

Environment and Communities Committee – June 2025

Written responses to questions raised by Committee Members

Question 1:

The Committee were updated that the necessary actions were being taken to reduce the amount of overspend and explained that there is still a national issue and awaiting further updates. Officers stated that the Council has a successful approach to debt recovery and would endeavour to ensure that all monies owed to the council were paid. Officers committed to providing further details of what is included for Environment and Communities.

Response 1:

In response to your question about debt levels at 31/3/25 this table provides a breakdown of the £293k outstanding debt for Environment and Communities Committee.

Environment & Neighbourhood Services		
Analysis of outstanding debt at 31/3/2025		
Type	Sum of Total Balance	
Market Rental	£ 204,049	
General	£ 36,140	Includes Shahe Properties Ltd and Groundwork Cheshire Lancashire & Merseyside
Building inspection fees	£ 16,361	Includes Astrazeneca and Castle Green Homes Limited
Licencing Income other	£ 13,304	United utilities is the main item
Premises Licence	£ 9,920	
Traffic/Road	£ 6,320	
Rents	£ 4,802	

Room Hire	£	1,789	
Incorrect creditors payments	£	150	
Land Rental	£	2	
Grand Total	£	292,836	

Top 30 items	£201k
Remaining 162 items	£91k

Question 2:

The Committee raised concerns over capital expenditure in relation to a variance of 59%, and queried the general reserves being used, and asked what the difference between the interest that would be paid on the exceptional financial support, and the interest that could be gained on having it in the reserve account. Officers committed to providing a written response.

Response 2:

The calculation of the interest on EFS Borrowing of £17.6m is calculated at the PWLB Annuity Rate 4.86%.

The average interest rate on investments in 2024/25 was 5.10%