

- 116 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.
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Consultation

Name of Consultee	Post held	Date sent	Date returned
Statutory Officer (or deputy):			
Adele Taylor	S151 Officer	12/05/2025	14/05/2025
Janet Witkowski	Acting Monitoring Officer	14/05/2025	22/05/2025
Legal and Finance			
Name	Job Title	n/a	n/a
Other Consultees:			
Executive Directors/Directors:			
CLT		07/05/2025	

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Sal Khan, Interim Head of Finance & Deputy Chief Finance Officer sal.khan@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Appendices:	Annex 1 – Final Outturn 2024/25 Annex 2 - Grants Register Annex 3 - Capital Programme
Background Papers:	Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024-28 First Financial Review 2024/25 Second Financial Review 2024/25 Third Financial Review 2024/25

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ANNEX 1



Outturn 2024/25

Results to end of March 2025

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Section 1: 2024/25 Final Outturn

1.1. Table 1 provides a service summary of financial performance. The final outturn position shows that services were £10.2m over budget 2024/25.

1.2. It also shows that central budgets were £7.4m above budget resulting in an overall outturn of £17.6m overspend against a net revenue budget of £364.5m.

Table 1 Outturn 2024/25	Revised Budget (NET)	Outturn	Variance	Forecast Variance FR3	Movement from FR3 to Outturn
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Service Committee					
Adults and Health	137.1	154.7	17.6	20.0	(2.4)
Children and Families	92.6	96.1	3.5	5.4	(1.9)
Corporate Policy	44.2	41.9	(2.2)	2.5	(4.7)
Economy and Growth	27.9	22.7	(5.3)	(3.8)	(1.5)
Environment and Communities	47.8	46.3	(1.5)	(0.6)	(0.9)
Highways and Transport	16.2	14.4	(1.8)	(0.5)	(1.3)
TOTAL SERVICE EXPENDITURE	365.8	376.0	10.2	22.9	(12.7)
Finance Sub:					
Central Budgets	25.0	32.4	7.4	(4.6)	12.0
Funding	(390.8)	(390.8)	(0.0)	-	(0.0)
TOTAL FINANCE SUB	(0.0)	17.6	17.6	18.3	(0.7)
Exceptional Financial Support	-	(17.6)	(17.6)	(17.6)	-
GRAND TOTAL	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	0.7	(0.7)

1.3. The outturn position reflects the following :

- Includes those savings that have been identified as non-achievable though the tracker on our High Level Business Cases (HLBC) with no/some alternative actions currently presented;
- A review of the on-going impacts of adverse variances identified in 2023/24;
- Any identified, emerging items of significance:
 - Within Adult Social Care, significant growth is forecast for care costs in line with position seen year to date, less mitigations linked to delivery of savings;
 - Includes the assumptions around additional revenue resources in Childrens Services to resource the draft improvement plan in relation to the recent OFSTED inspection;
- Impact of the confirmed increased 2024/25 pay award £1.6m (unfunded);

- Detailed review of any vacancy underspends in all areas;
- One-off items that have been identified so far through line by line reviews and/or identification of additional funding that has been announced since the MTFS was set.
- Mitigation activities delivered or forecast to be delivered by 31 March as reflected in paragraph 28 of the main covering report.
- Review of Section 106 legacy budgets, the effects of which are partly reflected in the FR3 forecast out-turn as a one off contributions to reserves work undertaken to date has identified an improvement (reduction) of the Council's bad debt provision of £1.0m,
- Changes to the MRP Policy following a Balance Sheet review through our Treasury Management advisors, Arlingclose Ltd, during 2024/25 reduced the in year charge to revenue by £3.4m.

1.4. Further items impacting on the level of the Council's balances are detailed in Section 5.

Section 2: 2024/25 Approved Budget Change Items

The following table provides detailed commentary on the outturn against the approved budget change items that were agreed as part of the budget agreed in February 2024. These are split by relevant committee.

MTFS Ref No	Detailed List of Approved Budget Changes – Service Budgets	2024/25 MTFS £m	2024/25 Final Outturn £m	2024/25 Outturn Variance £m	Final Progress 2024/25 (RAG rating and commentary)
	Adults and Health Committee	+1.136	+18.707	+17.571	
1	Fees and Charges	-1.800	-1.800	0	Green – see below
2	Client Contributions	-0.800	-6.122	-5.322	Green - £5.322m surplus vs client contribution in 2024/25. This is in addition to achieving the budgeted increase for Fees and Charges & Client Contribution increase in-year (£2.6m)
3	Working Age Adults - Prevent, Reduce, Delay	-1.467	-1.467	0	Green – Delivered
4	Older People – Prevent, Reduce, Delay	-1.566	-1.566	0	Green - Delivered
5	Market Sustainability and Workforce grant	-1.100	-1.100	0	Completed
6	Revenue grants for Adult Social Care	-2.480	-2.480	0	Completed
7	Pension Costs Adjustment	-0.493	-0.493	0	Completed
8	Investment in Adult Social Care	+7.600	+31.417	+23.817	Red – MTFS growth for Care Costs not sufficient to cover the pressure seen in 2023/24 plus the expected growth in 2024/25. Mitigations to reduce pressure reported separately.
9	Pay Inflation	+1.892	+2.104	+0.212	Red – Actual cost of NJC Pay increase in 2024/25 exceeded budget growth in the 2024/25 MTFS.
10	Resettlement Revenue Grants – reversal of 2023/24 use	+0.850*	+0.850*	0	Completed
11	Adult Social Care Transformation Earmarked Reserve Release – reversal of 2023/24 use	+0.500*	+0.500*	0	Completed
12	Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care – Removal of Grant Income	-	-	-	Completed - Now a 2025/26 Item
13	Asset Management	TBC	TBC	-	Green - The business case for future usage of the site will be revisited and taken through the appropriate CEC

MTFS Ref No	Detailed List of Approved Budget Changes – Service Budgets	2024/25 MTFS £m	2024/25 Final Outturn £m	2024/25 Outturn Variance £m	Final Progress 2024/25 (RAG rating and commentary)
					governance procedures. The model of care in relation to high-cost adult social care and health provisions will be part of this work.
14	Investigate potential agency creation	TBC	TBC	-	Green - This proposal has been consistently delivered in relation to the usage of a Care Workers agency in all but name. Care4CE, the Council's in house care provider, has been utilising workers, both casual and agency, as a bank of workers for several years to successfully deliver operational requirements.
In year	Other variances to reconcile to 2024/25 Outturn position	0	+1.688	+1.688	
In year	Mitigations reducing the Outturn reported position	0	-2.824	-2.824	

** Item represented a one-off spend in 2023/24. As it is not a permanent part of the budget, the value of the proposal is reversed in 2024/25.*

MTFS Ref No	Detailed List of Approved Budget Changes – Service Budgets (some of the budget change items have been separated out since the publication of the MTFS)	2024/25 MTFS £m	2024/25 Final Outturn £m	2024/25 Outturn Variance £m	Final Progress 2024/25 (RAG rating and commentary)
	Children and Families Committee	+9.909	+13.375	+3.466	
15	Discretionary offer to children with disabilities	-0.900	-0.979	-0.079	Green - On Track, project team progressing multiple improvements to redesign the service offer, ensuring consistency and efficiency.
16	Remove school catering subsidy	-0.516	-0.282	+0.234	Red – Catering service ended on 31 March. A rate uplift applied from September 2024 in order to cover the costs of the service through to the end of March 2025. Some schools managed their own arrangements before the end of the financial year, impacting on the savings target.
17	Review of structure to further integrate children and families services	-1.000	-0.200	+0.800	Red - Delivery Planning in progress to address saving. Including: further Establishment review, service redesign, cross directorate risk management.
18	Reduce discretionary Post-16 Travel Support	-0.400	-0.367	+0.033	Red - Agreed by Committee
19	Achieve the Family Hub model	-0.250	-0.250	0	Green - Committee approved new model of delivery in Nov Committee. Savings are not going to be delivered in 2024/25 therefore alternative saving being found to cover this.
20a	Other Service Reviews – Review of commissioned services across the C&F directorate. Review of the current Domestic Abuse Service	-0.100	-0.100	0	Completed – Grant income.
20b	Other Service Reviews – Maximise grant allocation to cover all costs	-0.100	0	+0.100	Red - Plan to explore current / future grants to ensure where T&Cs allow, contribution to fund base costs (e.g. staffing and on costs) is maximised.
20c	Other Service Reviews – Traded services	-0.050	+0.010	+0.060	Red - Part delivered. One off savings in other service areas cover the remainder.
21a	Reduce Growth in expenditure – review of high cost, low outcome external residential placements	-1.000	-1.000	0	Red - Whilst work has been taking place to open CE Children's Homes and our first open is now open, with our second due in spring, our collaboration with Foster4 working well to increase our foster carers, we still are seeing more children coming into care. There is also increasing instability with the residential market, driving up prices. Complex young people need high packages of support, which are extremely expensive. We are due to review all

MTFS Ref No	Detailed List of Approved Budget Changes – Service Budgets (some of the budget change items have been separated out since the publication of the MTFS)	2024/25 MTFS £m	2024/25 Final Outturn £m	2024/25 Outturn Variance £m	Final Progress 2024/25 (RAG rating and commentary)
					high cost placements and other placements to identify children for whom reunification to family would be appropriate. Processes are also in place by the Head of Provider Services to review costs being paid to providers. Merged overspend on ref. 30.
21b	Reduce Growth in expenditure – increase commissioning approach to establish greater opportunities to provide accommodation for +16 young people	-0.400	+1.561	+1.961	Red - 16+ and 18+ Commissioning Plans / Market Shaping in Progress. Responding to increasing demand and complexity.
21c	Reduce Growth in expenditure – Foster Care	-0.250	-0.250	0	Green - A Delivery Plan to increase Foster Care provision.
21d	Reduce Growth in expenditure – reduced spend on expert assessment in court proceedings and services post public law proceedings	-0.250	-0.527	-0.277	Green - Task & Finish Group put in place to explore and develop processes and capacity to reduce costly legal proceedings.
22	Pension Costs Adjustment	-0.515	-0.432	+0.083	Red - Teacher's pension legacy costs are not reducing as anticipated. Completed - CEC pension reduction.
23	Growth to deliver statutory Youth Justice service, and growth to ensure budget is sufficient to meet Safeguarding Partnership duties	+0.170	+0.205	+0.035	Amber - It is incumbent upon the three statutory safeguarding partners, the police, health and the Local Authority, to ensure that adequate funding is allocated to the Children's Safeguarding Partnership so it can fulfil its statutory functions in delivering the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. An internal audit identified the Local Authority had not reviewed its contributions to the partnership and was insufficiently contributing to the delivery of the partnership arrangements. As a result, growth was approved by committee. This has been supported by an increase in contributions from all partner agencies. A vacancy has also been held in the business unit.
24	Growth to provide capacity to deliver transformation for SEND	+0.500	+0.235	-0.265	Green.
25	Wraparound Childcare Programme (funded)	+0.587	+0.587	0	Amber - Currently reviewing sufficiency and funding details to manage delivery within budget.

MTFS Ref No	Detailed List of Approved Budget Changes – Service Budgets (some of the budget change items have been separated out since the publication of the MTFS)	2024/25 MTFS £m	2024/25 Final Outturn £m	2024/25 Outturn Variance £m	Final Progress 2024/25 (RAG rating and commentary)
25	Wraparound Childcare Programme (funded)	-0.587	-0.587	0	Amber - Currently reviewing sufficiency and funding details to manage delivery within budget.
26	Legal Proceeding - Child Protection	+0.770	+0.770	0	Green.
27	Growth in School Transport budget	+0.936	+1.359	+0.423	Red.
28	Pay Inflation	+1.374	+1.915	+0.541	Red - NJC Pay Claim now approved - over spend against budget as a result of £1,290/2.5% increase. Increase compared to flat percentage budget increase of 3% within original MTFS.
29	Use of Children & Families Transformation Reserve – reversal of 2023/24 use	+1.065*	+1.065*	0	Completed.
30	Growth in Childrens Placement costs	+10.825	+12.435	+1.610	Red - Closely monitored throughout the year to ensure that funding is sufficient to meet demand and complexity.
31	Revenue costs for the Crewe Youth Zone (as above) aligned to Supporting Families Funding	-	-	-	Green.
31	Early Help budget to support funding towards the Crewe Youth Zone	-	-	-	Green.
32	SEND Capital Modification	TBC	TBC	-	Amber - Contingent upon wider asset management and associated timelines. Extensive work underway to plan and progress development opportunities. Captured as part of the Capital Program reported to Committee.
33	Childrens Social Work Bank	TBC	TBC	-	Red - Various options currently being explored as part of wider C&F Establishment review and potential peripatetic resource options.
34	Safe Walking Routes to School	TBC	TBC	-	Green - Features as part of School Transport Programme.
35	Withdrawal of the CEC School Meals Service	TBC	TBC	-	Green - Features as part of School Catering subsidy project - CF2428-16.
In year	Outturn variance Education, Strong Start and Integration	0	-1.951	-1.951	Underspend relates to vacancy management, reduced spend, use of grants and income generation across services.
In year	Outturn variance Children and Families Directorate	0	+0.292	+0.292	Overspend relates to external Quality Assurance Agency costs and cost of establishment.

MTFS Ref No	Detailed List of Approved Budget Changes – Service Budgets (some of the budget change items have been separated out since the publication of the MTFS)	2024/25 MTFS £m	2024/25 Final Outturn £m	2024/25 Outturn Variance £m	Final Progress 2024/25 (RAG rating and commentary)
In year	Outturn variance Children's Social Care	0	+0.006	+0.006	Overspend relating to staffing costs offset by flexible capital receipts.
In year	Outturn variance Quality Assurance, Commissioning and Partnerships	0	-0.140	-0.140	Underspend relates to additional income.

** Item represented a one-off spend in 2023/24. As it is not a permanent part of the budget, the value of the proposal is reversed in 2024/25.*

MTFS Ref No	Detailed List of Approved Budget Changes – Service Budgets (some of the budget change items have been separated out since the publication of the MTFS)	2024/25 MTFS £m	2024/25 Final Outturn £m	2024/25 Outturn Variance £m	Final Progress 2024/25 (RAG rating and commentary)
	Corporate Policy Committee	+0.489	-1.759	-2.248	
36	Reduce leadership and management costs	-0.540	-	+0.540	Red - The feedback from the DMA review is that senior management vacancies will require recruitment to in order to complete the complement of Corporate Managers. In year vacancy savings will continue but will be time limited. There is potential to increase costs by additional management support during transformation. This will result in increased budget pressure. This pressure is being mitigated through the four in-year items at the end of this table. Most of those will be permanent and used to deliver this saving.
37	Close the Emergency Assistance Scheme	-0.220	-0.220	0	Completed
38	Reduce election costs and increase charges where possible	-0.150	-0.150	0	Green - The proposal is to make a payment during 2024/25 of £70k-£80k from the existing election account, as part of this one-off saving. The remainder will be delivered by reducing the sum which would normally be paid into the election reserve. This might be mitigated in the year of the next local elections by monies which will be raised by charging town and parish councils for their elections in 2027. However, this will not be sufficient and will be likely to lead to the need for a supplementary estimate.
39a	Accelerate Digital Transformation (ICT Operational efficiencies)	-0.100	-0.100	0	Green – third party costs have been reduced and there are plans to reduce further during the year.
39b	Accelerate Digital (Digital efficiencies)	-0.150	-0.150	0	Green – Removal of temporary budget for Solutions Architect Resource, now covered by an Earmarked Reserve.
40	Enforce prompt debt recovery and increase charges for costs	-0.150	-0.150	0	Completed - The award of costs is a matter for the Magistrates at each court hearing. However, only by exception will they vary from the level already agreed by us with the Court Manager. The approach to the Court Manager has been made and the revised level agreed. The action is therefore complete, but the financial benefits will accrue as we continue

MTFS Ref No	Detailed List of Approved Budget Changes – Service Budgets (some of the budget change items have been separated out since the publication of the MTFS)	2024/25 MTFS £m	2024/25 Final Outturn £m	2024/25 Outturn Variance £m	Final Progress 2024/25 (RAG rating and commentary)
					the regular recovery process during the year.
41a	Other efficiencies and reductions across Corporate Services – School Subsidy (ICT)	-0.032	-0.032	-0.000	Green. ICT will not be offering services to schools in the 2025/26 academic year.
41b	Other efficiencies and reductions across Corporate Services – Organisational Development	-0.100	-0.100	0	Completed
41c	Other efficiencies and reductions across Corporate Services – Registration Services	-0.050	-0.050	0	Green
41d	Other efficiencies and reductions across Corporate Services – School Subsidy	-0.018	0	+0.018	Amber - Part of the £50k School Subsidy saving - Finance team to assist in identifying options. These are listed at the end of the table.
41e	Other efficiencies and reductions across Corporate Services	-0.010	0	+0.010	Amber - Finance team to assist in identifying options. These are listed at the end of the table.
41f	Other efficiencies and reductions across Corporate Services – Printing	-0.050	0	+0.050	Amber - Finance team to assist in identifying options. These are listed at the end of the table.
41g	Other efficiencies and reductions across Corporate Services – Hybrid working / mileage	-0.050	0	+0.050	Amber – Options being considered regarding reduced travel spend including ensuring efficient planning around meeting attendance and minimising unnecessary movements across the area. This maximises efficient use of time as well for teams.
42	Pension Costs Adjustment	-0.378	-0.378	0	Completed
43	Mitigation of reduction in the Dedicated Schools Grant	+0.136	+0.136	0	Completed
44	Pay Inflation	+1.446	+1.581	+0.135	Red - NJC Pay Claim now approved - over spend against budget as a result of £1,290/2.5% increase. Increase compared to flat percentage budget increase of 3% within original MTFS.
45	Legal Services Capacity	+0.455	+0.455	0	Completed
46	ICT Review 1	+0.450	+0.450	0	Completed - The move to Software as a Service has necessitated the transfer from Capital to Revenue budget requirements. The Shared Service continues to reduce third party costs and agency spend as per the Business case.

MTFS Ref No	Detailed List of Approved Budget Changes – Service Budgets (some of the budget change items have been separated out since the publication of the MTFS)	2024/25 MTFS £m	2024/25 Final Outturn £m	2024/25 Outturn Variance £m	Final Progress 2024/25 (RAG rating and commentary)
47	Workforce Strategy Review	TBC	-	-	Completed - There are no savings attributed to this area in 2024/2025. Opportunities to explore workforce options are being considered alongside transformation work. Any savings are likely to be realised in 2025/26 at the earliest. It is recommended that this item is removed from the list.
In year	Recognising the increased level of Registration service income of £350k.	0	-0.350	-0.350	This will be a permanent change to deliver the Red ranked items above.
In year	Recognising the receipt of £45k of Police and Crime Commissioner grant income.	0	-0.045	-0.045	This will be a permanent change to deliver the Red / Amber ranked items above.
In year	Taking the underspend on phones in corporate services (mobiles and rental) compared to budget.	0	-0.060	-0.060	This will be a permanent change to deliver the Red / Amber ranked items above.
In year	Adjustment required to balance to Outturn position of -£2,249k for corporate including ICT.	0	-2.496	-2.496	This figure is a mix of permanent and temporary items to assist the in-year position.
In-year	Reduce Members Allowances budget for excess budget relating to a pay award that was not taken	0	-0.100	-0.100	This will be a permanent change to deliver the Red / Amber ranked items above.

MTFS Ref No	Detailed List of Approved Budget Changes – Service Budgets	2024/25 MTFS £m	2024/25 Final Outturn £m	2024/25 Outturn Variance £m	Final Progress 2024/25 (RAG rating and commentary)
	Economy and Growth Committee	+3.316	-1.943	-5.259	
49	Service Restructures within Place based Services	-0.787	-0.368	+0.419	Amber – achievement through permanent savings remains challenging without a full restructure. Mitigation is through offset of underspend 'in year' and proposals are to be considered to offset permanently.
50	Reduce opening hours for main offices	-0.050	-0.050	0	Completed
51	Office estate rationalisation	-0.550	-0.440	+0.110	Amber - due to the timeline for the transfer of buildings being extended. This item is being mitigated by in year savings and by the items at the end of the table which are a mix of permanent and temporary measures.
52	Tatton Park	-0.046	-0.046	0	Amber - Savings can be achieved through investment in the Tatton Vision Programme. To date this programme has achieved cumulative MTFS savings of £624k. Amber rating reflects the fact that the Tatton Vision capital programme was under review and so progress delayed.
53	Transfer of Congleton Visitor Information Centre	-0.020	-0.020	0	Green - Transfer of Congleton VIC to the Town Council has already occurred.
54	Pension costs adjustment	-0.157	-0.157	0	Completed
55	Tatton Park ticketing and electronic point of sale (EPOS) upgrade	+0.005	+0.005	0	Green - A procurement process is currently underway to source a supplier who can ensure onsite and web-based delivery of a new system which aligns with present and future needs. Improved functionality should enable future savings delivery.
56c	West Park collection	+0.012	+0.012	0	Green - Cost for vital conservation and storage of West Park Museum collections and ongoing temporary storage requirements.
56d	CEC archives	+0.008	0	-0.008	Amber - Timescales for implementation of the Archives capital project have slipped due to grant funding decisions, with revised opening date of Spring 2026.
57	Property Information and Management System - Estates – Revenue Adjustment	+0.030	+0.031	+0.001	Completed
58	Housing	+0.035	+0.035	0	Green - Consultation on the Housing Restructure commenced 22 May and

MTFS Ref No	Detailed List of Approved Budget Changes – Service Budgets	2024/25 MTFS £m	2024/25 Final Outturn £m	2024/25 Outturn Variance £m	Final Progress 2024/25 (RAG rating and commentary)
					includes the post that the funding is attributed to. The new structure was implemented on 1 August 2024.
59	Environmental Hub Waste Transfer Station	+0.040	+0.040	0	Green - Project on track delivery Q1/2. The replacement of bay 1 in the Councils Environmental Hub Residual Waste Transfer Station building with a new design more likely to provide long-term resilience to wear and tear, to enable the continuation of waste processing at the transfer station.
60	Rural and Visitor Economy	+0.045	+0.045	0	Green - Additional revenue support is required to cover the increase in electricity charges for the Rural and Culture Economy Service to maintain existing service provision at Tatton Park and Countryside sites.
61	Minimum energy efficiency standards (MEES) - Estates - Revenue Adjustment	+0.079	+0.018	-0.061	Amber – Prioritised negotiations with 3rd parties/tenants occupying premises being expedited to avoid delays on obtaining access for surveys, completing necessary improvement works and legally completing lease renewals.
62	Public Rights of Way Income Realignment	+0.115	+0.115	0	Completed. Adjustments made to budget forecasts 2024/25
63	Pay inflation	+0.788	+0.940	+0.152	Red - NJC Pay Claim now approved - over spend against budget as a result of £1,290/2.5% increase. Increase compared to flat percentage budget increase of 3% within original MTFS. This item is being mitigated by the items at the end of the table which are a mix of permanent and temporary measures.
64	Crewe town centre maintenance and operation	+0.650	+0.579	-0.071	Green – Delays in completing some projects in 2024-25. Expenditure is expected in 2025-26
65	Assets - Buildings and Operational	+3.119	+1.292	-1.827	Green - Growth for Energy was not fully utilised as it was calculated when energy markets prices were incredibly high, together with significant increased inflation– the market has subdued since then and prices have stabilised, this has been adjusted for in 25/26. There were also some credits received in year due to over performance on Energy contracts. Business rates remain a challenge to predict due to revaluation, appeals and complex transitional relief calculations, this along with some one-off rebates meant there was an underspend in this area.

MTFS Ref No	Detailed List of Approved Budget Changes – Service Budgets	2024/25 MTFS £m	2024/25 Final Outturn £m	2024/25 Outturn Variance £m	Final Progress 2024/25 (RAG rating and commentary)
					The growth increase provided for revenue maintenance has enabled existing budgets to offset the inflation factors that were applied to the contract prices, and this was fully utilised with a pressure at yearend
66	Landfill Site Assessments revenue adjustment - Estates – CE Owned Landfill sites (53 sites) Review and Risk Assessment completions	-	-	-	Amber - £10k cost growth in for 25/26. Second stage of the review to commence shortly. Internal capacity within Environmental Services to be identified.
67	Tatton Park Estate Dwellings Refurbishment	-	-	-	Completed - Provision for response maintenance issues for 8 onsite dwellings to ensure properties meet standards required as part of tenancy agreements and the National Trust lease.
68	Improving Crewe Rented Housing Standards	-	-	-	Green
In year	Growth & Enterprise 2024/25 mitigations to balance back to outturn position	0	-3.305	-3.305	
In year	Place Directorate 2024/25 mitigations to balance back to outturn position	0	-0.669	-0.669	

MTFS Ref No	Detailed List of Approved Budget Changes – Service Budgets	2024/25 MTFS £m	2024/25 Final Outturn £m	2024/25 Outturn Variance £m	Final Progress 2024/25 (RAG rating and commentary)
	Environment and Communities Committee	-0.052	-1.587	-1.535	
69	Refresh wholly owned company overheads and contributions	-1.000	-1.500	-0.500	Green - ASDV Review recommendations have now been approved in full by Finance Sub-Committee in their role as shareholder of the wholly owned companies. The process of insourcing these services is largely completed which has released the reserves in year to meet this one-off contribution.
70	Strategic Leisure Review (Stage 2)	-1.305	-0.526	+0.779	Amber - Initial savings secured via committee decision on 11th March 2024. Proposals are being developed with EHL and town and parish councils to secure the residual £250k amount (£56k of this achieved through removal of car park refunds) - dialogue is ongoing. Delays to disposing of Middlewich and Holmes Chapel Leisure Centres in year are having a negative impact on savings position. Covid insurance contribution from EHL not secured.
71	Mitigate the impact of contract inflation and tonnage growth	-0.490	-0.490	0	Completed - Mitigate the impact of contract inflation and tonnage growth.
72	Emergency reduction of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) to four core sites	-0.263	-0.200	+0.063	Amber - Full saving on basis of original HLBC was not achieved due to introduction of mobile provision offer as a result of Full Council decision and costs associated with trial of booking system.
73	Libraries Strategy	-0.365	-0.138	+0.227	Green - Committee approval to implement final Strategy secured on 27th November, revised opening hours at Tier 3 sites went live from January 2025 and Tier 2 sites as of 1st April 2025. Staffing levels yet to be reduced with staff consultations due to be launched in 2025-26 relating to restructure of service. Engagement with Town and Parish Councils undertaken to shape the Strategy proposals and seek funding contributions, due to a delay with legal agreements only Bollington was secured for 2024-25. Progress has been made with preparing legal agreements for 2025-26. As part of funding libraries in a

MTFS Ref No	Detailed List of Approved Budget Changes – Service Budgets	2024/25 MTFS £m	2024/25 Final Outturn £m	2024/25 Outturn Variance £m	Final Progress 2024/25 (RAG rating and commentary)
					different way, libraries have increased income from meeting room hire and fees/charges
74	Reduce costs of street cleansing operations	-0.200	-0.200	0	Green - Value of saving now reduced from ANSA Management Fee for 2024/25, fully achieved in 24-25 due to removal of any vacancies and under-utilised fleet.
75	Reduce revenue impact of carbon reduction capital schemes	-0.336	0	+0.336	Amber – Carbon Neutral Council target deferred from 2025 to 27, as agreed at Full Council on 27.02.24, large scale prudential borrowing funded schemes spend now reprofiled to suit, however budget not sat within E&C Committee. Discussion with Corporate Financing team to re-allocate. This item is being partly mitigated by the item at the end of the table which is a mix of permanent and temporary measures.
76	Increase Garden Waste charges to recover costs	-0.045	-0.045	0	Green – Increase Garden Waste charges for the calendar year 2025 to recover costs
77	MTFS 80 (Feb 23) – Waste Disposal – Contract Inflation and Tonnage Growth (updated forecast)	+3.577	+3.577	0	Green – rating due to fluctuations in waste markets relating to recyclates and continued levels of inflation, outside CEC control and not aligned to projections. Outturn 24-25 witnessed a reduction in inflationary costs and an improved basket of goods rate that fully mitigated the pressure identified mid-year.
78	Pay Inflation – CEC & ASDV	+1.861	+2.397	+0.536	Red - NJC Pay Claim now approved - over spend against budget as a result of £1,290/2.5% increase. Increase compared to flat percentage budget increase of 3% within original MTFS. This item is being partly mitigated by the item at the end of the table which is a mix of permanent and temporary measures.
79	Pension Costs Adjustment	-0.151	-0.151	0	Completed
80	MTFS 90 (Feb 23) Strategic Leisure Review	+1.250	+1.250	0	Completed - Growth item budget adjustment only - replacing 2023/24 £1.3m savings target.
81	MTFS 91 (Feb 23) – Green Spaces Maintenance Review	-0.200	-0.200	0	Green - Year 2 saving - Policy now implemented and full saving secured from ANSA contract.
82	MTFS 92 (Feb 23) - Review Waste Collection Service - Green Waste	-3.150	-3.150	0	Green - Subscription levels in line with original business model.

MTFS Ref No	Detailed List of Approved Budget Changes – Service Budgets	2024/25 MTFS £m	2024/25 Final Outturn £m	2024/25 Outturn Variance £m	Final Progress 2024/25 (RAG rating and commentary)
83	Review MTFS 92 (Feb 23) Garden waste subscription financial model in line with latest subscription levels and with actual observed position on any waste migration	-0.429	-0.429	0	Green – 24-25 outturn fully achieved the MTFS target, there will need to be continued monitoring of subscription levels and any adverse impacts is already in place in 25-26.
84	MTFS 93 (Feb 23) Libraries - Service Review	-0.200	-0.200	0	Amber - Year 2 of Service Review - reduction in staffing levels have been implemented and now include vacancy management in year to ensure achievement of saving. Currently covered temporarily by vacancy savings
85	Explore a Trust delivery model for Libraries and other services	+0.150	+0.003	-0.147	Green - Growth item to cover one off costs relating to implementation of alternative delivery model(s) for libraries service. Aligned to development of Libraries Strategy.
86	CCTV – Service Efficiencies	-0.030	-0.030	0	Green – Ongoing actions to increase customer base for existing services, identification of new chargeable services/customers and service efficiency savings as well as increased fees and charges to meet the target.
87	Congleton Town Council Collaboration Agreement – Grounds Maintenance	-0.062	-0.062	0	Completed - Congleton Town Council Collaboration Agreement on Grounds Maintenance Cheshire East Contribution reduced in line with reductions in Cheshire East Maintained green space.
88	Closed Cemeteries	+0.005	+0.005	0	Completed - Inflationary adjustment to previous budget allocation only.
89	Environmental Hub maintenance	+0.023	+0.023	0	Completed - Inflationary adjustment to previous budget allocation only.
90	Review Closed Landfill Sites	+0.300*	+0.300*	0	Completed - The Council has responsibility for a number of closed landfill sites across the borough for which it holds a provision.
91	Land Charge Income Adjustment	+0.050	+0.067	+0.017	Amber - Uncertainty around implementation timescales of HMLR changes to centralise some aspects of land charges functions hence understanding of actual impact, to be regularly monitored.
92	Building Control Income Alignment	+0.203	+0.286	+0.083	Amber - Due to current national trend of downturn in planning and related building control income. To be monitored through more regular financial forecasting in service. Reforms to national planning policy recently consulted upon may have a positive impact on this position moving forward due to uplift in both volume and pace of developments coming forward. To be

MTFS Ref No	Detailed List of Approved Budget Changes – Service Budgets	2024/25 MTFS £m	2024/25 Final Outturn £m	2024/25 Outturn Variance £m	Final Progress 2024/25 (RAG rating and commentary)
					considered in due course following Govt announcement.
93	Local Plan Review	+0.255	0	-0.255	Amber - Reprofiled budget adjustment to provide additional funding towards development of new Local Plan
94	Planning income	+0.400	+0.522	+0.122	Amber – Forecast reduced income in year due to current national trend of downturn in planning applications and hence income. Proactively monitored through regular financial forecasting in service. Partially mitigated by continued high level of vacancies and the item at the end of the table. Recent national planning policy forms announced by Govt which were recently subject to a consultation process may help to alleviate the income position, but will require vacancies to be filled to cater for the likely increase in applications. To be considered as and when further announcement made.
95	Planning Service Restructure	-	-	-	Green - No action for 2024/25. Growth for 2025/26 to be kept under review.
96	Review of Household Waste Recycling Centres	+0.100	+0.100	0	Green – completed on time following decision at Environment and Communities Committee on 26 September 2024 to proceed with preferred option and finalisation of new operating contract procurement process.
In year	Environment & Neighbourhood Services mitigations 2024/25 to balance back to outturn position	0	-2.796	-2.796	

* Item represented a one-off saving in 2023/24. As it is not a permanent part of the budget, the value of the proposal is reversed in 2024/25.

MTFS Ref No	Detailed List of Approved Budget Changes – Service Budgets	2024/25 MTFS £m	2024/25 Final Outturn £m	2024/25 Outturn Variance £m	Final Progress 2024/25 (RAG rating and commentary)
	Highways and Transport Committee	+4.869	+3.084	-1.785	
97	Highway maintenance savings	-0.750	-0.750	0	Green - Savings are being achieved through: - reducing the number of cuts on grass verges from 10 to 8; - directly employing staff to carry out surveys, rather than sub-contracting; - reductions in staffing and vacancy management; and - reliance on the Council's adverse weather reserve for snow clearance. Service budgets have been reduced to reflect the savings being made.
98	Introduce annual increases to car parking charges	-0.150	-0.150	0	Green - Annual inflation adjustment to existing P&D tariffs can be implemented by 1st July 2024, in advance of bringing charges into effect in the "free towns". This is 3 months earlier than planned.
99	Pension Costs Adjustment	-0.052	-0.052	0	Completed
100	Highways	-0.031	-0.031	0	Completed - This saving was delivered by changes to response times to defects in 2023/24.
101	Safe Haven outside schools (Parking)	-0.023	0	0.023	Red - Introduction of CCTV camera enforcement of waiting/loading restrictions at school gates on a trial basis using bespoke equipment that is type approved and proven for these purposes in order to improve road safety and increase enforcement capacity at these high risk locations.
102	Transport and Infrastructure Strategy Team - Restructure	+0.120	0	-0.120	Amber - Vacancies in existing structure provide some flexibilities of resourcing. Business case for a recruitment plan has been developed setting out the opportunity to reduce costs of outsourcing / agency staffing. This will be taken forward in 2025/26.
103	Pay Inflation	+0.339	+0.351	+0.012	Red - NJC Pay Claim now approved - over spend against budget as a result of £1,290/2.5% increase. Increase compared to flat percentage budget increase of 3% within original MTFS. This item is being mitigated by the item at the end of the table which is a mix of permanent and temporary measures.
104	Parking - PDA / Back Office System contract	+0.100	+0.048	-0.052	Green - Market testing completed - exploring a direct award opportunity with implementation testing and data migration. System to be implemented in 2025-26
105	Flood and Water Management Act 2010	+0.100	+0.100	0	Green - The requirement is to be ready to implement changes when regulations are implemented nationally.

MTFS Ref No	Detailed List of Approved Budget Changes – Service Budgets	2024/25 MTFS £m	2024/25 Final Outturn £m	2024/25 Outturn Variance £m	Final Progress 2024/25 (RAG rating and commentary)
	SuDS & SABs Schedule 3 Implementation				A training plan for existing staff has been identified. Recruitment is to be progressed.
106	Energy saving measures from streetlights	+0.242	+0.242	0	Completed - This entry was in the MTFS to cancel an unachievable saving from 2022/23. There is no further action.
107	Parking	+0.245	+0.820	+0.575	Amber - Following decisions in January 2024, tariffs were uplifted on 1 July 2024 and extend pay and display to car parks in "free towns" from the start of December. Statutory consultations on Sunday and Evening charges have been completed to inform implementation in 2025-26. A trial of demand-responsive tariffs began with the opening of the new multistorey car park in Crewe.
108	Highways Revenue Services	+2.479	+2.479	0	Completed - This is a growth item. The growth has been factored into 2024/25 service levels and business plans. No further action.
109	Local Bus	+2.250	+1.459	-0.791	Green – network of new contracts was successfully tendered and began operating on 30 March 2025.
110	FlexiLink Service Improvement Plan	-	-	-	Green - A bus service review is underway, including proposals relating to flexible transport. Committee received a report updating on the outcomes of the consultation and the approach to procurement on 19 September 2024. The review of flexible transport will consider its role in filling gaps in local bus service provision, especially in rural areas, as well as options to extend hours of operation, open up the service to more users and introduce fares to make a contribution to operating costs.
111	Highways Depot Improvements	-	-	-	Red - This later year saving is subject to the approval of the business case for capital investment in depots. This will be reviewed during 2024/25.
112	Bus Stop Advertising Revenue Generation	-	-	-	Amber - Opportunity to shadow CWAC council's extension of the existing contract in the interim period. Intention to link this to wider on street advertising project in the transformation project.
In year	Highways & Infrastructure 2024/25 mitigations to balance to outturn position	0	-1.432	-1.432	

MTFS Ref No	Detailed List of Approved Budget Changes – Central Budgets	2024/25 MTFS £m	2024/25 Final Outturn £m	2024/25 Outturn Variance £m	Final Progress 2024/25 (RAG rating and commentary)
	Finance Sub-Committee	-19.667	-12.277	+7.390	
113	Capital Financing Budget	+9.508	+10.517	+1.009	Amber – assumes use of available capital financing reserve of £2.135m compared to budget.
114	Central Bad Debt Provision adjustment	+0.600	+0.600	0	Completed - budget adjustment.
115	Use of Earmarked Reserves – MTFS Reserve	+0.255	+0.255	0	Completed - budget adjustment / planned use of reserve.
115	MTFS Reserve – reversal of 2023/24 use	+1.536	+1.536	0	Completed - budget adjustment / planned use of reserve.
116	Collection Fund Reserve - Use of Earmarked Reserves	-0.834	-0.834	0	Completed - budget adjustment / planned use of reserve.
116	Collection Fund Reserve – reversal of 2023/24 use of reserves	+2.234	+2.234	0	Completed - budget adjustment / planned use of reserve.
117	Brighter Futures Transformation – reversal of 2023/24 use of reserves	+1.271	+1.271	0	Completed - budget adjustment / planned use of reserve.
118	Use of General Reserves – Fund in-year budget shortfall [NEW]	-11.654	-11.654	0	Completed - Drawn down in line with the MTFS forecast.
Amber 119	Council Tax - % increase	-13.527	-13.527	0	Green - Council tax and business rates income collection managed through the Collection Fund therefore no impact on current year funding target.
120	Council Tax – Base increase	-2.461	-2.461	0	Green - Council tax and business rates income collection managed through the Collection Fund therefore no impact on current year funding target.
121	Business Rates Retention Scheme – use of S31 compensation grants	-1.350	-1.350	0	Green - Grants received in line with final settlement from MHCLG.
122	Unring-fenced Grants + Revenue Support Grant	-5.245	-5.245	0	Green - Grants received in line with final settlement from MHCLG.
123	Council Tax and Business Rates Collection [NEW]	TBC	-	-	Initial case was to implement a working group to review council tax collection. No savings value was assigned to the case. The intention now is to bring forward via an informal briefing to include options around the council tax support scheme review (FS2428)

MTFS Ref No	Detailed List of Approved Budget Changes – Central Budgets	2024/25 MTFS £m	2024/25 Final Outturn £m	2024/25 Outturn Variance £m	Final Progress 2024/25 (RAG rating and commentary)
124	Council Tax Support [NEW]	TBC	-	-	No change to Council Tax support scheme for 2024/25 or 2025/26. To be reviewed for 2026/27.
In year	Bad Debt Provision reduction (one off)	-	-1.081	-1.081	New bad debt policy has been adopted by Adults Social Care.
In year	S106 Review (one off)	-	-0.574	-0.574	S106 Review identifying a one off contribution in year where work has been completed in prior years but has not been reflected in transferring money from S106 into the general fund
In year	Increased use of reserves re Transformation spend included in Service position	-	-3.827	-3.827	Use of reserves to fund essential expenditure to progress the Transformation programme in 2024/25
In year	Creation of new Transformation Reserve as set out in the 2025/26 MTFS	-	3.500	3.500	Creation of a reserve as reflected in the 2025/26 MTFS to fund Transformation delivery in 2025/26.
In year	Creation of new Change and Improvement reserve	-	5.300	5.300	New reserve created to cover one off costs of change and improvement activity in 2025/26 and 2026/27.
In year	Review of MRP accounting policy wef 1.4.2024	-	-3.411	-3.411	New MRP Accounting Policy adopted with effect from 1 April 2024 and as approved in the 2025/26 MTFS (Feb25)
In year	Creation of new earmarked service reserves	-	2.525	2.525	Additional reserves to fund one off expenditure in 2025/26 which is not included in service base budgets.
In year	Transfer to General Fund Reserve	-	2.473	2.473	Additional transfer to reserves to increase the Council financial sustainability in future years.
In year	Financing and Investment Interest	-	1.100	1.100	Pressure reflecting increased cost of interest payments on borrowing offset by interest receipts from investments
In year	Other in year variances to budget	-	0.376	0.376	

Section 3: Revenue Grants for approval and year end Register

- 3.1. Cheshire East Council receives two main types of Government grants; specific purpose grants and general use grants. Specific purpose grants are held within the relevant service with a corresponding expenditure budget. Whereas general use grants are held in central budgets with a corresponding expenditure budget within the allocated service area.
- 3.2. Spending in relation to specific purpose grants must be in line with the purpose for which it is provided.
- 3.3. **Table 1** shows additional specific purpose grant allocations that have been received over £1m that **Council** will be asked to approve.
- 3.4. **Table 2** shows additional specific purpose grant allocations that have been received which are over £500,000 and up to £1m and are for **Committee** approval.

Table 1 – Council Decision

3.5. Supplementary Revenue Estimate Requests for Allocation of Additional Grant Funding (Specific Purpose) over £1,000,000

Committee	Type of Grant	£000	Details
Children & Families: Schools	Core Schools Budget Grant (CSBG)	2,502	This grant is from the Education and Skills Funding Agency and is to support schools with their overall costs in the 2024 to 2025 financial year, in particular following confirmation of the 2024 teacher pay award.
Corporate Policy	Housing Benefit Subsidy	2,231	This grant is from the Department for Work and Pensions. Payment of claims administration within Housing Benefits.

Table 2 – Committee Decision

3.6. Supplementary Revenue Estimate Requests for Allocation of Additional Grant Funding (Specific Purpose) over £500,000 up to £1,000,000

Committee	Type of Grant	£000	Details
Adults & Health	Homes for Ukraine Scheme	755	This grant is from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to provide support to families to rebuild their lives and fully integrate into communities.
Children and Families	Staying Close (Specific Purpose 2025/26)	602	This grant is to support the Staying Close programme, to improve outcomes for young people leaving care who do not have that continued support as they transition into independence.

3.7. **Annex 2** contains the full Grants Register for 2024/25 comparing the MTFs budgeted levels to the final outturn for every grant received.

Section 4: Capital

Table 1: Financial Parameters for 2024/25 to 2027/28

Parameter	Value (£m)			
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Repayment of Borrowing				
Minimum Revenue Provision*	15.3	18.5	22.7	24.8
External Loan Interest	19.4	17.9	18.9	20.9
Investment Income	(4.3)	(4.1)	(2.7)	(2.7)
Contributions from Services Revenue Budgets	(0.9)	(1.3)	(2.3)	(2.5)
Total Capital Financing Costs	29.4	30.5	36.1	39.8
Actual CFB in MTFS	28.5	35.0	38.8	41.9
Budget underspend /(overspend)	(0.9)	4.5	2.7	2.1
Capital Receipts targets*	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Flexible use of Capital Receipts	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

*Anticipated MRP based on achieving capital receipts targets

- 4.1. The revised programme is funded from both direct income (grants, external contributions) and the Council's own resources (prudential borrowing, revenue contributions, capital reserve). A funding summary is shown in **Table 2**. For detailed tables by Committee please see **Annex 3**.
- 4.2. **Table 3** lists details of Delegated decisions up to £500,000 for noting.
- 4.3. Table 4 lists Capital Supplementary Estimates over £500,000 and up to £1,000,000 for committee approval and Capital Virements over £500,000 and up to and including £5,000,000 that require Relevant Member(s) of CLT and Chief Finance Officer in consultation with Chair of the relevant Committee and the Chair of Finance Sub-Committee to approve.
- 4.4. **Table 5** lists details of Capital Supplementary Estimates over £1,000,000 that requires Committee to make a recommendation to Council to approve.
- 4.5. **Table 6** lists details of reductions in Approved Budgets where schemes are completed and surpluses can now be removed. These are for noting purposes only.

Table 2: Capital Programme Update

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL CAPITAL PROGRAMME SUMMARY					
CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25 - 2027/28					
	Actuals 2024/25 £000	Forecast 2025/26 £000	Forecast 2026/27 £000	Forecast 2027/28 £000	Total Forecast 2024-28 £000
Committed Schemes - In Progress					
Adults and Health	280	468	0	0	748
Children and Families	9,513	46,283	16,356	17,749	89,901
Highways & Transport	40,647	44,009	27,653	119,831	232,140
Economy & Growth	23,110	51,882	29,539	78,575	183,106
Environment & Communities	4,262	13,929	1,034	15,301	34,526
Corporate Policy	5,465	10,125	1,173	0	16,763
Total Committed Schemes - In Progress	83,277	166,696	75,755	231,456	557,184
CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25 - 2027/28					
	Actuals 2024/25 £000	Forecast 2025/26 £000	Forecast 2026/27 £000	Forecast 2027/28 £000	Total Forecast 2024-28 £000
New Schemes in 2024-25					
Children and Families	209	9,848	5,248	3,000	18,305
Highways & Transport	570	22,617	15,051	15,051	53,289
Economy & Growth	2,613	4,652	3,366	3,187	13,818
Environment & Communities	1,653	4,677	1,150	0	7,480
Total New Schemes	5,045	41,794	24,815	21,238	92,892
Total	88,322	208,490	100,570	252,694	650,076
Funding Requirement					
Indicative Funding Analysis:					
Government Grants	49,791	129,470	75,248	119,235	373,745
External Contributions	4,002	19,742	13,121	68,619	105,483
Revenue Contributions	901	1,290	0	0	2,191
Capital Receipts	0	1,210	1,324	33,381	35,915
Prudential Borrowing (See note 1)	33,629	56,776	10,876	31,460	132,742
Total	88,322	208,490	100,570	252,694	650,076

Note 1:

Appropriate charges to the revenue budget will only commence in the year following the completion of the associated capital asset. This allows the Council to constantly review the most cost effective way of funding capital expenditure.

Table 3: Delegated Decisions – lists details of Delegated decisions up to £500,000 for noting

Committee / Capital Scheme	Amount Requested £	Reason and Funding Source
Supplementary Capital Estimates that have been made up to £500,000		
Children and Families		
Family Hubs Transformation	115,115	Transfer of Family Hubs Revenue grant to capital project.
Economy & Growth		
Housing Strategy		
Disabled Facilities Grant	342,795	To uplift to match the budget allocation to the grant received.
Home Repairs Vulnerable People	231,842	To include income received from external parties
Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2	17,131	To include income received from external parties
Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2	6,361	To include income received from external parties
Culture & Tourism		
Cattle Handling Facility - Oakwood Farm	37,694	To increase the budget to cover additional expenditure, funded by Revenue Contribution
Wilmslow Dobbin Brook Informal Footpath s106	89,000	Supplementary Capital Estimates approved in quarter
Alsager Footpath No.10 s106	23,140	
Infrastructure		
Spath Lane, Handforth	14,364	To increase the budget to cover additional expenditure, funded by S106 Contribution
Marsh Lane, Holmes Chap Bus St	38	
Coppenhall East, Remer Street, Crewe (11/1643N).	102,351	Supplementary Capital Estimates approved in quarter
Linley Lane/B5077 Junction & Footway improvements	150,000	
Wheelock St, Middlewich S106 ref 686A	11,282	
Holmes Chapel Road, Middlewich S106 Ref 448	20,859	
London Road. Nantwich S106 457D	117,617	
Old Newcastle Rd, - s106 ref 369B	20,099	
Bank Corner Junction, Alsager	76,715	
Main Road, Weston	281,663	Supplementary Capital Estimates approved in quarter
Davenport Arms	21,551	
Highways & Transport		
Jack Mills Way Part 1 Claims	6,763	To align the budget with expected contributions from Network Rail
Active Travel Fund - Tranche 5	239,282	Additional Active Travel funding from Department for Transport
BSIP Phase 3 funding	250,000	Additional Bus Service Improvement Plan funding from Department for Transport
Total Supplementary Capital Estimates Requested		1,686,379
£		
Capital Budget Virements that have been made up to £500,000		
Children & Families		
Early Years sufficiency capital fund	155	Virement to Family Hubs Transformation
Education and 14-19 Skills		
Macclesfield Planning Area secondary	5,560	Transfer of remaining budget to Tyherington High school project
Brine Leas High School	8,271	
Shavington Planning Area - Secondary	15,776	Virements from Basic need on project closure
Congleton Planning Area	1,993	
Holmes Chapel Secondary School	5,191	Virements to Basic Need on project closure
Sandbach Boys School	1,979	
School Condition Grant	107,350	Virements to School Condition Allocation from remaining budgets on various closed school managed schemes
SCG - Condition Assessments 2021-22	14,269	Virements to individual schemes from School Condition Allocation on closure
Edleston Primary School - Condition Project	390	
Styal Primary School - Condition Project	223	
High Needs	32,396	Virement to High Needs from budget remaining on various closed schemes
Leighton SEND Reception Adaptations	25,629	Virements to schemes from High Needs
Provision of SEN Unit - Wistaston Primary School	17,347	

Economy & Growth		
Future High Street Funding - CEC Innovation Centre	278,000	Future High Street grant funding realigned from Sustainable Energy Network to cover TADIC's energy improvement measures.
Macclesfield Indoor Market Refurbishment (MIMR)	98,285	Virement from Facilities Management Premises Capital Programme to contribute to the full cost of the project.
Macclesfield Indoor Market Toilet Refurbishment	5	
Strategic Housing		
Home Repairs Vulnerable People	458,000	At Economy & Growth Committee on 12/11/24 a virement for £458,000 was approved from the Green Homes Grant to Home Repairs for Vulnerable People in the capital programme.
Infrastructure		
Future High Street Funding - Southern Gateway	76,934	To vire Future High Street Fund from Flag Lane Link To utilise Future High Street Funding originally allocated to Delamere Street and Chester Street (Housing projects) which did not progress and were abandoned.
	8,331	
Crewe Green Link Road Ph2	6,097	Payment of residual invoices relating to Crewe Green Link Road funded by S106 which was originally earmarked for David Whitby Way.
Environment & Communities		
Environment Services		
Green Investment schemes (Solar Farm)	200,000	Transfer of funds from Carbon Nuetral 2030 Investments (Previousl Solar Energy)
Highways & Transport		
A532 Safer Road Fund Scheme	243,000	Prudential Borrowing funding element vired from A537 to cover revised forecast expenditure.
Sustainable Travel (Active Travel) - Boulderstone Bridge	7,633	There has been a fine adjustment to the agreed contribution to Network Rail, which now stands at £379,190.35. Transfer from Client Contract and asset Management
Hollinswood Rd/Redhouse Ln	42,603	Department for Transport grant reallocated from the Client Contract and asset Management project to cover expenditure in 2024-25
Traffic Signs and Bollards - LED Replacement	8592.37	
Footpath Maintenance - Slurry Sealing & Reconstruction Works	3676.85	
Hurdsfield Road/Black Lane junction, Macclesfield Cycleway (S Bollin Valley / Greater Bollin Trail	13,833	
		Reallocated funding within the STEPS Programme to cover 2024-25 expenditure
Manchester Road, Wilmslow – Northern	100,000	£325,000 virement from STEPS - Active Travel to provide additional budget.
Southern Gateway	100,000	
Ayrshire Way/Park Lane, Congleton	125,000	
Facilities Management		
PSDS - 3C	223,000	Virement from Premises Capital, match funding for grant
Total Capital Budget Virements Approved	2,299,773	
Total Supplementary Capital Estimates and Virements	3,986,153	

Table 4: Requests for Supplementary Capital Estimates (SCEs)

Committee / Capital Scheme	Amount Requested £	Reason and Funding Source
Service Committee are asked to approve the Supplementary Capital Estimates above £500,000 up to and including £1,000,000		
Education and 14-19 Skills		
School Condition Allocation	552,916	A provisional amount of £2,000,000 was included within the MTFS for 2025-26. The allocation has now been confirmed as £2,552,916
Highways & Transport		
Mill Street Corridor - Station Link Project	(687,364)	
Park Lane – Ayreshire Way, Congleton Walking and Cycling	107,410	
Growth and Enterprise		
Visitor Economy - Rural Shared Prosperity Fund	49,980	Additional grant funding of £493,800 has been added to the Capital Programme alongside reallocations on various schemes to reflect in year spend. This grant was required to be spent by 31st March 2025.
UK Shared Prosperity Fund - Core	354,077	
Mill Street Corridor	450,000	
Macc on Foot (MOF)	65,975	
Macclesfield Indoor Market Refurbishment (MIMR)	85,500	
Royal Arcade Ph2 Meanwhile Uses	40,280	
Environment and Communities		
Crewe Towns Fund - Cumberland Arena	80,000	
Total Supplementary Capital Estimates Requested	1,098,773	
Total Capital Virements requested	-	
Total SCEs and Virements	1,098,773	

Table 5: Requests for Supplementary Capital Estimates (SCEs) For Finance Sub Committee Recommendation or Approval

Committee	Amount Requested £	Reason and Funding Source
Finance Sub Committee are asked to recommend to Council the approval of the Supplementary Capital SCEs over £1,000,000		
Education and 14-19 Skills		
High Needs Capital Grant	3,955,823	A provisional amount of £2,000,000 was included within the MTFS for High Needs Capital Grant. The 2025-26 allocation has now been
Highways & Transport		
Local Transport Grant	7,754,000	Additional Department for Transport Grant allocated for 2025-26
Housing Strategy		
Warm Homes Local Grant (DESNZ)	7,792,725	Department of Energy Security and Net Zero grant funding, supplementary estimates approved by urgent decision.
Total Supplementary Capital Estimates Requested	19,502,548	
Total Supplementary Capital Estimates and Virements	19,502,548	

Table 6: For information – Budget Reductions

Committee / Capital Scheme	Approved Budget £	Revised Approval £	Reduction £	Reason and Funding Source
Finance Sub Committee are asked to note the reductions in Approved Budgets				
Adults				
Community - Rural Shared Prosperity Fund	412,627	360,570	(52,057)	Reduction in budget at closing 2024-25.
Education and 14-19 Skills				
Devolved Formula Capital	330,000	317,884	(12,116)	Reduction in 2025-26 budget upon confirmation of allocation due to academy conversions
Environment & Communities				
Wilmslow Town Villas	80,964	47,452	(33,512)	Reduction in budget as external funding of £33,512 paid directly to ANSA for work done rather than via CEC
Economy & Growth				
Housing Strategy				
Local Authority Housing Fund	742,380	731,580	(10,800)	To mirror the amount of grant to be received.
Highways & Transport				
Alderley Edge Bypass Scheme Implementation	60,611,100	60,411,100	(200,000)	To align budget to revised forecasting.
Infrastructure				
Flowerpot Phs 1 & Pinchpoint	10,037,232	4,245,620	(5,791,612)	To align the available budget with external funding available, Grant and S106 Developer Contributions
A500 Corridor OBC Update	2,435,000	1,704,550	(730,450)	To reduce budget to match grant received from Department for Transport to fund the scheme.
	81,483,583	67,818,756	(13,664,827)	

Prudential Indicators revisions to: 2024/25 and 2024/26 – 2026/27 and future years

Background

4.6. There is a requirement under the Local Government Act 2003 for local authorities to have regard to CIPFA's Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the "CIPFA Prudential Code") when setting and reviewing their Prudential Indicators.

Estimates of Capital Expenditure

4.7. In 2024/25, the Council spent £88.3m on capital expenditure as summarised below.

Capital Expenditure	2024/25 Actual £m	2025/26 Estimate £m	2026/27 Estimate £m	Future years £m
Total	88.3	208.5	100.6	252.7

Capital Financing

4.8. All capital expenditure must be financed either from external sources (government grants and other contributions), the Council's own resources (revenue reserves and capital receipts) or debt (borrowing, leasing and Private Finance Initiative). The planned financing of capital expenditure is as follows.

Capital Financing	2024/25 Actual £m	2025/26 Estimate £m	2026/27 Estimate £m	Future years £m
Capital receipts	0.0	1.2	1.3	33.4
Government Grants	49.8	129.5	75.2	119.3
External Contributions	4.0	19.7	13.1	68.6
Revenue Contributions	1.0	1.3	0.0	0.0
Total Financing	54.8	151.7	89.6	221.3
Prudential Borrowing	33.5	56.8	10.9	31.4
Total Funding	33.5	56.8	10.9	31.4
Total Financing and Funding	88.3	208.5	100.5	252.7

Source: Cheshire East Finance

Replacement of debt finance

- 4.9. Debt is only a temporary source of finance, since loans and leases must be repaid, and this is therefore replaced over time by other financing, usually from revenue which is known as minimum revenue provision (MRP). Alternatively, proceeds from selling capital assets may be used to replace debt finance. Planned MRP repayments are as follows:

Replacement of debt finance	2024/25 Actual £m	2025/26 Estimate £m	2026/27 Estimate £m	2027/28 Estimate £m
Total	15.3	18.5	22.7	24.8

Source: Cheshire East Finance

Estimates of Capital Financing Requirement

- 4.10. The Council's cumulative outstanding amount of debt finance is measured by the capital financing requirement (CFR). This increases with new debt-financed capital expenditure and reduces with MRP repayments and capital receipts used to replace debt. The CFR will decrease by £2m during 2024/25. This assumes that were there has been significant forward funding of certain schemes that grants and other contributions are received in year to repay that forward funding. Based on the above figures for expenditure and financing, the Council's estimated CFR is as follows.

Capital Financing Requirement	2024/25 Actual £m	2025/26 Estimate £m	2026/27 Estimate £m	2027/28 Estimate £m
Total	521	560	582	595

Source: Cheshire East Finance

Asset disposals

- 4.11. When a capital asset is no longer needed, it may be sold so that the proceeds, known as capital receipts, can be spent on new assets or to repay debt. Repayments of capital grants, loans and investments also generate capital receipts. The Council received £2.2m of capital receipts from asset sales in 2024/25 and has built into the MTFS planned receipts of £3.6m in future years.

Capital Receipts	2024/25 Actual £m	2025/26 Estimate £m	2026/27 Estimate £m	2027/28 Estimate £m
Asset Sales	2.1	1.0	1.0	1.0
Loans Repaid	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total	2.2	1.2	1.2	1.2

Source: Cheshire East Finance

Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement

- 4.12. The Council's main objectives when borrowing are to achieve a low but certain cost of finance while retaining flexibility should plans change in the future. These objectives are often conflicting and the Council therefore seeks to strike a balance between cheap short term loans and long term fixed rate loans where the future cost is known but fixed over a period when rates are expected to fall.
- 4.13. Projected levels of the Council's total outstanding debt (which comprises borrowing, PFI liabilities, leases) are shown below, compared with the capital financing requirement.

Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement	2024/25 Actual £m	2025/26 Estimate £m	2026/27 Estimate £m	2027/28 Estimate £m
Borrowing	396	423	476	512
PFI Liabilities	17	17	15	14
Total Debt	413	440	491	526
Capital Financing Req.	521	560	582	595

Source: Cheshire East Finance

- 4.14. Statutory guidance is that debt should remain below the capital financing requirement, except in the short term. As can be seen from the above table, the Council expects to comply with this in the medium term.

Liability Benchmark

- 4.15. To compare the Council's actual borrowing against an alternative strategy, a liability benchmark has been calculated showing the lowest risk level of borrowing (see para 6.18 of the Treasury Management Strategy update). This assumes that cash and investment balances are kept to a minimum level of £20m at each year end. This benchmark is currently £372m and is forecast to rise to £447m over the next four years.

Borrowing and the Liability Benchmark	2024/25 Actual £m	2025/26 Estimate £m	2026/27 Estimate £m	2027/28 Estimate £m
Outstanding Debt	396	423	476	512
Liability Benchmark	372	420	445	447

Source: Cheshire East Finance

- 4.16. The table shows that the Council expects to borrow above its liability benchmark.

Affordable borrowing limit

- 4.17. The Council is legally obliged to set an affordable borrowing limit (also termed the authorised limit for external debt) each year. In line with statutory guidance, a lower “operational boundary” is also set as a warning level should debt approach the limit.

	2024/25 limit £m	2025/26 limit £m	2026/27 Estimate £m	2027/28 Estimate £m
Authorised Limit for Borrowing	570	590	590	590
Authorised Limit for Other Long-Term Liabilities	17	17	15	14
Authorised Limit for External Debt	587	607	605	604
Operational Boundary for Borrowing	560	580	580	580
Operational Boundary for Other Long-Term Liabilities	17	17	15	14
Operational Boundary for External Debt	577	597	595	594

Source: Cheshire East Finance

Investment Strategy

- 4.18. Treasury investments arise from receiving cash before it is paid out again. Investments made for service reasons or for pure financial gain are not generally considered to be part of treasury management.
- 4.19. The Council’s policy on treasury investments is to prioritise security and liquidity over yield, that is to focus on minimising risk rather than maximising returns. Cash that is likely to be spent in the near term is invested securely, for example with money market funds, other local authorities or selected high quality banks, to minimise the risk of loss. Money that will be held for longer terms is invested more widely, including in shares and property, to balance the risk of loss against the risk of returns below inflation.

Treasury Management Investments	31/03/25 Actual £m	31/03/26 Estimate £m	31/03/27 Estimate £m	31/03/28 Estimate £m
Short term	20	20	20	20
Long term	20	20	20	20
Total Investments	40	40	40	40

Source: Cheshire East Finance

- 4.20. Although capital expenditure is not charged directly to the revenue budget, interest payable on loans and MRP are charged to revenue, offset by an investment income receivable. The net annual charge is known as financing costs; this is compared to the net revenue stream i.e., the amount funded from Council Tax, business rates and general government grants.

Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream	31/03/25 Actual	31/03/26 Estimate	31/03/27 Estimate	31/03/28 Estimate
Financing Costs (£m)	29.0	30.5	36.1	39.8
Proportion of net revenue stream %	7.33	7.58	8.75	9.37

Source: Cheshire East Finance

Section 5: Reserves

Management of Council Reserves

- 5.1. The Council's Reserves Strategy states that the Council will maintain reserves to protect against risk and support investment.
- 5.2. The opening balance at 1 April 2024 in the Council's General Fund Reserves was £5.6m, as published in the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2023/24. At FR3, the closing balance at 31 March 2025 was forecast to be £0.5m.
- 5.3. During 2024/25, transfers from Earmarked Reserves were made of £13.7m to support the revenue budget. A net total of £11.7m has been drawn down to support the in-year deficit position, whilst a further £3.8m has been used to fund the Council Transformation expenditure.
- 5.4. The current balance on reserves is insufficient in order to provide adequate protection against established and newly emerging risks, such as inflation and particularly the DSG deficit, which is £112.1m at year end and has been highlighted in the MTFs as having no alternative funding.
- 5.5. The Council also maintains Earmarked Revenue Reserves for specific purposes. The opening balance at 1 April 2024 was £32.3m, of which £6.5m has been used to fund expenditure specifically provided for by services. These balances fall within the forecasts approved during the MTFs budget setting process. The closing balance at 31 March 2025 for Earmarked Reserves is £23.3m, of which, £3.2m is ring-fenced for specific use.
- 5.6. The closing balance on General Fund Reserves at 31 March 2025, is £6.3m.
- 5.7. Total reserves available for Council use at 31 March 2025 are £29.6m.
- 5.8. Unspent schools' budgets that have been delegated, as laid down in the Schools Standards Framework Act 1998, remain at the disposal of the school and are not available for Council use. These balances are therefore excluded from all reserve forecasts.

Table 1 – Reserves Balances

Adults and Health Committee						
Reserve Account	Opening Balance 01 April 2024 £000	Drawdowns / Transfers to General Fund £000	In-year Net Movement £000	New Reserve Requests* £000	Closing Balance 31 March 2025 £000	Notes
<u>Adults Social Care Commissioning</u>						
PFI Equalisation - Extra Care Housing	2,857	(2,857)	0	0	0	Asper the MTFS, this reserve will be replenished over the 4 year MTFS period 2024-2028.
<u>Public Health</u>						
Public Health Reserve	2,369	0	0	835	3,204	Ring-fenced underspend to be invested in areas to improve performance against key targets.
ADULTS AND HEALTH RESERVE TOTAL	5,226	(2,857)	0	835	3,204	

* All New Requests are subject to approval.

Children and Families Committee

Reserve Account	Opening Balance 01 April 2024 £000	Drawdowns / Transfers to General Fund £000	In-year Net Movement £000	New Reserve Requests* £000	Closing Balance 31 March 2025 £000	Notes
<u>Childrens Social Care</u>						
Domestic Abuse Partnership	131	0	(131)	0	0	To sustain preventative services to vulnerable people as a result of partnership funding in previous years.
<u>Strong Start, Family Help and Integration</u>						
Troubled Families Initiative	1,593	0	(1,593)	0	0	Crewe Youth Zone and ACT have been assigned funding from shared outcomes of the Supporting Families Programme.
ILAC Spending Plan	0	0	0	456	456	To carry forward funding identified to fund the ILAC improvement plan which spans across two financial years.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES RESERVE TOTAL	1,724	0	(1,724)	456	456
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* All New Requests are subject to approval.

Corporate Policy Committee and Central Reserves

Reserve Account	Opening Balance 01 April 2024	Drawdowns / Transfers to General Fund	In-year Net Movement	New Reserve Requests*	Closing Balance 31 March 2025	Notes
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
<u>Corporate Directorate</u>						
Corporate Directorate Reserve	1,164	(1,164)	0	0	0	To support a number of widespread projects within the Corporate Directorate.
<u>Finance and Customer Service</u>						
Collection Fund Management	8,154	(1,235)	(1,799)	0	5,120	To manage cash flow implications as part of the Business Rates Retention Scheme.
Capital Financing Reserve	4,531	0	(2,289)	0	2,242	To provide for financing of capital schemes, other projects and initiatives
MTFS Reserve	2,914	(3,169)	255	0	0	Reserve balance has been released to the general fund to support the in-year deficit pressure
Brighter Futures Transformation Programme	490	(470)	(20)	0	0	To fund the Council's four-year transformation programme and its five outcomes of Culture; Estates and ICT systems; Customer Experience, Commercial Approach and Governance.
2025/26 Transformation 1	0	0	0	3,500	3,500	Additional reserve to support the 2025/26 Transformation Programme.
2025/26 Transformation 2	0	0	0	@Bal5,300	5,300	To cover the costs of the Transformation Programme to help mitigate anticipated one off cost impacts of change.
Section 31 Revenue Grants	14	(14)	0	0	0	Residual unspent revenue grants have been released to the general fund to support the in-year deficit.

Corporate Policy Committee and Central Reserves Continued

Reserve Account	Opening Balance 01 April 2024	Drawdowns / Transfers to General Fund	In-year Net Movement	New Reserve Requests*	Closing Balance 31 March 2025	Notes
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
<u>Governance and Compliance</u>						
Insurance Reserve	3,098	(3,098)	0	314	314	To settle insurance claims and manage excess costs.
Elections General	132	0	0	300	432	To provide funds for Election costs every 4 years.
Brexit Funding	13	(13)	0	0	0	Residual reserve balance has been released to the general fund to support the in-year deficit pressure.
<u>Human Resources</u>						
HR (CARE4CE Review, Culture Change, Pay realignment, Learning Mgt System)	59	(59)	0	0	0	Residual reserve balance has been released to the general fund to support the in-year deficit pressure.
Pay Structure (M Grade Review)	54	(54)	0	0	0	Residual reserve balance has been released to the general fund to support the in-year deficit pressure
<u>ICT</u>						
Digital Solutions Architect	150	0	(76)	0	74	To fund a role for the Digital Customer Enablement programme and will be key to realising the cost savings and efficiencies across the Council from the deployment of a number of digital initiatives.
ICT	0	0	0	300	300	To fund costs associated with Gemini / TOM
CORPORATE POLICY AND CENTRAL RESERVE TOTAL	20,773	(9,276)	(3,929)	9,714	17,282	

* All New Requests are subject to approval.

Economy and Growth Committee

Reserve Account	Opening Balance 01 April 2024	Drawdowns / Transfers to General Fund	In-year Net Movement	New Reserve Requests*	Closing Balance 31 March 2025	Notes
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
<u>Directorate</u>						
Place Directorate Reserve	1,164	(306)	(510)	70	418	To support a number of widespread projects within the Place Directorate.
Investment (Sustainability)	610	(40)	(21)	0	549	To support investment that can increase longer term financial independence and stability of the Council.
<u>Growth and Enterprise</u>						
Legal Proceedings	212	0	(33)	0	179	To enable legal proceedings on land and property matters.
Investment Portfolio	534	(534)	0	0	0	The full reserve has been released to the general fund to support the in-year deficit pressure.
Homelessness & Housing Options - Revenue Grants	129	0	(129)	0	0	Grant committed for the purchase and refurbishment of properties to be used as temporary accommodation to house vulnerable families.
Tatton Park Trading Reserve	128	(128)	0	250	250	To fund Tatton Park playground through the Transformation Programme, and cover costs for vehicle replacement, maintenance and repair.
ECONOMY AND GROWTH RESERVE TOTAL	2,777	(1,008)	(693)	320	1,396	

* All New requests are subject to approval.

Environment and Communities Committee

Reserve Account	Opening Balance 01 April 2024	Drawdowns / Transfers to General Fund	In-year Net Movement	New Reserve Requests*	Closing Balance 31 March 2025	Notes
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
<u>Environment and Neighbourhood Services</u>						
Strategic Planning	568	(281)	0	0	287	To meet costs associated with the Local Plan - site allocations, minerals and waste DPD.
Trees / Structures Risk Management	139	(55)	0	0	84	To help respond to increases in risks relating to the environment, in particular the management of trees, structures and dealing with adverse weather events.
Air Quality	36	0	0	0	36	Air Quality Management - DEFRA Action Plan. Relocating electric vehicle charge point in Congleton.
Licensing Enforcement	8	0	2	0	10	Three year reserve to fund a third party review and update of the Cheshire East Council Taxi Licensing Enforcement Policies.
Flood Water Management (Emergency Planning)	2	0	0	0	2	Relating to Public Information Works.
Neighbourhood Planning	82	(41)	0	0	41	To match income and expenditure.
Spatial Planning - revenue grant	13	(13)	0	0	0	Residual reserve balance has been released to the general fund to support the in-year deficit pressure.
Street Cleansing	22	0	0	0	22	Committed expenditure on voluntary litter picking equipment and electric blowers.
ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD RESERVE TOTAL	870	(390)	2	0	482	

* All New Requests are subject to approval.

Highways and Transport Committee

Reserve Account	Opening Balance 01 April 2024	Drawdowns / Transfers to General Fund	In-year Net Movement	New Reserve Requests*	Closing Balance 31 March 2025	Notes
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
<u>Highways and Infrastructure</u>						
Rail and Transport Integration	385	(185)	(200)	0	0	To support the Council's committed costs to the rail and transport networks across the borough.
Flood Risk Adverse Weather Events	400	0	0	0	400	To help the service manage risks such as the impact of adverse weather, specifically flooding or extensive periods where winter maintenance is required.
Highways Procurement Project	104	(20)	(1)	0	83	To finance the development of the next Highway Service Contract. Depot mobilisation costs, split over 7 years from start of contract in 2018.
LEP-Local Transport Body	19	0	0	0	19	Contribution to LEP transport studies/consultancy. Ongoing working around Transport Legacy issues.
ECONOMY AND GROWTH RESERVE TOTAL	908	(205)	(201)	0	502	

* All New Requests are subject to approval.

Total Reserves

Reserve Account	Opening Balance 01 April 2024	Drawdowns / Transfers to General Fund	In-year Net Movement	New Reserve Requests*	Closing Balance 31 March 2025	Notes
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Total Earmarked Reserves	32,278	(13,736)	(6,545)	11,325	23,322	
General Fund Reserve	5,580	13,736	(15,481)	2,473	6,308	
RESERVE TOTAL	37,858	0	(22,026)	13,798	29,630	

* All New Requests are subject to approval.

Section 6: Treasury Management

Management of Council Reserves

- 6.1 Treasury management is the management of the Authority's cash flows, borrowing and investments, and the associated risks. The Authority has borrowed and invested substantial sums of money and is therefore exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of financial risk are therefore central to the Authority's prudent financial management.
- 6.2 Treasury risk management at the Authority is conducted within the framework of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's *Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice* (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Authority to approve a treasury management strategy before the start of each financial year. This report fulfils the Authority's legal obligation under the *Local Government Act 2003* to have regard to the CIPFA Code.
- 6.3 Investments held for service purposes or for commercial profit are considered in the Investment Report (see **Section 9**).

1. External Context

- 6.4. **Economic background:** Both the UK and US elected new governments during the period, whose policy decisions impacted the economic outlook. The Chancellor of the Exchequer delivered her Spring Statement in March 2025, following her Budget in October 2024. Based on the plans announced, the Office for Budget Responsibility downgraded its predictions for UK growth in 2025 to 1% from 2%. However, it upgraded its predictions for the four subsequent years. Inflation predictions for 2025 were pushed up, to 3.2% from 2.6%, before seen as falling back to target in 2027. The market reaction to the Spring Statement was more muted compared to the Budget, with very recent market turbulence being driven more by US trade policy decisions and President Trump.
- 6.5. UK annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) Inflation continued to stay above the 2% Bank of England (BoE) target in the later part of the period. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) reported headline consumer prices at 2.8% in February 2025, down from 3% in the previous month and below expectations. Core CPI also remained elevated falling slightly in February to 3.5%, just below expected 3.6% but higher than the last 3 months of 2024.
- 6.6. The UK economy Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 0.1% between October and December 2024, unrevised from the initial estimate. This was an

improvement on the zero growth in the previous quarter, but down from the 0.4% growth between April and June 2024. The economy was estimated to have contracted by 0.1% in January 2025, worse than the expectations for a 1% gain.

- 6.7. The labour market continued to cool, but the ONS data still requires treating with caution. Recent data showed the unemployment rate rose to 4.4% (3mth/year) in the three months to January 2025 while the economic inactivity rate fell again to 21.5%. The ONS reported pay growth over the same three-month period at 5.9% for regular earnings (excluding bonuses) and 5.8% for total earnings.
- 6.8. The BoE's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) held Bank Rate at 4.5% at its March 2025 meeting, having reduced it in February. This follows earlier 0.25% cuts in November and August 2024 from the 5.25% peak. At the March MPC meeting, members voted 8-1 to maintain Bank Rate at 4.5%, with the one dissenter preferring another 25 basis points cut. The meeting minutes implied a slightly more hawkish tilt compared to February when two MPC members wanted a 50bps cut. In the minutes, the Bank also upgraded its Q1 2025 GDP forecast to around 0.25% from the previous estimate of 0.1%
- 6.9. The February Monetary Policy Report (MPR) showed the BoE expected GDP growth in 2025 to be significantly weaker compared to the November MPR. GDP is forecast to rise by 0.1% in Q1 2025, less than the previous estimate of 0.4%. Four-quarter GDP growth is expected to pick up from the middle of 2025, to over 1.5% by the end of the forecast period. The outlook for CPI inflation showed it remaining above the MPC's 2% target throughout 2025. It is expected to hit around 3.5% by June before peaking at 3.7% in Q3 and then easing towards the end of the year, but staying above the 2% target.
- 6.10. Arlingclose, the authority's treasury adviser, maintained its central view that Bank Rate would continue to fall throughout 2025. Further to the cut in May to 4.25%, it is anticipated that other cuts will follow in line with MPR months to take Bank rate down to 3.75% by the end of 2025.
- 6.11. **Financial Markets:** Financial market sentiment was reasonably positive over most of the period but economic, financial and geopolitical issues meant the trend of market volatility remained. In the latter part of the period, volatility increased and bond yields started to fall following a January peak, as the economic uncertainty around likely US trade policy impacted financial markets. Yields in the UK and US started to diverge in the last month of the period, with the former rising around concerns over the fiscal implications on the UK government from weaker growth, business sentiment and higher rates, while the latter started falling on potential recession fears due to the unpredictable nature of policy announcements by the US President and their potential impact. Since then, the US announced 'reciprocal tariffs', the immediate aftermath of which saw stock prices and government bond yields falling and introduced further uncertainty over the economic outlook.

- 6.12. **Credit Review:** Due to improving credit conditions our treasury advisors, increased their recommended maximum unsecured duration limit on most banks on its counterparty list to 6 months from the previous limit of 100 days.
- 6.13. Credit default swap prices were generally lower over the period but did start to rise modestly in March but not to any level causing concern. Price volatility over the period was also generally more muted compared to previous periods.
- 6.14. Financial market volatility is expected to remain a feature, at least in the near term and credit default swap levels will be monitored for signs of ongoing credit stress. As ever, the institutions and durations on the Authority's counterparty list recommended by Arlingclose remain under constant review

2. Local Context

- 6.15. As at 31 March 2025 the Authority has borrowings of £414m and investments of £39m. Forecast changes in these sums are shown in the balance sheet analysis in **Table 1** below.

Table 1: Balance Sheet Summary and Forecast

	31/03/25 Actual £m	31/03/26 Estimate £m	31/03/27 Estimate £m	31/03/28 Estimate £m	*
General Fund CFR	538	578	597	609	
Less: Other long term liabilities *	(17)	(17)	(15)	(14)	
Loans CFR	521	561	582	595	
Less: External borrowing **	(396)	(163)	(133)	(119)	
Internal (over) borrowing	126	398	448	477	
Less: Usable reserves	(122)	(113)	(108)	(119)	
Less: Working capital	(47)	(50)	(50)	(51)	
(Treasury Investments) or New borrowing	(44)	235	290	307	

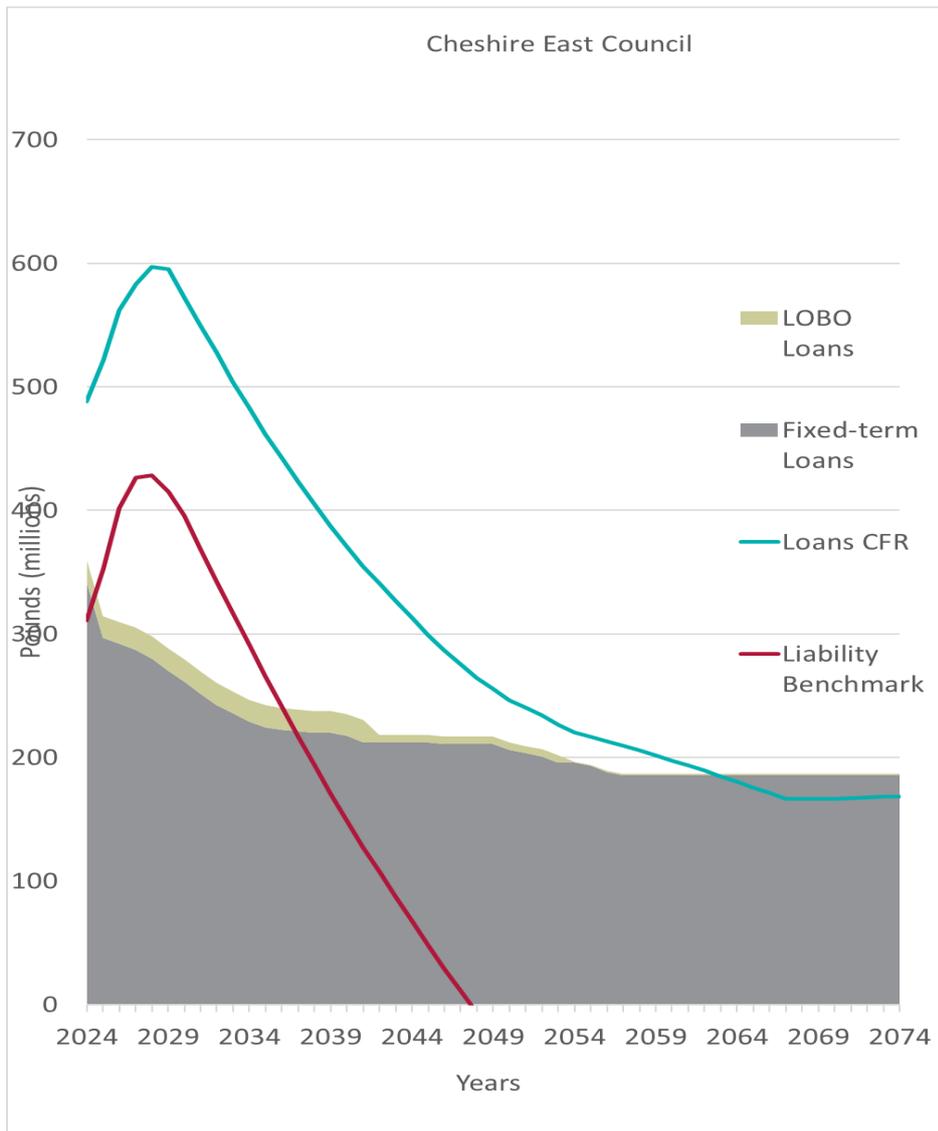
*finance leases and PFI liabilities that form part of the Authority's debt

** shows only loans to which the Authority is committed and excludes optional refinancing

- 6.16. The underlying need to borrow for capital purposes is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), while usable reserves and working capital are the underlying resources available for investment. The Authority's current strategy is to maintain borrowing and investments below their underlying levels, sometimes known as internal borrowing.
- 6.17. CIPFA's Prudential Code for Capital Finance recommends that the Authority's total debt should be lower than its highest forecast CFR over the next three years. **Table 1** shows that the Authority expects to comply with this recommendation.
- 6.18. **Liability Benchmark:** To compare the Councils actual borrowing against an alternative strategy, a liability benchmark has been calculated showing the lowest risk level of borrowing. This assumes the same forecasts as table 1 above, but that cash and investment balances are kept to a minimum level of £20m at each year-end to maintain a core strategic investment.

Table 2: Liability Benchmark

	31/03/25 Actual £m	31/03/26 Estimate £m	31/03/27 Estimate £m	31/03/28 Estimate £m
Loans CFR	521	561	582	595
Less: Usable reserves	(122)	(113)	(108)	(103)
Less: Working capital	(47)	(50)	(50)	(51)
Plus: Minimum investments	20	20	20	20
Liability Benchmark	372	418	444	446

Chart 1: Liability benchmark

3. Borrowing Strategy

- 6.19. CIPFA's 2021 Prudential Code is clear that local authorities must not borrow to invest primarily for financial return and that it is not prudent for local authorities to make any investment or spending decision that will increase the capital financing requirement, and so may lead to new borrowing, unless directly and primarily related to the functions of the Authority. PWLB loans are no longer available to local authorities planning to buy investment assets primarily for yield unless these loans are for refinancing purposes.
- 6.20. The Authority has not, and is not planning to borrow to invest primarily for commercial return and so is unaffected by the changes to the Prudential Code
- 6.21. The Authority currently holds loans of £397m, an increase of £60m since 31 March 2024. This increase is primarily due to continued capital expenditure including use of grants received in advance and increasing Dedicated Schools Grant deficit.

- 6.22. The Authority's chief objective when borrowing has been to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving cost certainty over the period for which funds are required, with flexibility to renegotiate loans should the Authority's long term plans change being a secondary objective. The Authority's borrowing strategy continues to address the key issue of affordability without compromising the longer-term stability of the debt.
- 6.23. Interest rates have seen substantial rises over the last 3 years which has significantly increased the cost of borrowing. Borrowing costs have begun to fall and the expectation is that they will continue to fall although market uncertainty may impact on the timing of any reductions.
- 6.24. The cost of short-term borrowing from other local authorities has generally followed Base Rate over the year. However, liquidity in the market from October onwards caused rates to increase disproportionately compared to underlying Base Rates. The Council's application for Exceptional Financial Support also reduced the credit quality of the Council to some lenders which exacerbated the shortage of liquidity available. As a result some PWLB borrowing was undertaken with a mix of 1-2 year maturity loans and 2-3 year Equal Instalments of Principal (EIP) repayment loans. The average rate payable on these loans is 4.84%. This provides some surety of cost at lower rates than we could otherwise have achieved at the time and reduces over-reliance on short term borrowing. The relatively short period of these PWLB loans should provide opportunities to refinance at lower cost if rates fall in line with expectations.
- 6.25. The cost of short term borrowing in 2024/25 is 5.29% which is an increase from 4.82% in 2023/24. The average rate paid on all borrowing was 5.03%.
- 6.26. **LOBO's:** The Authority holds £17m of LOBO (Lender's Option Borrower's Option) loans where the lender has the option to propose an increase in the interest rate at set dates, following which the Authority has the option to either accept the new rate or to repay the loan at no additional cost. All of these LOBOS had options during 2024/25. Some LOBO providers have exercised their options but this has not been the case with our loans. Discussions with the provider indicates that they are unlikely to change their position.

4. Investment Strategy

- 6.27. The Authority holds invested funds, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves held. Due to the overriding need for short term borrowing, other than £20m invested strategically in managed funds, the investments are generally short term for liquidity purposes.
- 6.28. The CIPFA Code requires the Authority to invest its funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its investments before seeking the highest rate of return, or yield. The Authority's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income.
- 6.29. The maximum amount that can be invested with any one organisation is set in the Treasury Management Strategy Report. The maximum amount and duration of investments with any institution depends on the organisations credit rating, the type of investment and for banks and building societies, the security of the investment.

Generally credit rated banks and building societies have been set at a maximum value of £6m for unsecured investments and £12m for secured investments. Any limits also apply to the banking group that each bank belongs to. Limits for each Money Market fund have been set at a maximum value of £12m per fund. All potential counterparties are kept under continual review by our treasury advisors and advisory lower limits than those contained in the strategy are applied.

- 6.30. Treasury Management income for 2024/25 is £3,290,000 which is higher than the budgeted £1,870,000. However, borrowing costs are also higher than budgeted at £18.9m compared to budget of £16.1m.
- The average daily investment balance including managed funds during 2024/25 is £65.0m
 - The average annualized interest rate received on in-house investments during 2024/25 is 4.96%
 - The average annualized interest rate received on the externally managed funds during 2024/25 is 5.43%
- 6.31. The Authority's total average interest rate on all investments in 2024/25 is 5.10%. The return is below our own performance target of 5.45% (average Base Rate + 0.50%) due to the short term nature of most of our investments. However, we do compare favourably to the Sterling Over Night Interest Average (SONIA) rate.

Table 3 – Interest Rate Comparison

Comparator	Average Rate 2024/25
Cheshire East	5.10%
SONIA	4.90%
Base Rate	4.95%
Target Rate	5.45%

- 6.32. As the Authority holds reserves and working capital, £20m of this has been placed in strategic investments in order to benefit from higher income returns whilst spreading risk across different asset classes.
- 6.33. The investments are in five different funds which are all designed to give an annual income return higher than cash investments but which have different underlying levels of volatility. By spreading investments across different types of fund, the intention is to dampen any large fluctuations in the underlying value of the investments.

Table 4 –Strategic Investments

Fund Manager	Asset Class	Invested £m	31/03/25 Value £m
CCLA	Property	7.5	7.4
Aegon	Multi Asset	5.0	4.6

Fund Manager	Asset Class	Invested £m	31/03/25 Value £m
Fidelity	Equity - Global	4.0	4.5
Schroders	Equity - UK	2.5	2.4
M & G	Bonds	1.0	0.8
TOTAL		20.0	19.7

6.34. The value of these investments does vary. Fund values had been affected by high inflation, low levels of GDP and market uncertainty following US announcements on global tariffs. However, the past year has shown a gradual improvement. All funds continue to deliver good levels of income return which, although were not significantly higher than cash investments in 2024/25, are expected to remain at this level as interest rates on cash deposits fall in 2025/26 and beyond.

Chart 2 – Current Investments by Counterparty Type

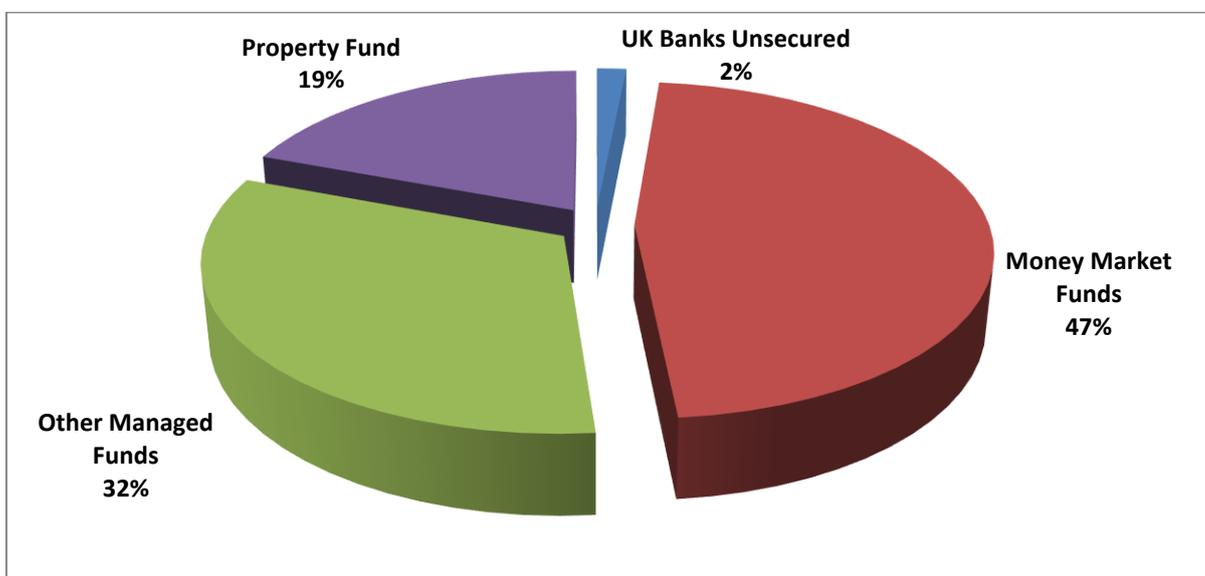
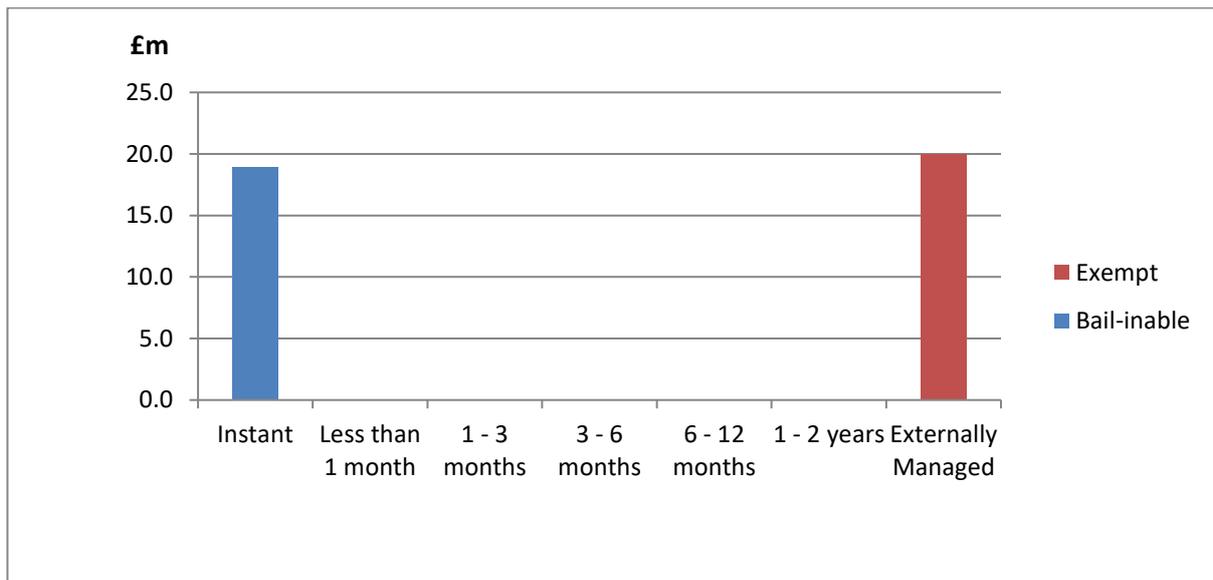


Table 5 – Types of Investments and Current Interest Rates

Instant Access Accounts	Average Rate	£m
Money Market Funds	4.54%	18.3
Banks	4.34%	0.6
Externally Managed Funds		£m
Total – see table 4	5.43%	20.0
Summary of Current Investments		£m
TOTAL	4.93%	38.9

Chart 3 – Maturity Profile of Investments



6.35. Note: Bail-inable means that in the event of default the counterparty may be required to use part of the investments as their own capital in which case the Council would not get back as much as they invested. This would apply with most bank and Building Society investments.

Treasury Management Indicators

- 6.36. The Authority measures and manages its exposures to treasury management risks using the following indicators.
- 6.37. **Interest Rate Exposures:** This indicator is set to control the Authority’s exposure to interest rate risk. The upper limit on the one-year revenue impact of a 1% rise in interest rates is:

Interest Rate Risk Indicator	Limit
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% <u>rise</u> in interest rates	£2,270,000
Actual impact in 2024/25 of changes in interest rates compared to budget	£250,000

6.38. The impact of a change in interest rates is calculated on the assumption that maturing loans and investments will be replaced at current rates. Borrowing and

investment rates during 2024/25 were broadly in line with the budgeted expectations.

- 6.39. **Maturity Structure of Borrowing:** This indicator is set to control the Authority's exposure to refinancing risk. Lower limits have been set at 0%. The upper limits on the maturity structure of borrowing and the actual maturity profiles as at 31 March 2025 are:

Refinancing rate risk indicator	Upper Limit	Actual
Under 12 months	75%	59%
12 months and within 24 months	75%	8%
24 months and within 5 years	75%	9%
5 years and within 10 years	75%	12%
10 years and within 20 years	100%	5%
20 years and above	100%	7%

- 6.40. Time periods start on the first day of each financial year. The maturity date of borrowing is the earliest date on which the lender can demand repayment.

- 6.41. **Principal Sums Invested for Periods Longer than 364 days:** The purpose of this indicator is to control the Authority's exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of its investments. The limits on the total principal sum invested to final maturities beyond the period are:

Price Risk Indicator	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Limit on principal invested beyond year end	£25m	£15m	£10m
Actual amounts committed beyond year end	£0m	£0m	£0m

Annex A: Existing Investment & Debt Portfolio Position

	31/03/25 Actual Portfolio £m	31/03/25 Average Rate for the year %
External Borrowing:		
PWLB – Fixed Rate	201	4.79%
Local Authorities	170	5.30%
LOBO Loans	17	4.63%
Other	9	4.91%
Total External Borrowing	397	5.03%
Other Long Term Liabilities:		
PFI	17	-
Total Gross External Debt	414	-
Investments:		
<i>Managed in-house</i>		
Short-term investments:		
Instant Access	19	4.96%
<i>Managed externally</i>		
Property Fund	7.5	4.91%
Multi Asset Fund	5	5.53%
Equity - Global	4	5.95%
Equity - UK	2.5	6.47%
Bonds	1	4.13%

Total Investments	39	5.10%
Net Debt	375	-

Section 7: Investment Strategy

Purpose

- 7.1 The Authority is required to present an Investment Strategy to Council on an annual basis. It does this via the MTFS approval process. This short summary updates the tables included in the main Investment Strategy. For a more detailed commentary please see the main Strategy within the published MTFS document.
- The purpose of the Investment Strategy is to:
 - set out the Council's approach to managing investments,
 - establish financial limits for various classifications of investment,
 - recognise the role and responsibilities of the Finance Sub-Committee and its position as the main conduit through which investment opportunities should be considered.
- 7.2 The definition of an investment covers all the financial assets of a local authority as well as other non-financial assets that the organisation holds primarily or partially to generate a profit; for example, investment property portfolios. This may therefore include investments that are not managed as part of normal treasury management processes or under treasury management delegations.
- 7.3 The Council has a Capital Strategy (prepared in line with the requirements of the Prudential Code); and a Treasury Management Strategy (prepared in line with the requirements of the Treasury Management Code) – relevant disclosures are made within each document.
- 7.4 Consequently, this Investment Strategy is part of a suite of related documents and focuses predominantly on matters not covered by the Capital Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy.

Investment Indicators

- 7.5 The Authority has set the following quantitative indicators to allow elected Members and the public to assess the Authority's total risk exposure arising from its investment decisions.
- 7.6 **Total risk exposure:** The first indicator shows the Authority's total exposure to potential investment losses. This includes amounts the Authority is contractually committed to lend but have yet to be drawn down and guarantees the Authority has issued over third-party loans.

Table 1 Total investment exposure	31/03/24 Actual	31/03/25 Actual	31/03/26 Forecast
Treasury management investments	41,940	38,900	40,000
Service investments: Loans	26,722	26,637	26,567
Service investments: Shares	3,270	1,960	1,960
Commercial investments: Property	22,295	21,815	21,815
Commercial Investments: Loans	3,491	3,147	2,792
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	97,718	92,459	93,134
Commitments to lend	6,013	6,013	6,013
TOTAL EXPOSURE	103,731	98,472	99,147

- 7.7 The Council has total investments exposure estimated at £98m by March 2025 (£59m excluding treasury management), of which £22m relates to property investment backed by physical assets with an income stream and alternative use. Other investments are loans for economic development purposes; and due to their nature, they are not a material element of our budgeting for interest income within the MTFS.
- 7.8 **How investments are funded:** Currently the Authority's investments are largely funded by usable reserves and income received in advance of expenditure. Prudential borrowing is being used in limited circumstances and performance is closely monitored.

Table 2 Investments funded by borrowing	31/03/24 Actual	31/03/25 Actual	31/03/26 Forecast
Treasury management investments	0	0	0
Service investments: Loans	0	0	0
Service investments: Shares	0	0	0
Commercial investments: Property	20,089	19,330	18,820
Commercial Investments: Loans	3,491	3,147	2,792
TOTAL FUNDED BY BORROWING	23,580	22,477	21,612

- 7.9 **Rate of return received:** In part this indicator shows, for Treasury Management and Commercial Property investments, the investment income received less the associated costs, including the cost of borrowing where appropriate, as a proportion of the sum initially invested. Note that due to the nature of the local government accounting framework, not all recorded gains and losses affect the revenue account in the year they are incurred.

Table 3 Investments net rate of return	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast
Treasury management investments	5.21%	5.10%	4.30%
Service investments: Loans	-2.44%	0.23%	0.00%
Service investments: Shares	NIL	NIL	NIL
Commercial investments: Property	3.20%	3.30%	3.50%
Commercial Investments: Loans	3.13%	3.13%	3.13%

- 7.10 The return for Service Investments: Loans is not a true return but is instead based largely on the % fluctuation in the underlying value of the new assets within the Life Science Fund. As such they do not reflect actual cashflows. In addition there are a number of non-interest bearing loans.
- 7.11 Typically, a return on a share would be based upon the dividend yield and there have been no dividends paid. Therefore, this has been shown as Nil. There has been a downward revaluation of property assets at Alderley Park which has impacted the underlying asset value that we show in Table 5 below. We will continue to monitor for signs of recovery, but the underlying asset value remains more than the Authority paid for the shares.
- 7.12 The major assets included within Commercial Investments: Properties, representing over 90% of the value in that classification, are two commercial retail properties. Whilst we will see fluctuations year-on-year given the pressures on 'bricks and mortar retail', the Council will only experience an impact on its Revenue Account if a site becomes vacant for a prolonged period or is subject to a (lower) rent review.
- 7.13 From the perspective of the Council one of the tenants affected is a home improvements retailer and the second is a national supermarket retailer. Both tenants have thus far weathered the local economic effects of recent years though we have experienced further reductions in asset value in the last financial year. As the lease term reduces this may continue until the leases are renewed.
- 7.14 Much of the investment returns for Commercial Investments relates to rent on these two assets. Rental income on both has held up during the year. Overall returns are affected by the need to offset prudential borrowing costs against the income. However, as this is the major income bearing category of investment more attention needs to be diverted to ensure that occupancy and income are maximised and secured for the long term.
- 7.15 The Commercial investments: Loans are at the expected level of return given the rates in place when they were established.

Treasury Management Investments

- 7.16 Full details of the Authority's policies and plans for 2025/26 for treasury management investments are covered in the separate Treasury Management Strategy.

Service Investments: Loans

7.17 **Contribution:** The Council lends money to other organisations to support local public services and stimulate economic growth. These are shown below in Table 4. No new loans were issued in the year though there were movements on existing loans and write offs of historic balances.

Table 4 Loans for service purposes Category of borrower	31/03/24 Actual £000	31/03/25 Actual £000	31/03/25 Actual £000	31/03/25 Forecast £000	2025/26 £000
		Balance owing	Loss allowance	Net figure in accounts	Approved Limit
Subsidiaries	0	0	0	0	2,000
Suppliers	23	0	0	0	500
Local businesses	26,470	26,531	61	26,470	30,000
Local charities	158	106	11	95	2,500
TOTAL	26,651	26,637	72	26,565	35,000

Service Investments: Shares

7.18 **Contribution:** The Council invests in the shares of its subsidiaries and local businesses to support local public services and stimulate local economic growth.

7.19 The Authority invested in Alderley Park Holdings Limited to maintain and stimulate this key strategic site within the borough. Cheshire East is a minority 10% shareholder. This should be seen as a long-term strategic investment with no dividend returns. Valuations are based upon the change in value of our share of the underlying assets. There is a lag between the forecasts used for the Investment Strategy and finalisation of the Council's accounts. Consequently, the value fell from a forecast of £3,270K to an actual of £1,960K, a fall in value of £1,310K, or 40%. This fall is continuing and accelerating a downward trend, and steps will be taken to ascertain the strategy for reversing this trend.

7.20 Currently, the valuation (see Table 5) remains greater than the purchase price and the underlying assets at Alderley Park remain strong, with a pipeline of future investments in place. A gain or loss to the Council's Revenue and Capital Receipts accounts would only crystallise in the event of divesting our equity stake.

Table 5 Shares held for service purposes Category of company	31/03/24 actual £000	31/03/25 actual £000	31/03/25 Actual £000	31/03/25 Actual £000	2025/26 £000
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	Value in accounts	Amounts invested	Total Gains/ (Losses)	Value in accounts	Approved Limit (at cost)
Local businesses	3,270	1,070	890	1,960	10,000
TOTAL	3,270	1,070	890	1,960	10,000

Commercial Investments: Property

7.21 For the purpose of this Strategy, it should be noted that property is defined as an investment if it is held primarily or partially to generate a profit. To comply with accounting classifications, the Authority includes several assets in Table 6 that might otherwise be excluded as they are not being held to primarily generate a yield or return.

7.22 **Contribution:** The Council invests in local commercial property and land, for a number of reasons. The intention of making a profit that will be spent on local public services is largely a by-product and is not the primary reason.

7.23 We have revisited the historic purchase costs of the assets included in the categories below. For those that were inherited by Cheshire East Council we have used the valuation at 2009/10. This is to allow for a simple calculation of yield.

7.24 The value of properties is updated annually. The most recent valuation is from March 2024 and saw continuing falls to commercial property valuations. The most significant correction came with retail property, and this category is now valued at less than purchase cost. The main driver for the fall in is the reduced number of years remaining on an existing lease. This increases the risk of non-renewal thereby lowering the valuation. The downward trend is expected to continue in 2025 until a new tenancy agreement is agreed. No revised valuation for 2025 is currently available. The figures will be updated in future reports. There has also been a disposal of office property in the year.

Table 6 Property held for investment purposes Property	Actual Purchase cost	31/03/24 actual Gains or (losses) in-year	31/03/24 actual Value in accounts (includes gains/ (losses) to date	31/03/25 expected Gains or (losses)	31/03/25 expected Value in accounts
Industrial Units	1,492	122	1,740	-	1,740
Enterprise Centres	245	20	345	-	345
Retail	23,300	(2,358)	19,730	-	19,730
Office	240	(26)	480	(480)	-
Total	25,277	(2,242)	22,295	(480)	21,815

Commercial Investments: Loans

- 7.25 **Contribution:** The Authority has worked alongside Cheshire West and Chester Council and Warrington Borough Council to each provide Enterprise Cheshire & Warrington Ltd with a £10m loan facility to be used to invest in economic development schemes across the Enterprise Zones in the sub-region.
- 7.26 There is currently one loan in place and has been used to fund development of Alderley Park. The purpose is to stimulate economic development, and payback of the loans will be achieved from Business Rates retained by the LEP under Enterprise Zone regulations. Whilst the balance of the facility is still available there are no imminent plans to draw down further amounts.

Table 7 Loans for commercial purposes Category of borrower	31/03/24 Actual	As at 31/03/25 Actual Balance owing	As at 31/03/25 Actual Loss allowance	As at 31/03/25 Actual Net figure in accounts	2025/26 Approved Limit
Partner Organisations	3,351	3,147	126	3,021	10,000
TOTAL	3,351	3,147	126	3,021	10,000

Loan Commitments and Financial Guarantees

- 7.27 As Accountable Body for Enterprise Cheshire & Warrington, the Council is acting as Entrusted Entity to a £20m European Regional Development Fund supported 'Evergreen' Development Fund, which has issued loans to third parties. The Council, as contracting party, provides guarantees in respect of the amounts provided through ERDF.
- 7.28 The Fund is designed to provide loan finance to specific projects across Cheshire and the north west and will not generate a return for the Authority. The balances are included this year within Service Investments: Loans (see Table 4 above).

Proportionality

- 7.29 A major concern for external governing bodies is the extent to which Authorities are dependent upon investment income to fund services. Proportionality forms a key component of the Prudential Code.
- 7.30 Historically, the Authority has not been materially dependent on return-generating investment activity to achieve a balanced revenue budget. However, in the context of the current financial situation faced by the Authority and the sector, those returns will become an important factor in the ability to set a balanced budget. Whilst the proportion of the net revenue budget was consistently low and deemed immaterial this could change and should it fail to achieve the expected net return, the Authority's contingency plans for continuing to provide these services include effective budget management and tight cost control could become more difficult to achieve. Therefore, more emphasis needs to be placed on managing the portfolio and securing an income stream or reviewing exit strategies.

Capacity, Skills and Culture

- 7.31 **Elected Members and Statutory Officers:** Adequate steps are taken to ensure that those elected Members and statutory officers involved in the investment decision making process have appropriate capacity, skills and information to enable them to: 1. take informed decisions as to whether to enter into a specific investment; 2. to consider individual assessments in the context of the strategic objectives and risk profile of the local authority; and 3. to enable them to understand how the quantum of these decisions have changed the overall risk exposure of the local authority.
- 7.32 The Finance Sub-Committee comprising Members, supported by officers and where necessary external advisors, provides oversight of the Investment Strategy and acts on recommendations from officers that consider opportunities to enhance the Revenue and Capital Budgets of the Council through strategic investments, whether that involves using capital / cash resources or borrowing and lending powers.
- 7.33 **Commercial deals:** Steps have been taken to ensure that those negotiating and reporting commercial deals are aware of the core principles of the prudential framework and of the regulatory regime within which local authorities operate. A team of officers from Place, Finance, Legal, and Procurement are responsible for ensuring that the framework is followed. Where appropriate staff are provided with additional training and up to date skills via CIPFA and other providers.
- 7.34 **Corporate governance:** Corporate governance arrangements have been put in place to ensure accountability, responsibility and authority for decision making on investment activities within the context of the Council's corporate values and Constitution.

ANNEX 2



Grants Register 2024/25

Results to end of March 2025

Corporate Grants Register 2024/25

Children & Families Name of Grants received	Original Budget	Final Outturn	Change from Original Budget	Suppleme ntary Revenue Estimate reported
Children & Families: Schools - Ring-fenced (specific purpose)				
Dedicated Schools Grant	183,309,155	178,734,274	-4,574,881	FR3
Pupil Premium Grant	4,958,000	5,018,268	60,268	
Pupil Premium Plus - Post 16 Funding	56,000	92,075	36,075	
Sixth Forms Grant	2,892,000	2,932,912	40,912	
Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)	1,928,000	1,832,376	-95,624	
Primary Physical Education Sports Grant	982,000	947,911	-34,089	
Teachers Pay Additional Grant	0	1,677,984	1,677,984	FR1
Teachers Pension Grant	0	2,617,416	2,617,416	FR1
COVID-19 Recovery Premium	900,000	245,118	-654,882	
School Led Tutoring Grant	295,000	98,335	-196,666	
School Improvement Monitoring & Brokering Grant FY 2025-26 - carried- forward	0	-264,917	-264,917	
School Improvement Monitoring & Brokering Grant FY 2023-24	0	364,002	364,002	
Milk Subsidy	21,000	0	-21,000	
Core Schools Budget Grant (CSBG)	0	2,502,001	2,502,001	See Table 1 above
Senior Mental Health Lead Training Grant	0	15,600	15,600	
S14 Experts and Mentors Programme Grant - carried-forward	0	6,500	6,500	
Delivering Better Value in SEND	408,000	115,234	-292,766	
National Professional Qualification Grant	0	15,800	15,800	
Early Years Supplementary Grant	0	-45,570	-45,570	
Early Years Budget Grant	0	202,522	202,522	
Early Years Teachers Pay Additional Grant	0	146,161	146,161	
Total Children & Families: Schools - Ring- fenced (specific purpose)	195,749,155	197,254,002	1,504,847	
Children & Families: Children's Services - Ring-fenced (specific purpose)				
Asylum Seekers	3,700,000	2,946,667	-753,333	
Asylum Seekers - difference between estimated grant income relating to 2023/24 and actual	0	111,651	111,651	
Supporting Families (previously Tackling Troubled Families) Payment By Results	0	409,600	409,600	
Supporting Families (Payments by Results) Upfront Grant	720,000	785,100	65,100	

Children & Families Name of Grants received	Original Budget	Final Outturn	Change from Original Budget	Suppleme ntary Revenue Estimate reported
Supporting Families Payments by Results/Upfront Grant - Carry forward to 2025-2026	0	-1,729,854	-1,729,854	
Reducing Parental Conflict Grant - Accrual Reversal from 2023-2024	0	-13,320	-13,320	
Reducing Parental Conflict Grant	0	39,268	39,268	
Adoption Support Fund	70,000	137,257	67,257	
KS2 Moderation & KS1 Phonics	11,000	10,803	-197	
Independent Support Grant (CEIAS) FY2025-2026 c/f from previous years	0	-12,228	-12,228	
Independent Support Grant (CEIAS) FY2023-2024	0	12,228	12,228	
Skills & Lifelong Learning FY2025-2026 c/f from previous years	0	-163,355	-163,355	
Skills & Lifelong Learning FY2024-2025	897,000	995,113	98,113	
Supporting Families; Investing in Practice programme (Mockingbird Family Model)	0	115,284	115,284	
Remand Grant	107,000	120,308	13,308	
Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Housing Grant - carried-forward	0	-111,086	-111,086	
Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Housing Grant	676,000	675,643	-357	
Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Housing Grant - brought-forward	0	148,545	148,545	
Holiday Activities & Food Programme Grant	906,000	906,480	480	
Holiday Activities & Food Programme Grant - Grant carried forward to 2025-2026 for clawback	0	-50,258	-50,258	
Holiday Activities & Food Programme Grant adjustment 2023/24	0	141,202	141,202	
S31 Kinship Grant	0	20,000	20,000	
S31 Kinship Grant - Grant carried forward to 2025-26	0	-20,000	-20,000	
S31 Extension of the Role of Virtual School Heads to children with a social worker 2024/25	118,000	118,136	136	
S31 Extension of the Role of Virtual School Heads to children with a social worker 2024/25 - c/f to 2025/26	0	-118,136	-118,136	
S31 Extension of the Role of Virtual School Heads to children with a social worker 2023/24 - b/f prev year	0	118,136	118,136	
S31 Extension of the Role of Virtual School Heads to children with a social worker 2023/24 - c/f to 2025/26	0	-73,017	-73,017	
S31 Extension of the Role of Virtual School Heads to children with a social worker 2022-2023 - c/f from prev year	0	100,281	100,281	
Covid 19 - Recovery Premium Grant	0	51,286	51,286	

Children & Families Name of Grants received	Original Budget	Final Outturn	Change from Original Budget	Suppleme ntary Revenue Estimate reported
Covid 19 - Recovery Premium Grant - carried-forward	0	-51,286	-51,286	
Household Support Fund - Grant RIA 2023-2024 - To be clawed back in 2024- 2025	0	43,312	43,312	
Household Support Fund - Grant received in year 2024-25 (incl clawback)	0	2,871,396	2,871,396	FR1/FR2
Household Support Fund - Grant Debtor 2024-25	0	1,493,076	1,493,076	FR1/FR2
Hong Kong UK Welcome Programme (British Nationals)	0	33,129	33,129	
Early Years - Delivery Support Fund - Carried forward from 2023-2024	0	90,278	90,278	
Early Years - Delivery Support Fund carried forward to 2025-26	0	-19,144	-19,144	
Early Years - Professional Development Programme	0	68,192	68,192	
Early Years - Professional Development Programme - Grant carried forward	0	-29,156	-29,156	
Early Years - Experts and Mentors Programme	0	7,050	7,050	
Early Years - Wraparound Childcare Programme	0	64,932	64,932	
Early Years - Wraparound Childcare Programme	587,000	516,397	-70,603	
Early Years - Wraparound Childcare Programme - Carry forward to 2025-2026	0	-350,172	-350,172	
Family Hubs Transformation Funding - Carried forward from 2023-2024	0	492,103	492,103	
Family Hubs Transformation Funding 2024-25	0	90,200	90,200	
Family Hubs Transformation Funding 2024-25 - Transferred to capital	0	-115,000	-115,000	
Family Hubs Transformation Funding 2024-25 - C/F to 2025-26	0	-38,892	-38,892	
Leaving Care Allowance Uplift Implementation Grant (New Burdens)	72,000	72,022	22	
Staying Close Award	602,000	602,060	60	
Staying Close Award - carried forward	0	-123,520	-123,520	
Supported Accommodation New Burdens Grant	174,000	619,672	445,672	
Enhance Programme Funding	350,000	330,244	-19,756	
Befriending and Mentoring Programme	0	316,599	316,599	
Social Worker Apprenticeship	0	1,125	1,125	
Total Children & Families: Children's Services - Ring-fenced (specific purpose)	8,990,000	12,656,352	3,666,352	
Children & Families: Children's Services - Unring-fenced (general purpose)				
Social Care Support Grant (Children)	9,166,000	9,216,863	50,863	
Staying Put Implementation Grant	0	130,125	130,125	

Children & Families Name of Grants received	Original Budget	Final Outturn	Change from Original Budget	Suppleme ntary Revenue Estimate reported
Extended Rights to Free Transport (Home to School Transport)	0	324,300	324,300	
Extended Personal Adviser Duty Implementation	0	57,414	57,414	
Extension of the role of Virtual School Heads	0	60,595	60,595	
Total Children & Families: Children's Services - Unring-fenced (general purpose)	9,166,000	9,789,297	623,297	

Adults & Health Name of Grants received	Original Budget	Final Outturn	Change from Original Budget	Suppleme ntary Revenue Estimate reported
Adults & Health - Ring-fenced (specific purpose)				
Additional Better Care (for Adult Social Care)	8,706,000	8,705,871	-129	
Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund	979,000	979,180	180	
Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund - top-up	4,098,000	4,267,358	169,358	
Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund - Workforce Element	1,100,000	1,100,000	0	
Discharge Fund	2,021,000	2,034,248	13,248	
Multiply - Supported Employment - brought-forward	0	135,235	135,235	
Multiply - Supported Employment	536,000	414,483	-121,517	
Multiply - Supported Employment - carried-forward	0	-40,747	-40,747	
Supported Internship Grant	0	28,465	28,465	
Asylum Dispersal Scheme - brought forward	0	343,982	343,982	
Asylum Dispersal Scheme	0	459,000	459,000	FR2
Asylum Dispersal Scheme - carried forward	0	-496,156	-496,156	
Afghan - Wrap Around support - brought-forward	0	431,050	431,050	
Afghan - Wrap Around support - carried-forward	0	-153,381	-153,381	
Afghan - Resettlement support - brought-forward	0	403,723	403,723	

Adults & Health Name of Grants received	Original Budget	Final Outturn	Change from Original Budget	Suppleme ntary Revenue Estimate reported
Afghan - Resettlement support	132,000	501,215	369,215	
Afghan - Resettlement support - carried-forward	0	-1,044,138	-1,044,138	
Afghan - Integration Support	0	107,150	107,150	
Homes for Ukraine Scheme - brought-forward	0	211,411	211,411	
Homes for Ukraine Scheme	0	754,668	754,668	See Table 2 above
Homes for Ukraine Scheme - carried-forward	0	-166,300	-166,300	
Private Finance Initiative (PFI) credits	4,125,000	4,124,787	-213	
Private Finance Initiative (PFI) credits (Beechmere) - carried-forward	0	-1,288,996	-1,288,996	
National Grant from DHSC to fund LAs to create additional ASC apprenticeships	0	30,000	30,000	
Total Adults & Health - Ring-fenced (specific purpose)	21,697,000	21,842,108	145,108	
Adults & Health - Unring-fenced (general purpose)				
Social Care Support Grant (Adults)	16,414,000	16,385,551	-28,449	
Local Reform & Community Voices	207,000	207,874	874	
Social Care in Prisons	73,000	67,956	-5,044	
War Pension Scheme Disregard	60,000	58,635	-1,365	
Total Adults & Health - Unring-fenced (general purpose)	16,754,000	16,720,016	-33,984	
Adults & Health: Public Health - Ring-fenced (specific purpose)				
Public Health Grant	18,345,000	18,344,755	-245	
Public Health Grant - Top up	0	281,960	281,960	
OHID SSMTR Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment & Recovery Grant	0	524,528	524,528	FR1
North West Probation Service funding for SMS rehabilitative and resettlement interventions	72,000	123,182	51,182	
CHAMPS Marmot Place Funding - encourage pregnant women to stop smoking - brought-forward	0	21,500	21,500	
CHAMPS SMS - inpatient detox	0	159,253	159,253	
Reducing cardio-vascular disease in Cheshire East	0	6,000	6,000	
Local stop smoking services and support	0	432,331	432,331	
Local stop smoking services and support - carried-forward	0	-42,850	-42,850	
Total Adults & Health: Public Health - Ring-fenced (specific purpose)	18,417,000	19,850,659	1,433,659	

Corporate Policy Name of Grants received	Original Budget	Final Outturn	Change from Original Budget	Suppleme ntary Revenue Estimate reported
Corporate Policy - Ring-fenced (specific purpose)				
Revenues and Housing Benefits:				
Housing Benefit Subsidy	53,221,000	55,451,715	2,230,715	See Table 1 above
Discretionary Housing Payments Grant	349,000	348,661	-339	
Housing Benefit (HB) Award Accuracy Initiative	29,000	26,926	-2,074	
LADS - VEP (RTI) funding	14,000	8,071	-5,929	
New Burdens: Universal Credit, maintenance & natural migration	24,000	24,005	5	
Local Authority Data Sharing (LADS)	0	733	733	
LADS - New Burdens - Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP)	60,000	59,230	-770	
LADS - New Burdens - Benefit Cap	1,000	213	-787	
LADS - New Burdens - Single Fraud Investigation	0	911	911	
LADS - New Burdens - Single Housing Benefit Extract Automation	1,000	13,009	12,009	
Additional funding for the Verify Earnings and Pensions service for the financial year ending March 2025	0	4,704	4,704	
Additional New Burden: terminating Employment Support Allowance with Housing Benefit claims 2024/25	0	10,377	10,377	
HB Review Admin Payment	0	236	236	
Business Rates Reliefs Grant - NNDR1	23,442,000	10,629,000	-12,813,000	
Business Rates Reliefs Grant - additional at NNDR3	0	-940,052	-940,052	
New Burdens Administration Grant	0	27,640	27,640	
Democratic Services:				
Police and Crime Commissioner's Panel grant	0	65,260	65,260	
Police And Crime Commissioner Election 2021 Grant	0	84,427	84,427	
Finance and Customer Services:				
Redmond Review	0	51,396	51,396	
Cyber Support Grant	0	3,418	3,418	
Client-Level Data Flows Support	0	0	0	
Total Corporate Policy - Ring-fenced (specific purpose)	77,141,000	65,869,880	-11,271,120	
Corporate Policy - Unring-fenced (general purpose)				
Housing Benefit Administration Subsidy	720,000	706,572	-13,428	
NNDR Administration Allowance	586,652	578,438	-8,214	
New Homes Bonus	4,084,880	4,084,880	0	
Services Grant	271,000	296,984	25,984	
Local Government Transparency Code	0	13,071	13,071	
Debt Charges (Ministry of Justice)	0	38,882	38,882	
Electoral Integrity New Burdens	0	82,055	82,055	
Revenue Support Grant	414,000	414,069	69	

Corporate Policy Name of Grants received	Original Budget	Final Outturn	Change from Original Budget	Suppleme ntary Revenue Estimate reported
Business Rates Levy Surplus	0	356,734	356,734	
Total Corporate Policy - Unring-fenced (general purpose)	6,076,532	6,571,685	495,153	

Place Name of Grants received	Original Budget	Final Outturn	Change from Original Budget	Suppleme ntary Revenue Estimate reported
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Economy & Growth - Ring-fenced (specific purpose)				
Rough Sleeping Initiative	0	179,879	179,879	
Rough Sleeping Initiative	0	41,952	41,952	
Homelessness Prevention Grant	0	815,676	815,676	FR1
Homelessness Prevention Grant	0	238,686	238,686	FR1
Local Authority Housing Fund	0	3,230	3,230	
Shared Prosperity Fund - brought-forward	0	1,064,784	1,064,784	
Shared Prosperity Fund	5,868,000	2,634,087	-3,233,913	
Enterprise Cheshire & Warrington (ECW): Growth Hub Funding	0	234,285	234,285	
Enterprise Cheshire & Warrington (ECW): NP (Northern Powerhouse) 11	0	261,000	261,000	
Enterprise Cheshire & Warrington (ECW): Skills Bootcamp	0	2,229,214	2,229,214	FR3
Natural England - Stewardship scheme	2,000	1,690	-310	
Natural England - Stewardship scheme	7,000	7,512	512	
Apprentice Incentive Scheme	0	500	500	
Natural England - Stewardship scheme	0	111,020	111,020	
Total Economy & Growth - Ring-fenced (specific purpose)	5,877,000	7,823,515	1,946,515	

Environment & Communities - Ring-fenced (specific purpose)				
Bikeability Grant	0	294,307	294,307	
Planning Skills Delivery Fund - brought forward	0	100,000	100,000	
Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums)	0	30,000	30,000	
Air Quality Grant (Cycling) - brought- forward	0	4,047	4,047	
Section 31 grant - Biodiversity net gain	0	43,467	43,467	
DLUHC - Mobile Home Fit and Proper Person Test grant - brought forward	0	250	250	
XL Bully Ban Implementation Fund	0	6,759	6,759	
Fly Tipping Intervention	0	9,330	9,330	
Total Environment & Communities - Ring-fenced (specific purpose)	0	488,160	488,160	

Highways & Transport - Ring-fenced (specific purpose)				
Bus Capacity Grant - brought-forward	0	158,571	158,571	

Place Name of Grants received	Original Budget	Final Outturn	Change from Original Budget	Suppleme ntary Revenue Estimate reported
Bus Capacity Grant - carried-forward	0	-94,884	-94,884	
Bus Recovery Grant - brought-forward	0	150,000	150,000	
Bus Capability Grant - brought-forward	0	0	0	
Local Transport Fund	0	218,883	218,883	
Bus Support Grant - brought-forward	0	0	0	
Bus Support Grant	0	347,865	347,865	
Active Travel Capability Fund - brought-forward	0	196,339	196,339	
Active Travel Capability Fund - carried-forward	0	-49,856	-49,856	
Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) - brought forward	0	229,510	229,510	
Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) - 2024-25	0	159,490	159,490	
Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) - carried forward	0	-377,471	-377,471	
Bus Service Improvement Plan+ (BSIP+) - brought forward	0	1,178,350	1,178,350	
Bus Service Improvement Plan+ (BSIP+) - Phase 2	0	1,187,596	1,187,596	FR1
Bus Service Improvement Plan+ (BSIP+) - Phase 3	0	2,268,000	2,268,000	FR1
Bus Service Improvement Plan+ (BSIP+) - Transfer to Capital	0	-450,000	-450,000	
Bus Service Improvement Plan+ (BSIP+) - carried forward	0	-3,448,795	-3,448,795	
Bus Fare Cap Grant - brought forward	0	1,415	1,415	
Bus Fare Cap - Mikro	0	1,474	1,474	
Bus Fare Cap 2024-25	0	1,543	1,543	
Bus Fare Cap 2024-25 additional	0	2,509	2,509	
Rural Mobility Fund - brought-forward	0	241,950	241,950	
Highways Tree Survey	0	3,359	3,359	
Total Highways & Transport - Ring-fenced (specific purpose)	0	1,925,848	1,925,848	
Total Ring-fenced Grants	327,871,155	327,710,523	-160,632	
Total Unring-fenced Grants	31,996,532	33,080,998	1,084,466	

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Capital Programme 2024/25

Results to end of March 2025

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25 - 2027/28													
Scheme Description	Forecast Expenditure							Forecast Funding					Total Funding £000
	Total Approved Budget £000	Prior Years £000	Actuals 2024/25 £000	Forecast Budget 2025/26 £000	Forecast Budget 2026/27 £000	Forecast Budget 2027/28 £000	Total Forecast Budget 2024/28 £000	Grants £000	External Contributions £000	Revenue Contributions £000	Capital Receipts £000	Prudential Borrowing £000	
Committed Schemes in progress													
Adults Services													
Community - Rural Shared Prosperity	361	81	280	0	0	0	280	280	0	0	0	0	280
Electronic Call Monitoring System	389	0	0	389	0	0	389	0	0	389	0	0	389
People Planner System	94	43	0	51	0	0	51	51	0	0	0	0	51
Replacement Care4CE Devices	93	65	0	28	0	0	28	28	0	0	0	0	28
Total Committed Schemes	937	189	280	468	0	0	748	359	0	389	0	0	748
Total Adults and Health Schemes	937	189	280	468	0	0	748	359	0	389	0	0	748

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25 - 2027/28

Scheme Description	Forecast Expenditure							Forecast Funding					Total Funding £000
	Total Approved Budget £000	Prior Years £000	Actuals 2024/25 £000	Forecast Budget 2025/26 £000	Forecast Budget 2026/27 £000	Forecast Budget 2027/28 £000	Total Forecast Budget 2024/28 £000	Grants £000	External Contributions £000	Revenue Contributions £000	Capital Receipts £000	Prudential Borrowing £000	
Committed Schemes in progress													
Childrens Social Care													
Foster Carers Capacity Scheme	534	434	34	67	0	0	101	0	0	0	0	101	101
Crewe Youth Zone	4,826	395	175	4,256	0	0	4,431	3,584	0	0	0	847	4,431
Family Hubs Transformation	282	124	158	0	0	0	158	158	0	0	0	0	158
Children's Home Sufficiency Scheme	1,404	204	155	1,046	0	0	1,200	0	0	0	0	1,200	1,200
Strong Start, Family Help & Integration													
Early Years Sufficiency Capital Fund	1,036	943	42	50	0	0	92	92	0	0	0	0	92
Childcare Capital Expansion	749	0	9	740	0	0	749	749	0	0	0	0	749
Education and 14-19 Skills													
Adelaide Academy	904	55	13	835	0	0	848	678	0	0	0	170	848
Basic Need Grant Allocation	7,551	10	7	7,534	0	0	7,541	7,541	0	0	0	0	7,541
Brine Leas High School	709	5	705	0	0	0	705	705	0	0	0	0	705
Cledford House	11	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congleton Planning Area	4,523	4,521	2	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	2
Congleton Planning Area - Primary (1)	2,209	179	0	2,030	0	0	2,030	764	1,266	0	0	0	2,030
Congleton Planning Area - Primary (2)	628	574	6	49	0	0	55	55	0	0	0	0	55
Congleton Planning Area - Primary (3)	7,504	4	0	49	2,200	5,250	7,499	4,299	3,200	0	0	0	7,499
Devolved Formula Grant - Schools	1,533	0	443	780	310	0	1,533	1,533	0	0	0	0	1,533
Energy Efficiency Grant - Schools	672	391	165	116	0	0	280	280	0	0	0	0	280
Future Schemes - Feasibility Studies	250	25	99	126	0	0	225	225	0	0	0	0	225
Handforth Planning Area - New School	13,003	3	6	494	4,000	8,499	12,999	135	12,864	0	0	0	12,999
Holmes Chapel Secondary School	3,659	3,664	-5	0	0	0	-5	-5	0	0	0	0	-5
Little Angels Satellite Sites	29	21	0	8	0	0	8	8	0	0	0	0	8

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25 - 2027/28

Scheme Description	Forecast Expenditure							Forecast Funding					Total Funding £000
	Total Approved Budget £000	Prior Years £000	Actuals 2024/25 £000	Forecast Budget 2025/26 £000	Forecast Budget 2026/27 £000	Forecast Budget 2027/28 £000	Total Forecast Budget 2024/28 £000	Grants £000	External Contributions £000	Revenue Contributions £000	Capital Receipts £000	Prudential Borrowing £000	
Committed Schemes in progress													
Education and 14-19 Skills													
Macclesfield Academy Resource Provision	103	3	0	100	0	0	100	100	0	0	0	0	100
Macclesfield Planning Area - Secondary	1,157	1,148	10	0	0	0	10	0	10	0	0	0	10
Macclesfield Planning Area - Secondary New	731	5	1	725	0	0	725	725	0	0	0	0	725
Macclesfield Planning Area - New School	4,001	1	0	0	0	4,000	4,000	0	4,000	0	0	0	4,000
Malbank High School	1,922	1,897	0	25	0	0	25	25	0	0	0	0	25
Mobberley Primary School	1,208	35	2	609	561	0	1,172	872	0	0	300	0	1,172
Nantwich Planning Area (Primary Schools - 210	9,061	733	60	7,768	500	0	8,328	5,308	3,020	0	0	0	8,328
Oakfield Lodge & Stables	50	12	0	37	0	0	38	38	0	0	0	0	38
Poynton Planning Area	1,500	13	8	1,479	0	0	1,487	684	803	0	0	0	1,487
Provision of Sufficient School Places - SEND (Springfield Crewe)	7,182	3,861	3,113	208	0	0	3,322	0	0	0	0	3,322	3,322
Puss Bank SEN Expansion	532	520	0	12	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	12	12
Provision of SEN Unit - Wistaston Primary School	1,523	169	1,354	0	0	0	1,354	1,054	0	0	0	300	1,354
Sandbach Boys School	18	20	-2	0	0	0	-2	-2	0	0	0	0	-2
Sandbach Primary Academy	1,583	106	806	671	0	0	1,477	1,477	0	0	0	0	1,477
Schools Condition Capital Grant	7,600	1,227	199	4,175	2,000	0	6,373	6,373	0	0	0	0	6,373
SEN/High Needs Capital Allocation	4,790	168	19	4,603	0	0	4,622	4,622	0	0	0	0	4,622
Shavington Planning Area - New Primary School	8,040	156	6	1,094	6,784	0	7,884	5,549	2,335	0	0	0	7,884
Shavington Planning Area - Secondary	3,522	2,883	639	0	0	0	639	639	0	0	0	0	639
Springfield Satellite Site (Dean Row)	6,112	5,934	-114	292	0	0	178	0	0	0	0	178	178
The Dingle PS Expansion	1,395	1,135	238	22	0	0	260	260	0	0	0	0	260
Tytherington High School	2,806	172	36	2,597	0	0	2,633	2,633	0	0	0	0	2,633
Various SEN Sites - Small Works/Adaptations	150	0	1	149	0	0	150	150	0	0	0	0	150
Wheelock Primary School	2,411	201	689	1,521	0	0	2,210	1,751	460	0	0	0	2,210
Wilmslow High School BN	14,179	12,355	433	1,391	0	0	1,825	487	1,290	0	0	48	1,825
Wilmslow Primary Planning Area	626	1	0	625	0	0	625	125	500	0	0	0	625
Total Committed Schemes	134,219	44,319	9,513	46,283	16,356	17,749	89,901	53,675	29,747	0	300	6,178	89,901

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25 - 2027/28

Scheme Description	Forecast Expenditure							Forecast Funding					Total Funding £000
	Total Approved Budget £000	Prior Years £000	Actuals 2024/25 £000	Forecast Budget 2025/26 £000	Forecast Budget 2026/27 £000	Forecast Budget 2027/28 £000	Total Forecast Budget 2024/28 £000	Grants £000	External Contributions £000	Revenue Contributions £000	Capital Receipts £000	Prudential Borrowing £000	
	New Schemes												
Education and 14-19 Skills													
New Satellite Special School - 1	6,000	0	17	5,983	0	0	6,000	6,000	0	0	0	0	6,000
New Satellite school - 2	9,000	0	13	987	5,000	3,000	9,000	9,000	0	0	0	0	9,000
New SEN places - 1	1,089	0	4	1,086	0	0	1,089	1,089	0	0	0	0	1,089
New SEN places - 2	25	0	0	25	0	0	25	25	0	0	0	0	25
New SEN places - 3	163	0	141	22	0	0	163	163	0	0	0	0	163
SEN New Free School	998	0	10	740	248	0	998	998	0	0	0	0	998
Gainsborough Primary - Flooring	304	0	17	287	0	0	304	304	0	0	0	0	304
New AP Free School	500	0	3	497	0	0	500	500	0	0	0	0	500
Leighton SEND Reception Adaptations	26	0	0	26	0	0	26	26	0	0	0	0	26
Park Lane Refurbishment additional SEND places	200	0	5	195	0	0	200	200	0	0	0	0	200
Total New Schemes	18,305	0	209	9,848	5,248	3,000	18,305	18,305	0	0	0	0	18,305
Total Children and Families Schemes	152,524	44,319	9,722	56,131	21,604	20,749	108,205	71,980	29,747	0	300	6,178	108,205

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25 - 2027/28

Scheme Description	Forecast Expenditure							Forecast Funding					Total Funding £000
	Total Approved Budget £000	Prior Years £000	Actuals 2024/25 £000	Forecast Budget 2025/26 £000	Forecast Budget 2026/27 £000	Forecast Budget 2027/28 £000	Total Forecast Budget 2024-28 £000	Grants £000	External Contributions £000	Revenue Contributions £000	Capital Receipts £000	Prudential Borrowing £000	
Committed Schemes in progress													
ICT Services													
Accelerate Digital	1,460	0	282	1,177	0	0	1,460	0	0	0	0	1,460	1,460
Care Act Phase 2	6,314	4,599	657	1,058	0	0	1,715	0	0	0	0	1,715	1,715
Digital Customer Enablement	3,102	2,424	516	163	0	0	678	0	0	0	0	678	678
ICT Device Replacement	1,912	683	454	776	0	0	1,229	0	0	0	0	1,229	1,229
ICT Hybrid Model	3,449	445	1,314	1,690	0	0	3,004	0	0	0	0	3,004	3,004
IADM (Information Assurance and Data)	19,465	16,421	1,035	2,009	0	0	3,044	0	0	0	0	3,044	3,044
Infrastructure Investment Programme (IIP)	34,429	31,065	311	2,223	830	0	3,364	0	0	0	0	3,364	3,364
Vendor Management	1,006	765	3	239	0	0	241	0	0	0	0	241	241
Finance & Customer Services													
Core Financials	11,317	9,365	894	765	293	0	1,952	0	0	0	0	1,952	1,952
Strategic Capital Projects		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vendor Management - Phase 2	99	24	0	25	50	0	75	0	0	0	0	75	75
Total Committed Schemes	82,553	65,790	5,465	10,125	1,173	0	16,764	0	0	0	0	16,764	16,764
Total Corporate Policy Schemes	82,553	65,790	5,465	10,125	1,173	0	16,764	0	0	0	0	16,764	16,764

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25 - 2027/28

Scheme Description	Forecast Expenditure							Forecast Funding					Total Funding £000
	Total Approved Budget £000	Prior Years £000	Actuals 2024/25 £000	Forecast Budget 2025/26 £000	Forecast Budget 2026/27 £000	Forecast Budget 2027/28 £000	Total Forecast Budget 2024-28 £000	Grants £000	External Contributions £000	Revenue Contributions £000	Capital Receipts £000	Prudential Borrowing £000	
Committed Schemes in progress													
Facilities Management													
Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund - FM 3	5,214	5,023	121	70	0	0	191	0	0	0	0	191	191
PSDS - 3B - Lot 1	1,028	77	135	815	0	0	951	827	0	0	0	123	951
PSDS - 3B - Lot 3 (schools)	4,390	3,267	87	1,036	0	0	1,123	1,056	0	67	0	0	1,123
Septic Tanks	636	285	6	94	251	0	351	0	0	0	0	351	351
Schools Capital Maintenance	8,315	5,575	213	2,527	0	0	2,740	2,459	0	281	0	0	2,740
Corporate Landlord - Operational	999	996	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	4
Premises Capital (FM)	39,587	32,530	1,516	4,393	1,149	0	7,058	0	0	0	0	7,058	7,058
Poynton Pool Spillway	1,380	468	95	816	0	0	912	0	0	27	0	884	912
Housing													
Crewe Towns Fund - Warm and Healthy Homes	2,126	31	130	1,965	0	0	2,095	2,095	0	0	0	0	2,095
Disabled Facilities	22,884	10,181	3,859	3,244	2,800	2,800	12,703	11,435	341	0	0	928	12,703
Green Homes Grant	3,030	2,378	72	242	339	0	652	652	0	0	0	0	652
Gypsy and Traveller Sites	4,136	2,938	1,120	78	0	0	1,198	175	0	0	0	1,023	1,198
Home Repairs Vulnerable People	1,458	870	117	471	0	0	588	119	33	0	0	436	588
Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2	4,416	740	1,354	2,322	0	0	3,675	3,666	9	0	0	0	3,675
Local Authority Housing Fund	731	293	129	309	0	0	438	438	0	0	0	0	438
Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund	1,565	1,557	8	0	0	0	8	8	0	0	0	0	8
Sustainable Warmth - Home Upgrade Grant not	1,584	1,557	14	14	0	0	28	40	-12	0	0	0	28
Temporary Accommodation	1,479	1,069	7	403	0	0	410	0	164	246	0	0	410
Warm Homes Fund	239	213	5	21	0	0	26	26	0	0	0	0	26
Estates													
Corporate Landlord - Non-Operational	1,336	0	0	1,336	0	0	1,336	0	0	0	0	1,336	1,336
Malkins Bank Landfill Site	1,360	661	121	577	0	0	699	0	0	0	0	699	699
Farms Strategy	2,910	1,689	0	385	209	626	1,220	0	0	0	1,220	0	1,220

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25 - 2027/28

Scheme Description	Forecast Expenditure							Forecast Funding					Total Funding £000
	Total Approved Budget £000	Prior Years £000	Actuals 2024/25 £000	Forecast Budget 2025/26 £000	Forecast Budget 2026/27 £000	Forecast Budget 2027/28 £000	Total Forecast Budget 2024-28 £000	Grants £000	External Contributions £000	Revenue Contributions £000	Capital Receipts £000	Prudential Borrowing £000	
Committed Schemes in progress													
Economic Development													
Crewe Towns Fund - Repurposing Our High	1,132	162	364	288	318	0	970	970	0	0	0	0	970
Crewe Towns Fund - Flag Lane Baths	1,968	583	20	1,365	0	0	1,385	32	0	0	0	1,353	1,385
Crewe Towns Fund - Mill Street Corridor	4,477	684	795	2,998	0	0	3,793	3,793	0	0	0	0	3,793
Crewe Towns Fund - Mirion St	1,190	164	901	125	0	0	1,026	1,026	0	0	0	0	1,026
Crewe Towns Fund - Crewe Youth Zone non-	351	125	121	105	0	0	226	226	0	0	0	0	226
History Centre Public Realm & ICV (Crewe Towns Fund) CTC1	580	10	18	152	400	0	570	570	0	0	0	0	570
Handforth Heat Network	13,219	17	18	695	450	12,039	13,202	2,587	7,428	0	0	3,187	13,202
Demolition of Crewe Library & Concourse CTC10	3,396	859	2,379	159	0	0	2,538	1,015	0	0	0	1,523	2,538
Future High Street Funding - CEC Innovation Centre	4,251	530	3,431	291	0	0	3,721	3,721	0	0	0	0	3,721
Crewe Town Centre Regeneration	32,333	30,993	17	1,323	0	0	1,340	239	64	0	0	1,037	1,340
South Macclesfield Development Area	34,630	3,259	24	176	0	31,171	31,371	10,000	10,000	0	11,371	0	31,371
North Cheshire Garden Village	57,866	7,026	2,504	9,345	17,285	21,706	50,840	20,165	0	0	21,700	8,975	50,840
Handforth Garden Village s106 Obligations	6,841	0	0	0	2,740	4,101	6,841	0	0	0	0	6,841	6,841
Leighton Green	2,096	1,468	26	601	0	0	628	0	0	0	0	628	628
Connecting Cheshire Phase 3	8,000	128	593	2,207	2,200	2,872	7,872	0	7,872	0	0	0	7,872
Connecting Cheshire 2020	9,250	5,680	0	585	0	2,985	3,570	5,172	0	0	0	-1,601	3,570
UK Shared Prosperity Fund - Core	1,304	202	1,102	0	0	0	1,102	1,102	0	0	0	0	1,102
Macclesfield Indoor Market Toilet Refurbishment	191	186	5	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	5	5
Macclesfield Town Centre	1,859	1,858	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Culture & Tourism													
Cattle Handling Facility - Oakwood Farm	405	367	38	0	0	0	38	0	0	38	0	0	38
Countryside Vehicles	1,579	700	26	419	217	217	879	0	0	0	0	879	879
Culture & Tourism S106 Schemes	766	124	40	327	216	59	642	0	642	0	0	0	642
New Archives Premises CTC1	10,256	442	1,124	8,450	240	0	9,814	0	0	0	0	9,814	9,814
PROW Capital Works	1,138	1,042	85	11	0	0	96	96	0	0	0	0	96
PROW CMM A6 MARR	100	69	1	30	0	0	31	31	0	0	0	0	31
PROW Flood Damage Investment	72	71	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Visitor Economy - Rural Shared Prosperity Fund	465	113	352	0	0	0	352	352	0	0	0	0	352
Tatton Park Investment Phase 2	3,280	1,434	11	1,109	725	0	1,845	0	0	0	0	1,845	1,845
Total Committed Schemes	313,801	130,694	23,110	51,882	29,539	78,575	183,106	74,095	26,540	658	34,291	47,522	183,106

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25 - 2027/28													
Scheme Description	Forecast Expenditure							Forecast Funding					Total Funding £000
	Total Approved Budget £000	Prior Years £000	Actuals 2024/25 £000	Forecast Budget 2025/26 £000	Forecast Budget 2026/27 £000	Forecast Budget 2027/28 £000	Total Forecast Budget 2024-28 £000	Grants £000	External Contributions £000	Revenue Contributions £000	Capital Receipts £000	Prudential Borrowing £000	
New Schemes in 24-25													
Facilities Management													
PSDS - 3C	1,671	0	86	1,585	0	0	1,671	1,448	0	0	0	223	1,671
Estates													
Workplace	1,000	0	255	745	0	0	1,000	1,000	0	0	0	0	1,000
		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Housing													
Warm Homes Local Grant (DESNZ)	7,793	0	0	1,354	3,252	3,187	7,793	7,793	0	0	0	0	7,793
		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Economic Development													
Macclesfield Indoor Market Refurbishment (MIMR)	2,496	40	1,858	598	0	0	2,456	2,358	0	0	0	98	2,456
Macc on Foot (MOF)	417	5	413	0	0	0	413	413	0	0	0	0	413
Nantwich Town Centre Public Realm	100	0	0	100	0	0	100	0	100	0	0	0	100
Culture & Tourism													
Green Structures Investment	384	0	0	271	113	0	384	0	0	0	0	384	384
		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total New Schemes	13,862	45	2,613	4,652	3,366	3,187	13,817	13,012	100	0	0	706	13,817
Total Growth & Enterprise	327,663	130,740	25,723	56,533	32,905	81,762	196,923	87,107	26,640	658	34,291	48,228	196,924

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25 - 2027/28

Scheme Description	Forecast Expenditure							Forecast Funding					Total Funding £000
	Total Approved Budget £000	Prior Years £000	Actuals 2024/25 £000	Forecast Budget 2025/26 £000	Forecast Budget 2026/27 £000	Forecast Budget 2027/28 £000	Total Forecast Budget 2024-28 £000	Grants £000	External Contributions £000	Revenue Contributions £000	Capital Receipts £000	Prudential Borrowing £000	
Committed Schemes in progress													
Environment Services													
Bereavement Service Data System	35	7	0	28	0	0	28	0	0	28	0	0	28
Booth Bed Lane, Goostrey	140	0	0	140	0	0	140	100	40	0	0	0	140
Bosley Village Play Area	20	0	0	20	0	0	20	0	20	0	0	0	20
Browns Lane Play Area 2024/25	12	0	0	12	0	0	12	0	12	0	0	0	12
Carbon Offset Investment	568	137	403	29	0	0	431	0	0	0	0	431	431
Carnival Fields	42	0	0	42	0	0	42	0	42	0	0	0	42
Chelford Village Hall Open Space and Sport Improvements	121	119	-0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	2
Chelford Village Hall Phase 2	61	0	0	61	0	0	61	0	61	0	0	0	61
Cremator Flue Gas Modifications	30	0	19	11	0	0	30	0	0	0	0	30	30
Crewe Crematorium and Macclesfield Crematorium Major	30	14	4	12	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	16	16
Elworth Park	52	0	2	50	0	0	52	0	52	0	0	0	52
Energy Improvements at Cledford Lane	985	908	6	71	0	0	77	0	0	0	0	77	77
Fleet EV Transition	6,897	39	951	3,580	327	2,000	6,858	0	0	0	0	6,858	6,858
Fleet Vehicle Electric Charging	585	155	3	286	140	0	430	0	0	0	0	430	430
Future High Street Funding - Sustainable Energy Network	1,566	1,148	202	216	0	0	418	418	0	0	0	0	418
Green Investment Scheme (Solar Farm)	4,150	2,279	1,180	536	155	0	1,871	0	0	0	0	1,871	1,871
Grounds Maintenance Management ICT System	121	101	-42	62	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	20	20
Household Bins Schemes	292	0	292	0	0	0	292	0	0	292	0	0	292
Household Waste Recycling Centres	860	48	36	776	0	0	812	0	0	0	0	812	812
Jim Evison Playing Fields	161	0	19	142	0	0	161	0	161	0	0	0	161
Litter and Recycling Bins	208	119	0	42	25	22	89	0	0	0	0	89	89
Longridge Open Space Improvement Project	66	0	0	66	0	0	66	0	66	0	0	0	66
Macclesfield Chapel Refurbishment	429	22	0	407	0	0	407	0	0	407	0	0	407
Main Road, Langley	259	0	3	257	0	0	259	0	259	0	0	0	259
Newtown Sports Facilities Improvements	99	81	12	6	0	0	18	0	18	0	0	0	18

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25 - 2027/28

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Committed Schemes in progress													
Environment Services													
Park Development Fund	846	670	0	89	87	0	176	0	0	0	0	176	176
Park Lane, Poynton	39	0	39	0	0	0	39	0	39	0	0	0	39
Park Play, Meriton Road & Stanley Hall	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	0	10	0	0	0	10
Pastures Wood De-carbonisation	51	35	4	13	0	0	16	0	0	16	0	0	16
Pear Tree Play Area, Stapeley Improvements	7	1	6	0	0	0	6	0	4	0	0	1	6
Queens Park Bowling Green	17	0	2	15	0	0	17	0	2	0	0	15	17
Rotherhead Drive Open Space and Play Area	141	117	0	24	0	0	24	0	24	0	0	0	24
Rugby Drive, Macclesfield	71	0	24	47	0	0	71	0	71	0	0	0	71
Shaw Heath Recreation Ground	22	3	12	6	0	0	19	0	19	0	0	0	19
Solar Energy Generation	13,980	91	12	297	300	13,279	13,889	0	0	0	0	13,889	13,889
Stanley Hall Improvements	55	0	53	2	0	0	55	20	35	0	0	0	55
The Carrs Improvement Project	61	0	0	61	0	0	61	0	61	0	0	0	61
The Moor, Knutsford	36	0	32	4	0	0	36	0	17	0	0	19	36
Tytherington Public Art	10	0	10	0	0	0	10	0	10	0	0	0	10
Unsafe Cemetery Memorials	35	9	0	26	0	0	26	0	0	0	0	26	26
Victoria Park Amenity Improvements	20	9	3	8	0	0	11	0	11	0	0	0	11
Victoria Park Pitch Improvements	29	28	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
West Park Open Space & Sports Improvements	120	23	22	75	0	0	98	0	98	0	0	0	98
Wilmslow Town Council - Villas	47	0	47	0	0	0	47	0	13	0	0	34	47
Woodland South of Coppice Way, Handforth	89	68	0	21	0	0	21	0	21	0	0	0	21
Wynbunbury Parish Open Space	5	1	0	4	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	4
Wybunbury St Chad's Closed Cemetery	219	0	0	219	0	0	219	0	0	0	0	219	219
Neighbourhood Services													
Congleton Leisure Centre	13,000	12,963	11	27	0	0	38	0	20	0	0	18	38
Crewe Towns Fund - Valley Brook Green Corridor	3,339	327	264	2,748	0	0	3,012	3,012	0	0	0	0	3,012
Crewe Towns Fund - Cumberland Arena	3,173	128	276	2,768	0	0	3,045	3,045	0	0	0	0	3,045
Crewe Towns Fund - Pocket Parks	1,481	652	302	527	0	0	829	829	0	0	0	0	829
Middlewich Leisure Centre	60	51	0	9	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	9	9
Libraries - Next Generation - Self Service	374	336	0	38	0	0	38	0	0	0	0	38	38
Bollington Leisure	51	0	51	0	0	0	51	51	0	0	0	0	51
Planning & Regulatory Services													
Regulatory Systems & Environmental Health ICT System	313	279	1	34	0	0	34	0	0	0	0	34	34
Total Committed Schemes	55,492	20,967	4,262	13,929	1,034	15,301	34,525	7,475	1,193	743	0	25,114	34,525

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25 - 2027/28

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New Schemes													
Environment Services													
Closed Cemeteries	152	0	0	152	0	0	152	0	0	0	0	152	152
LTA - Tennis Facility Improvements	124	0	39	85	0	0	124	99	0	0	0	25	124
Review of Household Waste Recycling Centres	1,000	0	0	1,000	0	0	1,000	0	0	0	0	1,000	1,000
Strategic Leisure Review	3,400	0	1,329	1,421	650	0	3,400	0	0	0	0	3,400	3,400
Weekly Food Waste Collections	2,712	0	192	2,019	500	0	2,712	2,712	0	0	0	0	2,712
Macclesfield Crematorium - hearth replacement	72	0	72	0	0	0	72	0	0	72	0	0	72
Green Spaces Wilmslow - Mersey Forest	21	0	21	0	0	0	21	21	0	0	0	0	21
		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total New Schemes	7,481	0	1,653	4,677	1,150	0	7,481	2,832	0	72	0	4,577	7,481
Total Environment and Communities Schemes	62,973	20,967	5,915	18,606	2,184	15,301	42,006	10,307	1,193	815	0	29,690	42,006

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25 - 2027/28

Scheme Description	Forecast Expenditure							Forecast Funding					Total Funding
	Total Approved Budget £000	Prior Years £000	Forecast Budget 2024/25 £000	Forecast Budget 2025/26 £000	Forecast Budget 2026/27 £000	Forecast Budget 2027/28 £000	Total Forecast Budget 2024-28 £000	Grants £000	External Contributions £000	Revenue Contributions £000	Capital Receipts £000	Prudential Borrowing £000	
Committed Schemes in progress													
Highways													
A532 Safer Road Fund Scheme	1,466	677	719	70	0	0	789	447	0	0	0	342	789
A536 Safer Road Fund Scheme	2,404	1,925	428	51	0	0	479	385	0	0	0	94	479
A537 Safer Road Fund Scheme	2,490	2,155	191	144	0	0	335	335	0	0	0	0	335
Air Quality Action Plan	523	421	101	2	0	0	102	87	0	0	0	15	102
Alderley Edge Bypass Scheme Implementation	60,411	60,359	1	51	0	0	52	0	0	0	0	52	52
Bridge Maintenance Minor Wks	12,463	10,037	1,635	792	0	0	2,427	1,406	602	0	0	418	2,427
Client Contract and Asset Mgmt	693	485	62	146	0	0	208	62	0	0	0	146	208
Footpath Maintenance - Slurry Sealing & Reconstruction Works	1,323	514	809	0	0	0	809	809	0	0	0	0	809
Highway Maintenance Minor Wks	69,622	53,616	15,936	70	0	0	16,006	9,994	0	0	0	6,011	16,006
Highway Pothole/Challenge Fund	11,669	8,098	3,399	172	0	0	3,571	3,316	0	0	0	255	3,571
Jack Mills Way Part 1 Claims	307	299	8	0	0	0	8	0	8	0	0	0	8
Local Highway Measures	7,255	6,873	232	151	0	0	382	382	0	0	0	0	382
Ward Members Local Highway Measures	872	0	319	553	0	0	872	496	0	0	0	376	872
Programme Management	1,547	1,229	317	2	0	0	318	318	0	0	0	0	318
Road Safety Schemes Minor Wks	6,423	5,944	316	163	0	0	478	350	0	0	0	128	478
Traffic Signal Maintenance	1,095	516	278	300	0	0	578	577	0	0	0	1	578
Traffic Signs and Bollards - LED Replacement	1,259	1,011	248	0	0	0	248	0	0	0	0	248	248
Winter Service Facility	957	674	97	97	89	0	283	0	0	0	0	283	283
Infrastructure													
Future High Street Funding - Adaptive Signals	509	455	0	54	0	0	54	0	54	0	0	0	54
Future High Street Funding - Flag Lane Link	1,481	1,249	232	0	0	0	232	232	0	0	0	0	232
Future High Street Funding - Southern Gateway	5,303	1,318	3,783	202	0	0	3,985	3,985	0	0	0	0	3,985
Highways & Infrastructure S106 Funded Schemes	5,590	816	529	2,519	489	1,238	4,774	378	4,391	0	0	5	4,774
Transport & Infrastructure Development Studies	350	10	33	307	0	0	340	340	0	0	0	0	340
Middlewich Eastern Bypass	96,600	26,237	1,441	21,730	22,876	24,316	70,363	46,779	14,611	0	0	8,973	70,363
Mill Street Corridor - Station Link Project	847	92	171	584	0	0	755	171	284	0	0	300	755
North-West Crewe Package	51,366	43,108	5,947	1,411	300	600	8,258	-1,092	3,368	0	0	5,982	8,258
Old Mill Road / The Hill Junction	1,325	187	1	1,136	0	0	1,137	0	1,137	0	0	0	1,137
Poynton Relief Road	54,848	46,283	1,010	2,709	1,146	3,700	8,565	2,236	4,319	0	1,000	1,010	8,565
Sydney Road Bridge	10,501	10,111	1	14	375	0	390	0	390	0	0	0	390

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25 - 2027/28

Scheme Description	Forecast Expenditure							Forecast Funding					Total Funding £000
	Total Approved Budget £000	Prior Years £000	Forecast Budget 2024/25 £000	Forecast Budget 2025/26 £000	Forecast Budget 2026/27 £000	Forecast Budget 2027/28 £000	Total Forecast Budget 2024-28 £000	Grants £000	External Contributions £000	Revenue Contributions £000	Capital Receipts £000	Prudential Borrowing £000	
Committed Schemes in progress													
Strategic Transport and Parking													
A538 Waters Roundabout Pedestrian and Cyclist Crossing	140	87	53	0	0	0	53	53	0	0	0	0	53
Active Travel Fund	3,400	729	97	2,574	0	0	2,671	2,671	0	0	0	0	2,671
Active Travel (Cycling / Walking Route) Investment	2,920	2,765	89	66	0	0	155	90	0	0	0	65	155
Available Walking Routes	151	0	0	151	0	0	151	151	0	0	0	0	151
Bollin Valley / Greater Bollin Trail	114	89	25	0	0	0	25	25	0	0	0	0	25
LEVI Capital Fund 23/24	2,172	0	0	543	543	1,086	2,172	2,172	0	0	0	0	2,172
On-street Residential Charging	551	258	131	162	0	0	293	251	0	0	0	42	293
Park Lane – Ayreshire Way, Congleton Walking and Cycling	482	14	419	49	0	0	468	468	0	0	0	0	468
Route 55 Middlewood Way on Black Lane	770	694	76	0	0	0	76	76	0	0	0	0	76
Sustainable Travel Access Prog	2,245	2,038	21	186	0	0	208	208	0	0	0	0	208
Sustainable Modes of Travel to Schools Strategy (SMOTSS)	1,117	756	126	234	0	0	361	361	0	0	0	0	361
Public Transport Infrastructure	1,615	1,134	452	29	0	0	481	481	0	0	0	0	481
Local Access - Crewe Transport Access Studies	400	88	0	312	0	0	312	312	0	0	0	0	312
Local Access - Macclesfield Transport Access Studies	300	61	0	239	0	0	239	239	0	0	0	0	239
Middlewich Rail Study	20	0	0	20	0	0	20	20	0	0	0	0	20
LTP Development & Monitoring Studies	900	430	30	220	221	0	471	471	0	0	0	0	471
Digital Car Parking Solutions	140	93	3	44	0	0	47	16	0	0	0	31	47
Pay and Display Parking Meters	620	607	0	13	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	13	13
Car Parking Improvements (including residents parking)	322	266	0	56	0	0	56	0	0	0	0	56	56
Total Committed Schemes	647,414	415,274	40,647	44,009	27,653	119,831	232,140	158,389	47,902	0	1,000	24,849	232,140
New Schemes													
Highways													
Managing and Maintaining Highways	4,712	0	0	4,712	0	0	4,712	0	0	0	0	4,712	4,712
Pothole Funding	17,397	0	0	5,799	5,799	5,799	17,397	17,397	0	0	0	0	17,397
Integrated Block - LTP	6,009	0	0	2,003	2,003	2,003	6,009	6,009	0	0	0	0	6,009
Maintenance Block - LTP	19,476	0	0	7,878	5,799	5,799	19,476	17,397	0	0	0	2,079	19,476
Incentive Fund - LTP	4,350	0	0	1,450	1,450	1,450	4,350	4,350	0	0	0	0	4,350
Strategic Transport and Parking													
BSIP+ Programme Delivery	539	89	0	450	0	0	450	450	0	0	0	0	450
Car Parking Review	895	0	570	325	0	0	895	0	0	328	325	242	895
New Grant Allocated for 2025-26													
Local Transport Grant	7,754	0	0	7,754	0	0	7,754	7,754	0	0	0	0	7,754
Total New Schemes	61,132	89	570	30,371	15,051	15,051	61,043	53,357	0	328	325	7,033	61,043
Total Highways & Transport	708,546	415,363	41,218	74,379	42,704	134,882	293,182	211,746	47,902	328	1,325	31,882	293,182

OPEN

Environment and Communities Committee

05 June 2025

Extension of Macclesfield Town Centre Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)

Report of: Phil Cresswell – Executive Director Place

Report Reference No: EC/02/25-26

Ward(s) Affected: Macclesfield Central Ward

Decision

Purpose of Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to consider the extension of an existing Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) under section 60(2) of the Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (the ASB Act) for Macclesfield Town Centre.
- 2 The existing order is due to expire at midnight on the 17th July 2025. Consideration must be given as to whether the order is extended or allowed to end. It is important to note that should a decision not be made; the order will lapse on this date regardless and will no longer be in force. If a decision around the order is made after the expiry date, a completely new order application and consultation would be required.

Executive Summary

- 3 The Council is responsible for the consideration, implementation, monitoring, extension and variation of all Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO's) across the Borough under the ASB Act. It is the responsibility of local authorities to consider requests relating to PSPO's and have policies and procedures in place which allow decisions on these matters to be made. It is also important to note that current legislation stipulates that it is only Councils who can implement these orders.
- 4 For the Council to consider any new or existing PSPO requests, members of the Councils Multi-Agency Action Group (MAAG) must be

informed, either via a MAAG nomination or notification from the Chair to allow for comment and feedback.

- 5 To extend, vary, end or implement new PSPO's the council must, in accordance with its duty under Section 72(3) of the ASB Act consult with members of the public to inform them of our intentions and also allow for comment.
- 6 Following a request from Cheshire Constabulary in December 2024, to extend the existing PSPO a notification via email was sent to all MAAG members via the Chair - ASB and Community Enforcement Manager on 17th March 2025. The notification alerted MAAG members to the council's intentions to launch a public consultation in relation to the proposed extension of the PSPO. All that responded (including representatives from Police, Fire and Registered Providers) agreed with the proposal for the consultation to go ahead.
- 7 A "notice to extend" and draft version of the Extension of the Macclesfield Town Centre PSPO was developed and agreed by the Council's legal team. A decision was taken in accordance with delegated powers under the constitution by the Director of Planning and Environment in March 2025 to take the notice to extend and draft order to public consultation, which ended at midday on Tuesday 13th May 2025 as detailed in section 4 (consultation and engagement) of this report.
- 8 A police analytical report (Appendix A), covering a period running up to the introduction of the original PSPO in 2022 running through until 31/03/2025 assists in evidencing an improvement in anti social behaviour/alcohol related issues the Macclesfield Town Centre area. Although the PSPO alone may well not be the only tool in dealing with a reduction in incidents, it can be interpreted as assisting to deter such behaviours and enabling police, when required, being able to use the powers under the PSPO to address any concerning behaviour at the earliest opportunity.
- 9 Legislation stipulates all PSPO's cannot continue past 3 years unless extended via public consultation and the local authorities relevant approval process. The current order will expire on at midnight on the 17th July 2025 if not extended.
- 10 A summary of the consultation results has been provided at Appendix B. The Committee are now asked to consider the proposed extension of this order.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Environment and Communities Committee is recommended to:

1. Approve the proposed extension of the PSPO as provided in Appendix C with a commencement date of 18th July 2025 for a duration of 3 years (expiring at midnight on 17th July 2028)

Background

- 11 Cheshire East Council has in place, a Public Spaces Protection Order Procedure Appendix D and also an Anti-Social Behaviour Enforcement policy Appendix E. Both detail processes required in relation to requests for new, variation, or extension of PSPO's. The ASB Enforcement Policy also details specific legislation and enforcement of breaches of PSPO's and the council's approach to enforcement in general.
- 12 May 2021, Macclesfield Local Policing Unit nominated the town centre for a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) due to numerous incidents, including individuals demanding alcohol in shops, causing alcohol related public disorder, consumption of alcohol in public areas and on public benches and targeting the "Age UK" shop. There were also reports of urinating and defecating in public areas.
- 13 Police confirmed that since July 2021, the proposed PSPO area accounted for over 40% of Macclesfield's total anti-social behaviour incidents. One business reported over 30 alcohol-related incidents between January and April 2021.
- 14 A stakeholder group was formed to consider the PSPO, and a detailed police incident document was submitted, listing 561 incidents from July 2020 to July 2021. This evidence supported the need for the PSPO.
- 15 Procedure was followed, thresholds were met, and a decision was made at the Environment and Communities Committee on the 1st July 2022 to implement the PSPO which commenced on 17th July 2022.
- 16 The order was broadly advertised with a focus on those living, working, and visiting Macclesfield Town Centre. A period of Engage, Educate and Encourage was adopted, with banners advertising the order and guidance given to those found with alcohol within the restricted area. Clear signage was placed at all key areas of the town, with a selection of larger and smaller reminder signs throughout the restricted area providing links to the council's webpage and where to obtain further information about the order, as well as penalties on breach of the order.

- 17 During the time between the start of the order and 31st March 2025, there has been no reason to issue a Fixed Penalty Notice to a member of public for refusing to engage with the requirements of the order. However, due to the order being in force, it has allowed police colleagues to confiscate and “pour away” alcohol which has been surrendered to them on request. The police generated report as detailed in appendix A, provides more information on actions taken by police so far and incident timeline.
- 18 As anticipated, there have always been issues with witnessing and reporting of individuals urinating and defecating in the area, however feedback from the public consultation has highlighted that people do feel that the signs have acted as a “deterrent” in relation to this type of behaviour.

Consultation and Engagement

- 19 There is a legal requirement under Part 7 Chapter 2 Section 72 of the ASB Act to consult with members of the public in relation to any proposed extension, variation or new PSPO that the Council wishes to implement.
- 20 The Public Consultation for this proposed extension ran from 9am on Tuesday 1st April 2025 and ended at 12 noon on Tuesday 13th May 2025. The consultation was hosted via the Councils licensed online surveying tool and was advertised in various different formats to members of the public. This included our website (both on “have your say” and PSPO pages) and via laminated PDF “notices to extend” which were displayed in the local police station, council offices and library and at locations throughout the town centre and near to the PSPO signage highlighting the current order. The PDF document Appendix F supplied QR codes and links to the consultation and council’s website and also contact details should any member of public wish to complete the survey in a different format (paper/over the phone etc).
- 21 In addition to methods above the PDF “notice to extend” was also emailed to all key stakeholders via the ASB and Community Enforcement Manager on the 31st March 2025, these were:
- Macclesfield Town Council
 - Macclesfield Member of Parliament (Tim Roca)
 - Local Ward members Cllr Braithwaite, Cllr Farrall
 - LPU Chief Inspector, and Inspector

- Chair of Macclesfield Pub watch
 - Chair of Communities and Environment Committee (Cllr Warren)
 - Cheshire Constabularies Police and Crime Commissioners Office
 - Cheshire Constabularies Chief Constables Office
 - All MAAG members
- 22 A draft copy of the proposed extended PSPO was also made available on the council's website, of which the survey alerts members of public to via relevant links.
- 23 On closure of the consultation 52 responses were received. Just over 84% of which either strongly agreed or tended to agree with the councils intentions to extend the order in its current format for a further 3 years.
- A full copy of the consultation summary, along with a summary of some responses to questions/comments raised by respondents can be viewed at appendix B.
- 24 The results of the consultation along with a link to the minutes of the relevant committee meeting (once published) will be made available on the council's website. If the decision is that the order is extended, a copy of the updated extended order will be made available on the Council's website via it's PSPO page.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 25 The consideration for the extension of this PSPO has followed the Council's ASB Enforcement Policy and its PSPO procedure. Approval and implementation of the proposed PSPO extension must be submitted to Committee for a decision before it can become a legal order.
- 26 The public consultation held in relation to the proposed extension of this order evidenced that 84% of those who took part were in support of the order and the requirements/prohibitions it sets out.
- 27 The extension of this order will enable Police Officers, Police Community Support Officers and CEC Community Enforcement Officers to continue to use the order as a significant tool to address alcohol related ASB at the earliest opportunity by making it a legal requirement to hand over any open or unopen vessels of alcohol to an authorised officer when asked to do so. A power that they would otherwise not have under any other legislation.

- 28 Extending the length of this order for another maximum period of 3 further years will send an important message to those living, working in, and visiting Macclesfield Town Centre that we have listened to their concerns they have raised and acted accordingly.
- 29 The Council's Corporate Plan 2025-29 sets out our vision of Enabling prosperity and wellbeing for all. The Plan also sets out priorities under the three broad aims including “improving health and wellbeing for all”, helping to assist ‘everyone to feel safe and secure’, and contributing towards ‘the building of lasting solutions which can be delivered through strong and committed partnerships’. An extension of this existing PSPO will contribute to allowing people to feel safe and secure, in the knowledge that the order is still in place to target unwanted alcohol related behaviour but also continue to provide a long-term tool to tackling alcohol related ASB. The order will also provide continued committed partnership working between the police and the Council’s Community Enforcement Team who are able to conduct joint patrols of the area with an ability to issue “on-the-Spot” Fixed Penalty Notices for those minority who might refuse to engage with the requirements of the current order.
- 30 The order allows authorities to intervene early with individuals at risk of committing serious crimes due to alcohol consumption. By legally requesting these individuals to stop drinking, it aims to change their behaviour and reduce the risk of further offenses related to alcohol misuse. Additionally, the order enables the issuance of a £100 Fixed Penalty Notice to those who ignore the request or are caught urinating/defecating in restricted areas.

Other Options Considered

- 31 The order is not extended, and Police Colleagues use other powers to deal with offenders as and when the behaviour meets a criminal threshold, rather than trying to stop the behaviour before it reaches that point.
- 32 The order could be extended but for a shorter period (rather than the maximum time of 3 years), for example 1 year or 2 years.

33

Option	Impact	Risk
Do nothing/order not extended	Behaviours displayed as outlined in section 3 of this report will continue until criminal	Reputational issues for the council having had the opportunity to put things in place

	offences are committed and police colleagues have the power to deal with them. Negating an opportunity to deal with them at a much earlier opportunity	and assist in tackling the behaviour sooner.
Extend the order but for a shorter period (1 year/2 years)	Order will remain in place for the period set. Officer time will have to be set to re-review, undertake a further public consultation and produce a committee report in time for a decision on the future of the order after the shorter period. The resource impact of undertaking such reviews during shorter periods of time will be high.	There is a risk that the order may lapse due to insufficient resources to conduct timely reviews, complete paperwork, and engage in public consultations. Additional funding would be necessary if reviews are to be conducted more frequently than every three years. Repeatedly asking the public about the order's existence can dilute the messaging.

Implications and Comments

Monitoring Officer/Legal/Governance

- 34 The local authority's duties and powers in relation to Public Spaces Protection Orders are prescribed by Part 4, Chapter 2 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014.
- 35 Non-compliance with a prohibition or requirement in a PSPO is a criminal offence. Members should only extend the Order if satisfied on reasonable grounds that:
- The activities complained of in this report are being carried on in a public place or it is likely they will be carried on in a public place, and the activities have or will have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality.
 - The effect or likely effect of the activities complained of in this report are, or are likely to be, persistent or continuing such as to make

those activities unreasonable in the locality thereby justifying the imposition of a prohibition or requirement.

- 36 Members should be satisfied that the prohibitions or requirements of the PSPO extension are ones that it is reasonable to impose to prevent or reduce the detrimental effect of the activities complained of in this report.
- 37 Members should be satisfied that the PSPO extension identifies the activities complained of in this report and includes a statement that where the consumption of alcohol is prohibited a constable or authorised person may require it not to be consumed and or require its surrender, and that a failure to do so without reasonable excuse is an offence. The PSPO extension must include the period during which it will have effect.
- 38 Members in deciding whether to authorise the PSPO must have regard to the rights of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly under Articles 10 & 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights as incorporated into UK law by the Human Rights Act 1998. Thus, an individual has a right to express themselves in public and the right to peaceful assembly and association, which can only be restricted in accordance with the law and where necessary to protect public safety and or for the prevention of crime and disorder.
- 39 A PSPO will satisfy Article 10 & 11 if it is made in accordance with the provisions of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 and the prohibitions and or requirements within it are necessary to protect public safety and or prevent crime and disorder as is the case here.
- 40 Members may only authorise an extension of the PSPO to have effect for 3 years or less.
- 41 Enforcement and Investigation in relation to the breach of the extended PSPO will be undertaken in line with:
- Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014
 - Regulations of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA)
 - Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE)
 - Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996
- 42 Whilst enforcement of the requirements or prohibitions of the PSPO extension can be undertaken by the Police or an authorised individual or

individuals within the Council, the burden of prosecuting offences arising from noncompliance will rest solely with the Council.

- 43 The nature of this matter is such that it falls within the remit of the committee to make the decision requested.

Section 151 Officer/Finance

- 44 Signage for this order has already been funded and placed up and around the restricted area. If the PSPO is extended there is ample, relevant signage already available throughout the area. Signage purposefully does not have expiration dates so will still be valid.
- 45 If the decision is made that the order is not to continue and allowed to expire, then there will be a cost involved in the removal of the signage. The cost for installation in 2022 was at a quote of no more than £1307 for guidance. The resource to remove the signage is anticipated to be similar to the resource that was required to install the signage.
- 46 Policing of this order will primarily be via Cheshire Constabulary Officers. However joint patrols and the issuing of any FPN's in relation to breach of the order will be supplied via the Councils Community Enforcement Team, within Neighbourhood Services. The resource, when required will be covered within the existing Community Enforcement Team budget.

Human Resources

- 47 There may be occasions when the councils Community Enforcement Team issue fixed penalty notices (FPN's) either direct themselves or on behalf of the police who will report to the council a breach requiring enforcement action. The issuing of FPN's may have an additional resource demand on enforcement officers and legal services (for prosecutions if fines are not paid or matters that have been referred straight for prosecution). However, the volume is expected to remain low as the aim of the PSPO is the enable to police to deal with incidents in a timely and swift nature without the requirement of an FPN or referral for prosecution.

Risk Management

- 48 There is a reputational risk to the Council if it appears that the policy, procedure, and legal thresholds within the relevant legislation have not been met as highlighted in section 7.1.

Impact on other Committees

- 49 This report does not impact on other committees.

Policy

- 50 Officers of the Council who are authorised to enforce against PSPO’s will do so in line with the Council’s Corporate Enforcement and Service Specific Enforcement Policies.

<p>Commitment 1: Unlocking prosperity for all</p>	<p>Commitment 2: Improving health and wellbeing</p> <p>‘everyone feels safe and secure’</p> <p>‘lasting solutions are delivered through strong and committed partnerships</p>	<p>Commitment 3: An effective and enabling council</p>
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Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- 51 An equality impact assessment has been undertaken; no equality implications have been identified.

Other Implications

Children and young people

- 52 There are no implications for Children and young people/Cared for Children. There are already powers in place that can deal with young people under the age of 18 in possession of alcohol. The PSPO is for the purpose of dealing with those over 18.

Public Health

- 53 The PSPO extension will continue to help in the reduction of incidents of alcohol related ASB, which should in return have a positive impact on residents’ health through providing a mechanism to create safer neighbourhoods and deal with issues at the earliest opportunity.

Consultation

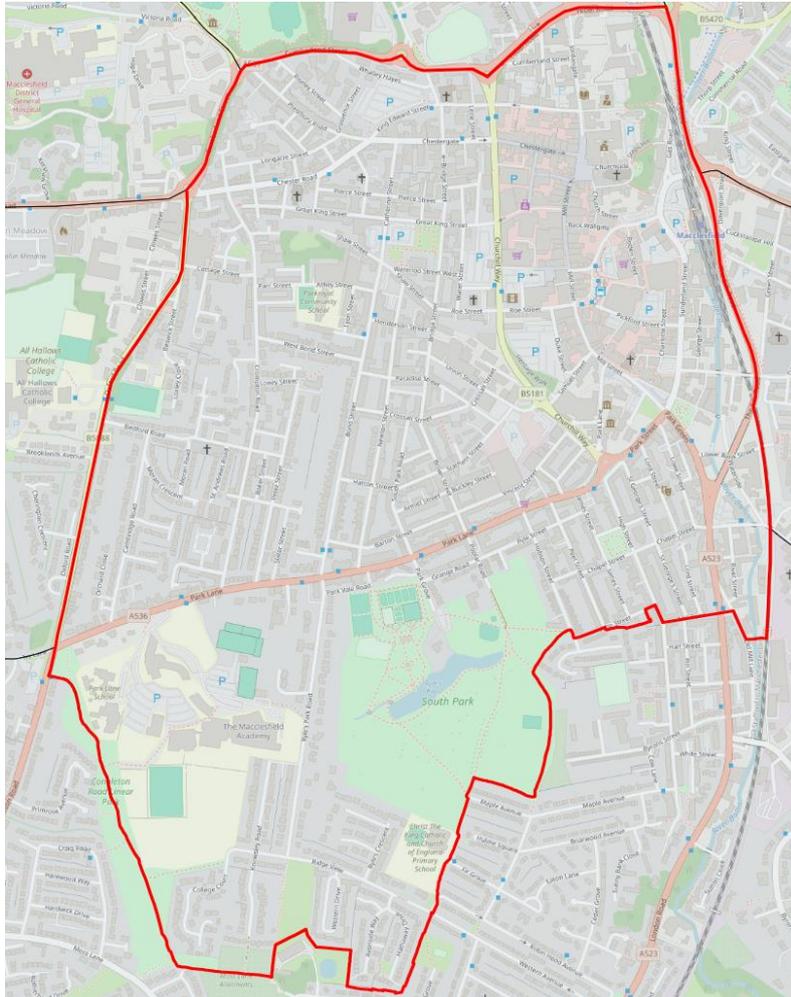
Name of Consultee	Post held	Date sent	Date returned
<i>Statutory Officer (or deputy) :</i>			
Sal Khan	S151 Officer	19/05/25	20/05/25
Janet Witkowski	Acting Monitoring Officer	19/05/25	20/05/25
<i>Legal and Finance</i>			
Wendy Broadhurst	Finance Business Partner - Place	07/05/25	07/05/25
Louise Price	Legal – Place		
<i>Other Consultees:</i>			
<i>Executive Directors/Directors</i>			
Phil Cresswell at Place DMT	Executive Director - Place	08/05/25	08/05/25

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Laura Woodrow-Hirst – ASB and Community Enforcement Manager Laura.woodrow-hirst@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Appendices:	Appendix A – PDF of police analytical report Appendix B – Consultation Summary Appendix C – Extension of Macclesfield Town Centre PSPO doc

	<p>Appendix D – CEC PSPO Procedures</p> <p>Appendix E – CEC ASB Enforcement Policy</p> <p>Appendix F – PDF Notice to extend PSPO</p>
<p>Background Papers:</p>	<p>CEC PSPO Webpage</p> <p>Cheshire East Enforcement Policy</p> <p>ASB Crime and Policing Act 2014 – Guidance for Professionals</p>



LOCATION: Macclesfield Central, Macclesfield, Cheshire East (map below)



DATE REQUEST MADE: 17/03/2025

REQUEST MADE BY: Insp Richard Haque, Cheshire Constabulary

REPORTING PERIOD: 01/01/2021 – 31/03/2025

DATA SOURCES: SAAB Safe (incident data) and Niche (crime data)

Handling Instructions: This information has been provided for a specific policing purpose; please consider this when making decisions about further dissemination.

Data Caveats: The data in the following report was run on **23/04/2025** and will therefore be subject to change in line with updates made to the live source systems and/or system recording backlogs (particularly more recent crime records).

The date periods referenced throughout this report are based on the date and time the occurrence/incident was entered onto the source systems.

Data was abstracted via a Power BI app with an ACL (Access Control Level) of 0, therefore any SAAB Safe Incident records and Niche crimes with a higher ACL applied to them will not appear in the data.

Method: A report was run via Power BI to extract information from the Constabulary's Niche crime recording system, this was then filtered by Location for the specified areas using the incident/crime address.

Due to the purpose of this request only specific crime and incident types have been included. These have been agreed as:

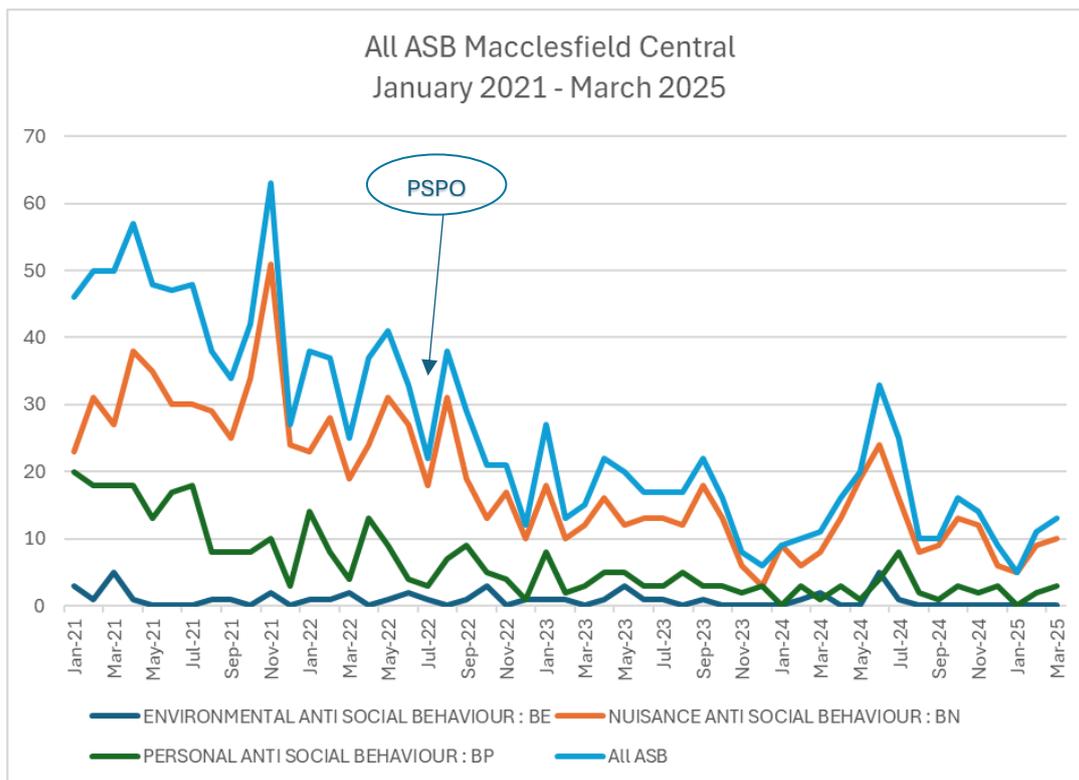
- Alcohol related crime¹
- Anti-Social Behaviour incidents (Closing type), including Alcohol related ASB incidents²

The following questions were asked to gather information to support a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) within the location.

1. Provide data from POWERBI showing ASB type offences trend from 2021 (12 months prior to the PSPO) – current date inside the PSPO restriction area. (my assumption is that there will be reduction in ASB)

¹ This flag relies on the presence of a "Alcohol" qualifier or "Affected by alcohol", "Affected by alcohol and drugs" or "Affected by alcohol and solvents" being selected in the crime on Niche)

² This relies on the call taker adding the "QAL: ALCOHOL - WHERE CONSUMPTION HAS HAD AN IMPACT" qualifier to the incident. True numbers could be higher or lower than what is recorded)



ASB volumes show a downwards linear trend from January 2021 to March 2025, you can see from the graph that there were higher volumes in the months prior to the implementation of the PSPO in July 2022, the same trend is observed for each ASB type. A reducing trend is also seen when reviewing yearly volumes.

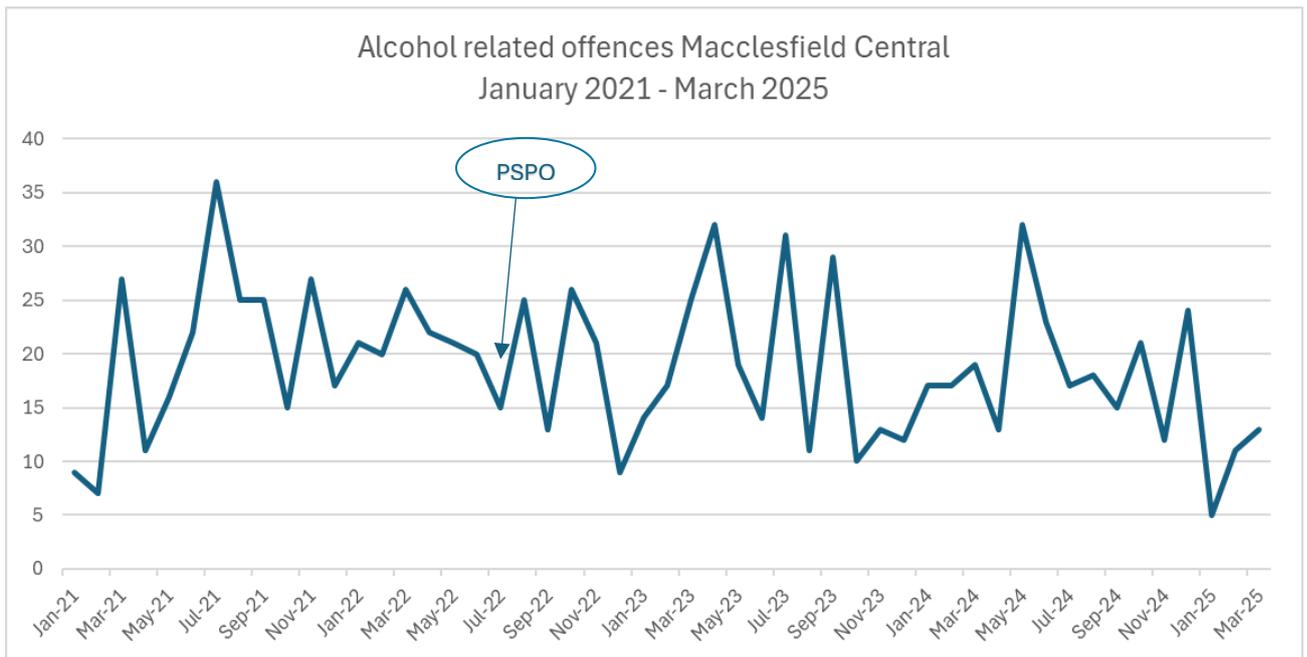
Year	ENVIRONMENTAL ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR: BE	NUISANCE ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR: BN	PERSONAL ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR: BP	Grand Total
21	14	377	159	550
22	13	260	81	354
23	9	146	45	200
24	9	143	31	183
25 (ending March)	0	24	5	29
Grand Total	45	950	321	1316

In 2021 there was an average of **46** ASB incidents per month, this reduced to **30** in 2022, **17** in 2023 and **15** in 2024.

A reduction in ASB is however not isolated to the Macclesfield Central Police Beat alone, reductions have also been observed across the whole of Cheshire East and across the Force area. It is important to consider that factors other than the PSPO could have impacted volumes.

Alcohol related ASB incidents accounted for 8% (46 incidents) of all ASB in 2021, this rose to 12% (42 incidents) in 2022, it however dropped to 11% (22 incidents) in 2023 and 10% (18 incidents) in 2024. For 2025 so far (ending March) Alcohol related ASB incidents accounted for just 7% (2 incidents) of all ASB.

2. Provide data from POWERBI showing Alcohol related offences trend from 2021 – current date inside the PSPO restriction area. (my assumption is that there will be a reduction)



Alcohol related offences show a steady trend from January 2021 to March 2025.

From when the PSPO was implemented in July 2022 there is actually an increase in a number of months following, these spikes however occur at similar points throughout the years and mostly within the summer months, as such seasonal trends should be considered.

Similar volumes were recorded when reviewing yearly totals.

Year	Grand Total
21	237
22	239
23	227
24	228
25 (Ending March)	29
Grand Total	960

Steady yearly volumes are supported by the average in 2021 & 2022 for Alcohol related offences being **20** per month, and this only slightly reducing to **19** per month in 2023 & 2024.

3. Provide occurrences of urinating/defecating in the restricted area between 2021 – current date.

Whilst this is a criminal offence it isn't a notifiable one, which means it isn't present on Power BI. A front-end search of Niche for 162/10 (NONCRIME: Urinating in a street in public place in contravention of bylaw) was completed however there were none for the period 01/01/2021 to 31/03/2025.

4. Provide data of the number of PSPO breaches Cheshire Constabulary have dealt with since 18th July 2022 – present date.

A front end search of Niche for 104/44 (NONCRIME: Fail to comply with a public space protection notice) was completed however there were none for the period 01/01/2021 to 31/03/2025.

A Problem solving occurrence was however provided, this was created on the 11/03/2023 and closed on 17/01/2025, the occurrence entry log has been reviewed, entries made related to the following;

- x5 people warned regarding the PSPO in place
- x2 linked occurrences for a breach
- x1 relating to urination
- x3 relating to rough sleepers/tents
- x2 relating to open containers
- x3 relating to police patrols
- x1 relating to continued drinking despite officer request to discard
- x2 relating to cans emptied
- x3 alcohol surrendered
- x1 individuals intoxicated within the area
- x1 individuals found with unopened cans

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MACCLESFIELD TOWN CENTRE PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER PROPOSAL CONSULTATION SUMMARY MAY 2025

1 Consultation Headlines:

The consultation ran from 9am, Tuesday the 1st April 2025 and closed at 12 noon on Tuesday 13th May 2025. The consultation was based on-line; however, methods were advertised allowing members of public to complete the survey over the phone or request a paper copy. This was advertised via social media campaigns via CEC and Police networks. Information (including electronic documents advertising the consultation with QR codes and methods of contact) were sent to the following groups/stakeholders:

- Environment and Communities Committee Chair
- Macclesfield Library, Town Hall and Police Station (for display in reception areas)
- Laminated A4 notices in and around Macclesfield Town Centre near to original signage with links to the consultation and contact information.
- MP Tim Roca's Office
- Cheshire Constabulary's PCC Office
- Cheshire Constabulary's Chief Constables Office
- Members of the Cheshire East Multi-Agency Action Group (MAAG), including, Cheshire Fire Service, Registered Providers and Local Policing Units
- Macclesfield Pub Watch Chair (for circulation to its members)
- Ward Members within the impacted area
- Macclesfield Town Council

From our on-line consultation and webpages, links were supplied to both our current order, the proposed new order and our "notice to extend". The consultation was simplified, asking respondents to state how strongly they agreed or disagreed with the council's intentions to extend, along with a free text box to allow them to make any further additional comments about the council's proposals.

Aside from this, respondents had optional questions including who they were responding as (resident, business, ward member, employee etc), the geographical area they lived with and age group.

52 responses were received, which was down on the 97 responses received during the consultation for the original order in 2022. This is expected as response rates for extensions/renewal of orders in their current form often do not encourage the same level of responses as new orders. All 52 respondents answered all questions relating to the PSPO.

Overall, a high percentage of the respondents either agree or strongly agree with the proposal to extend the order in its current form (over 84%)

94% of the respondents were residents or part of a local business within or near to the area the PSPO will continue to cover if extended.

All of those that chose to supply their postcode, lived in either SK10 or SK11 area area so reflective of the area the order extension has been proposed within.

There is a good balance of Male/Female and age band respondents.

2 Survey results

Proposed extension of Macclesfield Town Centre Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) Consultation May 2025

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the extension of the councils current Macclesfield Town Centre PSPO and the area it covers?			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree		71.15%	37
2	Tend to agree		13.46%	7
3	Neither agree nor disagree		1.92%	1
4	Tend to disagree		0.00%	0
5	Strongly disagree		11.54%	6
6	Not sure/ Don't know		1.92%	1
			answered	52

2.1 Open ended comments – with CEC response

The below table sets out some of the questions asked and comments made by those completing the consultation along with a response. Some of the questions/comments were simpler to those from our last consultation in 2022 so answers to those have also been included in this table further down.

Frequent comments and questions from 2025 consultation	
Comment/suggestion/question	Response
Respondents felt that the current order has been a sufficient deterrent in the area and would like it to remain in place for those living, visiting and working in the area.	No response required.
Would the order be criminalising those that are street homeless?	<p>This question was also common when the original order was consulted on in 2022 the response remains the same: 2022 response: <i>The council have paid consideration to ensuring that the individuals the PSPO is proposed to tackle does not specifically target those that are street homeless. We consider all elements of a proposed PSPO and take time to make sure that thresholds are met, and alternatives have been considered and attempted before a proposal is made. Macclesfield is a good example of this, with the PSPO consideration being requested back in May 2021, the order has been a long time in the planning, with multiple partner agencies involved in the review of evidence to support the order. As part of this Police Colleagues and the Councils Homelessness relief team have been working together in the area on a regular basis, liaising with those adults that are within the town centre and subways sitting and drinking and have confirmed that the majority of individuals spoken to all have housing provision. The individuals choose to gather during the day and sit in areas to partake in drinking, leading to associated ASB. On the rare occasion that any are identified as street homeless our homelessness team have quickly picked the cases up to ensure provision is offered where applicable. The rest of the target group the order is set to tackle includes individuals or groups of individuals involved in similar behaviour whilst visiting the town to access its night-time/weekend economy.</i></p> <p>2025 response: To date, no individual has received a criminal sanction for being in breach of the Macclesfield Town Centre PSPO, whether this be via means of Fixed Penalty Notice, or prosecution in court. The order has delivered the expected main impact of which was to enable authorised officers to request alcohol is handed over. Alcohol confiscations have taken place without a requirement to criminalise any member of public in respect of breach of the PSPO. It is hoped that formal sanctions will remain low if this order is extended a further 3 years, however the powers would be there to take necessary action if required.</p>
If the order is extended, it requires more active policing.	Having a PSPO in place will not automatically increase the amount of police or council patrols that will be undertaken in the area. However, the order, if extended will continue to provide authorised officers additional powers to tackle the behaviour that they come across/or is reported at the earliest opportunity. Prior to our current PSPO, officers did not have the power to request from an adult over 18 years that alcohol is handed over to them, so could not act unless other criminal offences were

	<p>apparent. It is not a breach of the order to be in possession of alcohol, but a breach not to hand it over when instructed to do so. It is hoped that planned patrols of the area will increase during the summer months (2025) as part of the governments “safer towns” initiative of which Macclesfield Town Centre is part of. Aside from initiatives, patrols will be conducted where possible and in line with any increase in reports of ASB/Alcohol related nuisance.</p>
<p>More signage informing members of public about the order is required.</p>	<p>We currently have 6 x very large (1meter x 1meter), detailed signs placed on central points in and around the town centre, on our main carparks and hotspots. In addition to this we have 50 A4 signs in and around light columns and mounted on walls reminding members of public about the order. There are 2 x banners that as and when initiatives are underway will also be on display.</p> <p>There is no current intention to increase the amount of signage, however if there is a particular place within the restricted area that members of public feel signage is required, then this can be requested via our ASB Team via email: asbteam@cheshireeast.gov.uk who will review the request.</p>
<p>What evidence is there that the order has been “successful” already?</p>	<p>The Council will employ various methods to assess and review the impact of an order on the area it covers. Legally, Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) must be reviewed every three years if the Council intends to extend or modify them.</p> <p>The review process includes public consultation, examining incidents and enforcement actions, observing changes in behaviour, and determining whether the behaviour addressed by the PSPO persists or would likely increase if the PSPO were removed.</p> <p>This public consultation is part of the review and the Council's plan to extend the order for another three years. The police have requested the extension and provided the Council with data on incidents before and after the PSPO's implementation, along with enforcement actions taken. These findings will be presented to the Environment and Communities Committee, where a decision will be made based on the Council's recommendations to extend the order.</p> <p>Once a decision is reached, the report, supporting evidence, and consultation results will be published on our website.</p>
<p>Can the order include the smoking of cannabis?</p>	<p>As this is already an illegal activity, police colleagues already have powers to deal with individuals smoking or in possession of cannabis so the council would not be looking to add this onto its PSPO.</p>
<p>Can other geographical areas be added to this order (nearby parks etc)</p>	<p>At present, the Council has only received a request from the police to extend the existing PSPO without any changes to its geographical coverage or the terms, restrictions, and requirements it includes.</p> <p>Any proposals to amend current orders or to extend those nearing expiry must be backed by evidence of relevant incidents, along with documentation of actions already taken to address the issue. These requests are submitted to the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Team through an agency referral process.</p>

Frequent comments and questions from 2022 consultation	
Comment/Question	CEC Response
How will giving out fines to people that cannot afford to pay stop the behaviour?	In relation to the alcohol requirement on the PSPO, it is important to note that in most circumstances, there will not be any requirement to issue a FPN or proceed the matter to court as the order will not be breached unless the individual refuses to hand over the alcohol. The main aim is to prevent the behaviour before it requires further enforcement action. The council do not wish to deter people from using the towns seating areas and visiting the area to relax and enjoy the surroundings responsibly. However, in some circumstances whereby individuals refuse to hand over alcohol or are caught using the public area as a toilet provision it may be necessary to issue a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) or opt to take the matter straight to court for prosecution. For those issued with FPN's who fail to pay, then the matter will be progressed to our legal team for consideration for court action.
£100 FPN too much/£100 is not enough	The £100 FPN is the maximum amount that can be used for breach of Public Spaces Protection Order. This has been set in legislation and cannot be changed. The Council set the fine at its highest possible rate with no early payment discounts as they consider breach of PSPO a serious matter. Individuals struggling to pay their fine will be urged to contact the council as soon as possible to avoid, where possible court action.
What does "sealed container" of alcohol mean? Does that mean that I cannot carry alcohol in the zone I have purchased to take home?	No, it does not mean that anyone with a sealed container of alcohol will be asked to hand their alcohol over to an authorised officer. If the order is extended for a further 3 years, officers will not be in and around the town centre, checking bags and stopping people going about their normal everyday behaviour. Officers will only be approaching those that appear to be already drinking alcohol in the town centre, or where an incident has highlighted a group/person who might have bags/containers of unopened alcohol with them as well, especially groups of people sitting in the town centre on benches/walls, gathered in a group that appear to have been consuming alcohol already and further consumption of the alcohol they have with them might lead to public nuisance/incidents of disorder.
How will I know who an "authorised officer" is?	Currently, the only officers authorised to deal with breaches or requirements of PSPO's are Police Officers, Police Community Support Officers, and the Councils Community Enforcement Officers. All of which will have full uniform on and have photo ID cards. The Councils Community Enforcement Officers will have Cheshire East Council ID cards displayed, with their authorisation on the back of their card. In relation to this order, in the main the council officers and police will be undertaking joint patrols. It is important to note that it is a criminal offence to refuse to give details to an authorised officer, or give false details, whether that be a police officer or an authorised council officer.
What about events in the town centre and licensed bars that have outdoor areas etc?	Part 4 of this order highlights the exemptions in relation to alcohol. The order does not apply to council-operated licensed premises when the premises are being used for the supply of alcohol. Part 4 of this order also confirms exemption for events that have a temporary events license for this activity, or where permission has been granted under the highways act for the sale and consumption of alcohol in an outdoor area. There are other areas of legislation (such as licensing) that cover misuse of these

	<p>provisions should there be concerns with poor behaviour related to alcohol, licensed events or premises. The PSPO would not cover these.</p>
<p>The area in which the order will apply to is not big enough. What about displacement?</p>	<p>When considering PSPO's the Council work closely with partner agencies and key stakeholders to make sure decisions on requirements of the order and the area the order covers are proportionate and meet the thresholds set within the legislation. In this particular case, the proposed area the order will apply to has been set based on police incident information, of which evidenced incidents involving alcohol fuelled Anti-Social Behaviour. We appreciate that this may displace some of the activity, but other powers can be used to tackle individuals who persist in engaging in this behaviour whether it be within the PSPO area or not. Due to the level of incidents within the area outlined when the order was first made, and the impact the behaviour was having on visitors, businesses, and residents within the town centre it was considered a proportionate approach to consult on using additional powers to elevate some of the concerns that have been expressed at the earliest opportunity. We are unable to widen areas on a "just in case" basis as this does not fall in line with the purpose or scope of the legislation.</p>



**CHESHIRE EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL
EXTENSION OF A PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER
MACCLESFIELD TOWN CENTRE**

Cheshire East Borough Council (the Council) having been satisfied that the activities had been carried out in the Restricted Area defined in the Original Order therein (under PART 1 or this extended order and delineated by the map attached at Appendix A), which had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality and the effect of which were or were likely to be of a persistent or continuing nature and likely to be such as to make the activities unreasonable so as to justify the restrictions imposed, made a Public Spaces Protection Order (the 'Original Order').

The Original Order took effect on the 18th July 2022 and had a duration of 3 years (the 'Duration') under Section 59 Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (the 'Act').

The Council has consulted as required by Section 72 of the Act and is satisfied that it is necessary, in order to prevent the occurrence or recurrence after the Duration of the Original Order of the activities identified in the Original Order, or an increase in the frequency or seriousness of those activities identified in the Original Order after that time, to extend the Original Order.

Cheshire East Borough Council therefore has exercised its power under section 60(2) Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 to extend the Original Order (through this 'Extended Order') for a period of 3 years, Commencing on 18th July 2025

PART 1

ACTIVITIES TO WHICH THIS EXTENDED ORDER APPLIES

1. Consumption of alcohol in the Restricted Area.
2. Urinating/defecating on Land in the Restricted Area.

PART 2

PROHIBITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS OF THIS EXTENDED ORDER

1. A person in the Restricted Area is to hand over any containers (sealed or unsealed) which are believed to contain alcohol when required to do so by a police officer or Authorised Officer to prevent public nuisance or disorder.
2. A person in the Restricted Area shall not urinate and/or defecate on or within Land to which this Order applies.

PART 3

OFFENCES

Failure without reasonable excuse to comply with the requirements imposed by Part 2 (1) of this Order is an offence under Section 63 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. A person guilty of an offence under Part 2 (1) of this order is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale, namely £500.00.

Failure without reasonable excuse to comply with the requirements imposed by Part 2 (2) of this Order is an offence under Section 67 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. A person guilty of an offence under Part 2 (2) of this order is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale, namely £1000.00.

A constable or an Authorised Person may under Section 68 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 issue a fixed penalty notice to anyone the constable or an Authorised Person has reason to believe has committed an offence under Sections 63 or 67 of that Act in relation to this Extended Order.

PART 4

EXEMPTIONS

Part 2 (1) of this Order does not apply to premises as described in section 62 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

Section 62 (1) Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014:

- (a) premises authorised by a premises licence to be used for the supply of alcohol;
- (b) premises authorised by a club premises certificate to be used by the club for the supply of alcohol;
- (c) a place within the curtilage of premises within paragraph (a) or (b);
- (d) premises which has a Temporary Event Licence by virtue of Part 5 of the Licensing Act 2003;
- (e) a place where facilities or activities relating to the sale or consumption of alcohol are at the relevant time permitted by virtue of a permission granted under section 115E of the Highways Act 1980.

Section 62 (2) Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014:

A prohibition in a public spaces protection order on consuming alcohol does not apply to council-operated licensed premises when the premises are being used for the supply of alcohol."

PART 5

DEFINITIONS

In this Extended Order:

Public Place means any place to which the public or any section of the public has access, on payment or otherwise, as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission.

Land means any passageway, pavement, verge, road, recreational space, park or common and any apparatus or structure situated upon it or within them, which is a Public Place within the meaning of this Order, and includes the curtilages of premises adjoining a passageway, pavement, verge, road, recreational space, park or common.

Authorised Person means a person so authorised by Cheshire East [Borough] Council to issue a fixed penalty notice pursuant to S.68 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014.

PART 6

OTHER MATTERS

A Police Constable, Police Community Support Officer or Authorised Person must show authorisation when reasonably requested to do so.

In making this Extended Order the Council certifies that it has had particular regard to the rights of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly set out in articles 10 and 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

PART 7

APPEALS

In accordance with section 66 of the Act, any interested person who wishes to challenge the validity of this Extended Order on the grounds that the Council did not have the power to make the Order or that a requirement under the Act has not been complied with may apply to the High Court within six weeks from the date upon which the Order or Variation is made.

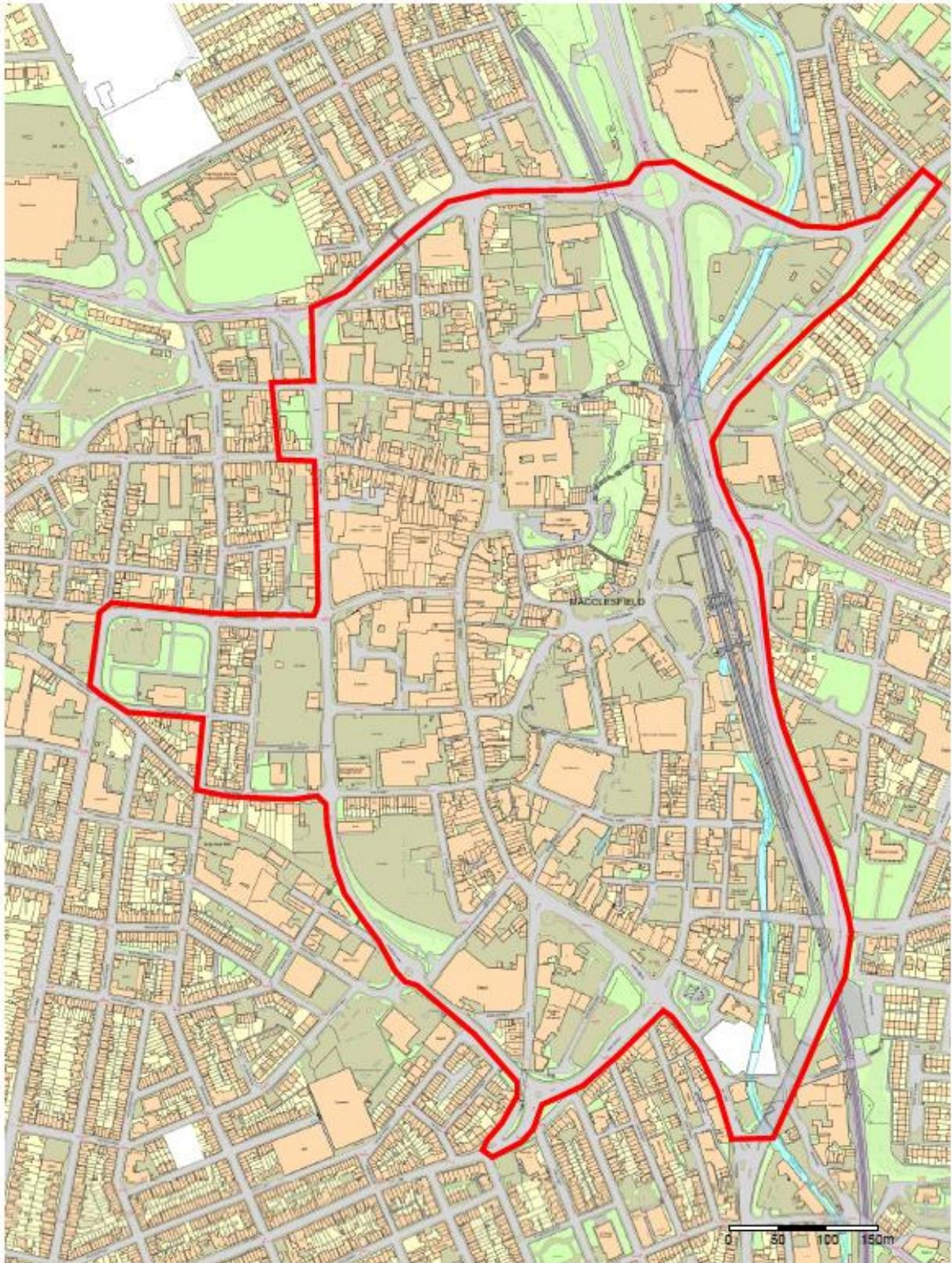
APPENDIX A

PLAN - Map of area (outlined in red in page below) in which **Part 1** and **Part 2** of this Extended Order applies

By order of Cheshire East Borough Council acting under the authority of its Environment and Community Committee.

Dated: *****

APPENDIX A



19/1/2022

Macclesfield PSPO Plan



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**PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC SPACES
PROTECTION ORDERS (PSPO'S)
ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND
POLICING ACT 2014**

Amended January 2022

PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO)

This allows the local authority to stop individuals or groups committing ASB in public places.

The local authority will identify the area that is to be covered by the order – known as the ‘restricted area’.

The PSPO can:

- Prohibit specified things being done in the area
- Require specified things to be done in the area

The prohibitions or requirements can be framed so that they:

- Apply to all persons, or only persons in specified categories, or to all persons except those in specified categories
- Apply at all times, or only at specified times, or at all times except those specified
- Apply in all circumstances, or only in specified circumstances, or in all circumstances except those specified

The following conditions must be met before making the order:

- Activities carried out in a public place within the local authority’s area have a detrimental effect on the quality of life for those living in the locality *or*
- Is likely that activities will be carried out in a public place within the area that will have such an effect

The effect, or likely effect of the activities:

- Is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature
- Is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable *and*
- Justifies the restrictions imposed by the order

The need for a PSPO to be identified

This will come from a variety of routes – including, but not exclusively:

- Partnership problem solving (Multi Agency Action Group – MAAG)
- Complaints from members of the public
- Public consultation/residents meetings/residents groups
- Elected members/Parish Councils
- Neighbourhood groups
- Private land owners
- Registered Social Providers

The process to be followed is below. Responsibility for overseeing this process will lie within the Neighbourhood Services Anti-Social Behaviour Team. Depending on the focus of the PSPO certain elements of the process below may well also be taken on by other departments within the local authority such as Environmental Protection or Trading Standards.

Examples of behaviour that a PSPO might be used to tackle

The following list is intended to be indicative and not exhaustive

Legal highs – sale of/taking of	Verge parking
Boy racers	Parking outside schools
Congregating in car parks	Ball games
Cars for sale	Swimming in dangerous areas
Vehicle Nuisance	Ball games
Buskers	Grazing of horses
Dog fouling	Litter
Unruly Dogs/dogs out of control	Fly tipping
Rough sleeping	Cycling in pedestrian areas
Street drinking	Aggressive Charity Collectors (Chuggers)
Urinating or defecation	Begging
Prostitution	Placing yourself to beg
Dogging	Skateboards

Prior to formal consultation for a PSPO:

It is important that the PSPO is used proportionately and that it is not seen to be targeting behaviour of the children/young people where there is a lack of tolerance and understanding by local people. Consideration must also be given to the Equality Act when setting out restrictions or requirements.

When making a PSPO Cheshire East Council will bear in mind the impact on other areas and the level to which displacement is likely to occur.

All requests/considerations for a PSPO will be nominated to the Neighbourhood Services Multi-Agency Action Group (MAAG). Initial thoughts and actions will be recorded at the meeting, and the relevant agencies will be nominated to take the request further once it has been agreed via an initial professionals meeting.

Professionals/stakeholder meeting:

This will be arranged by the ASB Team, there may be a requirement to hold more than one professionals/stakeholder meeting dependant on any actions that may be required following the initial meeting. Attendees may include the following:

- ASB Team representative – **Compulsory**
- Neighbourhood Services HOS and/or ASB and Community Enforcement Manager – **Compulsory**

- Local Elected Member/Parish Council member – ***will at least be informed***
- Land owner (If not CEC land) – ***Compulsory***
- Police
- Housing/Registered Social Provider
- Other CEC departments
- Representative from the local community

The following will need to be identified either prior to this meeting or during this meeting:

- How many incidents have been reported and who to?
- What has been attempted in order to resolve this issue already?
- What is the exact area that all present would like a PSPO to cover?
- What sort of prohibitions/requirements would need to be considered?
- Are there any other people that need to be consulted as part of this process?
- What are the implications should a PSPO not be imposed.
- What are the risks if a PSPO is imposed (displacement etc.)?
- Who would be responsible for costs around publicity and signage (if not CEC land)?
- How would this be policed does any training need to take place with delegated local officers who may not have had opportunity to enforce this type of order yet?
- Do the majority agree that a PSPO application should be requested? (*if the answer is no the issue will be referred back to the MAAG*)

Liaison with CE Legal Team

Once initial professionals/stakeholders meeting has taken place and pursual of a PSPO has been agreed, the ASB Team will draft a PSPO with suggested prohibitions/requirements and produce a plan of the area that the order has been initially agreed to cover.

This will be forwarded to our CE litigation team for allocation to a lawyer who will review the draft, provide a URN and feedback to the ASB Team lead officer of any amendments/queries.

The final draft PSPO, along with a draft of the online consultation, will then be fed back to the key stakeholders for comments either via an additional meeting or electronically with a deadline for feedback (in most cases the deadline for feedback will be no more than 5 working days) .

Once this has been completed and all are in agreement with the final draft version the ASB Team will then move to obtaining authorisation to begin a public consultation.

Authorisation to begin Consultation

Authorisation to begin public consultation will be via the relevant Service Director as a general delegation, as per the council’s constitution. If authorisation is not given, then the issue will be nominated back to the Stakeholders and the MAAG.

Consultation

The Consultation required will depend on the location and the particular issues to be addressed. The consultation will be proportionate but not excessive. At least 4 weeks will be allowed for the consultation process and as a minimum standard consultation details will be publicised via Cheshire East Council’s Website.

Groups to be consulted may include:

Elected members Parish Councils Local residents Members of public using the area/facility via notice placed in area.	Community Groups Town Councils Pub watch SCOOT/shop watch or equivalent Chamber of Commerce
---	---

The general public will be made aware of the plans through any of the following methods:

- Cheshire East Council website – *Compulsory*
- Press release
- Notice in the affected area
- Residents’ newsletters
- Leaflets
- Social media

Cheshire East Council will ensure that the consultation is in line with its own consultation policy.

Additionally (if not already done so)

- The owner of the land (if not the Council) will be contacted
- Cheshire Police and Police and Crime Commissioner

Decision is taken to make a PSPO

The process for approving PSPO applications will be made via the relevant council committee. This will allow opportunity for elected members outside of the majority group the opportunity to scrutinise the decision.

If this is refused then the matter will be referred back to the MAAG.

Public are advised that the PSPO is coming into effect

Cheshire East Council will ensure that the following principals are followed with reference to publicising a PSPO although some of the processes may vary from case to case:

- The publicity is proportionate and cost effective
- It takes account of the different languages spoken in the area
- Takes into account the need to manage people's expectations once the order is in place
- That at least one week prior to the PSPO coming into effect a multi-agency approach in relation to educating the relevant members of public and agencies on the new order coming into force and the implications of breach of this order
- During at least the first week of the order being in force, members of public will be made aware of the order via an Engage, Educate and Encourage approach. Once this has been undertaken Enforcement action will then begin where required.
- That breaches will be monitored, as will any potential displacement which will all be monitored by Cheshire East Councils ASB Team with a view to the appropriate review processes/amendments taking place on the order.

General publicity may include:

- Press release
- Cheshire East Council website
- Other partner agency websites (i.e. Police, Registered Housing Providers)
- Residents' newsletters
- Leaflets
- Social media
- Parish Councils
- Community Groups
- Signage within the area

In the area affected, signage may be used taking into account the different language spoken – using pictures where possible.

Enforcing the PSPO

The power to enforce the PSPO has been given to:

- Cheshire Constabulary Police Officers
- Cheshire Constabulary Police Community Support Officers
- Designated Cheshire East Council Officers

Cheshire East Council may authorise an officer not on the above list (e.g.: Registered Social Provider or Commissioned agency/company) to issue FPN's where a senior officer within the agency to which that person belongs makes a written request to the Chief Executive of Cheshire East Council for that person to be designated.

A decision will then be made by Cheshire East Council as to whether that person should be authorised as a person who may issue FPN's in Cheshire East.

In each case any person who is so authorised will be required, prior to designation, to complete relevant training identified by Cheshire East Council.

Cheshire East Council reserves the right to vary or cancel any authorisation at any time and for any reason

Breaching the PSPO

Those who are found to be breaching the PSPO may be given the opportunity to discharge the offence by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN).

- The level of FPN for breach of PSPO within Cheshire East has been set at £100 with no early payment opportunity
- Agreement will be reached with Cheshire Constabulary with reference to police officers and police community support officers reporting of breach of PSPO to the local authority so as FPN's can be issued or if court action is required.
- For more serious breaches or repeat breaches of PSPO the council may opt to take the matter straight to the Magistrates Court for prosecution without an opportunity to pay a Fixed Penalty Notice.
- The council will also pursue those individuals who fail to pay an FPN for breach of PSPO via the Magistrates Court

Extension/Variation or Discharge of a PSPO

The council will follow the legislation under Part 4, Chapter 2 sections 60 and 61 of the Antisocial Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 in relation to the extension, variation or discharge of any of its existing PSPO's.

In any of these cases, the initial proposals will be discussed at MAAG and the relevant processes will be followed as per this procedure.

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Enforcement Policy

Anti-Social Behaviour

July 2021

To be read in conjunction with the Cheshire East Council
Corporate Enforcement Policy and Cheshire East Council
Community Enforcement Policy

1. Aims of this Policy

1.1 To advise and inform businesses and individuals with regards to:

- The legislative powers available to the Anti-Social Behaviour Team within in relation to the effective enforcement of Anti-Social Behaviour incidents
- The decision-making process when considering enforcement action

1.2 This policy must be read in conjunction with the Cheshire East Corporate Enforcement policy which provides details of the overarching approach taken by Cheshire East in its enforcement duties.

1.3 With regard to Environmental Offences linked to waste, abandoned and nuisance vehicles this policy must also be read in conjunction with the Community Enforcement Policy.

2 Introduction

2.1 The Council within its published corporate plan has stated ambition to have 'Welcoming safe, and clean neighbourhoods' and in particular to use the full range of education, engagement, and enforcement tools to protect our communities; and take formal enforcement action as appropriate, to reducing offending and increase compliance with the law from individuals or businesses.

2.2 This policy primarily covers areas of enforcement the Anti-Social Behaviour Team will consider when managing cases/dealing with incidents. However, this policy also covers areas of work their co-located and joint managed Community Enforcement Team will consider the use of Anti-Social Behaviour Legislation to tackle waste, abandoned and nuisance vehicle offences.

2.3 Both the Anti-Social Behaviour and Community Enforcement Teams are based within Police Partnership offices at Crewe and Macclesfield Police stations. This allows the Anti-Social Behaviour Team to share relevant access to police systems for checks on cases referred and to update police systems on any actions taken. It also allows the Community Enforcement Team to be joint located with the Anti-Social Behaviour Team to allow for cross working in relation to cases that are shared. The Community Enforcement Team do not have access to police systems.

2.4 The Community Enforcement Team are uniformed officers authorised by the council to undertake enforcement action under various legislation linked to Environmental (including waste) and Anti-Social Crime.

2.5 The Anti-Social Behaviour Team are a team of Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinators who have a problem solving, multi-agency approach to talking Anti-Social Behaviour Complaints. They are non-uniformed coordinators and are not a re-active team who attend incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Team utilise powers under the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 in relation to enforcing against those who have persistently caused behaviour that have had a negative impact on another individual/community/neighbourhood.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Team will also assist other agencies (such as the police) in providing evidence via witness statements and exhibited information in relation to actions they may have taken to curb such behaviour ahead of formal enforcement action they may be considering.

Incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour requiring an officer to attend must be reported to the Police. (further information around reporting can be found on point 9.5 of this policy)

- 2.6 This policy will not detail policy and procedure around all elements of dealing with Anti-Social Behaviour complaints but will highlight those that have been assessed as requiring enforcement action.
- 2.7 Co location with police colleagues, also allows the teams to work closely with the Police Beat officers, and relevant teams in relation to tackling Anti-Social Behaviour and Environmental Crime.

3 Policy Guidance

- 3.1 In addition to the range of legislation available to the team, national guidance and codes of practice are considered when determining the most appropriate course of action to remedy a problem alongside in-house procedures for operational officers.

National guidance in relation to all of the legislative actions within this policy can be found on <https://www.gov.uk/>

- 3.2 The Anti-Social Behaviour and Community Enforcement Teams possess various powers and duties to deal with Anti-Social and Environmental incidents, including breaches of legislation and policy. In other words, although there are many things that the service must do, there are also many others which it may do only where it is expedient to do so. Where this discretion is available then the service will consider several wider factors and tests to determine its regulatory approach, taking into account the level of harm caused by the incident or contravention. Further information on these guiding principles can be found in Section 3.0 of the Cheshire East Corporate Enforcement Policy.
- 3.4 Enforcement action should not normally be considered as an initial remedy for any contraventions of legislation and policy under Anti-Social Behaviour offences. In most circumstances the Council's approach to dealing with Anti-Social Behaviour will follow the 4 E's principal of enforcement - Engage, Educate, Encourage, Enforce. Where possible coordinators should consider informal action/preventative measures in the first instance. However, there are occasions, depending on the severity of the contravention, threshold or public interest tests within legislation where formal action will be considered as the initial and most appropriate course of action.
- 3.5 Where an Anti-Social Behaviour incident has been witnessed by a member of public, it must be understood that in some circumstances without a formal witness statement it is very likely that pursual of the suspected offence will not be possible

4 Legislative Framework

- 4.1 The Anti-Social Behaviour Team has key legislative powers, under the ASB Crime and Policing Act 2014. This offers a wide range of powers to enable to fulfil the duties for

which they are responsible when dealing with relevant Anti-Social Behaviour cases/incidents.

- 4.2 The below list highlights the main legislative powers by which the Anti-Social Behaviour Team undertake their duties to investigate and take appropriate action in relation to Anti-Social Behaviour incidents and how investigations of such are undertaken:
- Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014
 - Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE)
 - Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996
 - Regulations of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA)
- 4.3 Additional legislation by which the Anti-Social Behaviour Team operate under in line with any investigations they undertake can be found under section 3 of the of the Cheshire East Corporate Enforcement Policy. These include considerations under the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulations 2018 (GDPR)
- 4.4 In some instances, specific powers contained within legislation are restricted to those officers who are deemed to have the skills and experience to enforce them. These delegations are formally recorded within individual authorisations granted to and held by each officer, including any officers who may be employed by commissioned services, where appropriate.

5 Anti-Social Behaviour:

- 5.1 The Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team consists of 4 x ASB Coordinators based within either Crewe, Congleton or Macclesfield Police Station Partnership offices. They are co located with police colleagues and our Community Enforcement Team to allow for a joint agency approach to tackling Anti-Social Behaviour in the Borough of Cheshire East.
- 5.2 The Anti-Social Behaviour Team's main functions are to work with neighbourhoods, including businesses and visitors to tackle and focus on a problem-solving, solution-based approach to anti-social behaviour complaints reported into the team. More than often this involves alternate methods to legal/criminal enforcement, working with other agencies and police colleagues to tackle the behaviour reported.
- 5.3 The Anti-Social Behaviour Team generally do not open cases for those residents that are tenants of a registered housing provider as they have their own policies and procedures in place to tackle reports of ASB. Registered housing providers are also able to act under tenancy agreements in most circumstances. However, where cases may be more complex, or the reports include Neighbourhoods/Communities that are a mixture of both private and social housing residents then the Anti-Social Behaviour Team will work alongside the relevant registered providers and agencies to address the issues.
- 5.4 Below is a non-exhaustive list of the types of cases the Anti-Social Behaviour Team might deal with, some of which may include incidents involving the Community Enforcement Team:

- Neighbour Disputes leading negative impact on communities including boundaries, parking, building works, conflict of lifestyles, smoking of cannabis/cigarettes near to other properties/windows, parties, neighbours' dogs/animals, and noise that does not hit the statutory requirements for consideration under Environmental Protection enforcement legislation
- Reports of young people involved in anti-social behaviour in and around their communities and neighbourhoods from low level incidents involving large groups causing high levels of noise and intimidation, football games causing damage to others properties, alcohol and drug related anti-social behaviour to those young people engaging in gang activity/persistent criminal activity involving anti-social behaviour as an additional impact of their criminal behaviour.
- Adults either in groups or individually involved in anti-social behaviour within a neighbourhood or wider community/town/area. Behaviours may consist of, alcohol/drug misuse, persistent abusive language or behaviour towards others, begging, busking, anti-social chugging/sales representatives in streets and town centres.
- Anti-social use of vehicles gathering in areas attracting unwelcome, disruptive attention, noise of revving or stereos, damage to areas, parking in a way that impacts negatively on the local community
- Businesses/organisations/private landowners who's lack of engagement and/or willingness to undertake improvements in and around their own sites to reduce anti-social behaviour or that their behaviour towards others has impacted negatively on the local community. This can also include private landlords or letting agents
- Environmental anti-social behaviour (in conjunction with the Community Enforcement Team) such as;
 - (i) irresponsible dog ownership either in the community or allowing dogs to stray onto others private land/gardens not accessible to the public
 - (ii) persistent mismanagement of household or business waste having a negative impact on the local community that has already been investigated in line with the Community Enforcement Policy

5.5 It is important to note that many of the behaviours listed under 5.4 may also be best initially investigated under existing legislation that may tackle the problem outside of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. This will involve the Anti-Social Behaviour Team liaising with other Council departments and outside partner agencies such as the Police.

5.6 There are several interventions the Anti-Social Behaviour Team may undertake in order to first assess the scope and nature of the ASB reported in order to ascertain the size of problem and reach out to Neighbourhoods and Communities. Examples of some of these interventions are below:

- ASB Community Questionnaires - on-line surveys that are either delivered to properties or via a door to door visit of a certain Neighbourhood or Community depending on the size and nature of the anti-social behaviour reported.

- Anti-social behaviour Logbooks - for private own, businesses or private rent sectors
- Residents/Neighbourhood meetings or surgeries – allowing individuals to discuss concerns they might have and received guidance, advice and assistance.
- Liaison with partner agencies - such as those listed under 10.1 of the Council's Corporate Enforcement Policy

5.7 The types of informal interventions the ASBT may consider ahead of use of legislative powers/enforcement may include:

- Informal approaches to those involved in the ASB via any of the above methods under 5.6
- Referral to Mediation Services
- Polite request letters/informal warning letters
- Acceptable Behaviour Discussions
- Referral to appropriate preventative agencies, such as the Councils "front door" services (adult safeguarding/preventative services and young person's safeguarding and preventative services)
- Acceptable Behaviour Contracts
- Voluntary Parent Contracts
- Professionals meetings
- Referral to our place based Multi-Agency Action Group (MAAG)

5.8 The **Multi Agency Action Group** is a bimonthly meeting of core agencies who discuss nominations submitted into them with reference to place based Anti-Social Behaviour issues that require a more enhanced multi-agency approach and support from a wider network of partners.

Nominations to this group are submitted via the appropriate nomination form to the ASB Team who will, alongside Police Colleagues, triage and either accept the nomination or advise on a course of action should the nomination not be suitable for the group.

For a nomination to be accepted onto the panel, the nominating body must be able to evidence:

- Level of incidents at the place-based area that evidence a substantial increase and that they are having a detrimental impact on the local Community/Neighbourhood.
- What has been done already to try to tackle the issue
- Who has already been involved with the issue
- Suggestions in relation to remedies for the issue and who else might need to be involved.

5.9 When undertaking any case work the Anti-Social Behaviour Team will also give consideration as to whether the case may fit the thresholds for a "Community Trigger". If this is the case, the team will advise accordingly or make a trigger application

themselves. More information about the community trigger can be found on our website www.cheshireeast.gov.uk

- 5.10 If interventions listed under 5.7 have proved not to be effective then the Anti-Social Behaviour Team will look to consider powers it has under the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Police Act 2014.

6 Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014

- 6.1 Both the Anti-Social Behaviour and Community Enforcement Teams have joint use of powers it can consider under the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 to tackle those who are persistently causing anti-social behaviour which is having a detrimental impact on our neighbourhoods and communities.
- 6.2 It is important to note that certain tests need to be met within the legislation for the Council to consider implementation of any of the powers and subsequent enforcement under this act. More information in relation to the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 can be found at www.gov.uk and accessing the Statutory Guidance (last updated January 2021).
- 6.3 In line with this the Council also needs to consider the Code for Crown Prosecutors when looking to enforce under this act under the Evidential Test and the Public Interest Test, more details of which can be found within sect 3.5 of the Councils Corporate Enforcement Policy.
- 6.4 The below powers listed are not the full range of powers under this act, but more those that the Anti-Social Behaviour and Community Enforcement Team's may commonly consider when dealing with complaints of anti-social behaviour and environmental incidents/offences if there has been no behaviour change when using other interventions.

6.5 Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO's)

Public Spaces Protection Orders replaced gating orders and dog control orders and can be used to control behaviours which are having or are likely to have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality. Behaviours which can be controlled through restrictions or positive requirements within a PSPO can include:

- controlling access over public land
- the consumption of alcohol
- dogs roaming freely and/or fouling
- public urination/defecation
- busking/street entertainment
- storage of household items or waste /wheelie bins
- littering
- anti-social use/parking of vehicles
- aggressive behaviours linked to begging, street peddling or preaching

This list is not exhaustive and restrictions or positive requirements will be dependent upon the nature of the issues the PSPO is imposed to deal with. The Council does have a procedure in relation to Public Spaces Protection Orders and how they are to be applied for and accessed. Details of Public Spaces Protection Orders the Council

currently has in force and or any under consultation/review can be found by visiting our website www.cheshireeast.gov.uk

6.5.1 Legislation and formal enforcement if deemed appropriate

Legislation relating to Public Spaces Protection Orders are within sections 59-75 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. It specifies two conditions that must be met in order for a Public Spaces Protection Order to be considered which are:

Condition 1 is that:

- activities carried out in a public place within the authority's area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality
- it is likely that activities will be carried on in a public place within that area and that they will have such an effect

The second condition is that the effect. Or the likely effect of the activities:

- is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature
- is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable
- justifies the restrictions imposed by the order

6.5.2 Breach of legislation is a Criminal Offence

The Community Enforcement Team are authorised to issue a fixed penalty notice of £100 if appropriate.

6.5.3 Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers are also authorised to issue fixed penalty notices for breach of Public Spaces Protection Orders. Some of the Council's Public Spaces Protection Orders are primarily monitored by Cheshire Constabulary due to the nature of behaviour they cover and times of day the breaches occur.

If Prosecuted, a fine of up to level 3 can be given (which currently stands at £1000).

6.5.4 In relation to offences relating to failure to clean up dog foul and responsible dog ownership, the Council have adopted Public Spaces Protection Orders to deal with these matters. Our Community Enforcement Team are the primary service responsible for the policing of this order. More information about our "responsible dog ownership Public Spaces Protection Orders" can be found on our website www.cheshireeast.gov.uk

6.6 **Community Protection Notices (CPN's)**

The Community Protection Notice can be used to deal with, ongoing problems or nuisances which are having a detrimental effect on a community's quality of life by targeting those responsible. These can be issued to an individual or body (business, organisation etc) if their conduct is having a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, that the conduct is persistent and continuing and that the conduct is unreasonable.

6.6.1 There are a number of processes that need to have been undertaken before a Community Protection Notice is issued. The Anti-Social Behaviour or Community Enforcement Team may choose to write to the individual/body to inform that the

Community Protection Notice process may be followed if the behaviour does not improve. Should this not have the desired impact then the team must:

- Inspect/monitor reports they have received, or the relevant team has received in relation to the behaviour
- Issue an official Community Protection Warning which is a requirement of the Act before a Community Protection Notice is issued
- If the behaviour continues, issue a Community Protection Notice specifying the conduct to be stopped or action to be taken
- Monitor the behaviour of the offender after the Community Protection Notice is served

6.6.2 Legislation and formal enforcement if deemed appropriate

The Community Protection Notice is covered in sections 43 to 58 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The legal test to allow the use of this power is that the behaviour has to:

- have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality.
- be of a persistent or continuing nature.
- and be unreasonable.

6.6.3 Breach of legislation is a Criminal Offence

A fixed penalty notice can be issued of up to £100 if appropriate.

A fine of up to level 4 (for individuals which currently stands at £2500), or a fine for businesses. (which currently can be up to £20000)

6.6.4 The Council's use of Community Protection Notices

Community Protection Notices can be used to tackle several anti-Social behaviour issues if they meet the legal test. The Council are currently reviewing how and when they might issue Community Protection Notices. As a result, the Anti-Social Behaviour and Community Enforcement Teams will be piloting their use during 2021/22. Once this has been decided, our procedures around this will be amended accordingly.

6.7 **Criminal Behaviour Orders and Civil Injunctions**

These are orders that can be placed on individuals either "tagged" onto a matter that a defendant is already appearing for in criminal court for (Criminal Behaviour Orders) or applied for separately in the County Court. (Civil Injunctions).

Criminal Behaviour Orders or Civil Injunctions will include prohibitions to stop the anti-social behaviour but can also include positive requirements to encourage the offender/individual to address the underlying causes of their behaviour.

6.7.1 Legislation and formal enforcement if deemed appropriate

Civil Injunctions are covered under sections 1 to 21 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and the legal test for Councils for such injunctions are based on the balance of probabilities that the respondent has engaged in or threatens to engage in;

- Conduct that has or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress (non-housing related anti-social behaviour); and
- That it is just and convenient to grant the injunction to prevent anti-social behaviour

Criminal Behaviour Orders are covered under sections 330 to 342 of the Sentencing Code (which is a product of the Sentencing Act 2020 amends sections 22-33 and s.179(3) of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014). Orders can only be granted if the defendant is found guilty of the offence in which they are attending court for. The legal test is

- That the court is satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that the offender has engaged in behaviour that has caused or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to any person; and
- The court considers that making the order will help prevent the offender from engaging in such behaviour

6.7.2 Breach of a Criminal Behaviour Order is a Criminal Offence, Breach of Civil Injunction is a Civil Offence

Breach of a **Criminal Behaviour Order** is a criminal offence and must be proved to a criminal standard of proof, that is, beyond reasonable doubt.

- For over 18s on summary conviction: up to six months imprisonment or a fine or both.
- For over 18s on conviction on indictment: up to five years imprisonment or a fine or both.

Breach of a **Civil Injunction** is not a criminal offence, but breach must be proved to the criminal standard, that is, beyond a reasonable doubt.

- Over 18s: civil contempt of court with unlimited fine or up to two years in prison

7 Considerations given to young people subject to Enforcement Powers under the ASB Crime and Policing Act 2014

- 7.1 The Anti-Social Behaviour Team work closely with Police, the Youth Justice Service, Cheshire East Family Service, and the Cheshire East Safeguarding Partnership in relation to any young person involved in or at risk of anti-social behaviour. A young person can be subject to enforcement of any of the powers listed above, some with different age thresholds – for instance any young person over the age of 10 years, can be subject to a Civil Injunction or Criminal Behaviour Order, any young person over the age of 16 could be issued a Fixed Penalty Notice for breach of a Public Spaces Protection Order.
- 7.2 There are Robust systems in place via the Team's Youth Anti-Social Behaviour Alert letter warning process, Acceptable Behaviour Discussion (ABD) and Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC) processes to enable them to ensure young people involved in such behaviour have the offer of early help as soon as possible.
- 7.3 Those young people subject to an Acceptable Behaviour Contract will also be nominated onto the Council's Young Person's Contextual Safeguarding Panel so as they can be

monitored, and have available to them the correct level of intervention to try to avoid further actions such as a Criminal Behaviour Order or Civil Injunctions

- 7.4 The Anti-Social Behaviour Team also have process in place, alongside the Youth Justice Service in order to hold "Criminal Behaviour Order professionals meetings" as and when either the team, or Cheshire Constabulary feel that an application for such an order will need to be considered. There is a legal requirement that Police and/or The Council must have a signed certificate of consultation from the Youth Justice Service in the case of an application for a Criminal Behaviour Order being made against any young person between the age of 10 and 17 years. Within this the Council have also written procedures, in line with the consideration of any publicity of a young person subject to a Criminal Behaviour Order.

8 **Reporting Anti-Social Behaviour**

- 8.1 It is important to note that the anti-social behaviour team are not a team who respond to live anti-social behaviour incidents or log incidents on behalf of the Police. It is important that Cheshire Constabulary are contacted to report any anti-social behaviour that has left you or an individual feeling threatened, intimidated, harassed, caused any form of damage to you, another, or your property. Especially if an officer is required to attend the incident.

Cheshire Constabulary can be contacted via any of the below methods:

Telephone:

- **101** for non-emergency enquiries/incidents
- **999** if a serious offence is in progress or has just been committed, someone is in immediate danger or harm, property is in danger of being damaged or a serious disruption to the public is likely

Online/Website: You can also report incidents to the police via their website:

<https://www.cheshire.police.uk/>

- 8.2 The Anti-Social Behaviour Team have a partnership approach to dealing with complaints of anti-social behaviour in our neighbourhoods and communities. This often means that not one specific department or agency would be involved in an anti-social behaviour problem. The team will more than often facilitate partnership working and identification of lead agencies who are best placed to deal with the reported behaviour.

To report concerns in relation to Anti-Social Behaviour, the Anti-Social Behaviour Team can be contacted either by email safer@cheshireeast.gov.uk or by telephone on **0300 123 5030**. The Anti-Social Behaviour Team's phone lines and mailbox are monitored between normal office hours and are not monitored 24 hours.

- 8.3 The Anti-Social Behaviour Team will investigate all Anti-Social Behaviour incidents/concerns reported to them listed under section 6 of this policy whereby there are reasonable lines of enquiry to be made. This could include one or more of the below;
- Evidence found when conducting a patrol (for legislation under the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 that the Community Enforcement Team are responsible for)

- Witness statements from individuals that have seen the offence taking place/knows who committed the offence
- CCTV footage or pictures of the offence/offence taking place.
- Evidence supplied via initial contact to the team, an Anti-Social Behaviour Logbook, Anti-Social Behaviour Community Questionnaire, or via another involved agency/party.

- 8.3.1 It may be that on receipt of an anti-social behaviour enquiry made to the team, it is apparent that incidents have also been reported to other departments or agencies such as the Councils Environmental Protection Team, a Registered Housing Provider or the Police. In these circumstances the Anti-Social Behaviour Team will liaise with the relevant departments to ascertain how best to tackle the problem (as outlined under section 8.2), feeding back to the customer the best agent/s to report any further incidents of the behaviour to so as to avoid multiple reporting where possible.
- 8.4 It may not be possible for the Council to investigate all reports of alleged offences under section 6 of this policy, especially those where there are no clear evidential leads, lines of enquiry or witnesses to the offence/evidence which would lead to an investigation.
- 8.5 In order to pursue an alleged offence where an investigation is reliant on contact with a reporting person and/or witness, the Anti-Social Behaviour or Community Enforcement Team will make 2 attempts to contact. This will be recorded, with a view to close the case if the reporting person has not made contact back to the relevant team. Where practicable, and where a contact address is supplied, the relevant team may then write to the person to inform them of this.
- 8.6 Some suspected offences under section 6.5 (breach of Public Spaces Protection Orders) of this policy can be reported to the Council by contacting the Community Enforcement Team on 0300 123 5021. Other Public Space Protection Orders may be reportable to the Police, reporting methods will be listed under each relevant order on our website: www.cheshireeast.gov.uk
- 8.7 **Service Standards** – on receipt of a report/enquiry an initial assessment of the case will be made by the relevant team within 10 working days. Where they are not able to, the customer will be contacted, where possible, to keep them up to date and make sure they are aware of an expected date the matter will be investigated further.
- 8.8 **Anonymous complaints** – It may not be possible to investigate a complaint due to the limited information provided, and as a result of anonymity, the teams are unable to make contact to obtain any additional information that may be necessary in ascertaining reasonable lines of enquiry.

Anonymous reports will be triaged, if on receipt there is enough information to warrant an investigation then this will be forwarded to the relevant team. If not, the report will be closed or if relevant, retained for intelligence purposes (for instance ASB incidents).

9 **Investigations**

- 9.1 Any investigations relating to enforcement of anti-social behaviour undertaken by either the Anti-Social Behaviour or Community Enforcement Team will be in line with the Councils Enforcement Policy. This covers the Councils approach to enforcement, under

what legislation we investigate matters under and how we gather, store, and use evidence.

- 9.2 It is important that every opportunity is taken to focus time and effort on investigations that will be productive in terms of achieving positive outcomes.
- 9.3 Before an Anti-Social Behaviour Team Coordinator undertakes their role, they will go through a minimum of a 4-week induction period with an experienced team member and relevant Manager. Training regardless of any formal qualification the Council will be able to offer will be provided for all ASB Team Coordinators, as required, to meet changes in legislation and enforcement procedures.
- 9.4 Please see section 7 of the Council's Community Enforcement Policy for information on how the Community Enforcement Team conduct their investigations.
- 9.5 The Anti-Social Behaviour Team will conduct investigations in a number of ways, some of which are outlined in the below list which is not exhaustive but contain the main methods relevant to offences in which they are authorised to investigate. Please refer to the Council's Corporate Enforcement Policy and/or Data Protection Policy in relation to how we store and obtain certain pieces of information gathered and who we might share that information with:
- Initial contact with reporting person/s – in some circumstances an initial investigation may be opened and closed by means of contacting the reporting person/s. The contact will allow a coordinator to ascertain the nature of the alleged anti-social behaviour and whether this is something they will be able to make reasonable lines of enquiry around. Depending on the outcome of this contact the coordinator will then decide as to whether the matter requires further investigation.
 - Witness statements – Alleged anti-social behaviour may have been witnessed in person by an individual/s or they may have video or photographic evidence of an alleged offence taking place. In these circumstances a coordinator may have to obtain a witness statement if the information supplied is to be relied upon.
 - Requests for information from another person/department/business or partner agency/authority There may be information a coordinator requires in order to further their investigation, for instance an address, land ownership details, a registered keeper of a vehicle, landlord information etc.
 - Door to door enquiries – a coordinator may try to contact nearby residents or businesses to try to gather further information about an alleged offence. This would normally be via an “ASB Community Questionnaire”, but may require joint visits with either the Community Enforcement Team or Police Colleagues. If no contact has been made and there are no further lines of enquiry for the coordinator to consider then the investigation will be closed.
 - Interviewing a suspect under caution/obtaining information under caution
- It may be appropriate for some offences to give a suspect opportunity to give a clear account under caution of their version of events to assist with an investigation. Where this is required the Anti-Social Behaviour Team will look for assistance from the Community Enforcement Team to conduct these.

- CCTV – The council may use CCTV at their disposal via its CCTV department to place in a hotspot area that has been identified as being subject to relevant offences taking place. This will be in line with legislation outlined in the Councils Corporate Enforcement Policy and service specific CCTV policy.

9.6 In relation to the above, the Anti-Social Behaviour Team, may seek assistance from the Community Enforcement Team or Police colleagues when considering extra patrols, the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices and obtaining witness statements.

10 Prosecutions

10.1 The Council will exercise discretion in deciding whether to initiate a prosecution. Other approaches to enforcement may promote compliance with legislation more effectively (as previously detailed within this policy and also the Council's Corporate Enforcement Policy).

However, where the particular circumstances warrant it, prosecution without prior warning and recourse to alternative sanctions may be appropriate.

In addition, consideration will be given to best practice guidance from Government Departments and Agencies, other Local Authorities and advice offered by the Council's Legal Department in accordance with the Code of Crown Prosecutors.

Coordinators will, subject to their statutory duties, act in accordance with the Council's procedures when approaching individual cases of complaints and will initiate the type of enforcement action warranted by the nature and severity of the offence.

Coordinators will seek to help all members of the public and business community to understand their rights and obligations to comply with relevant legislation.

The Council will take legal proceedings if there is sufficient evidence to do so and where it is in the public interest to do so.

When considering legal proceedings or a Fixed Penalty Notice, the immediate consideration is the sufficiency of available, admissible evidence to substantiate the allegation that an offence has been committed.

In determining the sufficiency of evidence, consideration should be given to the following factors:

- Availability of essential and relevant evidence
- Credibility and reliability of witnesses

Where the case depends in part of admissions or confessions, consideration should be made to their admissibility and whether interviews, statements and other evidence have been obtained in compliance with relevant legislation.

In determining the admissibility of evidence regard should be given to the requirements of the Police and Criminal Act 1984 and the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996, and associated Codes of Practice.

If the case does not pass the evidential test, they may not go ahead. If the case does meet the evidential test, the Council will decide if formal enforcement action is in the public interest and in line with our Enforcement Policy.

Guidance and advise will be taken from the Council's Legal Department where appropriate.

10.2 Public Interest Criteria

When satisfied that sufficient evidence is available, consideration must be given to whether the public interest test requires a prosecution. Suspected offences should not automatically be the subject of prosecution, but that prosecution should follow whenever it appears that the offence or its circumstances is or are of such a character that a prosecution is required in the public interest.

The factors which can properly lead to a decision not to prosecute will vary from case to case but generally, the more serious the offence, the less likelihood there will be that the public interest will be served otherwise than by prosecution.

More information in relation to Public Interest Criteria can be found in section 3.5 of the Council's Corporate Enforcement Policy.

11 Appeals

- 11.1 In relation to legislation that involve Fixed Penalty notices or formal legal actions under section 6 of this policy, if the defendant wishes to appeal as they feel they have not committed the offence this would usually be via making a formal representation in a Magistrates Court of equivalent. However, the Council will accept initial informal appeals and details of how to make an appeal will be placed on either the Fixed Penalty Notice issued to them or formal correspondence sent to them in line with the enforcement action taken.
- 11.2 Appeals in relation to any actions the Anti-Social Behaviour Team have considered outside of formal criminal or civil legislation; for instance an informal warning letter, can be made directly to the team via email safer@cheshireeast.gov.uk
- 11.3 Appeals in relation to powers covered in section 6 of this policy are covered by the relevant legislation within the ASB Crime and Policing Act 2014. Any individual or body subject to any of the warning, notices, orders or injunctions in this section will be informed in writing as to the relevant appeals process some of which is via the relevant courts.
- 11.4 Informal appeals against enforcement action up to and including Fixed Penalty Notices under criminal legislation will only be considered in relation to any representation the defendant makes under the following circumstances:
- That they believe they are exempt to the enforcement action taken due to exemptions defined under the relevant legislation.
 - That they believe they have been identified falsely
 - That they have information in relation to the offence that may reveal further lines of enquiry cause the matter to be placed on hold pending further investigation
- 11.5 Appeals will be considered via the relevant Senior Officer or Team manager and not the issuing officer or coordinator. On receipt of an appeal any payment dates or requirements under the enforcement action taken will be placed on hold until the appeal has been considered. The relevant Senior Officer/Team manager on receipt of appeal

will inform the individual/defendant as to when they are to expect an outcome. Any new due dates of payments required, actions to be taken, or further legal action will be outlined on the appeal outcome correspondence.

12 Verbal/Physical Abuse Towards Coordinators

- 12.1 The Council is committed to ensuring that its coordinators are able to carry out their work safely and without fear and, where appropriate, will use legal action to prevent abuse, harassment or assaults on coordinators. To obstruct a coordinator in carrying out their duties is an offence and legal action may be taken against any person/s doing so.
- 12.2 Coordinators are entitled to, if subjected to verbal abuse either in person or on the telephone, terminate the meeting or telephone call.

13 Reporting

- 13.1 The Anti-Social Behaviour and Community Enforcement Teams have responsibilities in relation to the reporting of offences listed under section 6 of this policy under the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. This includes publication and consultation of Public Spaces Protection Orders. More information on these responsibilities can be found at www.gov.uk
- 13.2 A regular report on the performance of the Anti-Social Behaviour Team will be presented to the relevant Service Committee for information.

14 Complaints and Compliments about the service

- 14.1 In accordance with the Council's Compliments and Complaints procedure persons wishing to submit a compliment or make a complaint about the Anti-Social Behaviour Team should do so either by writing to Compliance & Customer Relations Team, 1st Floor Westfields, C/O Municipal Buildings, Earle Street, CREWE, CW1 2BJ or by e-mail to Letusknow@cheshireeast.gov.uk. More information in relation to complaints and compliments can be found on our website at www.cheshireeast.gov.uk

**ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014
CHESHIRE EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO EXTEND THE MACCLESFIELD TOWN
CENTRE PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER**

Notice is hereby given that Cheshire East Borough Council ('the Council') for the purposes of reducing anti-social behaviour proposes to extend the **Macclesfield Town Centre** Public Space Protection Order (the 'PSPO') using its powers under Section 60(2) Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (the 'Act') and of all other enabling powers.

The PSPO took effect on **18th July 2022** and unless extended will **expire at midnight on 17th July 2025**. The Council intends to extend the order in its current format with no changes to its boundary, prohibitions or requirements.

Section 60(2) of the Act gives the Council a discretionary power to extend the PSPO if, in addition to having regard to the rights of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly set out in articles 10 and 11 of the Convention, it is satisfied on reasonable grounds that an extension is necessary in order to prevent after that time, the occurrence or recurrence of, or an increase in the frequency or seriousness of, the activities identified in the Introduction and PART 1 of the Order.

In accordance with its duty under Section 72(3) of the Act, **the Council would like to seek your views on the proposed extension of the PSPO, a copy of which can be viewed on our website: [Public Spaces Protection Orders \(PSPO's\) \(cheshireeast.gov.uk\)](https://cheshireeast.gov.uk/public-spaces-protection-orders). Paper copies of the draft order can be requested by contacting the ASB Team on any of the contact details at the bottom of this page.**

Submitting your comments

Our Consultation opens at **9am on Tuesday 1st April 2025** Please use the link or scan the QR code below to complete our short consultation in relation to our intentions around the extension of this order: <https://surveys.cheshireeast.gov.uk/s/MacclesfieldTownCentrePSPO/>



Please submit your consultation response by

12 noon Tuesday 13th May 2025

For any queries about this consultation, e.g., if you would like to receive this Notice in an alternative format or submit your response in a different way (request a paper copy or to complete over the phone), please contact the ASB Team via phone on: **0300 123 50 30** (please note that this contact number is a voicemail only facility which is regularly checked) or via email: asbteam@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Post consultation: At the closure of the formal consultation period, the Council will review all comments and or objections. Having regard to the statutory criteria, the Council will make a decision to either extend the PSPO for a further three years to midnight on 17th July 2028 or such shorter time as it may consider appropriate, or alternatively to allow the order to lapse. **Your confidentiality is assured** Any personal information you supply will remain strictly confidential and will be used in line with the Data Protection Act 2018. To find out more about how we use your information see our [Privacy notice \(cheshireeast.gov.uk\)](https://cheshireeast.gov.uk/privacy-notice)

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OPEN

Environment and Communities Committee**05 June 2025****Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty**

Report of: Philip Cresswell – Executive Director - Place**Report Reference No: EC/18/25-26****Ward(s) Affected: All****Decision****Purpose of Report**

- 1 At the full Council Meeting of 11th December 2024, a notice of motion was proposed with regard to a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty. This report responds to that notice of motion.

Executive Summary

- 2 A Notice of Motion regarding a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty was presented to Council at its meeting on 11th December 2024. The motion was proposed by Councillor Sam Corcoran and seconded by Councillor Dawn Clark.

- 3 The motion proposed that:

The scientific consensus is clear that fossil fuels are primarily responsible for accelerating global climate change, and that the climate crisis now represents one of the preeminent threats to global lives and livelihoods.

A new global initiative is underway calling for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty that would plan the end of new fossil fuel exploration and expansion, phase out existing production in line with the global commitment to limit warming to 1.5°C and accelerate equitable transition plans globally.

- 4 This Council resolves to:

Formally endorse the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and make that endorsement public.

- 5 Council resolved that the motion be referred to the Environment and Communities Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Environment and Communities Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the Notice of Motion
2. Consider whether it would wish to endorse the motion as presented

Background

- 6 The full text of the Notice of Motion proposed to Council on the 11th December 2024 was as follows:

This Council notes that:

- 7 *The scientific consensus is clear that fossil fuels are primarily responsible for accelerating global climate change, and that the climate crisis now represents one of the preeminent threats to global lives and livelihoods.*
- 8 *The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Sixth Assessment Report states that it is unequivocal that climate change has already disrupted human and natural systems and that societal choices and actions implemented in the next decade determine the extent to which medium- and long-term pathways will deliver higher or lower climate resilient development.*
- 9 *The International Energy Agency stated in its May 2021 report “Net Zero by 2050” that in order to reach that goal there should be no new oil or gas fields, or new coal mines, as of that moment.*
- 10 *The Paris Climate Agreement is silent on coal, oil and gas, an omission with respect to the supply and production of fossil fuels (the largest source of GHGs) that needs to be collectively addressed by other means; and that global governments and the fossil fuel industry are currently planning to produce more than double the amount of coal, oil and gas by 2030 than can be burned if the world is to limit warming to 1.5°C and avert catastrophic climate disruption, and such plans risk undoing the work of our Council to reduce GHG emissions.*

11 A new global initiative is underway calling for a Fossil Fuel NonProliferation Treaty that would plan the end of new fossil fuel exploration and expansion, phase out existing production in line with the global commitment to limit warming to 1.5°C and accelerate equitable transition plans globally.

12 *Our entire global community will be impacted by the climate crisis. Vulnerable communities, and those who have contributed the least to climate change, however, will often be impacted most acutely.*

This Council believes that:

13 *New fossil fuel infrastructure and expanded reliance on fossil fuels exposes communities to untenable risks to public health and safety at the local and global levels; and that the economic opportunities presented by a clean energy transition far outweigh the opportunities presented by an economy supported by expanding fossil fuel use and extraction.*

This Council resolves to:

14 Formally endorse the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and make that endorsement public.

15 *Call on the UK government to also endorse the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.*

16 *Reaffirm our commitment to rapidly decarbonising our economy at a local and national level.*

17 *Write to the Local Government Association and raise the need for a planned phase out of fossil fuels, and to call on it to promote the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty among its members.*

18 The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative is a global movement supported by stakeholders including governments, academics, scientists, faith institutes and nineteen local councils in the UK.

19 The aim of the treaty is to explicitly stop the expansion of fossil fuels and to manage a global just transition away from coal, oil and gas.

20 There is no single organisation leading the initiative, it terms itself an idea rather than an organisation.

21 Cheshire East Council recognised the climate emergency in 2019 and committed to the decarbonisation of its own operations and to influence the reduction of carbon within the borough.

- 22 The Cheshire East Plan confirms the council's targets to be a carbon neutral council with minimum offset by 2030, influencing carbon reduction and green energy production across the borough by 2045.
- 23 In support of these aims the council has a Carbon Neutral Action Plan and a Wider Borough Carbon Action Plan, both linked at the end of this paper.

Response

- 24 With respect to the statement of belief and resolutions of the proposal. Committee may wish to discuss and debate the proposals submitted.

Consultation and Engagement

- 25 This report addresses the notice of motion submitted to full Council on the 11th December 2024, and referred to Environment and Communities Committee as the appropriate service committee.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 26 The Cheshire East Council Constitution sets out the procedure for Notices of Motion submitted to Council. A motion referred to the relevant decision-making body must be considered within two meeting cycles. At the meeting to which the motion has been referred for consideration, the proposer of the motion if present shall be invited to speak first, followed by the seconder. The matter will then be opened up to wider discussion.

Other Options Considered

- 27 None – it is a requirement under the constitution that notices of motion should be referred to the appropriate service committee

Option	Impact	Risk
Do nothing	The council would not be in compliance with the constitution with regard to notices of motion	Democratic process and transparency

Implications and Comments

Monitoring Officer/Legal/Governance

- 28 Consideration of the notice of motion was appropriately referred to the committee and is in line with its remit. There are no direct legal implications within this report, as it responds to the notice of motion. The report asks the committee to consider whether it would wish to endorse the treaty and identifies if action is to be undertaken in light of the same.

Section 151 Officer/Finance

- 29 The matters concerned within this report do not have a direct financial impact on Cheshire East Council.

Human Resources

- 30 There are no Human Resources implications of this report.

Risk Management

- 31 There are no risk management implications of this report.

Impact on other Committees

- 32 The matters concerned within this report do not impact other committees within the council.

Policy

- 33 The matters concerned within this report have an impact on the corporate priority of Cheshire East Council to influence carbon reduction.

Commitment 1: Unlocking prosperity for all

1.6 Carbon neutral council with minimum offset by 2030, influencing carbon reduction and green energy production across the borough by 2045

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- 34 The matters contained within this report do not have equality, diversity and inclusion implications within Cheshire East.

Other Implications

- 35 Initiatives to reduce the production and use of fossil fuels will have a positive effect on the drive to limit the impacts of climate change.

Consultation

Name of Consultee	Post held	Date sent	Date returned
<i>Statutory Officer (or deputy) :</i>			
Sal Khan	S151 Officer	19/05/25	20/05/25
Janet Witkowski	Acting Monitoring Officer	19/05/25	20/05/25
<i>Legal and Finance</i>			
Adrian Leslie	Lawyer Contracts and Procurement Team	28/04/25	06/05/25
Steve Reading	Accountant		
<i>Other Consultees:</i>			
<i>Executive Directors/Directors</i>			
Philip Cresswell (at DMT)	Executive Director - Place	08/05/25	08/05/25

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Emma Williams – Carbon Manager Emma.williams2@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Appendices:	
Background Papers:	Carbon Neutral Action Plan Wider Borough Carbon Action Plan

OPEN

Environment and Communities Committee**05 June 2025****Brighton Plus Helsinki Declaration - A Commitment To Achieve Gender Equality In Sport And Physical Activity****Report of: Director of Public Health****Report Reference No: EC/20/25-26****Ward(s) Affected: All****Decision****Purpose of Report**

- 1 To seek approval for Cheshire East Council to become a signatory to the Brighton Plus Helsinki Declaration, an international treaty that signifies a commitment to achieving gender equality in sport and physical activity.
- 2 This will complement Active Cheshire's ambition set out in their new Strategy (being launched on 12th June), to prepare a Strategic Plan for Women and Girls Equality in Sport and Physical Activity.

Executive Summary

- 3 Active Cheshire (the County Sports Partnership) plans to become a signatory of the Brighton Plus Helsinki Declaration, an international treaty that signifies a commitment to achieving gender equality in sport and physical activity. It is asking each of the three local authorities in Cheshire and Warrington to become joint signatories. The Declaration is a global statement of intent to promote gender equality in sport and physical activity. It recognises that women and girls have not had equality of access in sports and physical activity.
- 4 The International Working Group (IWG) on Women and Sport is the world's largest network dedicated to advancing equity and equality in sport and physical activity for women and girls around the world. IWG is the custodian of the Brighton Plus Helsinki Declaration. Nearly 600 organisations around the world are signatories, including the International

Olympic Committee (IOC), the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF).

RECOMMENDATIONS

That The Environment and Communities Committee:

1. Agrees to Cheshire East Council signing The Brighton Plus Helsinki Declaration
2. Delegates to The Director of Public Health authority to make all necessary arrangements for the signing of the Declaration to take place

Background

- 5 Active Cheshire are launching their new organisational strategy at an in-person event on 12 June 2025. Part of this strategy is the development of a Cheshire and Warrington Women and Girls Strategic Plan.

At this event, it is the intention for the Chief Executive of Active Cheshire to sign the Brighton Plus Helsinki Declaration alongside a representative from The International Working Group (IWG) on Women & Sport. The International Working Group (IWG) on Women and Sport is the world's largest network dedicated to advancing equity and equality in sport and physical activity for women and girls around the world.

IWG is the custodian of the Brighton Plus Helsinki Declaration, a treaty that signifies a commitment to achieving gender equality in sport and physical activity. Nearly 600 organisations around the world are signatories, including the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF).

Cheshire East Council has received an invitation from Active Cheshire on 2 May 2025 to sign the declaration at the event on 12 June 2025. This invitation has also been extended to Cheshire West and Chester Council and Warrington Council.

- 6 The Brighton Plus Helsinki Declaration aims to promote gender equity and equality in sports and physical activity. Nearly 600 organisations globally, including international federations and national sports governing bodies, have signed the declaration. Any organisation, regardless of size or location, can become a signatory. Organisations must demonstrate a commitment to upholding some or all of the ten Principles of the Declaration. These are as follows:

- Equity and Equality in Society and Sport
- Facilities
- School and Youth Sport
- Developing Participation
- High Performance Sport
- Leadership in Sport
- Education, Training and Development
- Sport Information and Research
- Resources
- Domestic and International Cooperation

Further details of the Declaration and the ten Principles can be found here;

[Brighton-plus-Helsinki-2014-Declaration-on-Women-and-Sport.pdf](#)

- 7 Physical activity has already been identified as a Public Health priority as part of The Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the population of Cheshire East 2023-2028.

Council Officer time has been allocated to the physical activity agenda and existing commitments are funded through the Public Health Grant. We can evidence our commitment to some of the ten Principles of the Declaration. For example, Public Health have led the development and establishment of the Cheshire East Eat Well Move More (EWMM) Partnership. As part of the EWMM Partnership Action Plan, women and girls have been identified as a priority cohort and there has been a subgroup established to drive this work forward.

In addition, the Council commissions Everybody Health and Leisure to provide a leisure service for residents and the OneYou Integrated Health and Wellbeing Service. As part of both of the commissioned services, there is a commitment to inclusivity and gender equality.

Signing up to the declaration would enable further awareness regarding this important piece of work and for Cheshire East Council to be part of a global movement, in addition to the local and a sub-regional initiatives.

Consultation and Engagement

- 8 Significant consultation and engagement was undertaken with partners during the development of the Cheshire East Eat Well Move More Partnership and Action Plan, as referenced above. Women and Girls were identified as a priority cohort and a subgroup has been formed to identify and enable opportunities for targeted initiatives.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 9 Signing the Brighton Plus Helsinki Declaration will demonstrate the Council's commitment to gender equality in sport and physical activity.

Other Options Considered

The alternative option would be to not accept the invitation to sign up to the Declaration.

Option	Impact	Risk
Do Nothing	An opportunity to demonstrate the Council's commitment to gender equality in Sport and Physical Activity will be missed	This may cause reputational harm.

Implications and Comments

Monitoring Officer/Legal/Governance

- 10 The Council will have to ensure compliance with the legal definition of a woman under the Equalities Act 2010 meaning that a woman is defined by their biological sex.
- 11 Sex is a protected characteristic under the Equalities Act.
- 12 Notwithstanding the above, the Council has obligations to all residents of the Borough in pursuing the Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the population of Cheshire East 2023-2028 including people with protected characteristics.
- 13 In taking into consideration the above, there is nothing to prevent the Council from signing the declaration.

Section 151 Officer/Finance

- 14 There are no additional financial implications of signing the Declaration.

Human Resources

- 15 There are no additional Human Resource implications of this report and the recommendations. Council Officer time has already been allocated to the physical activity agenda.

Risk Management

- 16 As referenced above, there is a reputational risk to not accepting the invitation to sign the Declaration.

Impact on other Committees

17 Not applicable.

Policy

18 Signing the Declaration will contribute to Commitment 2: Improving Health and Wellbeing. It also relates to Commitment 1: Unlocking Prosperity For All and our aspiration to provide opportunities for all.

Commitment 1: Unlocking prosperity for all	Commitment 2: Improving health and wellbeing	Commitment 3: An effective and enabling council
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Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

19 Signing the Declaration demonstrates the Council's commitment to promoting and achieving gender equality in sport and physical activity.

Other Implications

20 The Public Health Service is already committed to improving physical activity levels and participation in Cheshire East. It is recognised that participation in sports and physical activity is good for your health and wellbeing.

Consultation

Name of Consultee	Post held	Date sent	Date returned
<i>Statutory Officer (or deputy) :</i>			
Sal Khan	Deputy S151 Officer	20/05/25	22/05/25
Janet Witkowski	Acting Monitoring Officer	20/05/25	21/05/25
<i>Legal and Finance</i>			
Louise Price	Principal Lawyer (Place)	20/05/25	23/05/25

David Hallworth	Finance Business Partner		
<i>Other Consultees:</i>			
<i>Directors</i>			
PLACE DMT	Place Executive Director and Directors	20/05/25	22/05/25

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Rachel Zammit Health Promotion and Improvement Manager rachel.zammit@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Appendices:	Not applicable
Background Papers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brighton-plus-Helsinki-2014-Declaration-on-Women-and-Sport.pdf

OPEN

Environment and Communities Committee

05 June 2025

Appointments to Sub-Committees, Working Groups, Panels, Boards and Joint Committees

Report of: Janet Witkowski, Acting Governance, Compliance and Monitoring Officer

Report Reference No: EC/19/25-26

Ward(s) Affected: N/A

Decision

Purpose of Report

- 1 This report seeks approval from the Environment and Communities Committee to appoint the bodies referred to in the report and to nominate members to them.
- 2 This report contributes to the Council's objective of being an effective and enabling organisation – effective and responsive governance, compliance and evidence-based decision-making.

Executive Summary

- 3 The Council, at its annual meeting on 14 May 2025 [approved](#) the political representation on its main committees and appointed those committees. The appointment of certain sub-committees, working groups, panels and boards is a matter for the relevant service committee.
- 4 This report concerns those bodies which fall to be appointed by the Environment and Communities Committee or by the Committee in conjunction with other service committees. Where political proportionality is applicable, the agreed conventions and methods of calculation have been applied.
- 5 Appointments to Outside Organisations are made by the Corporate Policy Committee and will next be reviewed in May 2027.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Environment and Communities Committee

1. Appoints the sub-committees, working groups, panels, boards and joint committees for 2025-26, and the member appointments to them, as set out within this report.
2. Where appropriate, agrees to submit member nominations to the bodies below to the Head of Democratic Services.

Background

- 6 Bodies which the Environment and Communities Committee is required to appoint to:

Body	Purpose	Membership 2024-25	Proposed Membership 2025-26
Local Plan Member Reference Group	To support the preparation of the Local Plan.	Cllrs L Smetham, S Gardiner, T Dean, L Braithwaite, C Chapman, L Crane, M Warren <i>(3 Cons: 3 Lab: 1 Ind)</i>	Cllrs S Gardiner, T Dean, S Edgar, Liz Braithwaite, Clair Chapman, Laura Crane, TBC
Carbon Steering Group	To oversee progress to the council's target of a carbon neutral borough by 2045 through the delivery of the Wider Borough Carbon Action Plan 2024-29.	Informal Group; - Cllr Warren - Cllr Dean - Cllr Corcoran - Cllr Crane	TBC

	<p>There needs to be a representative from each of the following committees;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environment and Communities - Children and Families - Adults and Health - Highways and Transport - Economy and Growth 		
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Consultation and Engagement

- 7 There has been consultation with Group Leaders and Administrators in relation to the political representation of the bodies set out within this report.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 8 In accordance with the Constitution, the Environment and Communities Committee is responsible for the appointment of the bodies referred to in this report.

Other Options Considered

9	Option	Impact	Risk
	Do nothing	The Council's Constitution requires these bodies to be appointed in line with the legislation referenced in this report. Not appointing to these bodies would negatively affect the Council's ability to make decisions in an open and transparent manner.	Failure to comply with the Council's Constitution and the legislation referenced in this report could leave the Council open to legal challenge.

Implications and Comments

Monitoring Officer/Legal/Governance

- 10 The Environment and Communities Committee has power to appoint informal working groups, panels or task groups with defined terms of reference and timeframes.
- 11 The Committee also has power and/or has historically been asked to nominate members to each of the sub-committees particularly where they fall within the remit of the Committee.
- 12 The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, made pursuant to the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, make provisions in respect of the political group representation on a local authority's committees in relation to the overall political composition of the Council. The legislation applies to the decision-making committees and sub-committees of the Council and requires that, where proportionality applies, and seats are allocated to different political groups, the authority must abide by the following principles, so far as is reasonably practicable:
 - Not all of the seats can be allocated to the same political Group (i.e., there are no single group committees).
 - The majority of the seats on the body are to be allocated to a political Group with a majority membership of the authority.

- The total number of seats on all ordinary committees and sub committees allocated to each Political Group bears the same proportion to the proportion on the full Council.
- The number of seats on each ordinary committee allocated to each Political Group bears the same proportion to the proportion on full Council.
- The proposals contained in this report meet the requirements of the legislation.
- The 1990 Regulations require Political Group Leaders to notify the Proper Officer of the Groups' nominations to the bodies in question.

Section 151 Officer/Finance

- 13 There are no financial implications that require an amendment to the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

Human Resources

- 14 There are no HR implications.

Risk Management

- 15 Failure to comply with the Act and Regulations when appointing its committee memberships would leave the Council open to legal challenge.

Impact on other Committees

- 16 There are no implications on other committees.

Policy

- 17 There are no direct policy implications.

Commitment 3: An effective and enabling organisation

Effective and responsive governance, compliance and evidence-based decision-making.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- 18 There are no direct equality, diversity and inclusion implications.

Other Implications

19 There are no other implications.

Consultation

Name of Consultee	Post held	Date sent	Date returned
<i>Statutory Officer (or deputy) :</i>			
Sal Khan	Deputy S151 Officer	22/05/25	22/05/25
Janet Witkowski	Acting Monitoring Officer	22/05/25	22/05/25
<i>Legal and Finance</i>			
Steve Reading	Finance Manager (Place & Corporate Services)	22/05/25	22/05/25

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Brian Reed, Head of Democratic Services Brian.reed@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Appendices:	NA
Background Papers:	NA

Environment and Communities Committee Work Programme 2025-26

Report Reference	Title	Purpose of Report	Lead Officer	Consultation	Equality Impact Assessment	Part of Budget and Policy Framework	Exempt Item	Is the report for decision or scrutiny?
25 September 2025								
EC/05/25-26	First Financial Review of 2025/26	To note and comment on the First Financial Review and Performance Position of 2025/26, including progress on policy proposals and material variances from the MTFs and (if necessary) approve Supplementary Estimates and Virements	Interim Executive Director of Resources (S151 Officer)	No	No	Yes	No	Scrutiny
EC/06/25-26	Local Plan Update	To provide an update to members on the progress in delivering the new Local Plan.	Director of Planning and Environment	Yes	Yes	No	No	Decision
EC/16/24-25	Strategic Leisure Review - Implementation Update	To provide an update to Committee in relation to the implementation of the initiatives brought forward under the Strategic Leisure Review and where appropriate set out any additional savings proposals.	Director of Planning and Environment	Yes	Yes	No	No	Decision /Scrutiny
13 November 2025								
EC/07/25-26	Second Financial Review of 2025/26	To note and comment on the Second Financial Review and Performance position of 2025/26, including progress on policy proposals and material variances from the MTFs and (if necessary) approve Supplementary Estimates and Virements	Interim Executive Director of Resources (S151 Officer)	No	No	Yes	No	Scrutiny
EC/08/25-26	Medium Term Financial Strategy Consultation 2026/27 - 2029/30	All committees are being asked to provide feedback in relation to their financial responsibilities as identified within the Constitution and linked to the budgets approved by the Finance Sub-Committee in 2025. Responses to the consultation would be reported to the Corporate Policy Committee to support that Committee in making recommendation to Council on changes to the current financial strategy	Interim Executive Director of Resources (S151 Officer)	No	No	Yes	No	Scrutiny
EC/09/25-26	Statement of Gambling Principles	To approve the Statement of Gambling Principles 2026-2029.	Director of Planning and Environment	Yes	No	Yes	No	Decision
EC/10/25-26	Corporate Enforcement Policy	To approve the Corporate Enforcement Policy	Director of Planning and Environment	No	No	No	No	Decision
EC/11/25-26	Regulatory Services and	To approve the Regulatory Services and Health Enforcement Policy	Director of Planning and Environment	No	No	No	No	Decision

Environment and Communities Committee Work Programme 2025-26

	Health Enforcement Policy							
29 January 2026								
EC/12/25-26	Third Financial Review of 2025/26	To note and comment on the Third Financial Review and Performance position of 2025/26, including progress on policy proposals and material variances from the MTFs and (if necessary) approve Supplementary Estimates and Virements	Interim Executive Director of Resources (S151 Officer)	No	No	Yes	No	Scrutiny
EC/13/25-26	Medium Term Financial Strategy Consultation 2026/27 - 2029/30 Provisional Settlement Update	All Committees are being asked to provide feedback in relation to their financial responsibilities as identified in the Constitution and linked to the budgets approved by the Finance Sub Committee in 2025. Responses to the consultation would be reported to the Corporate Policy Committee in making recommendations to Council on changes to the current financial strategy. Finance Sub Committee will also receive an update on the Local Government Financial Provisional Settlement	Interim Executive Director of Resources (S151 Officer)	Yes	No	Yes	No	Scrutiny
EC/14/25-26	Carbon Neutral Programme	To update on the Council's carbon neutral plan target of 2030 and the annual 2045 Action Plan summary.	Director of Planning and Environment	No	No	No	No	Scrutiny
EC/15/25-26	Local Plan Update	To provide an update to members on the progress in delivering the new Local Plan.	Director of Planning and Environment	Yes	Yes	No	No	Decision
26 March 2026								
EC/16/25-26	Service Budgets 2026/2027	The purpose of the report is to set out the allocation of budgets for 2026/27, for all Committees, following Council's approval of the Medium Term Financial Strategy in February 2024, as determined by Finance Sub	Interim Executive Director of Resources (S151 Officer)	No	No	Yes	No	Scrutiny
EC/17/25-26	Animal Welfare Licensing Policy	To approve a reviewed and updated Animal Welfare Licensing Policy 2026-2029	Director of Planning and Environment	TBC	No	No	Yes	Decision

Briefing Reports/Reports for noting

Title	Purpose of Report	Lead Officer	Expected Circulation Date via the Members Hub
Cleaner Crewe - Project Update	To consider an update on the initial implementation phase of the project.	Head of Environmental Services	June 2025

Environment and Communities Committee Work Programme 2025-26

Review of CCTV Service - update	To scrutinise various elements of the ongoing review including external funding matters.	Head of Regulatory Services	September 2025
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Note: These reports will be circulated outside of committee meetings.

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