

Appendix A1 - Budget Assumptions Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2026-2030

	MTFS February 2025				New cycle
Service & Central Budgets:	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 not yet confirmed
Base Service Budget	377.1	362.6	356.3	366.1	
Pay inflation (pay awards, holiday pay, increments)	Included in MTFS: 2.5% + top up from 2024/25 shortfall. National Employers pay offer as at 22 April 2025 full and final at 3.2% (c.£1.6m shortfall for 2025/26)				
		2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	
Backdated Overtime Claims	included in pay budgets				
NI increase	no planned increases				
Living Wage	included in pay budgets				
Non pay inflation	included in service budgets where required				
Pensions - Main contribution rate	21.0%				
Pensions - Secondary (past service) contribution rate	2.7%				
Pensions - Total contribution rate	23.7%	20% - anticipated total rate	19% - anticipated total rate	18% - anticipated total rate	
Other Income					
Fees & Charges income - assumption is no net increase/decrease in service expenditure as income will match cost variations - this is under review during 2025/26 consideration of a change to a blanket inflationary increase where possible	c.£85m	No net change	No net change	No net change	
Capital Financing					
Capital Financing Budget	35.0	38.8	41.9	43.2	
Treasury Management	c.£2.3m interest on cash balances	c.£2.3m interest on cash balances	c.£2.3m interest on cash balances	c.£2.3m interest on cash balances	
CIL / s.106 - assumption is income will be spent on linked projects with no net benefit					
Bonds - No bond issue is planned					
Central Items					
Contingency Budget	16.0	30.9	42.8	55.7	
Risk Budget	0.0	3.8	2.0	0.8	
Income from Flexible Capital Receipts	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	
Bad Debt Provision change	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	
Pension adjustment	-0.7	-0.7	-0.7	-0.7	
Top-up to general reserves	1.3	5.0	8.9	8.9	
Reserves					
Earmarked Reserves - unringfenced	8.0	TBC	TBC	TBC	
Earmarked Reserves - ringfenced	1.4	TBC	TBC	TBC	
General Reserves - balance	5.0	10.0	15.0	20.0	
TOTAL AS PER MTFS FEBRUARY 2025	427.6	439.3	450.1	473.0	
Funded By:					
Council Tax	-307.3	-325.6	-345.0	-365.5	
Council Tax % Increase	2.99%	2.99%	2.99%	2.99%	
Council Tax ASC % Increase	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%	
Council Tax Support Scheme	budget of £21.6m to be increased in line with ctax increase and reviewed according				
Taxbase (including, growth, discounts and council tax support)	163261.10	164776.94	166292.79	167808.63	
Taxbase % growth on previous year	1.90%	0.92%	0.91%	0.90%	
Numbers of new homes included in the taxbase calculation	2000	1800	1800	1800	
Exemption for Foster Carers and Care Leavers (funded from Collection Fund EMR)	c.£200,000	c.£200,000	c.£200,000	c.£200,000	
Empty Homes Premium 100% (1 to 2 years empty)	608 homes as at Oct 24 (forecast to raise c.£1m)				
Empty Homes Premium 100% (2 to 5 years empty)	295 homes as at Oct 24				
Empty Homes Premium 200% (5 to 10 years empty)	99 homes as at Oct 24				
Empty Homes Premium 300% (over 10 years empty)	65 homes as at Oct 24				
Second Homes Premium 100% charged from April 2025	Forecast to raise c.£1.2m				
Losses on Collection - Write Offs per annum (average)	c.£1m	c.£1m	c.£1m	c.£1m	
Collection Rate	0.99%	0.99%	0.99%	0.99%	
Collection Fund Council Tax (paid from excess S31 grants from earmarked reserve)	c.£0.1m surplus declaration in Jan 25 for 2024/25. CEC share = 85%.				

Appendix A1 - Budget Assumptions Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2026-2030

Service & Central Budgets:	MTFS February 2025				New cycle
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 not yet confirmed
Business Rates Retention	-57.1	-57.1	-57.1	-57.1	
Pooling	No longer part of Greater Manchester pool from 2021/22				
Growth assumptions	No change in business rates income forecast over medium term. Will update when details of the Fairer Funding / BRRS review confirmed (due for 2026/27 onwards)				
Taxbase (based on NNDR1 2025/26)	£154.3m				
Amounts retained in respect of Renewable Energy Schemes (100%)	c.£0.1m				
Mandatory Reliefs	c.£29.7m				
Unoccupied Reliefs	c.£5.9m				
Discretionary Reliefs (unfunded)	c.£0.4m				
Discretionary relief under S.47 (i.e. Hardship)	c.£0.6m				
BRRS S31 compensation grants for new burdens (net of adjustment for tariff adjustment due to cap on multiplier). Share of income to be used to support revenue budget - £10.6m in 2025/26	Amounts shown in grants section below				
Levy (paid from excess S31 grants from earmarked reserve)	c.£5.0m				
Losses on Collection - Write Offs	c.£1.5m				
Collection costs	c.£0.6m				
Appeals	c.7.4m total provision (49% CEC share)				
Collection Fund Business Rates (paid from excess S31 grants from earmarked reserve)	NNDR1 25/26 declared deficit (Jan 25) for 24/25 - deficit of £2.0m (CEC share 49%).				
Collection Rate	0.99%	0.99%	0.99%	0.99%	
Business Rate Supplement (BRS)	none	none	none	none	
Tax Increment Financing (TIF)	none	none	none	none	
Business Improvement Districts (BIDs)	Wilmslow & Crewe				
RSG					
Revenue Support Grant	-0.8	-0.8	-0.8	-0.8	
Specific Grants (unringfenced* only included in funded envelope)	-37.1	-34.1	-34.1	-34.1	
Total Schools Grants inc DSG (ringfenced)	£208.8m	£208.8m	£208.8m	£208.8m	
Total other C&F Grants (ringfenced)	£23.7m	£14.4m	£14.4m	£14.4m	
Adult Social Care and Health (inc. Better Care Fund) (ringfenced)	£20.8m	£19.9m	£19.9m	£19.9m	
Public Health (ringfenced)	£20.2m	£19.6m	£19.6m	£19.6m	
Corporate Policy Grants (ringfenced)	£0.5m	£0.5m	£0.5m	£0.5m	
Business Rates Relief Grants (partly drawn down to support the funding envelope within the Business Rates Retention row, and partly credited to the Collection Fund EMR to fund levy/deficit payments)	£20.4m	£17.5m	£18.4m	£19.3m	
Housing Benefit (ringfenced)	£49.7m	£49.7m	£49.7m	£49.7m	
Place Committees Grants (ringfenced)	£15.1m	£3.5m	£3.1m		
Social Care Grants (conditions) - assumes 2025/26 allocation continues (unringfenced*)	£29.5m	£29.5m	£29.5m	£29.5m	
New Homes Bonus (unringfenced*)	£3.0m				
National Insurance Grant - assumes 2025/26 allocation continues	£3.0m	£3.0m	£3.0m	£3.0m	
Others (unringfenced*)	£1.6m	£1.6m	£1.6m	£1.6m	
TOTAL FUNDING AS PER MTFS FEBRUARY 2025	-402.4	-417.7	-437.1	-457.6	
Exceptional Financial Support - Capitalisation Direction	-25.3				
Funding Position - February 2025	0.0	21.6	13.0	15.4	not included at February 2025