

Public Document Pack



Safer Policy and Performance Board

Tuesday, 4 February 2025 at 6.30 p.m.
Town Hall, Runcorn

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads 'S. Young'.

Chief Executive

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Norman Plumpton Walsh (Chair)	Labour
Councillor Chris Carlin (Vice-Chair)	Labour
Councillor Sandra Baker	Labour
Councillor Laura Bevan	Labour
Councillor Irene Bramwell	Labour
Councillor Louise Goodall	Labour
Councillor Alan Lowe	Labour
Councillor Angela McInerney	Labour
Councillor Margaret Ratcliffe	Liberal Democrats
Councillor Aimee Skinner	Labour
Councillor Pamela Wallace	Labour

Please contact Kim Butler on 0151 511 7496 or e-mail kim.butler@halton.gov.uk for further information.

The next meeting of the Board is to be confirmed.

**ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH
IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Part I

Item No.	Page No.
1. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS	
2. MINUTES	1 - 4
3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST (INCLUDING PARTY WHIP DECLARATIONS)	
<p>Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Other Disclosable Interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda, no later than when that item is reached or as soon as the interest becomes apparent and, with Disclosable Pecuniary interests, to leave the meeting during any discussion or voting on the item.</p>	
4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	5 - 7
5. DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY ISSUES	
(A) ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE IN HALTON	8 - 17
(B) CHESHIRE POLICE PERFORMANCE AND LOCAL POLICING UNIT UPDATES FOR RUNCORN AND WIDNES	18 - 19
(C) POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER	20 - 22
6. COUNCILWIDE SPENDING AS AT 30 NOVEMBER 2024	23 - 83

In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council is required to notify those attending meetings of the fire evacuation procedures. A copy has previously been circulated to Members and instructions are located in all rooms within the Civic block.

SAFER POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Safer Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 19 November 2024 at the Board Room - Municipal Building, Widnes

Present: Councillors N. Plumpton Walsh (Chair), Carlin (Vice-Chair), Baker, Bevan, Bramwell, Goodall, A. Lowe, A. McInerney, Ratcliffe and Wallace

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: W. Betts, K. Butler and N. Goodwin

Also in attendance: None

**ITEM DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

	<i>Action</i>
SAF12 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS	
<p>The Chair informed Members of the Board that as per their request, the Police and Crime Commissioner would be attending the next meeting in February 2025, along with both the Police Chief Inspectors for Widnes and Runcorn. There would also be an item on the agenda regarding substance misuse from the Public Health Team.</p>	
SAF13 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2024 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
SAF14 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
<p>It was reported that no public questions had been received.</p>	
SAF15 PREVENT	
<p>Members of the Board received a presentation which provided an update on the Prevent Programme and delivery in Halton. The aim of Prevent was to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.</p>	

Members noted that the national security threat for the Country remained at substantial, the definition of which meant that attack was likely. Following the recent incident in Southport and the civil unrest seen across the UK, the Prevent work was prevalent.

The presentation highlighted the following key areas:

- The expectations of the Council:
 - completion of an annual benchmarking process;
 - preventative risk assessments and action plan; and
 - the Council do not receive any funding in relation to the Prevent Duty.
- The resources the Council has in place:
 - Prevent leads/points of contact;
 - Prevent delivery group which meets quarterly;
 - a fully established Channel process;
 - a referral process;
 - a Council Prevent webpage – Council staff were encouraged to complete the Home Office Prevent Awareness Course;
 - venue hire guidance – a copy to be circulated to Board Members; and
 - participation in Liverpool City Region Prevent Network - work to increase awareness of the Liverpool offer across agencies including the voluntary and faith sector.
- Training/awareness raising events:
 - Cheshire Police delivered an awareness session to Children’s Social Care Teams in September and would deliver the same session to Adult Social Care teams in November;
 - Liverpool City Council, Prevent Advisor - education awareness session on 19 November 2024; and
 - Dr Gareth Harris to deliver an Elected Members awareness session on 27 November 2024 – all Members were encouraged to participate.

RESOLVED: That the Prevent Programme presentation is received.

SAF16 WHITE RIBBON UPDATE

Members of the Board received a report from the Executive Director, Environment and Regeneration, which provided an update on the approach to White Ribbon.

In October 2023, Full Council received and approved a motion to protect women and girls from domestic abuse and on 18 November 2024, the Council obtained White Ribbon accreditation. Accreditation meant that Halton had a commitment to work towards transformational culture change in their staff culture, systems and communities.

A Steering Group had been established which had developed an action plan which included a number of activities, including:

- lighting the Mersey Gateway and Silver Jubilee Bridges for a week;
- a social media campaign;
- developing a workforce network of champions;
- circulating resources for White Ribbon to staff, partners and Elected Members;
- a series of lunch and learn sessions;
- TED talk sessions on misogyny; and
- 7 x 7 minute themed briefings to be circulated on Safeguarding Board websites.

It was noted that Halton's approach to White Ribbon recognised that domestic abuse was not limited to males being the perpetrator of harm. The Council was committed to working with those that harm to change behaviours and outcomes.

The Community Safety Team had created a behaviour change programme for adults called "Choices" and in September alone, they had received 19 referrals. Referrals were received from a number of agencies which included social care and the probation service.

A Board Member asked if any literature was available for victims who were frightened to report incidents of domestic violence. It was confirmed that literature was available and copies would be circulated to Board Members. Other alternative methods of help would be to speak to an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) or the Samaritans. It was also noted that the Women's Centre had recently been awarded some funding for a drop-in café which would support victims of domestic violence.

In response to questions from Members the following additional information was given:

- Halton had a refuge for victims and a piece of work was being undertaken to look at future requirements for provision in the Borough;
- information shared at a recent Members seminar on domestic violence would be re-circulated for information;
- an additional IDVA had been appointed for 12 months to work in GP surgeries and deliver training to professionals; and
- Members to receive a further update in 12 months time.

RESOLVED: that the Board notes the report and endorses the approach to White Ribbon.

Director of
Community &
Greenspaces

Meeting ended at 7.32 p.m.

REPORT TO: Safer Policy & Performance Board
DATE: 4 February 2025
REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive
SUBJECT: Public Question Time
WARD(S) Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To consider any questions submitted by the Public in accordance with Standing Order 34(9).

1.2 Details of any questions received will be circulated at the meeting.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That any questions received be dealt with.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Standing Order 34(9) states that Public Questions shall be dealt with as follows:-

- (i) A total of 30 minutes will be allocated for dealing with questions from members of the public who are residents of the Borough, to ask questions at meetings of the Policy and Performance Boards.
- (ii) Members of the public can ask questions on any matter relating to the agenda.
- (iii) Members of the public can ask questions. Written notice of questions must be given by 4.00 pm on the working day prior to the date of the meeting to the Committee Services Manager. At any one meeting no person/organisation may submit more than one question.
- (iv) One supplementary question (relating to the original question) may be asked by the questioner, which may or may not be answered at the meeting.
- (v) The Chair or proper officer may reject a question if it:-
 - Is not about a matter for which the local authority has a responsibility or which affects the Borough;
 - Is defamatory, frivolous, offensive, abusive or racist;
 - Is substantially the same as a question which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the past six months; or

- Requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information.
- (vi) In the interests of natural justice, public questions cannot relate to a planning or licensing application or to any matter which is not dealt with in the public part of a meeting.
- (vii) The Chair will ask for people to indicate that they wish to ask a question.
- (viii) **PLEASE NOTE** that the maximum amount of time each questioner will be allowed is 3 minutes.
- (ix) If you do not receive a response at the meeting, a Council Officer will ask for your name and address and make sure that you receive a written response.

Please bear in mind that public question time lasts for a maximum of 30 minutes. To help in making the most of this opportunity to speak:-

- Please keep your questions as concise as possible.
- Please do not repeat or make statements on earlier questions as this reduces the time available for other issues to be raised.
- Please note public question time is not intended for debate – issues raised will be responded to either at the meeting or in writing at a later date.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None identified.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None identified.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence**

None identified.

6.2 **Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy**

None identified.

6.3 **Supporting Children, Young People and Families**

None identified.

6.4 **Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need**

None identified.

6.5 **Working Towards a Greener Future**

None identified.

6.6 **Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community**

None identified.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 None.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 None identified.

9.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 None identified.

10.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None under the meaning of the Act.

REPORT TO: Safer Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 4th February 2025

REPORTING OFFICER: Director of Public Health
Executive Director Environment & Regeneration

PORTFOLIO: Public Health
Community Safety

SUBJECT: Alcohol and Substance Misuse in Halton

WARD(S) Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To update the board on both Alcohol and Substance Misuse Services work that provide support for local people.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 1) **The report be noted; and**
- 2) **The Board consider the information presented and raise any questions of interest or points of clarification following the presentation.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Partnership Working

3.1 The Halton Combatting Drugs Partnership was established in September 2022, and brings together key partners, including Council services, CGL, the Prison Service, Probation Service, Police, Local NHS Trusts, and Job Centre Plus, to deliver the Halton Drugs Strategy, with the strategic aims to:

- To improve collaboration, information, and data sharing between partners to inform effective joint working
- To disrupt County Lines, breaking drug supply chains
- To protect vulnerable individuals and groups from becoming involved in, or victims of, drug use and drug-related crime
- To deliver integrated drug and alcohol treatment which offers holistic care for physical and mental health
- To rebuild and transform communities, reducing drug use and preventing drug related harms.

3.2 The Council has recently commissioned Liverpool John Moores University, on

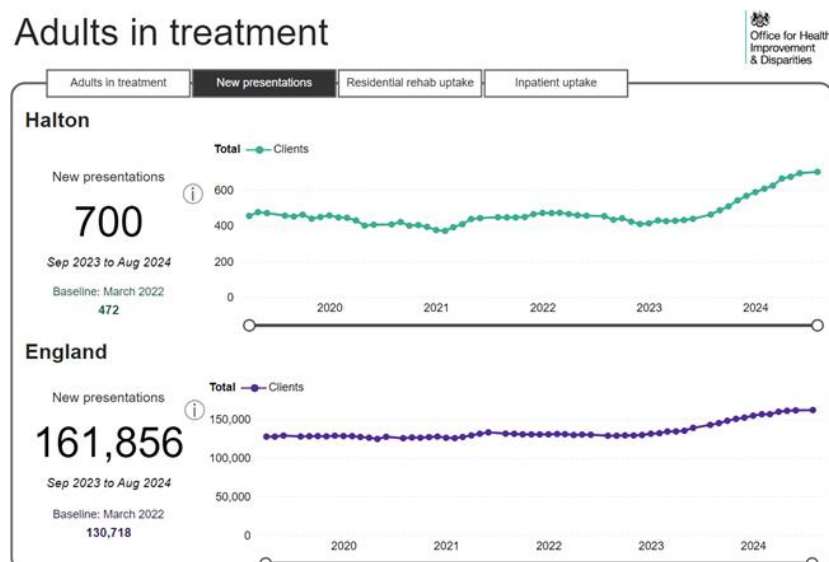
behalf of the partnership and in collaboration with neighbouring Local Authority areas, for the development and implementation a Local Drug Information System. The system, which shares and assesses information relating to any dangerous substance, regardless of its legal status, is now live. The aim is to reduce the harm done by these substances by ensuring that information reaches partners rapidly, and to inform those who use drugs and professionals of immediate risks. so appropriate responses can be actioned in mitigation.

- 3.3 The partnership is currently developing a Synthetic Opioid Preparedness Plan, in response to the rising threat of these substances within Halton.
- 3.4 Substance misuse has also been identified as a Safer Halton strategic priority in the 2024 to 2027 Community Safety Partnership Strategy.

Adult Services

- 3.5 Adult substance misuse services in Halton are provided by Change Grow Live (CGL) who provide assessment and treatment to those aged 18 and over, living within the Halton borough. At the time of reporting, there are currently 833 individuals open to CGL Halton adult substance misuse services. Services are delivered from CGL's hubs in Widnes and Runcorn. In addition, services are delivered within community venues to improve accessibility. Some CGL clients are engaged with multi-agency partners, in community safety and criminal justice, thus CGL delivery supports an integrated approach to managing this cohort, to aid recovery and improve outcomes.
- 3.6 Currently 40% of referrals are for alcohol support, 25% for non-opiate support, 11% for opiate support and 24% being for non-opiates combined with alcohol. The number of service users presenting to treatment has continually increased, with increased capacity provided by additional OHID targeted grant funding, which commenced in 2022, and which has been confirmed until 2025/26. This has allowed CGL to develop referral pathways with partner agencies to recruit further recovery coordinators to provide support to individuals once they engage with services.

Adults in treatment



Adults in treatment information taken from NDTMS.net

Alcohol

- 3.7 Adults in treatment for alcohol use has continued to increase in the borough and remains the main substance of choice for those referred to CGL.
- 3.8 Alcohol inpatient detoxification remains the most effective means of achieving outcomes for individuals assessed, primarily due to the physical and mental health needs of individuals being referred to the service. However, this is the most expensive form of detoxification and is therefore targeted at individuals with specific needs that are suited to this model of detoxification. Additional IPD (Inpatient detoxification) targeted grants have been provided by OHID for the last two years, which the Council has fully utilised to maximise outcomes for residents requiring this service.
- 3.9 At the end of November 2024, CGL Halton's success rate for treating those misusing alcohol had increased to 42%, performing above both CGL & National averages for the cohort, which stood at 34% and 35%, respectively.
- 3.10 The Council's Health Improvement Team (HIT) carry out Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test Consumption (AUDIT C) with residents attending NHS Health Check, Lifestyle Advisor and Stop Smoking Service appointments (see Appendix A- AUDIT C Pro Forma). The tool assists practitioners and residents to identify potentially hazardous alcohol consumption and alcohol abuse or dependence. Where this is identified, individuals are signposted to services in Halton that can help them to address these disorders.

Opiate Substitution Therapy

- 3.11 CGL Halton currently has a total of 272 opiate clients in Opiate Substitute Therapy (OST). In 2021, CGL Halton commenced Buvidal which is an injectable form of OST and offer this to 15 clients at any point in time. This allows individuals to receive their Buvidal injections on site at CGL once per

month, eliminating the requirement to attend pharmacy (ranging from daily to once per week) or have medication at home. This has been popular for those who are employed and those who struggle to attend pharmacy regularly or wish to avoid regular pharmacy attendance. Of those in receipt of OST, 16% are supervised within their pharmacies in line with presenting risk and clinical guidance.

Prisons

- 3.12 CGL Halton increased the treatment offer for those released from prison, including assessment by community services for those in custody, supported by additional OHID and Chesire Probation Service funding. The service works closely with local housing support and recovery homes, ensuring prison leavers have adequate places to live on release. CGL Recovery Champions, with visible lived experience, now collect individuals from prison and link individuals into the support immediately upon release from prison.
- 3.13 Agencies across the borough now utilise the CGL Halton Recovery Café, 'The Kitchen Table' which is run by individuals with lived experience, to complete first appointments with agencies following release. This reduces the differing locations individuals need to attend, and encourages collaborative working, putting the individual's needs at the centre of the planning process to maximise the likelihood of positive outcomes for the individual. CGL Halton and partners respond flexibly to unexpected releases, ensuring that a robust plan is always established quickly for the individual being released from prison. These plans include rapid assessment, housing support and collaborative working, ensuring that all people with a drug and/or alcohol related need are well supported upon release from prison.

Needle Exchange

- 3.14 Needle exchange (NEX) provision continues to be delivered across several venues within Widnes and Runcorn. In addition, Halton residents can pre-order needle exchange equipment through the postal NEX service provided by a contractor called NSP Direct.
- 3.15 CGL's on site NEX, has achieved 242 needle exchange transactions between April and September 2024, with the majority (59%) occurring within the Widnes hub. The majority of exchange requests relate to Steroid use, with a small minority of hub transactions relating to the use of heroin and/or crack.

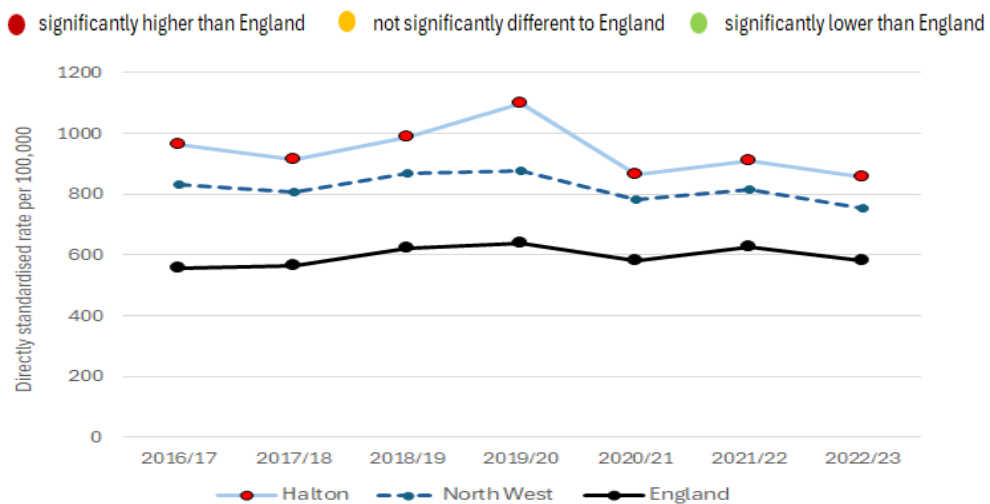
Employment Support

- 3.16 Halton Borough Council in partnership with Warrington Borough Council, has commissioned CGL to deliver Individual Placement and Support for those within Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services. The service engages with individuals towards the start of the treatment journey, where appropriate, and provides targeted support to enable individuals to access employment.

Hospital Admissions Data

3.17 Published data on hospital admissions for alcohol specific conditions have remained similar in Halton over the last 3 years and are consistently significantly higher than the England and North West averages. Rates for males are much higher than for females, but both are significantly higher in Halton than England and the North West. Provisional local data also indicates that the Halton rate increased in 2023/24.

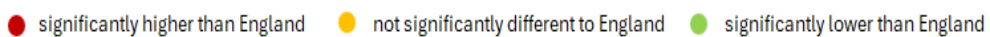
Alcohol specific hospital admissions trend: Halton compared to England and NW

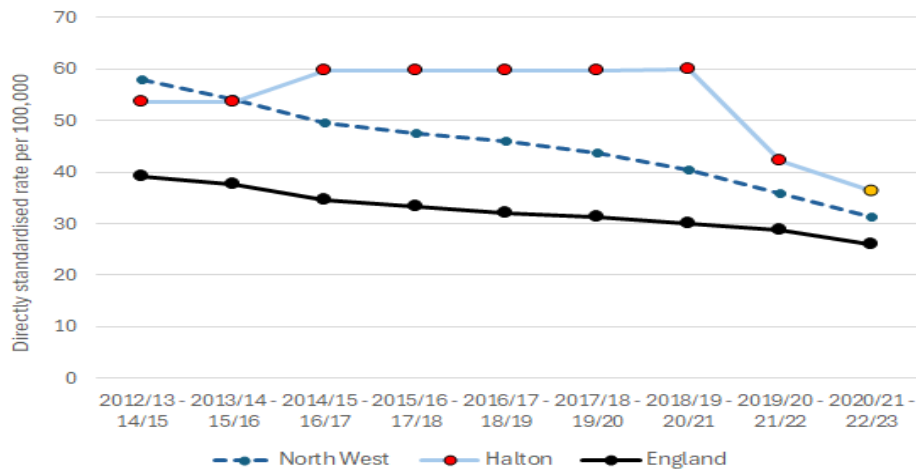


3.18 The rate for under 18 alcohol specific admissions has reduced in Halton in the 3-year periods to 2021/22 and 2022/23 and is now statistically similar to the England rate.

3.19 Unlike for all ages, for under 18s, rates for females are higher in Halton (this is also the case across England and the North West as a whole). Provisional local data indicates that the Halton rate decreased further for the 3-year period to 2023/24.

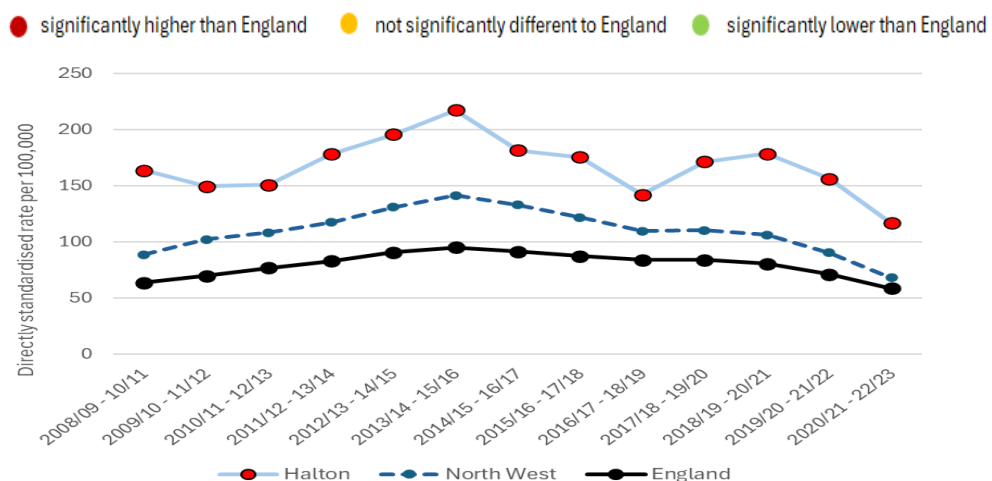
Under 18 alcohol specific hospital admissions trend: Halton compared to England and NW





3.20 Hospital admissions data for substance misuse is only published for 15 to 24 year olds. Halton’s rates are persistently significantly higher than the England and North West averages.

Trend in hospital admissions due to substance misuse (15 to 24 year olds): Halton compared to England and NW



Services for Children and Young People

3.21 HIT deliver alcohol awareness workshops as part of the Healthy Schools Programme. In primary schools, delivering a 1-hour workshop to pupils in Year 6 (age 10-11) covering:

- What is alcohol
- Short and long-term effects of drinking alcohol
- Peer pressure
- The law
- Keeping safe, including recovery position

36 primary schools (72%) received this workshop in 2023-24.


3.22 The Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH) Level 2 Award for Young Health Champions (age 14-24) is delivered in secondary schools. This qualification is

for individuals with an interest in health and wellbeing who want to give peer support through an understanding of the individual and social drivers of healthy and unhealthy behaviours, as well as signpost local health services.





- 3.23 HIT offers training to school staff and children and young people practitioners on Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs. This training supports schools with Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) session planning and delivery, and other CYP practitioners to discuss these topics and provide support and signposting. This training will be updated and re-launched in early 2025 to coincide with the Ketamine and Drugs awareness event in January. The sessions are typically delivered over two 1-hour sessions. The Early Help Drug & Alcohol Team deliver the drugs and alcohol content and HIT deliver tobacco and vaping.
- 3.24 Due an identified rise in Ketamine use by Young People in Halton that is producing adverse outcomes, including permanent physical harms and exclusions from schools, a series of sessions are planned to raise awareness amongst partners. The sessions, which are funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner’s office, are fully booked and will be facilitated by Halton Safeguarding Children Partnership.
- 3.25 The Council also commissions the Healthy Child Programme, which among other services, provides a ‘Clinic in a Box’ service and drop-in sessions, enabling Children and Young People to access information on health issues, including drugs and alcohol, referral onto young people’s substance misuse services and signposting to prevention and community support.

Progress against Health Policy & Performance Board Quarterly Monitoring Report Targets and Objectives

- 3.26 Below is the latest Q2 2024/25 Health PPB QMR return relating to drugs and alcohol.

Service Objective 9: Drugs and alcohol		
Linked Indicators: PH15, PH16		
Milestone	Q2 Progress	Supporting Commentary
Work in partnership to reduce drug and alcohol related hospital admissions.		The first plus one for the contract extension with Change Grow Live has now been finalised, there is flexibility for another plus one for 2026/2027, if required. Commissioners in the North West have agreed to collaboratively fund a post to be employed by North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) initially over 2 years. The post will support strategic planning to ensure targeted and tailored support is provided following a non-fatal opiate overdose. This means that every opiate non-fatal

		<p>overdose is automatically referred to the local drug and alcohol service, with or without patient consent.</p> <p>The role is unique to England and is expected to make a significant contribution to improved responses to non-fatal overdoses in the North West and contributing to a reduction in drug-related deaths in the region. The expected outcomes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in referrals into drug and alcohol treatment services; • Contribution towards a reduction in drug-related deaths. <p>Audit C screenings are delivered during Health Checks and Stop Smoking consultations to clients across Halton. During Q1 Health Trainers/Health Check Officers have delivered 974 Audit C screenings in workplaces, GP practices and in the community. During Q1 the Stop Smoking Service have delivered 278 Audit C screenings with clients wishing to stop smoking Total combined Audit C screenings delivered = 1,252</p>
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Ref	Description	Actual 2023/24	Target 2024/25	Quarter 2	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
PH15	Admission episodes for alcohol-specific conditions (Directly Standardised Rate per 100,000 population)	857 (2022/23)	848 (2023/24)	934 (2023/24 provisional)			Provisional 2023/24 indicates the rate of alcohol-specific admissions has increased and has not met the target.
PH16	Successful completion of drug treatment (<u>non opiate</u>)	19.1% (2023/24)	19.5% (2024/25)	19.4% (Q1 2024/25)			Data does fluctuate year on year but in 2022/23 and 2023/24, the Halton proportion of successful completions was worse than the England average. The figure has remained similar in Q1 2024/25.

Due to the projected increase in alcohol specific admissions, the target is not predicted to be met for 2023/24. At the time of reporting, it is too early to know if the successful drug treatment target will be met for 2024/25.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Halton Combating Drugs Partnership was established in September 2022 is a strategic, multi-agency partnership established to support the delivery of the ambitions as set out in “From Harm to Hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives”. The focus is on preventing harm from drugs.

The partnership is required to deliver a focused agenda against the national framework including: -

- Develop a joint strategic assessment of local drug data
- Agree data sharing protocols
- Develop local combating drugs delivery plan

- Develop performance framework
- Monitor local outcomes
- Review progress against plan

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Council has recently been advised that OHID targeted grant funding of £0.599m has been awarded for 2025-2026. £0.026m has been ringfenced to add IPD capacity. Should direct grant funding be withdrawn from 2026 onwards it would have a significant impact on the Drug and Alcohol Services provided.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence

Services for those living with a substance misuse issue impact positively on the health, well-being and independence of the residents of Halton by reducing the harms caused by drugs and alcohol, referring to and working alongside other services that will benefit individuals and families to live healthier, happier lives, including those that provide housing and employment opportunities and address other wider-determinants of health and wellbeing.

6.2 Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy

substance misuse has detrimental effects on individuals and communities; the work outlined in the report strives to ensure multi-agency working for both preventative and responsive approaches to mitigate impacts, support residents to improve their outcomes whilst enabling resilient communities.

6.3 Supporting Children, Young People and Families

Services for those living with a substance misuse issue impact positively on safeguarding Children, Young People and Families, by providing opportunities for adults, including parents, with substance misuse issues to detox and rehabilitate or manage their substance misuse, enabling them to carry out their family and/or caring responsibilities. Individuals and families are referred to appropriate support to address wider issues and children and young people are provided with education in relation to drugs and alcohol, including the potential harms of misuse.

6.4 Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need

Providing services for those living with substance misuse is very important to reduce health inequalities and address the needs of high-risk individuals. The individual, their family, employer, education and wider society all benefit from substance misuse services. Population groups that are assisted by services include rough sleepers and the long-term unemployed. CGL refer those

experiencing wider challenging circumstances to services that can address those specific disadvantages.

6.5 Working Towards a Greener Future

There are no specific implications related to this Council priority that arise from this report or from the delivery of services related to substance misuse.

6.6 Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community

Services for those living with a substance misuse issue impact positively on communities in Halton, firstly, by contributing to the improvement of lives for individuals and families through detox and rehabilitation. Services also work closely with the police and probation services, to address the needs of offenders and share intelligence to keep communities safe. A community cafe is operated by CGL, who also organise community events and work closely with other community, charity, and voluntary sector partners to meet the needs of local communities.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 None

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 None

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no climate change implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

None under the meaning of the Act.'

REPORT TO:	Safer Halton Policy Performance Board
DATE:	4 th February 2025
REPORTING OFFICER:	Executive Director Environment & Regeneration
PORTFOLIO:	Community Safety
SUBJECT:	Cheshire Police Performance & Local Policing Unit updates for Runcorn & Widnes
WARD(S)	Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To present to the Board Cheshire Police Performance and local policing updates for Runcorn & Widnes.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 1) A presentation is received; and**
- 2) the Board comment on Constabulary performance and local policing priorities.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Cheshire Constabulary force performance is published annually, an overview of the force's delivery will be provided.
- 3.2 The Chief Inspectors for Runcorn & Widnes will provide an overview of delivery and priorities for the local policing units.
- 3.3 There is significant joint work between the Council and Police along with other Halton stakeholders on the borough's community safety partnership, Safer Halton.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Crime & Disorder Act 1988
Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None to report.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence

Levels of crime and how safe residents and communities feel about where they live significantly impacts wellbeing and how resilient communities are. Policing and the multi-agency community safety work directly impacts Halton's neighbourhoods.

6.2 Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy

Working with stakeholders to deliver policing and underpin a safe environment supporting confidence in the local environment.

6.3 Supporting Children, Young People and Families

The role of policing and its services are universal however, as a multi-agency partner there are shared targeted approaches for crime and disorder which impacts children & young people.

6.4 Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need

Crime often disproportionately impacts disadvantaged communities and vulnerable cohorts. Policing and community safety multi-agency approaches provide targeted initiatives and support to specific cohorts.

6.5 Working Towards a Greener Future

None to report.

6.6 Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community

Policing supports Halton's community and works directly with residents and offers engagement through 'Residents Voice'.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 None to report.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 None to report, Policing is a universal service with targeted approaches as required to support victims of crime vulnerable cohorts and respond to their needs.

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None to report.

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Safer Halton Policy & Performance Board 12th September 2023

REPORT TO:	Safer Halton Policy Performance Board
DATE:	4 th February 2025
REPORTING OFFICER:	Executive Director, Environment & Regeneration
PORTFOLIO:	Community Safety
SUBJECT:	Police & Crime Commissioner
WARD(S)	Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To present to the Board the refreshed Police and Crime Commissioner Plan for Cheshire to 2028.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That a presentation is received.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The current Police and Crime Commissioner was elected in 2024 and is developing the Police and Crime Plan to 2028.

3.2 The Commissioner's Office has been engaging widely on the development of the new plan, there is a core principle of Public Trust and Confidence with three pillars: -

- Listen to the public – to ensure locally informed policing priorities and support for victims.
- Modernise using technology & innovation and consider the police estate to be fit for the future.
- Reduce crime – providing an accessible and responsive police service with prevention & intervention culture firmly embedded with a focus on supporting rehabilitation.

3.3 The Community Safety Team work in partnership with the Police and Crime Commissioners Office on the delivery of work in Halton. There is targeted joint work on domestic abuse and serious violence and funds are received in Halton from the Police & Crime Commissioners Office to support crime reduction in Halton. The Police & Crime Commissioners Office is a key stakeholder in Halton's community safety partnership, Safer Halton.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Crime & Disorder Act 1988
Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None to report.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence

Levels of crime and how safe residents and communities feel about where they live significantly impacts wellbeing and how resilient communities are. Policing and the multi-agency community safety work directly impacts Halton's neighbourhoods.

6.2 Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy

Working with stakeholders to deliver policing and underpin a safe environment supporting confidence in the local environment.

6.3 Supporting Children, Young People and Families

The role of policing and its services are universal however, as a multi-agency partner there are shared targeted approaches for crime and disorder which in particular, impacts children & young people.

6.4 Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need

Crime often disproportionately impacts disadvantaged communities and vulnerable cohorts. Policing and community safety multi-agency approaches provide targeted initiatives and support to specific cohorts.

6.5 Working Towards a Greener Future

The Police & Crime Commissioner pillar that will consider the increased use of technology and innovation along with the Police estate may contribute positively to greener outcomes.

6.6 Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community

The Police & Crime Commissioners office governs policing for our towns and residents and has a key area of focus on engaging residents and supporting victims of crime.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 None to report.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 None to report, Policing is a universal service with targeted approaches as required to support vulnerable cohorts and respond to their needs.

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None to report.

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Safer Halton Policy & Performance Board 7th February 2023

Safer Halton Policy & Performance Board 12th September 2023

REPORT TO: Safer Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 4 February 2025

REPORTING OFFICER: Director of Finance

PORTFOLIO: Corporate Services

SUBJECT: Councilwide Spending as at 30 November 2024

WARD(S): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To report the Council's overall revenue and capital spending position as at 30 November 2024, together with the latest 2024/25 outturn forecast.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That;

(i) The Councilwide financial position as outlined in the attached report, be noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 On 16 January 2025 the Executive Board received the attached report, which presents details of Councilwide revenue and capital spending by each Department, and outlines the reasons for key variances from budget.

3.2 Given the scale of the Council's current financial challenges, Executive Board requested that a copy of the report be shared with each Policy and Performance Board for information. This is to ensure that all Members have a full appreciation of the Councilwide financial position, in addition to their specific areas of responsibility.

3.3 The report is presented to Executive Board every two months and the attached report covers the period 1 April 2024 to 30 November 2024. It includes details of spending to date by each Department against both the revenue budget and capital programme.

3.4 Appendix 1 provides a Councilwide summary of revenue spending, while Appendix 2 presents details relating to each Department. The latest forecast of revenue spending to year-end compared to budget is also provided.

3.5 Appendix 4 indicates progress with implementation of previously approved budget savings for 2024/25 and 2025/26.

3.6 In future the bi-monthly Councilwide spending report will be reported to each Policy and Performance Board.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

5.1 Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence

5.2 Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy

5.3 Supporting Children, Young People and Families

5.4 Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need

5.5 Working Towards a Greener Future

5.6 Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community

There are no direct implications, however, the revenue budget and capital programme support the delivery and achievement of all the Council's priorities.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 There are a number of financial risks within the budget. However, the Council has internal controls and processes in place to ensure that spending remains in line with budget as far as possible.

6.2 A budget risk register of significant financial risks is maintained and is included at Appendix 5 of the attached report.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 None.

8.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

8.1 None

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1072

9.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act

REPORT TO: Executive Board
DATE: 16 January 2025
REPORTING OFFICER: Finance Director
PORTFOLIO: Corporate Services
SUBJECT: 2024/25 Spending as at 30 November 2024
WARD(S): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.2 To report the Council's overall revenue net spend position as at 30 November 2024 together with a 2024/25 forecast outturn position.

3.0 RECOMMENDED: That;

- (ii) All spending continues to be limited to essential items only;
- (iii) Executive Directors continue to identify areas where they can further reduce their directorate's spending or generate income, in order to reduce the councilwide forecast outturn overspend position;
- (iv) Executive Directors continue to implement the approved savings proposals for 2024/25 and 2025/26 as detailed in Appendix 4;
- (v) The updated forecast outturn position be shared with the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government in support of the Council's application for Exceptional Financial Support;
- (vi) Council be asked to approve the revisions to the capital programme set-out in paragraph 3.22 and incorporated within Appendix 3;
- (vii) This report be shared with each Policy and Performance Board, in order to ensure they have a full appreciation of the councilwide financial position, in addition to their specific areas of responsibility.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Revenue Spending

- 3.1 Appendix 1 presents a summary of spending against the operational revenue budget up to 30 November 2024 and Appendix 2 provides detailed figures for each individual Department. In overall terms, net Council spending as at 30 November 2024 is £14.246m over budget. The outturn forecast for the year estimates that net spending will be over budget by £20.757m if no corrective action is taken.
- 3.2 The forecast outturn overspend has increased by approximately £100,000 from the amount reported on 14 November 2024. Whilst this is only a marginal increase, there has been significant movement within individual directorates' outturn positions. Further information regarding significant departmental variances is included within the report and departmental figures are included in Appendices 1 and 2.
- 3.3 The forecast position continues to be of great concern, as there is no evidence of a reduction in overall spending across the Council. In order to address the situation, financial focus workshops led by the Chief Executive are taking place with each Directorate's senior leadership team on a monthly basis. These workshops are looking for urgent ways to reduce or stop spending, or generate income. The aim is that initiatives identified in these workshops will help reduce the overall forecast overspend position for the year.
- 3.4 It is certain that available reserves will not be sufficient to cover the forecast overspend for the year. Therefore, on 04 December 2024 Council approved an application to the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) for Exceptional Financial Support (EFS). The Government's EFS arrangement provides councils with exceptional permission to capitalise annual revenue costs and fund them from long term borrowing (usually over 25 years) from the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB). EFS provides permission to borrow and does not provide grant funding. The Council submitted a draft EFS application on 13 December 2024. The application will be updated based on the information within this report and also following clarification of the 2025/26 provisional grant settlement.
- 3.5 The Council's available useable reserves (general and earmarked) total £11.484m. This is well below that required to help provide a balanced budget position given the forecast outturn overspend. Further detail on reserves is provided at paragraph 3.19.
- 3.6 The forecast outturn figures reflect a prudent yet realistic view of spend and income levels through to the end of the year. Work will continue to update the financial position as more information becomes available. Included within the forecast position is the 2024/25 pay award which was paid in November 2024.
- 3.7 The largest pressure on the Council's budget continues to be within the Children & Families Department, where net spend for the year is forecast to be £8.311m (16.5%) above 2023/24 actual spend. There continue to be significant cost pressures within the forecast relating to staffing costs, residential placements, and out of borough foster care.

- 3.8 On 24 October 2024 the Board approved additional revenue funding of £4.2m per year, to help develop a programme around the stabilisation and redesign of Children's Social Care, following the Ofsted review. This investment is focused upon proactive early intervention and prevention systems. It is envisaged that this investment will help control and reduce costs within Children's Social Care over the next few years, and these cost reductions will be built into future year budget targets.
- 3.9 The use and cost of agency staff continues to be one of the main contributing factors to the overspend position for the year. This is mostly evident within the Children & Families Department and the Council's in-house Care Homes. Initiatives and support from the Transformation Programme are ongoing to reduce reliance upon agency staff.
- 3.10 Analysis of agency spend for the year, together with comparative analysis of 2023/24 costs, is included in the table below. Note information for Q3 only includes data for two months, October and November.

	2024/25				2023/24
	Q1 £'000	Q2 £'000	Q3 to Date £'000	Total £'000	Total £'000
Adult Social Care	1,341	1,656	806	3,803	5,927
Chief Executives Delivery Unit	132	179	154	465	0
Children & Family Services	1,283	1,432	940	3,655	6,157
Community & Greenspace	116	129	68	313	336
Economy, Enterprise & Property	86	105	78	269	343
Education, Inclusion & Provision	99	78	36	213	393
Finance	14	42	24	80	56
Legal & Democratic Services	253	274	137	664	814
Planning & Transportation	94	85	15	194	206
Public Health & Public Protection	11	10	1	22	21
Total	3,429	3,990	2,259	9,678	14,253

- 3.11 Within the approved budget for the year is a £4m savings target against the Transformation Programme. To date budget savings of £0.129m have been identified against this target. In addition, the Transformation Delivery Unit (TDU) have identified cost reductions and cost avoidance measures, although these will not lead to an overall reduction in the budgeted target. Progress against transformation savings is reported monthly to the Transformation Programme Board.
- 3.12 The forecast overspend is significantly above that which has been recorded in recent years. Whilst the current year net budget for the Council has increased by £7.7m (5.45%), this is well below the forecast increase in net costs, currently estimated as an increase of £22.952m (15.5%).

Revenue - Operational Spending

- 3.13 Operational net spending for the first eight months of the year is higher than the budget to date by £14.246m Based on current forecasts it is

estimated net spend will be over budget for the year by £20.757m if no further corrective action is taken.

3.14 Within the overall budget forecast position for the quarter, the key budget variances are as follows;

(i) **Children and Families Department**

The overall forecast financial position at the end of 2024/25 has reduced by £0.631m since last reported at 30 September 2024.

Significant investment as part of a Children's Social Care improvement plan and redesign of the service, has been provided to support the improvement journey. Although, there has been a reduction in forecast overspend, It is important to recognise that the level of spend across the service remains a similar level. The reduction in forecast overspend is primarily due to the increased funding provided, as well as some reductions in other areas.

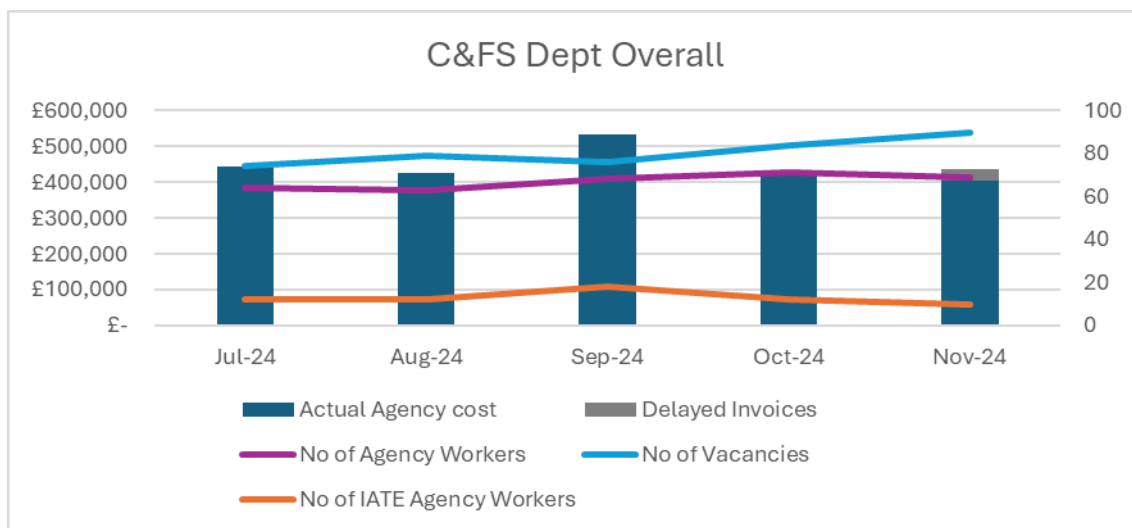
The Children's and Families Department forecast overspend continues to be an area of serious concern and the issues remain the same. These include the difficulty with recruitment of social workers and the subsequent high cost of agency staff, along with spiralling costs of residential placements. This has been an ongoing problem for a number of years.

Employee Expenditure

Employee costs are forecast to be over budget profile at the end of financial year 2024/25 by £2.618m, a reduction of £0.438m compared to the end of September 2024.

The reduction mainly relates to the approved additional investment within Children's Services which has resulted in the establishment of 33 new roles across the Department. Agency staff that were previously in addition to the establishment (IATE) are no longer considered as IATE. Additional in-year budget of £0.370m (funded from contingency) has been provided for some of the newly established posts which has helped reduce the overspend position.

The chart below analyses agency costs for the period April to November, for the Children and Families Department. These are based upon the period worked, the number of agency staff where an invoice has been received for each period, the number of vacancies, and the number of staff who are currently in addition to the establishment (IATE).



Residential Care

Out of Borough Residential Care costs continue to be the main budget pressure for the Children and Families Department, as the costs of residential care have continued to escalate year-on-year. The numbers of young people in residential placements remains high, complexity of care is increasing, and the cost of placements is rising significantly.

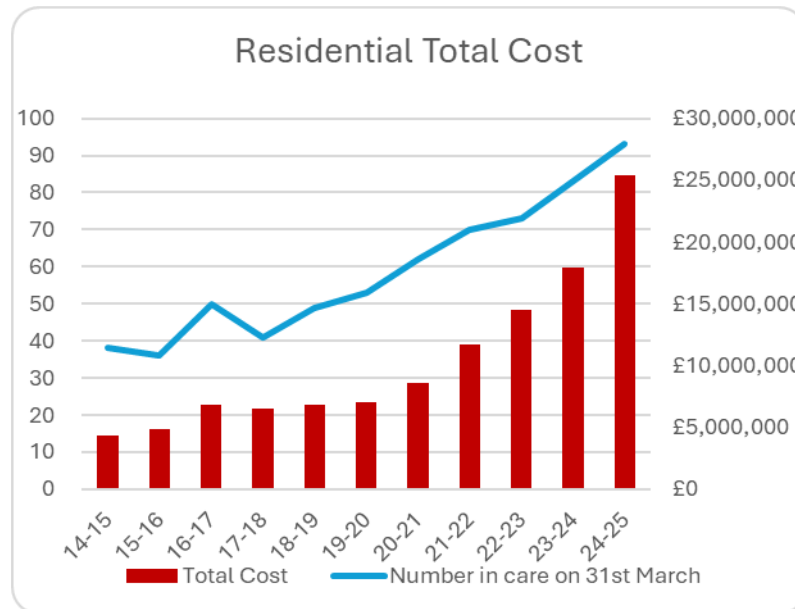
Provision	Weekly Costs	30-Nov-24		30-Sep-24	
		No. Placed	Estimated cost for the year	No. Placed	Estimated cost for the year
Residential	£1000 - £3000	4	476,360	3	425,275
Residential	£3001 - £5000	25	4,956,870	26	5,642,774
Residential	£5001 - £7000	26	7,413,389	27	7,989,196
Residential	£7001 - £15982	17	9,291,964	14	8,215,999
Secure	£6397 - £8137				
Leaving Care	£443 - £7175	14	2,341,056	18	2,643,101
Parent & Child	£2000 - £5500	7	913,562	6	715,298
Total:		93	25,393,201	94	25,631,643

The forecast overspend at the end of financial year is £7.194m for residential placements, which is a reduction of £0.200m since last reported.

Overall the cost of packages is increasing due to the complexity of support the young people require, as well as inflationary package cost increases. This is a national issue and market factors such as low supply and high demand have resulted in the costs of residential care packages rising significantly over the past year in particular, meaning that the level of spend is unsustainable at the current rate.

A number of initiatives are taking place to try and address the issue, including the operation of a High Cost Placement Panel, where high cost packages are individually scrutinised to ensure the placement is correct for the young person’s needs and is provided at the best available cost.

The graph below illustrates the rising costs of Residential Care, for consistency this does not include the costs of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) as these costs were not included in previous years.



(ii) **Adult Social Care Directorate**

Community Care

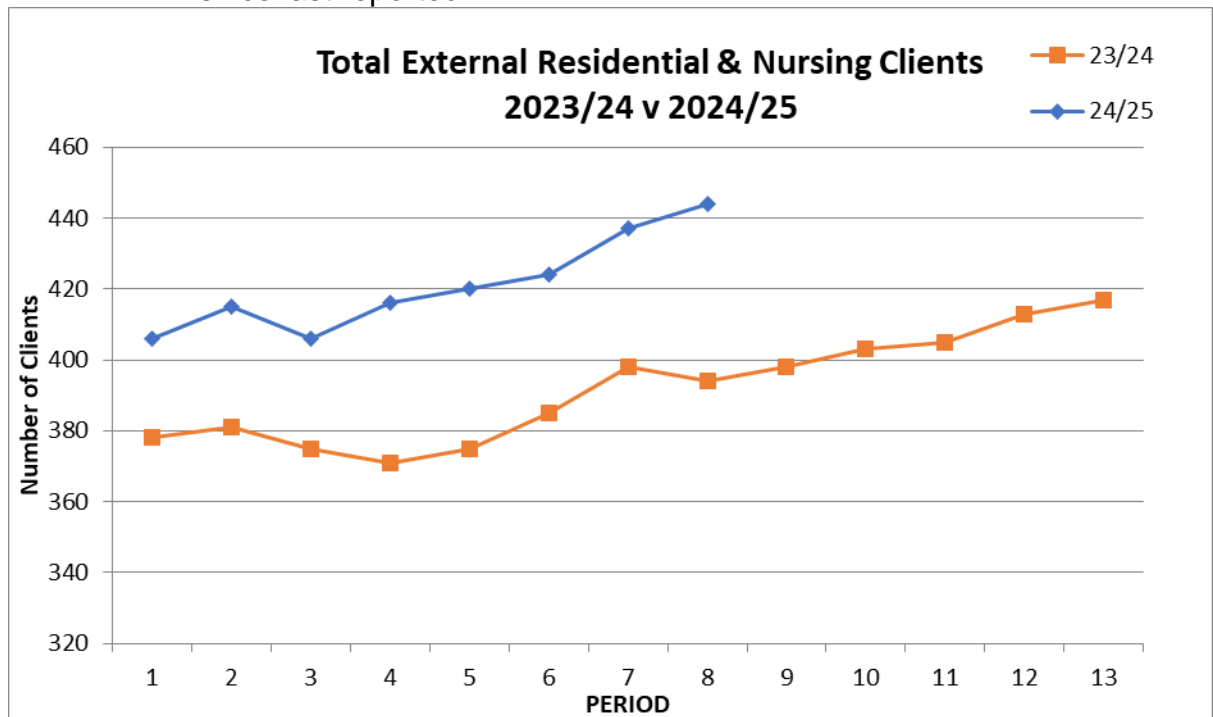
At the end of November 2024 expenditure on Community Care services is over budget profile by £1.569m. It is anticipated that at the end of the financial year it will be overspent by £2.951m. This is an increase of £0.518k from the previous forecast reported at the end of September. Note the September forecast was based upon August figures, hence this increase is over three months.

Residential & Nursing Care

There are currently 444 residents in permanent external residential/nursing care as at the end of November 2024 compared to 406 in April, an increase of 9.3%. Compared to the 2023/24 average of 390 this is an increase of 13.8%. The average cost of a package of care since April 2024 has increased from £866 to £873 a slight increase of 0.8%. Based on this average cost the 24 additional service users from August to November will cost approximately £0.491m to year-end. In addition, there are 92 residents placed within the Council’s in-house care homes.

The graph below illustrates the demand for permanent placements.

However, it is not only permanent placements that are increasing, as short-stay placements are also increasing fuelled by Pathway 3 Discharge to Assess. Health provide funding for four weeks, but generally when this funding ends the cost falls to the Council. Very few residents tend to qualify for Continuing Healthcare funding from Health. Short-stay placements have increased by £0.183m since last reported.



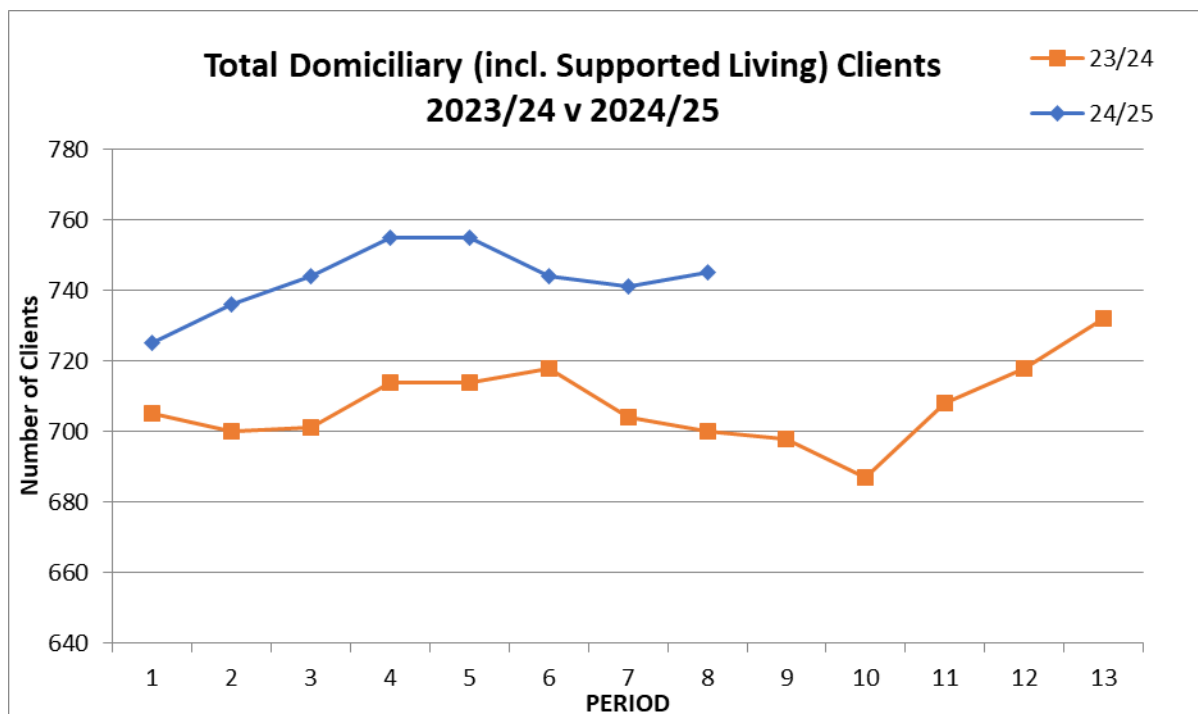
There are 25 external packages which charge top-up amounts currently costing £4,138 per week. The full year forecast spend is circa £0.159m.

Extra 1 to 1 hours in external care homes currently cost £8,339 per week and the forecast to year end for this is circa £0.492m. This is for 18 individuals to date. Last year 20 individuals received 1 to 1 care at a total cost of £0.255m. This suggests that either people are receiving more hours of care, or the rate is higher than last year.

Domiciliary Care & Supported Living

There are currently 745 service users receiving a package of care at home compared to 755 in August, a slight decrease of 1.3%. However, the average number of service users during 2023/24 was 707, so there has been an increase of 5.3% demonstrating that demand for the service has increased this financial year. The average cost of a package of care has increased by 3.5%, from £515 to £533.

The graph below illustrates the demand for the service from April 2023 to date.



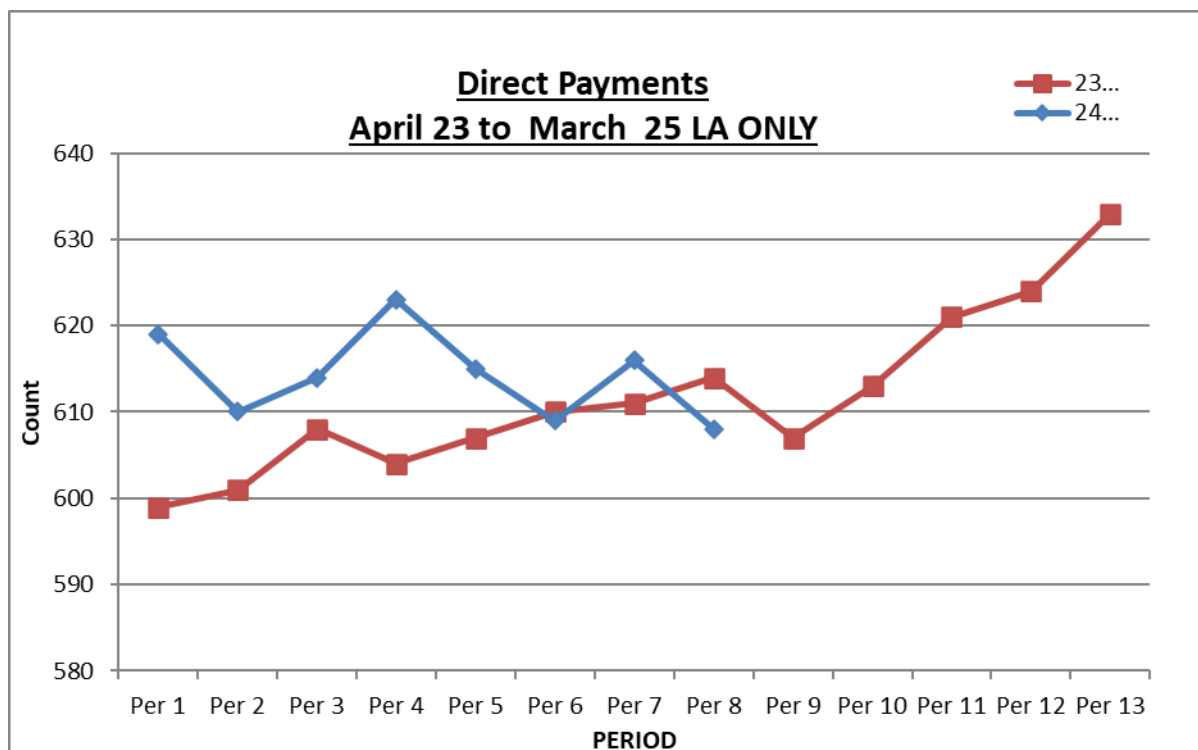
The average cost of a package of care is currently £533 compared with £491 in April, an increase of 8.6%.

Direct Payments

In November 2024, 608 clients received a Direct Payment (DP) compared with 619 in April 2024, a very slight decrease of 1.7%. However, the average number of DP's in 2023/24 was 591, therefore, there has been an increase of 2.8% on last year's average.

The average cost of a package of care has decreased since April 2024 from £529 to £472 in November 2024, a reduction of 10.7%.

The forecast position for Direct Payments assumes an amount of £1.4m will be recovered from users, following the ongoing audit process to seek assurance that the DP is spent in line with their care and support needs. Variations to the amount recovered will directly affect the forecast.



Care Homes

The spend to 30 November 2024 across the Division is over budget profile by £0.873m. The forecast for the end of 2024/25 financial year is an estimated outturn position of £1.245m over budget. This is assuming the level of agency staffing continues at a similar rate and includes higher spend assumptions later in the financial year due to winter pressures surrounding staffing and utilities.

Recruitment of staff is a continued pressure across the care homes, where there remains a high number of staff vacancies. A proactive rolling recruitment exercise is ongoing, supported by HR.

Due to pressures with recruitment and retention in the sector, heavy reliance is being placed on overtime and expensive agency staff to support the care homes. At the end of November 2024 total agency spend across the care homes reached £2.383m, the cost of which has partially been offset by staff vacancies.

(iii) Education, Inclusion and Provision

Schools Transport is the main budget pressure for the Education, Inclusion and Provision Department. The Council has a statutory responsibility to provide Special Educational Needs (SEN) pupils with transport. This is split into two main areas of SEN pupils attending In-Borough and Out-of-Borough Schools.

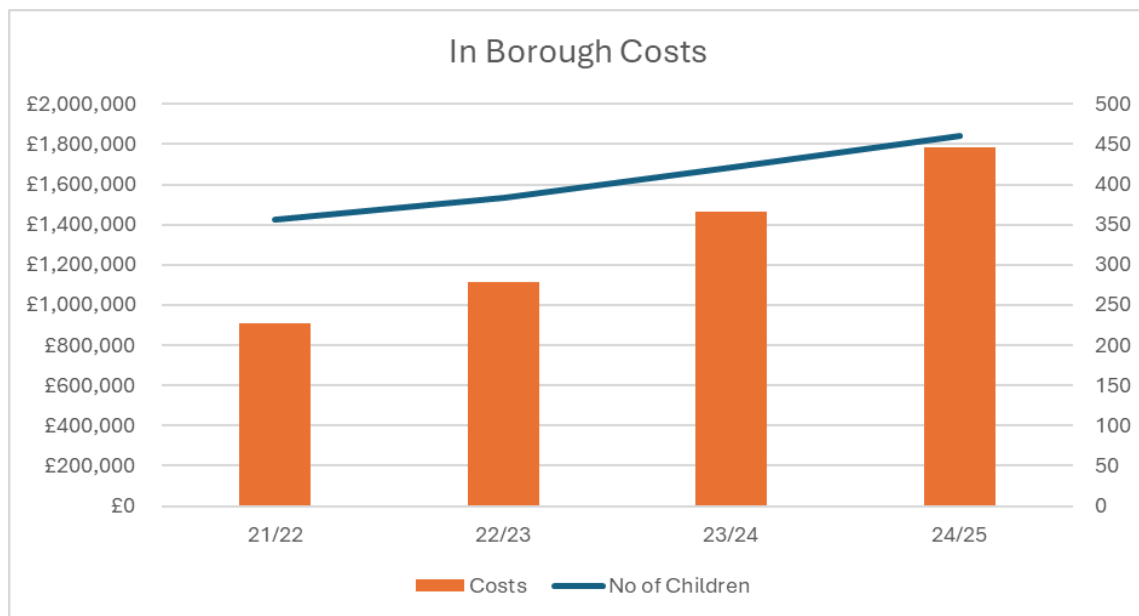
The table below illustrates the split between the two areas, and how each areas spend compares to the budget.

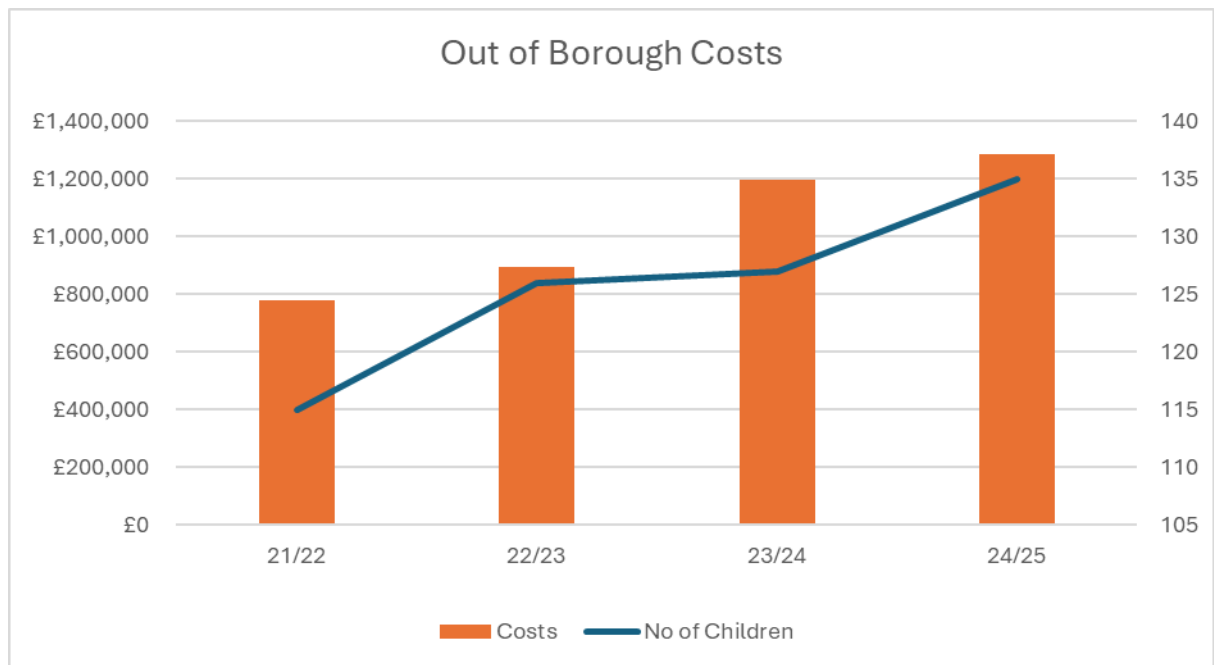
2024-25 as at Nov-24					
Area	Number of Users	Budget £000	Projected Spend £000	Variance £000	Average Cost per User
In Borough	461	1,826	1,783	43	£3,869
Out of Borough	135	489	1,286	(797)	£9,528
Total	596	2,315	3,070	(754)	

There are currently 596 service users, the majority of which attend schools within the Borough. The Out-of-Borough overspend has increased since the end of September 2024, to £0.852m.

During the current Academic year, it is anticipated that these figures will continue to rise, based upon historic information. The demand for the School Transport Service continues to increase in line with the increasing number of pupils with SEN within the Borough.

The graphs below show the trend in the number of SEN children using this service and the associated costs.





A further pressure on the departmental budget for the year relates to Psychology and SEN Assessment services provided to schools. For a number of years these costs have been funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The Department for Education have recently advised that these costs cannot be DSG funded as they are outside of scope in meeting the grant conditions. It is therefore currently assumed this cost will fall upon the Council's budget at a cost of £0.860m, until at such time other sources of funding are found.

(iv) **ICT Department**

At the end of the 2024/25 financial year it is forecasted that the ICT and Administration Department will be over the approved budget profile by £0.657m.

The main pressures faced by the ICT and Administration Department is in relation to the IT infrastructure, with the move to Microsoft 365, staff have been able to utilise much more efficient hardware. However, the software utilised by the new hardware is at a premium and will be a continuous pressure the Council will need to react to as prices fluctuate.

(v) **Community and Greenspaces Department**

The net departmental expenditure is forecast to be £0.616m under budget at the end of the 2024/25 financial year. This is an improved position from the expected £0.395m forecasted previously.

The largest contributor to the underspend is in relation to spend on Employees, which is currently forecast to be £1.012m under the approved budget profile by the end of the financial year. There are

several restructures taking place across the Department, therefore, in order to facilitate these a number of posts are currently being held vacant until the new structure is implemented. The most notable of these being the new structure being implemented when the new Halton Leisure Centre opens.

Collection Fund

- 3.15 The council tax collection rate through to the end of November 2024 is 71.43% which is 0.14% lower than the collection rate at the same point last year.

Debt relating to previous years continues to be collected, and the Council utilises powers through charging orders and attachment to earnings/benefits to secure debts. £1.811m (10.28%) has so far been collected this year in relation to previous years' debt.

- 3.16 Business rate collection through to the end of November 2024 is 76.03% which is 2.39% higher than the collection rate at the same point last year.

£1.694m has so far been collected this year in relation to previous years' debt.

Review of Reserves

- 3.17 As at 30 November 2024 the Council's General Reserve is unchanged from the previous period at £5.149m, which represents 3.44% of the Council's 2024/25 net budget. This is considered to be a minimum level.
- 3.18 There is a regular review of earmarked reserves undertaken to determine whether they can be released in part or in full to assist with funding the Council's current financial challenges, recognising that this only provides one-year funding solutions.

Reserves Summary

- 3.19 A summary breakdown of the Council's reserves is presented in the table below, showing the balance of reserves as at 30 November 2024.

Summary of General and Earmarked Reserves	
Reserve	Reserve Value £m
Corporate:	
General Fund	5.149
Transformation Fund	6.355
Capital Reserve	0.499
Insurance Reserve	1.000
Specific Projects:	
Adult Social Care	0.507
Fleet Replacement	0.418
Highways Feasibility Costs	0.102

Local Development Framework	0.494
Community & Environment	0.253
Mersey Valley Golf Club	0.483
Mersey Gateway	27.222
Various Other	0.554
Grants:	
Building Schools for the Future	6.529
Public Health	1.881
Supporting Families Performance Payments	0.534
Children's & Education	0.741
Domestic Abuse	1.186
Enterprise & Employment	0.115
Various Other	0.766
Total Earmarked Reserves	54.788

3.20 Held within the Transformation Reserve is £6.355m, set aside to help fund future balanced budgets, fund overspends, and meet a range of potential spending commitments in future years associated with delivering the Transformation Programme.

3.21 The above table shows the diminishing level of reserves available to assist with funding any future budget overspends and balancing future budgets. Only the £11.484m of the General Fund and Transformation Reserve could now be used for these purposes, as all remaining reserves are committed for specific purposes. Use of these reserves will help contribute towards reducing the Council's overall forecast overspend position and mitigate against the level of Exceptional Financial Support required.

Capital Spending

3.22 Council approved the 2024/25 Capital Programme on 6 March 2024. Since then the capital programme has been revised to reflect a number of changes in spending profiles and funding as schemes have developed. Appendix 3 brings all the separate elements together and report on the Council's total planned capital programme expenditure over the next three years. The schemes which have been revised within the programme are as follows:

- a. Family Hubs & Start for Life
- b. Joint Funding RSL Adaptations
- c. Madeline McKenna Refurbishment
- d. Runcorn Station Quarter
- e. Mersey Gateway Handback Land

- 3.23 Capital spending at 30 November 2024 totalled £26.1m, which represents 37.5% of the total Capital Programme of £69.6m (which assumes a 20% slippage between years).

Approved Savings

- 3.24 On 02 February 2023, Council approved savings proposals against the budget for the three year period 01 April 2023 to 31 March 2026. Appendix 4 lists those savings covering 2024/25 and 2025/26, together with RAG rated information on progress to date with developing and implementing the target savings.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 As at 30 November 2024, net revenue spend is forecast to be £20.757m over the budget for the year.
- 4.2 It is clear that Council reserves alone will not be sufficient to fund this pressure. As a result of this position and future budget challenges, the Council has applied to Government for Exceptional Financial Support (EFS).
- 4.3 Departments should continue to ensure that all spending continues to be limited to only what is absolutely essential throughout the remainder of the year, to ensure that the forecast outturn overspend is minimised as far as possible and future spending is brought in line with budget. This will assist with minimising the ongoing cost of EFS borrowing.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence

There are no direct implications, however, the revenue budget and capital programme support the delivery and achievement of all the Council's priorities.

6.2 Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy

There are no direct implications, however, the revenue budget and capital programme support the delivery and achievement of all the Council's priorities.

6.3 Supporting Children, Young People and Families

There are no direct implications, however, the revenue budget and capital programme support the delivery and achievement of all the Council's priorities.

6.4 Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need

There are no direct implications, however, the revenue budget and capital programme support the delivery and achievement of all the Council's priorities.

6.5 Working Towards a Greener Future

There are no direct implications, however, the revenue budget and capital programme support the delivery and achievement of all the Council's priorities.

6.6 Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community

There are no direct implications, however, the revenue budget and capital programme support the delivery and achievement of all the Council's priorities.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 There are a number of financial risks within the budget. However, the Council has internal controls and processes in place to ensure that spending remains in line with budget as far as possible.

7.2 A budget risk register of significant financial risks has been prepared and is included at Appendix 5.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 None.

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1072

10.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act

Summary of Revenue Spending to 30 November 2024

APPENDIX 1

Directorate / Department	Annual Budget £'000	Budget To Date £'000	Actual To Date £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000	November 2024 Forecast Outturn (o'spend) £'000	September 2024 Forecast Outturn (o'spend) £'000
Adult Social Care	22,806	15,080	15,367	(287)	(456)	(335)
Care Homes	9,989	6,519	7,392	(873)	(1,245)	(1,198)
Community Care	16,460	12,980	14,549	(1,569)	(2,951)	(2,433)
Complex Care Pool	10,704	1,972	1,660	312	234	308
Adults Directorate	59,959	36,551	38,968	(2,417)	(4,418)	(3,658)
Finance	5,030	6,099	6,156	(57)	(162)	369
Legal & Democratic Services	-618	-360	447	(807)	(1,137)	(976)
ICT & Support Services	2,279	886	1,308	(422)	(657)	(588)
Chief Executives Delivery Unit	1,169	595	602	(7)	(14)	(63)
Chief Executives Directorate	7,860	7,220	8,513	(1,293)	(1,970)	(1,258)
Children & Families	38,745	21,153	29,602	(8,449)	(11,702)	(12,333)
Education, Inclusion & Provision	9,771	4,802	5,908	(1,106)	(1,598)	(1,642)
Children's Directorate	48,516	25,955	35,510	(9,555)	(13,300)	(13,975)
Community & Greenspace	25,370	15,065	14,840	225	616	395
Economy, Enterprise & Property	2,335	923	815	108	123	30
Planning & Transportation	8,405	4,099	3,545	554	528	102
Environment & Regeneration Directorate	36,110	20,087	19,200	887	1,267	527
Corporate & Democracy	-4,240	-3,659	-1,721	(1,938)	(2,418)	(2,380)
Public Health Directorate	1,291	-962	-1,032	70	82	102
Total Operational Net Spend	149,496	85,192	99,438	(14,246)	(20,757)	(20,642)

Adult Social Care

APPENDIX 2

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Actual Spend £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000
Expenditure					
Employees	17,559	11,684	10,956	728	1,092
Agency- Covering Vacancies	0	0	796	(796)	(1,194)
Premises	482	360	334	26	40
Supplies & Services	637	452	588	(136)	(180)
Aids & Adaptations	37	25	34	(9)	(14)
Transport	242	161	245	(84)	(130)
Food & Drink Provisions	211	142	123	19	29
Supported Accommodation and Services	1,385	923	828	95	150
Emergency Duty Team	115	0	0	0	0
Transfer To Reserves	269	0	0	0	0
Contracts & SLAs	1,090	738	738	0	0
Housing Solutions Grant Funded Schemes					
Homelessness Prevention	471	150	151	(1)	0
Rough Sleepers Initiative	167	48	46	2	0
Trailblazer	100	50	43	7	0
Total Expenditure	22,765	14,733	14,882	(149)	(207)
Income					
Fees & Charges	-860	-574	-526	(48)	(70)
Sales & Rents Income	-480	-368	-378	10	10
Reimbursements & Grant Income	-2,195	-858	-905	47	47
Capital Salaries	-121	-61	-61	0	0
Transfer from Reserves	-49	-49	-49	0	0
Housing Schemes Income	-731	-731	-735	4	4
Total Income	-4,436	-2,641	-2,654	13	(9)
Net Operational Expenditure	18,329	12,092	12,228	(136)	(216)
Recharges					
Premises Support	529	353	353	0	0
Transport Support	582	402	553	(151)	(240)
Central Support	3,465	2,308	2,308	0	0
Asset Rental Support	13	0	0	0	0
Recharge Income	-112	-75	-75	0	0
Net Total Recharges	4,477	2,988	3,139	(151)	(240)
Net Departmental Expenditure	22,806	15,080	15,367	(287)	(456)

Care Homes

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Actual Spend £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000
Expenditure					
<u>Madeline Mckenna</u>					
Employees	698	466	443	23	28
Agency - covering vacancies	0	0	87	(87)	(150)
Other Premises	101	65	65	0	(2)
Supplies & Services	20	10	17	(7)	(6)
Food Provison	48	28	33	(5)	(1)
Total Madeline Mckenna Expenditure	867	569	645	(76)	(131)
<u>Millbrow</u>					
Employees	2,057	1,271	853	418	782
Agency - covering vacancies	3	3	656	(653)	(1,077)
Other Premises	129	89	101	(12)	(35)
Supplies & Services	61	36	71	(35)	(36)
Food Provison	78	33	39	(6)	1
Total Millbrow Expenditure	2,328	1,432	1,720	(288)	(365)
<u>St Luke's</u>					
Employees	2,884	1,922	1,420	502	740
Agency - covering vacancies	250	250	931	(681)	(1,042)
Premises	172	104	164	(60)	(86)
Supplies & Services	60	33	64	(31)	(35)
Reimbursement & Grant Income	-103	-103	-103	0	0
Client Income	-44	-44	-44	0	0
Food Provison	120	80	88	(8)	(9)
Total St Luke's Expenditure	3,339	2,242	2,520	(278)	(432)
<u>St Patrick's</u>					
Employees	1,838	1,225	813	412	612
Agency - covering vacancies	42	42	709	(667)	(1,007)
Other Premises	157	95	95	0	(10)
Supplies & Services	64	38	37	1	5
Food Provison	122	82	70	12	14
Reimbursement & Grant Income	-21	-21	-21	0	0
Total St Patrick's Expenditure	2,202	1,461	1,703	(242)	(386)
<u>Care Homes Divison Management</u>					
Employees	306	184	170	14	73
Supplies & Services	0	0	3	(3)	(4)
Care Home Divison Management	306	184	173	11	69
Net Operational Expenditure	9,042	5,888	6,761	(873)	(1,245)
Recharges					
Premises Support	264	176	176	0	0
Transport Support	0	0	0	0	0
Central Support	683	455	455	0	0
Asset Rental Support	0	0	0	0	0
Recharge Income	0	0	0	0	0
Net Total Recharges	947	631	631	0	0
Net Departmental Expenditure	9,989	6,519	7,392	(873)	(1,245)

Community Care

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual Spend	Variance (Overspend)	Forecast Outturn
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure					
Residential & Nursing	13,715	9,941	11,428	(1,487)	(2,503)
Domiciliary Care & Supported living	12,890	8,564	8,574	(10)	(17)
Direct Payments	14,125	9,838	10,063	(225)	(570)
Day Care	648	377	366	11	19
Total Expenditure	41,378	28,720	30,431	(1,711)	(3,071)
Income					
Residential & Nursing Income	-13,138	-8,457	-8,039	(418)	88
Community Care Income	-2,270	-1,364	-1,459	95	35
Direct Payments Income	-1,014	-521	-624	103	8
Income from other CCGs	-466	-34	-396	362	0
Market sustainability & Improvement Grant	-2,796	-1,864	-1,864	0	0
Adult Social Care Support Grant	-5,167	-3,445	-3,445	0	0
War Pension Disregard Grant	-67	-55	-55	0	(11)
Total Income	-24,918	-15,740	-15,882	142	120
Net Operational Expenditure	16,460	12,980	14,549	(1,569)	(2,951)

Complex Care Pool

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Actual Spend £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000
Expenditure					
Intermediate Care Services	5,220	3,087	3,243	(156)	(234)
Oakmeadow	1,831	1,192	1,259	(67)	(100)
Community Home Care First	2,111	1,196	1,124	72	107
Joint Equipment Store	871	553	553	0	0
Development Fund	191	77	0	77	115
Contracts & SLA's	3,171	586	586	0	0
Inglenook	127	85	66	19	28
HICafs	3,703	2,026	1,744	282	423
Carers Breaks	494	303	226	77	115
Carers centre	371	357	342	15	23
Residential Care	7,225	3,629	3,629	0	0
Domiciliary Care & Supported Living	4,227	2,113	2,113	0	0
Pathway 3/Discharge Access	391	0	0	0	0
HBC Contracts	72	54	58	(4)	(6)
Total Expenditure	30,005	15,258	14,943	315	471
Income					
BCF	-13,484	-8,990	-8,990	0	0
CCG Contribution to Pool	-2,865	-1,910	-1,910	0	0
Oakmeadow Income	-19	-16	-13	(3)	(4)
ASC Discharge Grant Income	-1,631	-1,088	-1,088	0	0
ICB Discharge Grant Income	-1,282	-1,282	-1,282	0	0
Other Income	-20	0	0	0	0
Total Income	-19,301	-13,286	-13,283	(3)	(4)
ICB Contribution Share of Surplus					(233)
Net Operational Expenditure	10,704	1,972	1,660	312	234

Finance Department

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Actual Spend £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000
Expenditure					
Employees	6,989	4,664	4,600	64	96
Insurances	975	566	362	204	306
Supplies & Services	417	261	441	(180)	(263)
Rent Allowances	35,500	20,669	20,669	0	0
Concessionary Travel	1,748	556	659	(103)	(154)
LCR Levy	1,748	0	0	0	0
Bad Debt Provision	77	0	97	(97)	(145)
Non HRA Rent Rebates	70	34	29	5	7
Discretionary Social Fund	106	75	11	64	96
Discretionary Housing Payments	300	146	134	12	18
Household Support Fund Expenditure	2,625	2,158	2,158	0	0
Total Expenditure	50,555	29,129	29,160	(31)	(39)
Income					
Fees & Charges	-335	-210	-214	4	6
Burdens Grant	-60	-62	-78	16	24
Dedicated schools Grant	-144	-13	0	(13)	(19)
Council Tax Liability Order	-581	-446	-547	101	152
Business Rates Admin Grant	-157	0	0	0	0
Schools SLAs	-312	-312	-307	(5)	(5)
LCR Reimbursement	-1,748	0	0	0	0
HB Overpayment Debt Recovery	-400	-264	-191	(73)	(109)
Rent Allowances	-34,700	-18,548	-18,287	(261)	(391)
Non HRA Rent Rebate	-70	-47	-49	2	2
Discretionary Housing Payment Grant	-300	-300	-93	(207)	(23)
Housing Benefits Admin Grant	-498	-332	-326	(6)	(9)
Housing Benefits Award Accuracy	0	0	-12	12	12
Universal Credits	-5	-3	0	(3)	(5)
Household Support Fund Grant	-2,625	0	-243	243	0
VEP Grant	0	0	-5	5	5
CCG McMillan Reimbursement	-87	-44	-48	4	5
Reimbursements & Grant Income	-185	-235	-390	155	232
Transfer from Reserves	-7	-7	-7	0	0
Total Income	-42,214	-20,823	-20,797	(26)	(123)
Net Operational Expenditure	8,341	8,306	8,363	(57)	(162)
Recharges					
Premises Support	377	251	251	0	0
Transport Support	0	0	0	0	0
Central Support	2,365	1,577	1,577	0	0
Asset Rental Support	0	0	0	0	0
Recharge Income	-6,053	-4,035	-4,035	0	0
Net Total Recharges	-3,311	-2,207	-2,207	0	0
Net Departmental Expenditure	5,030	6,099	6,156	(57)	(162)

Legal Services

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Actual Spend £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000
Expenditure					
Employees	1,511	1,104	1,099	5	7
Agency Related Expenditure	0	0	664	(664)	(914)
Supplies & Services	388	331	294	37	55
Civic Catering & Functions	23	12	4	8	13
Legal Expenses	218	122	281	(159)	(230)
Transport Related Expenditure	11	11	7	4	6
Other Expenditure	0	3	3	0	0
Total Expenditure	2,151	1,583	2,352	(769)	(1,063)
Income					
School SLA's	-98	-78	-77	(1)	(20)
Licence Income	-301	-205	-183	(22)	(33)
Government Grant	-42	-42	-42	0	0
Reimbursement & Other Grants	-164	-164	-164	0	0
Fees & Charges Income	-74	-52	-37	(15)	(21)
Transfer from Reserves	-27	-27	-27	0	0
Total Income	-706	-568	-530	(38)	(74)
Net Operational Expenditure	1,445	1,015	1,822	(807)	(1,137)
Recharges					
Premises Support	53	35	35	0	0
Transport Recharges	0	0	0	0	0
Central Support Recharges	275	184	184	0	0
Asset Rental Support Costs	0	0	0	0	0
Support Recharge Income	-2,391	-1,594	-1,594	0	0
Net Total Recharges	-2,063	-1,375	-1,375	0	0
Net Departmental Expenditure	-618	-360	447	(807)	(1,137)

ICT & Support Services Department

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Actual Spend £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000
Expenditure					
Employees	5,596	3,758	3,567	191	286
Supplies & Services	921	625	941	(316)	(475)
Capital Finance	100	67	12	55	80
Computer Repairs & Software	1,725	1,521	1,770	(249)	(374)
Communication Costs	13	0	100	(100)	(164)
Premises	159	101	88	13	19
Transport	3	3	1	2	0
Total Expenditure	8,517	6,075	6,479	(404)	(628)
Income					
Fees & Charges	-1,056	-529	-562	33	50
Schools SLA Income	-646	-599	-561	(38)	(59)
Reimbursements & Grant Income	0	7	20	(13)	(20)
Transfer from Reserves	-148	-148	-148	0	0
Total Income	-1,850	-1,269	-1,251	(18)	(29)
Net Operational Expenditure	6,667	4,806	5,228	(422)	(657)
Recharges					
Premises Support	550	367	367	0	0
Transport Support	19	15	15	0	0
Central Support	2,380	1,587	1,587	0	0
Asset Rental Support	1,494	0	0	0	0
Support Costs Income	-8,831	-5,889	-5,889	0	0
Net Total Recharges	-4,388	-3,920	-3,920	0	0
Net Departmental Expenditure	2,279	886	1,308	(422)	(657)

Chief Executives Delivery Unit

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Actual Spend £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000
Expenditure					
Employees	3,304	2,229	2,221	8	12
Employees Training	99	66	63	3	2
Apprenticeship Levy	300	187	193	(6)	(10)
Supplies & Services	391	267	240	27	41
Total Expenditure	4,094	2,749	2,717	32	45
Income					
Fees & Charges	-223	-146	-141	(5)	(8)
Schools SLA Income	-565	-548	-509	(39)	(56)
Transfer from Reserves	0	0	-5	5	5
Total Income	-788	-694	-655	(39)	(59)
Net Operational Expenditure	3,306	2,055	2,062	(7)	(14)
Recharges					
Premises Support	174	116	116	0	0
Transport	0	0	0	0	0
Central Support	1,209	806	806	0	0
Asset Rental Support	53	0	0	0	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-3,573	-2,382	-2,382	0	0
Net Total Recharges	-2,137	-1,460	-1,460	0	0
Net Departmental Expenditure	1,169	595	602	(7)	(14)

Children & Families

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual Spend	Variance (Overspend)	Forecast Outturn
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure					
Employees	15,544	9,828	11,607	(1,779)	(2,618)
Other Premises	415	199	227	(28)	(24)
Supplies & Services	1,725	1,612	1,966	(354)	(589)
Transport	360	210	176	34	44
Direct Payments	1,097	701	827	(126)	(206)
Commissioned services to Vol Orgs	224	134	134	0	0
Residential Care	17,727	9,509	14,895	(5,386)	(7,194)
Out of Borough Adoption	96	48	0	48	96
Out of Borough Fostering	4,253	2,336	3,051	(715)	(955)
In House Adoption	548	304	253	51	63
Special Guardianship Order	2,510	1,577	1,617	(40)	(59)
In House Foster Carer Placements	2,739	1,738	1,532	206	310
Lavender House Contract Costs	234	141	128	13	15
Home Support & Respite	340	177	224	(47)	(73)
Care Leavers	248	215	295	(80)	(130)
Family Support	53	27	39	(12)	(18)
Contracted services	3	2	2	0	0
Early Years	0	0	0	0	0
Emergency Duty	132	37	72	(35)	(51)
Youth Offending Services	321	124	169	(45)	(73)
Transfer to Reserves	8	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	48,577	28,919	37,214	(8,295)	(11,462)
Income					
Fees & Charges	-33	-9	0	(9)	(12)
Sales Income	-4	-3	0	(3)	(5)
Rents	-81	-41	-37	(4)	0
Reimbursement & other Grant Income	-787	-598	-506	(92)	(137)
Transfer from reserve	-82	-82	-82	0	0
Dedicated Schools Grant	-50	0	0	0	0
Government Grants	-10,528	-8,189	-8,143	(46)	(86)
Total Income	-11,565	-8,922	-8,768	(154)	(240)
Net Operational Expenditure	37,012	19,997	28,446	(8,449)	(11,702)
Recharges					
Premises Support	398	266	266	0	0
Transport	16	11	11	0	0
Central Support Recharges	2,274	1,516	1,516	0	0
Asset Rental Support	0	0	0	0	0
Internal Recharge Income	-955	-637	-637	0	0
Net Total Recharges	1,733	1,156	1,156	0	0
Net Departmental Expenditure	38,745	21,153	29,602	(8,449)	(11,702)

Education, Inclusion & Provision

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual Spend	Variance (Overspend)	Forecast Outturn
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure					
Employees	7,313	4,887	5,108	(221)	(283)
Agency - covering vacancies	0	0	199	(199)	(290)
Agency - addition to establishment	72	48	14	34	58
Premises	14	12	11	1	3
Supplies & Services	4,152	2,676	2,617	59	88
Independent School Fees	9,113	5,618	5,618	0	0
Schools Contingency	225	157	157	0	0
Transport	43	23	30	(7)	(10)
Schools Transport	2,341	1,033	1,536	(503)	(754)
Early Years Payments	10,372	6,995	6,995	0	0
Early Years Pupil Premium	154	94	94	0	
Commissioned Services	1,719	890	1,090	(200)	(300)
Inter Authority Special Needs	1,175	795	795	0	0
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	182	84	77	7	10
Capital Financing	4,608	2,805	2,805	0	1
Total Expenditure	41,483	26,117	27,146	(1,029)	(1,477)
Income					
Fees & Charges Income	-424	-414	-414	0	(14)
Government Grant Income	-7,747	-5,300	-5,300	0	0
Dedicated Schools Grant	-23,331	-15,554	-15,554	0	0
Inter Authority Income	-366	-216	-216	0	0
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-1,779	-1,098	-1,098	0	0
Schools SLA Income	-473	-383	-399	16	24
Transfers from Reserves	-84	0	0	0	0
Total Income	-34,204	-22,965	-22,981	16	10
Net Operational Expenditure	7,279	3,152	4,165	(1,013)	(1,467)
Recharges					
Premises Support	344	229	229	0	0
Transport Support	528	352	445	(93)	(131)
Central Support	1,603	1,069	1,069	0	0
Asset Rental Support	17	0	0	0	0
Recharge Income	0	0	0	0	0
Net Total Recharges	2,492	1,650	1,743	(93)	(131)
Net Departmental Expenditure	9,771	4,802	5,908	(1,106)	(1,598)

Community & Greenspaces

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual Spend	Variance (Overspend)	Forecast Outturn
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure					
Employees	17,435	11,470	10,795	675	1,012
Agency - covering vacancies	0	0	149	(149)	(224)
Agency - in addition to establishment	0	0	164	(164)	(246)
Premises	3,455	2,004	2,092	(88)	(90)
Supplies & Services	2,186	1,304	1,381	(77)	(115)
Hired & Contracted Services	623	623	623	0	0
Book Fund	128	96	96	0	0
Food Provisions	388	281	259	22	33
School Meals Food	1,960	972	1,025	(53)	(80)
Transport	117	52	74	(22)	(33)
Other Agency Costs	429	340	340	0	0
Other Expenditure	0	0	63	(63)	(64)
Waste Disposal Contracts	7,002	3,317	3,131	186	279
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	64	44	27	17	26
Grants to Norton Priory	172	172	172	0	0
Total Expenditure	33,959	20,675	20,391	284	498
Income					
Sales Income	-1,373	-991	-973	(18)	(26)
Fees & Charges Income	-5,490	-4,016	-4,122	106	158
Rental Income	-235	-135	-170	35	53
Markets Income	-910	-446	-437	(9)	(12)
Government Grant Income	-1,337	-1,337	-1,337	0	0
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-703	-361	-361	0	0
School SLA Income	-1,313	-564	-564	0	0
School Meals Income	-3,598	-1,942	-1,808	(134)	(200)
Internal Fees Income	-322	-135	-177	42	64
Capital Salaries	-173	-90	-34	(56)	(84)
Transfers From Reserves	-15	-15	-15	0	202
Total Income	-15,469	-10,032	-9,998	(34)	155
Net Operational Expenditure	18,490	10,643	10,393	250	653
Recharges					
Premises Support	1,675	1,115	1,116	(1)	0
Transport	2,257	1,491	1,515	(24)	(37)
Central Support	3,897	2,581	2,581	0	0
Asset Rental Support	199	0	0	0	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-1,148	-765	-765	0	0
Net Total Recharges	6,880	4,422	4,447	(25)	(37)
Net Departmental Expenditure	25,370	15,065	14,840	225	616

Economy, Enterprise & Property

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual Spend	Variance (Overspend)	Forecast Outturn
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure					
Employees	5,075	3,558	3,285	273	410
Agency - covering vacancies	0	0	198	(198)	(320)
Repairs & Maintenance	1,706	1,280	1,346	(66)	(99)
Premises	136	119	119	0	0
Energy & Water Costs	1,248	666	617	49	74
NNDR	690	691	660	31	31
Rents	173	94	89	5	7
Economic Regeneration Activities	21	0	0	0	0
Security	544	243	278	(35)	(53)
Supplies & Services	506	387	369	18	27
Supplies & Services - Grant	2,090	302	304	(2)	(3)
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	75	85	86	(1)	(1)
Capital Finance	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer to Reserves	185	186	185	1	1
Total Expenditure	12,449	7,611	7,536	75	74
Income					
Fees & Charges Income	-987	-405	-460	55	83
Rent - Commercial Properties	-872	-524	-511	(13)	(20)
Rent - Investment Properties	-38	-26	-26	0	0
Government Grant	-2,510	-1,157	-1,158	1	1
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-193	-403	-400	(3)	(5)
Schools SLA Income	-227	-208	-198	(10)	(15)
Recharges to Capital	-295	-214	-217	3	5
Transfer from Reserves	-1,120	-1,164	-1,164	0	0
Total Income	-6,242	-4,101	-4,134	33	49
Net Operational Expenditure	6,207	3,510	3,402	108	123
Recharges					
Premises Support	2,074	1,382	1,382	0	0
Transport Support	30	18	18	0	0
Central Support	1,947	1,298	1,298	0	0
Asset Rental Support	4	0	0	0	0
Recharge Income	-7,927	-5,285	-5,285	0	0
Net Total Recharges	-3,872	-2,587	-2,587	0	0
Net Departmental Expenditure	2,335	923	815	108	123

Planning & Transportation Department

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual Spend	Variance (Overspend)	Forecast Outturn
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure					
Employees	5,719	3,796	3,535	261	393
Agency - covering vacancies	110	84	120	(36)	(54)
Agency - in addition to establishment	24	22	68	(46)	(69)
Efficiency Savings	-150	-100	0	(100)	(150)
Premises	193	144	111	33	50
Hired & Contracted Services	59	0	96	(96)	(167)
Planning Appeal Decision	0	0	0	0	(300)
Supplies & Services	144	153	260	(107)	(161)
Street Lighting	1,662	502	494	8	12
Highways Maintenance - Routine & Reactive	1,772	946	1,010	(64)	(97)
Highways Maintenance - Programmed Works	1,908	932	718	214	321
Fleet Transport	1,455	978	908	70	105
Bus Support - Halton Hopper Tickets	23	20	15	5	8
Bus Support	498	569	569	0	0
Agency Related Expenditure	8	7	34	(27)	(27)
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	31	31	31	0	0
NRA Levy	74	73	73	0	2
LCR Levy	1,059	529	529	0	0
Contribution to Reserves	359	359	359	0	0
Total Expenditure	14,948	9,045	8,930	115	(134)
Income					
Sales & Rents Income	-97	-65	-111	46	70
Planning Fees	-826	-546	-350	(196)	(294)
Building Control Fees	-245	-163	-163	0	0
Other Fees & Charges	-908	-596	-910	314	472
Grants & Reimbursements	-206	-121	-121	0	0
Government Grant Income	-240	-253	-253	0	0
Halton Hopper Income	-24	-16	-7	(9)	(13)
Recharge to Capital	-467	-89	-89	0	0
LCR Levy Reimbursement	-1,059	-529	-529	0	0
Contribution from Reserves	-1,036	-1,036	-1,036	0	0
Total Income	-5,108	-3,414	-3,569	155	235
Net Operational Expenditure	9,840	5,631	5,361	270	101
Recharges					
Premises Recharges	560	373	373	0	0
Transport Recharges	749	511	509	2	4
Central Recharges	1,534	1,022	1,022	0	0
Asset Charges	851	0	0	0	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-5,129	-3,438	-3,720	282	423
Net Total Recharges	-1,435	-1,532	-1,816	284	427
Net Departmental Expenditure	8,405	4,099	3,545	554	528

Corporate & Democracy

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual Spend	Variance (Overspend)	Forecast Outturn
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure					
Employees	412	275	235	40	0
Contracted Services	39	24	24	0	0
Supplies & Services	119	98	98	0	0
Premises Expenditure	5	5	7	(2)	0
Transport Costs	1	0	8	(8)	(9)
Members Allowances	983	656	659	(3)	0
Interest Payable - Treasury Management	1,341	894	1,305	(411)	(617)
Interest Payable - Other	115	77	143	(66)	(100)
Bank Charges	132	44	158	(114)	(100)
Audit Fees	348	174	15	159	0
Contingency	667	445	0	445	667
Capital Financing	2,288	2	2	0	301
Debt Management Expenses	20	13	3	10	0
Precepts & Levies	240	160	140	20	30
Transformation Efficiency Savings	-4,000	-2,667	0	(2,667)	(3,871)
Total Expenditure	2,710	200	2,797	(2,597)	(3,699)
Income					
Interest Receivable - Treasury Management	-4,152	-2,768	-3,405	637	956
Interest Receivable - Other	-19	-13	-13	0	0
Other Fees & Charges	-158	-99	-58	(41)	(50)
Grants & Reimbursements	-255	-85	-85	0	333
Government Grant Income	-377	-126	-189	63	42
Total Income	-4,961	-3,091	-3,750	659	1,281
Net Operational Expenditure	-2,251	-2,891	-953	(1,938)	(2,418)
Recharges					
Premises Support	21	14	14	0	0
Transport	0	0	0	0	0
Central Support	1,016	711	711	0	0
Asset Rental Support	0	0	0	0	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-3,026	-1,493	-1,493	0	0
Net Total Recharges	-1,989	-768	-768	0	0
Net Departmental Expenditure	-4,240	-3,659	-1,721	(1,938)	(2,418)

Public Health

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Actual Spend £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000
Expenditure					
Employees	4,762	3,095	3,085	10	20
Agency - covering vacancies	0	0	22	(22)	0
Premises	6	0	0	0	0
Supplies & Services	485	274	218	56	46
Contracts & SLA's	7,547	4,314	4,288	26	16
Transport	4	3	1	2	0
Transfer to Reserves	19	19	19	0	0
Other Agency	24	24	24	0	0
Total Expenditure	12,847	7,729	7,657	72	82
Income					
Fees & Charges	-102	-124	-121	(3)	0
Reimbursements & Grant Income	-349	-331	-332	1	0
Transfer from Reserves	-820	-65	-65	0	0
Government Grant Income	-12,174	-9,116	-9,116	0	0
Total Income	-13,445	-9,636	-9,634	(2)	0
Net Operational Expenditure	-598	-1,907	-1,977	70	82
Recharges					
Premises Support	149	75	75	0	0
Transport Support	22	11	11	0	0
Central Support	2,387	1,194	1,194	0	0
Asset Rental Support	0	0	0	0	0
Recharge Income	-669	-335	-335	0	0
Net Total Recharges	1,889	945	945	0	0
Net Departmental Expenditure	1,291	-962	-1,032	70	82

Capital Programme as at 30 November 2024

Appendix 3

Scheme Detail	2024/25 Original Allocation £000	2024/25 Revised Allocation £000	Q1 Spend £000	Q2 Spend £000	Q3 Spend £000	Q4 Spend £000	Total Spend £000	Allocation remaining £000	2025/26 Allocation £000	2026/27 Allocation £000
Childrens Directorate										
Capital Repairs	749.0	749.0	151.0	531.0	50.0		732.0	17.0		
Basic Need Projects	600.8	600.8	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	600.8		
SEND capital allocation	3,355.2	3,355.2	178.0	519.0	322.0		1,019.0	2,336.2		
SCA unallocated	255.6	448.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	448.0		
Family Hubs & Start for Life	53.2	110.4	1.3	54.1	10.0		65.4	45.1		
Childcare Expansion	314.8	314.8	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	314.8		
Directorate Total	5,328.6	5,578.2	330.3	1,104.1	382.0	0.0	1,816.4	3,761.9	0.0	0.0
Adults Directorate										
Halton Carers Centre Refurbishment	199.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0		
Grants - Disabled Facilities	600.0	1,050.0	353.0	227.0	157.0		737.0	313.0	600.0	600.0
Stair Lifts	270.0	200.0	66.0	23.0	62.0		151.0	49.0	270.0	270.0
Joint Funding RSL Adaptations	270.0	200.0	53.0	24.0	81.0		158.0	42.0	270.0	270.0
Telehealthcare Digital Switchover	0.0	135.0	60.0	0.0	20.0		80.0	55.0		
Oakmeadow & Peelhouse Network Improvements	0.0	40.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	40.0		
Madeline McKenna Refurbishment	0.0	150.0	9.0	73	2.0		84.0	66.0		
Millbrow Refurbishment	0.0	50.0	26.0	8.0	0.0		34.0	16.0		
St Lukes Care Home	0.0	50.0	10.0	14.0	7.0		31.0	19.0		
St Patricks Care Home	1,200.0	50.0	14.0	16.0	-1.0		29.0	21.0		
Directorate Total	2,539.0	1,925.0	591.0	385.0	328.0	0.0	1,304.0	621.0	1,140.0	1,140.0

Capital Programme as at 30 November 2024 Continued

Scheme Detail	2024/25 Original Allocation	2024/25 Revised Allocation	Q1 Spend	Q2 Spend	Q3 Spend	Q4 Spend	Total Spend	Allocation remaining	2025/26 Allocation	2026/27 Allocation
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Environment & Regeneration Directorate										
Stadium Minor Works	30.0	30.0	7.9	7.7	0.0		15.6	14.4	30.0	30.0
Halton Leisure Centre	8,997.0	8,997.0	2,030.0	3,045.4	2,205.0		7,280.4	1,716.6		
Children's Playground Equipment	67.8	67.8	1.0	1.0	40.0		42.0	25.8	65.0	65.0
Landfill Tax Credit Schemes	340.0	340.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	340.0	340.0	340.0
Upton Improvements	13.0	13.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	13.0		
Crow Wood Park Play Area	12.0	12.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	12.0		
Open Spaces Schemes	600.0	600.0	130.0	154.4	86.0		370.4	229.6	600.0	600.0
Runcorn Town Park	468.6	468.6	0.0	6.8	0.0		6.8	461.8	280.0	280.0
Spike Island / Wigg Island	1,933.5	1,933.5	2.4	4.4	0.0		6.8	1,926.7		
Pickerings Pasture Cafe	503.0	503.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	503.0		
Replacement Cremator Widnes	308.0	308.0	0.0	77.3	6.0		83.3	224.7		
Litter Bins	20.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	20.0	20.0	20.0
3MG	134.5	134.5	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	134.5		
Murdishaw redevelopment	21.2	21.2	5.4	0.0	0.0		5.4	15.8		
Equality Act Improvement Works	293.2	93.2	8.7	17.6	59.6		85.9	7.3	300.0	300.0
Foundary Lane Residential Area	1160.0	1160.0	1.8	464.8	2.3		468.9	691.1		
Town Deal	11352.9	11552.9	174.9	261.8	940.0		1,376.7	10,176.2	7,190.4	
Property Improvements	360.2	460.5	4.3	131.1	286.6		422.0	38.5	200.0	200.0
Runcorn Station Quarter	484.7	76.0	0.0	60.5	15.5		76.0	0.0		
Waterloo Building	0.0	75.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	75.0		
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	178.2	178.2	0.0	0.0	12.2		12.2	166.0		
Runcorn Waterfront Residential Development	484.7	268.7	8.6	122.9	61.5		193.0	75.7		
Changing Places	24.1	24.1	2.5	0.1	1.6		4.2	19.9		
Sci-tech Daresbury Project Violet	2200.0	2200.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	2,200.0		
Port of Weston	0.0	3,960.0	0.0	1.3	1.7		3.0	3,957.0		
Kingsway Leisure Centre Demolition	0.0	749.5	0.0	30.7	0.0		30.7	718.8		
Bridge and Highway Maintenance	0.0	2,265.6	280.8	313.0	20.0		613.8	1,651.8		







Capital Programme as at 30 November 2024 Continued

Scheme Detail	2024/25 Original Allocation £000	2024/25 Revised Allocation £000	Q1 Spend £000	Q2 Spend £000	Q3 Spend £000	Q4 Spend £000	Total Spend £000	Allocation remaining £000	2025/26 Allocation £000	2026/27 Allocation £000
Runcorn Busway	0.0	0.0	227.4	80.0	371.0		678.4	-678.4		
ATF3 Murdishaw to Whitehouse	0.0	3,000.0	175.3	363.0	497.0		1,035.3	1,964.7		
ATF4 Widnes Town Centre Accessibility	0.0	114.5	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	114.5		
A56 Reconstruction (Delph Lane)	0.0	943.7	351.1	0.0	10.0		361.1	582.6		
Dukesfield ATL (Waterloo Bridge)	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0		1.1	-1.1		
LCWIP Phase 2 Daresbury	0.0	3,861.7	629.3	56.0	15.0		700.3	3,161.4		
Additional Pothole Funding	0.0	429.1	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	429.1		
CRSTS	5,819.4	5,288.6	1,656.0	884.0	2,184.0		4,724.0	564.6		
Street Lighting - Structural Maintenance	1,025.6	1,025.6	0.0	37.0	94.0		131.0	894.6	200.0	200.0
Street Lighting - Upgrades	969.4	969.4	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	969.4		
East Runcorn Connectivity	5,851.7	5,851.7	452.5	207.0	810.0		1,469.5	4,382.1	5,851.7	5,851.7
Early Land Acquisition Mersey Gateway	212.4	212.4	0.0	16.4	99.2		115.6	96.8		
VAT										
deposit Jolly Brewer										
Land adj 44 Bower St										
falkirk Ave S106 funds included in sale proceeds for 14-15										
Directorate Total	49,390.3	63,773.5	7,237.7	6,826.1	8,086.6	0.0	22,150.4	41,623.1	16,620.4	8,006.7
Chief Executives Directorate										
IT Rolling Programme	1,026.9	1,026.9	27.7	668.2	12.7		708.6	318.3	700.0	700.0
Halton Smart Microgrid	11,000.0	11,000.0	0.0	0.0	128.0		128.0	10,872.0		
Transformation Programme	3,740.0	3,740.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	3,740.0	1,000.0	
Directorate Total	15,766.9	15,766.9	27.7	668.2	140.7	0.0	836.6	14,930.3	1,700.0	700.0
Grand Total	73,024.8	87,043.6	8,186.7	8,983.4	8,937.3	0.0	26,107.4	60,936.2	19,460.4	9,846.7

Progress Against Agreed Savings

Appendix 4




Adults Directorate

	Service Area	Net Budget £'000	Description of Saving Proposal	Savings Value		Current Progress	Comments
				24/25 £'000	25/26 £'000		
ASC1	Housing Solutions	474	Remodel the current service based on good practice evidence from other areas.	0	125		Anticipated to be achieved, currently under review.
ASC2	Telehealthcare	680	Explore alternative funding streams such as Health funding or Disabled Facilities Grants.	170	0		Currently Under Review
			Increase charges / review income.	170	0		Charges were increased by 40% w.e.f. April 2024, so this should be achieved
			Cease the key safe installation service.	15	0		Service still being provided
ASC17/18	Quality Assurance Team	395	Review the activities of the Quality Assurance Team, given there are fewer providers for domiciliary care and the transfer of four care homes into the Council.	0	0		Saving implemented
			Merge the service with the Safeguarding Unit.	50	0		

ASC16	Shared Lives (Adult Placement Service)	115	Engage with an external agency currently operating Shared Lives to take over the running of this service. It is anticipated that this would provide an improved service.	58	0	u	Service currently still provided in-house, although a balanced budget will be attained for 2024/25 as a result of current temporary savings, and work is ongoing to ensure the 2025/6 structure can achieve the permanent savings target
ASC19	Voluntary Sector Support	N/A	Review the support provided by Adult Social Care and all other Council Departments, to voluntary sector organisations. This would include assisting them to secure alternative funding in order to reduce their dependence upon Council funding. A target saving phased over two years has been estimated.	200	100	✓	Anticipated to be achieved
ASC4	Positive Behaviour Support Service	349	Increase income generated in order to ensure full cost recovery, through increased service contract charges to other councils. Review the Integrated Care Board	100	0	✓	Contracts being re-costed on renewal, saving anticipated to be achieved ICB funding not secured, although a balanced budget will be attained for 2024/25 as a result of current temporary savings, and




			contribution for Adults, to ensure the full recovery of related costs.	150	0	u	work is ongoing to ensure the 2025/6 structure can achieve the permanent savings target
ASC15	Learning Disability Nursing Team	424	Cease provision of this service. The service is a Health related function rather than Adult Social Care, but this is a historical arrangement. The Integrated Care Board would need to consider how they want to provide this function.	424	0	✓	Costs now recharged to the ICB
ASC14	Care Management Community Care Budget	18,982	Attract £500k investment from the pooled budget (BCF) from 2024/25. Undertake work in years 1 and 2 to reduce reliance upon contracted services from 2025/26. Services are currently in the process of being redesigned on a "Strengths Based Approach" ie. focused upon prevention.	500	1,000	u	Position currently being reviewed.
Total Adults Directorate				1,837	1,225		

Finance Department




Ref.	Service Area	Net Budget £'000	Description of Saving Proposal	Savings Value		Current Progress	Comments
				24/25 £'000	25/26 £'000		
F9	Internal Audit	300	Restructure in light of potential retirements over the next two years within the Internal Audit Team.	0	50		No official changes made yet
F13	Discretionary Support Scheme	221	Review the roles, procedures and structure of the team.	25	0		On track
F17	Council Tax	84	Increase the charges applied when a court summons is issued by 30% (£23), to achieve full cost recovery over the three year period.	40	40		On track
Total Finance Department				65	90		

Legal and Democratic Services Department

Ref.	Service Area	Net Budget £'000	Description of Saving Proposal	Savings Value		Current Progress	Comments
				24/25 £'000	25/26 £'000		
L4	Marketing, Design and Communications	45	Review the frequency of production of Inside Halton, as part of the wider consideration of the Council's communications strategy required for the Transformation Programme	15		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Budget adjusted inline with the savings in the ICT department
Total Legal Services Department				15	0		

Ref.	Service Area	Net Budget £'000	Description of Saving Proposal	Savings Value		Current Progress	Comments
				24/25 £'000	25/26 £'000		
C1	Ditton and Warrington Road Daycare Centres	52	Closure of Ditton and Warrington Road daycare centres, given the significant on-going net losses at both centres. Sufficient alternative provision exists nearby, as well as in the adjoining nursery schools.	26	0		Early Years has now closed and budget for 24/25 has been removed
C2	Children's Centres	1,293	Review the operation of Windmill Hill Children's Centre, where there is the potential to save on premises and staffing costs.	0	22		This is subject to further review as external factors are changing the original review parameters. Potential alternative funding also to be reviewed.
C3	Children with Disabilities and Inglefield	858	Explore the potential for selling Inglefield and then purchase two bungalows within the community to provide a more appropriate setting.	112	0		Amount was removed at budget setting as will not be achieved
Total Children & Families Department				138	22		

Education, Inclusion and Provision Department

Ref	Service Area	Net Budget £'000	Description of Saving Proposal	Savings Value		Current Progress	Comments
				24/25 £'000	25/26 £'000		
EIP1	Education Psychology Service	339	There is excess demand from schools for the Education Psychology Service. The service is valued and there is opportunity to expand our offer and generate additional income.	52	0		
EIP2	SEN Assessment Team	82	Consideration will be given to funding the full service costs from the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant.	80	0		DSG funding removed as does not comply with grant conditions.
EIP5	Commissioning	148	Review with Health colleagues how the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service for Children in Care, Care Leavers and Carers could instead be provided by Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) as they	148	0		To be reviewed.

			are commissioned by the Integrated Care Board.				
Total Education, Inclusion and Provision Department				280	0		

Community and Greenspaces Department


Ref.	Service Area	Net Budget £'000	Description of Saving Proposal	Savings Value		Current Progress	Comments
				24/25 £'000	25/26 £'000		
COMM3	Sport & Recreation	471	Restructuring the roles and responsibilities of the Sports Development Team	36	0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Restructure is currently underway
COMM5	Stadium & Catering Services – School Meals	12	Cease to deliver the school meals service, which has made significant losses of over £200,000 for a number of years and is forecast to make a similar loss by year-end. Work would be undertaken with schools over the next two years to support them to secure an alternative means of delivery, whether in-house or via an external provider.	0	12	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The cessation of the service is underway with the majority of schools ending their contracts by the end of the calendar year.

Total Community & Greenspace Department	36	12		
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Economy, Enterprise and Property Department

Ref.	Service Area	Net Budget £'000	Description of Saving Proposal	Savings Value		Current Progress	Comments
				24/25 £'000	25/26 £'000		
EEP4	Cleaning Services – Council Buildings	580	Review cleaning arrangements, with a focus on only emptying bins and cleaning toilets daily.	100	0	U	A review of the cleaning service is underway with some positions removed from the structure. The full savings will not be achieved until the accommodation review is complete.
EEP2	Caretaking & Security Services	641	A review and restructuring of caretaking arrangements.	52	0	U	The restructure can now take place following the retirement of a member of staff. The full saving will not be made until financial year 25/26
Total Economy, Enterprise & Property Department				152	0		

Policy, Planning and Transportation Department

Ref.	Service Area	Net Budget £'000	Description of Saving Proposal	Savings Value		Current Progress	Comments
				24/25 £'000	25/26 £'000		
PPT6	Traffic	N/A	Consider introducing civil traffic enforcement for traffic violations. Employ private sector civil enforcement officers to issue fines and generate income. It would take 12 months to apply for powers from the DFT and put the scheme in place. The Environment & Urban Renewal Policy & Performance Board will consider this via a Topic Group.	150	0		Not currently viable, therefore no income will be generated in the current year as the traffic enforcement will not be carried out.
Total Policy, Planning & Transportation Department				150	0		

Symbol

Objective



Indicates that the objective is on course to be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.



Indicates that it is uncertain or too early to say at this stage whether the milestone/objective will be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.



Indicates that it is highly likely or certain that the objective will not be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.

2024/25 Budget Risk Register as at 30 November 2024

Appendix 5

Risk No	Risk Identified	Impact	Likelihood	Risk Score	Risk Control Measures	Assessment of Residual Risk with Control Measures Implemented			Responsible Person	Timescale for Review	Progress Comments	Date Updated
						Impact	Likelihood	Risk Score				
1	<p>Pay costs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay award • Staff Turnover Saving Target • Agency, casuals and overtime • National Living Wage • Pension Costs 	4	4	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget based upon individual staff members/vacancies • Budget monitoring • Contingency • Balances • Medium Term Forecast • Engage with Cheshire Pension Scheme and pension actuary • Recruitment and retention scheme children social care workers. • Social Care Academy for children social care workers • Connect to Halton 	3	3	9	ED/SB/Executive Directors	Monthly	<p>2024/25 pay offer accepted and implemented November 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •£1290 on all pay points from 1st April •Equivalent to 5.77% on point 2 and 2.5% on point 43 •2.5% on all pay points above 43 and below chief officer level <p>Estimated 4% 2024.25 budget uplift will cover cost of pay award.</p> <p>Connect to Halton scheme went live September 2024, agency and casual appointments to be covered by</p>	30/11/24

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											the scheme.	
2	Redundancy and Early Retirements	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits Tracking Process • Future savings to take into account cost of redundancy and early retirements. • Seek Government approval to use capital receipts to fund transformation costs. • Transformation Reserve 	2	3	6	ED/SB	Quarterly	Tracker created to monitor redundancy costs in current year. Transformation reserve created to cover costs but limited reserves will impact use of this. Look to capitalise compulsory costs where possible where evidence exists it creates in a longer term saving.	30/11/24
3	Savings not achieved	4	3	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget monitoring • Contingency • Reserves / Provisions • Rigorous process in 	4	2	8	RR/ED/SB	Monthly	Savings for 2024/25 have been written into Directorate budgets. Budget savings monitored closely and if necessary	30/11/24

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					<p>approving savings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of savings at departmental and directorate level Monthly budget monitoring Medium Term Financial Forecast 2023/24 to 2025/26 savings agreed February 2023. RAG monitoring of savings included in quarterly monitoring reports. Transformation saving targets reported monthly through Transformation Programme Board. 						offsetting savings sought. Transformation Programme Board meeting on monthly basis to discuss progress against programme.	

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4	Price inflation	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prudent budget provision Latest forecast information used eg. utilities Budget monitoring Contingency Balances CPI/RPI monitoring MTFS 	3	3	9	ED/SB	Monthly	CPI for November 2024 is 2.6% and RPI is 3.6%. Office of Budget Responsibility (OBR) forecast inflation to hit 3.5% in 2025 and 3.1% through to 2027. Rates are higher than forecast in September 2024 and remain above Governments 2% target.	30/11/24
5	Review of LG Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business rates retention – 100% Pilot and Review Fair Funding Review National Public Spending Plans Social Care Green 	4	4	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MPs SIGOMA / LG Futures Liverpool City Region & Merseyside Treasurers Group Medium Term Financial Strategy Member of business 	3	3	9	ED/SB/NS/M W/MG	Weekly/ Monthly	Business rate retention pilot continues through to March 2026. New Government are committed to providing more certainty on LG Finances through multi year settlements.	30/11/24

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	Paper				<p>rate retention pilot region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dialogue with DCLG 						Provisional settlement announced 18 December 2024, funding is higher than within financial forecast but consideration still being undertaken on impact to Halton.	
6	Treasury Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borrowing • Investment 	2	3	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasury Management Strategy • Link Asset Services advice • Treasury Management planning and monitoring • Attendance at Networking and Benchmarking Groups • Officer Training 	1	3	3	ED/SB/MG	Daily / Quarterly	Investment rates continue to be high relative to last decade. BoE base rate at 4.75%, general thoughts are for this rate to be lowered towards the end of the financial year and further reductions beyond this. Impact of Exceptional Financial Support request to be assessed with regards to timing of future	30/11/24

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											borrowing.	
7	Demand led budgets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children in Care Out of borough fostering Community Care 	4	4	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget monitoring Contingency Balances Review service demand Directorate recovery groups Monthly budget monitoring 	4	4	16	ED/SB/NS/MW	Monthly	Children in care, numbers and costs continue to exceed budget. Numbers of children in care and with protection plans reviewed on a weekly basis. Community care costs and numbers on increase, reviewed on a regular basis. Investment in Children Services following OFSTED inspection to be monitored with	30/11/24

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											regard to control and reduction of future costs.	
8	Mersey Gateway Costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costs Toll Income Funding Accounting treatment 	4	2	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular monitoring with Crossing Board Capital reserve Government Grant Liquidity Fund 	2	1	2	ED/SB/MG	Quarterly	Arrangements in place to monitor spend and availability of liquidity fund.	30/11/24
9	Council Tax Collection	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council tax monitoring on monthly basis Review of Collection Rate Collection Fund Balance Provision for bad debts 	3	2	6	ED/PG/SB/PD/BH/MG	Monthly	Collection rate to 30 November 2024 was 71.43% which is marginally lower than the rate of 71.57% at the same point last year. It is uncertain at this point if collection for the year will	30/11/24

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review recovery procedures Benchmarking 						be at the same level as for 2023/24. To 30 November 2024 £1.811m was collected in relation to old year debt.	
10	Business Rates Retention Scheme	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and monitoring of latest business rates income to baseline and estimate for year. Prudent allowance for losses in collection Prudent provision set aside for losses from valuation appeals Regular monitoring of annual yield and baseline / budget position Benchmarking Groups Review recovery procedures 	3	1	3	ED/SB/LB/M G	Monthly	Collection rate to 30 November 2024 was 76.03% which is 2.39% higher than the rate at the same point last year. It is uncertain at this point if collection for the year will be at the same level as for 2023/24. To 30 November 2024 £1.694m was collected in relation to old year debt.	30/11/24

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11	Income recovery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uncertainty to economy following Brexit, cost of living and high inflation 	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate charging policy Budget monitoring Contingency Balances Income benchmarking 	3	2	6	ED/MM/SB	Monthly	Income shortfalls identified and cause of increased concern in certain areas are being closely monitored. Cost of living crisis adds to uncertainty over collection.	30/11/24
13	Capital Programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costs Funding Key Major Projects Clawback of Grant Availability and timing of capital receipts Cashflow Contractors 	4	3	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Management Regular monitoring Detailed financial analysis of new schemes to ensure they are affordable Targets monitored to minimise clawback of grant. Contractor due diligence Dialogue with 	3	2	6	Project Managers/ED /SB/LH	Quarterly	Capital receipts have been fully committed therefore new capital schemes need to bring own funding.	30/11/24

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					Government departments.							
14	Academy Schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact of transfer upon Council budget Loss of income to Council Services 	2	4	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early identification of school decisions DfE Regulations Prudent consideration of financial transactions to facilitate transfer Services continue to be offered to academies Transfer Protocol 	1	3	3	ED/SB/NS	Monthly	Consideration given in MTFS for loss of funding.	30/11/24
15	Reserves <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diminishing reserves, used to balance budget, fund overspend positions. 	3	4	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitored on a quarterly basis, reported to Management Team and Exec Board Benchmarking Financial Forecast Programme to replenish reserves. 	3	3	9	ED/SB	Quarterly	Monitored and reported on a regular basis. Council reserves at historic low levels. Reserves will need to be replenished within future budgets	30/11/24

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16	Budget Balancing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council has struggled to achieve a balanced budget position for a number of years. • Forecast for current year is an overspend position of £19m. • Reserves insufficient to balance current year budget. • Before transformation targets, there is a forecast budget gap of £68.5m through to 2028/29. 	4	4	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current year budgets monitored on a regular basis. • Forward forecasting through to March 2029 reported on a prudent basis. • Regular conversations with DHLUC re Council's financial position. • LGA to undertake a financial assurance review. • Transformation programme in place. 	4	4	16	ED/SB	Ongoing	Updated benchmarking to be reported to better inform Transformation Programme targets.	30/11/24