

FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT - PERIOD 1 2024/25**SECTION 1: SUMMARY****Revenue Budget**

- 1.1 This is the first Financial Monitoring Report of 2024/25, covering the period from April 2024 to May 2024. The report has been prepared excluding the financial implications of any other reports presented on the same agenda. There will be a further two Financial Monitoring Reports covering quarters 2 and 3, and a final outturn report covering the full-year financial performance for 2024/25.
- 1.2 At this early point in the year, there is a forecast service overspend of £2.624m against the updated net portfolio budget of £185.245m. One-off corporate underspends are forecast to offset the overspend by £0.383m, resulting in a forecast net budget overspend of £2.241m.
- 1.3 The overspend position as set out shows that further work is required by the Council to control its costs and manage national demand pressures, whilst also achieving agreed savings, in order to deliver a balanced outturn.
- 1.4 The figures are caveated by the following:
- Due to the timing of the Cabinet meeting, the report is based on a 2-month period (April to May) and not the full quarter to June 2024
 - The new financial system (Unit4 ERP) was implemented from 1 April 2024, and staff have been closing the 2023/24 accounts on the old system whilst familiarising themselves with the new system. Knowledge of the new system will increase as we move through the year, and this will bring more robust financial management
 - The figures assume that savings plans will continue to be developed and brought forward in line with decisions taken by Council in March 2024.
- 1.5 The forecast position is summarised in the table below.

Portfolio	Forecast Variance at P1 £000
Transport and Environment	+1,481
Integrated Health and Social Care	+500
Children and Young People	+643
Net Portfolio Position	+2,624
Corporate Budgets	(383)
Net Forecast Position 2024/25	+2,241

- 1.6 The main pressure is within Transport and Environment, with a forecast overspend of £1.481m primarily the result of cost pressures within the School Meals service and the unsuccessful retendering of the Recycling contract. Work is ongoing to address these pressures, including proposed increases in school meals charges for the new academic year and plans to renegotiate the Recycling contract.

- 1.7 There is a forecast pressure of £0.643m in Children and Young People, with placement costs associated with caring for children looked after and frontline social care agency staffing pressures the main drivers of this.
- 1.8 The other main pressure is within Integrated Health and Care (£0.500m), reflecting ongoing demand pressures and the complexity of service users' needs. The most significant pressures are within Physical Support (Frail & Elderly) and Mental Health Support.
- 1.9 The environment in which the Council is operating continues to be uncertain, and financial modelling to quantify the impact of external events on Council budgets is ongoing. Some of the main pressures which the Council is facing in 2024/25 are examined below.

General Inflation

- 1.10 Inflation has had an enormous impact on the revenue budget in recent years. In October 2022, the rate of inflation reached a 40-year high of 11.1%, driven by a combination of demand for consumer goods, labour market shortages, the war in Ukraine and rising energy prices.
- 1.11 The Bank of England measures the current rate of inflation at 2%: its target rate. Whilst inflation has decreased and is forecast to continue to decrease in 2024/25, the impact of legacy price increases continues to be felt. A lower rate of inflation does not mean that prices are falling, rather that they are rising less rapidly.
- 1.12 In a recent white paper, the Local Government Association warns that councils face a collective funding gap of £6.2 billion in the next two years alone, driven by rising costs and demand pressures. Children's services, adult social care and homelessness support are identified as particular pressure points.
- 1.13 The white paper coincided with analysis from the Institute for Fiscal Studies, which found that core funding to English councils from central government is now 18% lower per resident than in 2010. Over the same period, social care spend in particular has risen nationally by 17% per person.
- 1.14 Inflationary pressures are particularly difficult to manage because the Council has limited ability to passport them on to local residents and businesses, who are themselves under unprecedented pressure. The Council recognises the social responsibility it has to its residents.
- 1.15 The 2024/25 revenue budget approved by Council on 6 March 2024 provided for general price inflation at 4%, with separate analysis informing different percentage increases for specific areas of expenditure. Given that CPI inflation is currently at 2% and is forecast to decrease even further, it is possible that this will generate underspends in certain areas. The position will continue to be monitored and reported on in future Financial Monitoring Reports.

Pay Inflation

- 1.16 The pay award for 2024/25 has still to be settled. The 2024/25 budget included provision for pay inflation of 4%. This assumption was based on inflation forecasts at the time the budget was set and the Government's own statements on restraint of public sector pay. In May 2024, the National Employers made an offer of a flat £1,290 increase to pay points 2 to 43 inclusive and a 2.5% increase to all other pay points, equating to an average increase of 3.29%. The financial impact of this offer would be greater than 3.29% given the profile of the Council's workforce. Union members are currently being consulted on this offer, and it

remains uncertain as to what the final pay settlement will be. Given this uncertainty, no variances relating to the pay award have been included within this report.

Energy

- 1.17 Rising energy prices have also had a severe impact upon the revenue budget in recent years, with prices reaching volatile record highs in 2022/23 and 2023/24. Wholesale prices have since fallen significantly, but they remain sensitive to a number of complex geopolitical factors.
- 1.18 Recent bills and forecasts provided by the Council's energy broker, YPO, suggest that billed gas and electricity prices will be broadly in line with those budgeted for in 2024/25. At this early point in the year, it is therefore not envisaged that energy costs will generate either a significant pressure or underspend in 2024/25.

Capital and Borrowing

- 1.19 As with the revenue budget, the legacy impact of price increases, caused by the effect of inflation on material costs and pay growth, continues to be felt in the capital programme.
- 1.20 Borrowing rates have also remained high. Whilst movements have not impacted the Council's current borrowing portfolio, which is wholly composed of fixed-rate agreements, inflated rates will mean that servicing of future debt requirements becomes more expensive, as the Council needs to undertake borrowing to finance the approved capital programme.
- 1.21 In light of the increased cost of borrowing and the Council's challenging financial position, the Council has deferred any additional capital investment funded by borrowing beyond the already approved programme.

Savings

- 1.22 The 2024/25 budget was approved by Council on 6 March 2024. In doing so, Members agreed to the delivery of £6.463m of savings during the year. This is in addition to £2.912m of savings previously approved for 2024/25, along with £3.602m of savings slipped from previous years. Section 3 of this report provides a summary of the latest position in relation to the progress towards delivering these savings, and portfolio commentaries provide additional information.
- 1.23 At this stage, it is forecast that savings of £3.712m (28.60%) may not be fully delivered in the year due to delays in implementation or them no longer being achievable. With identified one-off mitigations of £1.889m, the total forecast financial saving is currently £1.823m less than required. It is critical that action plans continue to be addressed and implemented to ensure that savings are delivered or alternative permanent reductions in expenditure are found.
- 1.24 It should also be noted that a number of savings that are currently classed as on track to be delivered have not yet been implemented, with decisions to be approved at a future date.

Financial Outlook

- 1.25 The Medium-Term Financial Strategy was approved by Council on 6 March 2024, and was underpinned by a number of key assumptions relating to funding and spending. Throughout 2024/25, the assumptions within the MTFS for the period 2024-2027 will be regularly reviewed, with reports being brought to Cabinet for consideration as necessary, including detailed analysis of inflationary, demand and other pressures.

- 1.26 The current financial environment within which the Council operates presents severe challenges. The Council has never faced a more challenging funding position, after more than a decade of austerity and government cuts. Given the current economic environment and the crisis engulfing both adults' and children's social care amid continually increasing demand, it is clear that 2024/25 will be another financially difficult year. These pressures will continue to require robust financial management.
- 1.27 The Government has acknowledged some of the pressures that councils face and provided limited assistance for 2024/25 as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement. However, the lack of clarity about how and when the mechanics of local-government funding might change has left authorities facing significant uncertainty. The 2024 General Election does offer the potential for change to local-government funding but also generates further uncertainty and risk.

Capital Budget

- 1.28 The capital programme covers a three-year period through to 2026/27. The capital budget has been updated to reflect the outturn position for 2023/24 (subject to audit), as reported to Cabinet on the same agenda as this report.
- 1.29 As part of setting the 2024/25 budget, the Council approved the deferral of the capital pipeline in order to achieve savings on the revenue capital financing budget. A £10m fund of capital receipts was reallocated to enable essential capital works to be undertaken over the coming three years. Work is ongoing to prioritise schemes for the use of this fund. However, Cabinet is requested to approve three schemes to be funded or part-funded from this fund:
- (i) St Helens Cemetery and Crematorium Flood Alleviation Scheme
 - (ii) Demolition of the former Penkford School
 - (iii) Bold Forest Garden Masterplan
- 1.30 The key revisions to the capital programme this period include:
- (i) Addition of approved Leisure Services schemes, including energy efficiency and pitch improvements at Newton-le-Willows Health & Fitness and changing room facilities at Ruskin Sports Village
 - (ii) Additional grant funding and programme allocations for highways and school schemes
 - (iii) Enabling works for the St Helens Town Multi-Modal Transport Interchange
 - (iv) Millersdale Staying Put project

Further details are included in Section 4 and Annex F to this report.

- 1.31 Cabinet is also requested to approve the acceptance of £9m Freeport Seed Investment Funds towards the cost of the Parkside Link Road in the existing capital programme. Further detail is provided at paragraph 7.1.1.

Reserves and Balances

- 1.32 Section 5 of this report provides detail on the Council's reserves and balances. As part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2024-2027, Members approved the Council's current Reserves Strategy, which is focused on supporting performance, transformation, regeneration and growth, as well as ensuring financial sustainability and resilience to changes in funding, inflationary pressures and other unexpected events.

- 1.33 Based on the projected overspend outlined in Table 1, the level of general fund balances at 31 March 2025 is forecast to be £9.759m. This is in contrast to the approved Reserves Strategy, which identifies the Council's required level of general balances as being £12m. Should the projected overspend for 2024/25 not be mitigated, use of earmarked reserves will again be necessary in 2024/25 to replenish general balances. Such use of reserves (general or earmarked) to address recurrent pressures is not sustainable.

Treasury Management

- 1.34 This report provides details of the Treasury Management position at the end of the current period. No new borrowing has been taken out since the start of the financial year. Annex G provides further details.

SECTION 2: REVENUE BUDGET

- 2.1 The budget and forecast outturn positions for 2024/25 are summarised in Table 1. At the end of Period 1 there is a projected portfolio budget pressure of £2.624m.
- 2.2 The figures detailed in Table 1 exclude any implications of the 2024/25 pay award, which, as discussed at paragraph 1.15, is yet to be settled.

Table 1 – Revenue Budget 2024/25	Current Budget (a) £000	Forecast outturn at P1 (b) £000	Variance at P1 + / - (b)-(a) £000	Section Reference Annex C
Transport and Environment	23,446	24,927	+1,481	(i)
Finance and Governance	7,532	7,532	0	(ii)
People, Performance and IT	0	0	0	(ii)
Inclusive Growth and Regeneration	4,251	4,251	0	(iii)
Integrated Health and Social Care	67,926	68,426	+500	(iv)
Public Health	282	282	0	(v)
Business, Culture and Leisure	4,816	4,816	0	(vi)
Children and Young People	67,769	68,412	+643	(vii)
Supporting Neighbourhoods	9,223	9,223	0	(viii)
Net Portfolio Budgets	185,245	187,869	+2,624	
Levies & Precepts	24,232	24,232	0	
Treasury Management	9,609	9,497	(112)	
Restructuring Costs*	1,000	1,000	0	
Transfers to / (from) Earmarked Reserves	(2,744)	(2,744)	0	
Capital Charges	(17,357)	(17,357)	0	
Net Corporate Items	14,740	14,628	(112)	
Council Tax	(96,197)	(96,197)	0	
Collection Fund**	(388)	(659)	(271)	
Formula Top-Up	(19,419)	(19,419)	0	
Business Rates / Section 31 Grant	(77,657)	(77,657)	0	
2024/25 Services Grant	(323)	(323)	0	
Other Funding	(6,001)	(6,001)	0	
Funding	(199,985)	(200,256)	(271)	
NET POSITION 2024/25	0	2,241	+2,241	

* Net of £1.000m sum applied via Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy.

** Collection Fund figure includes the prior-year net surplus on Council Tax and Business Rates plus a reimbursement to earmarked reserves relating to shortfalls in Section 31 Grants received in prior years.

- 2.3 The original approved budget has been revised to include adjustments arising from the outturn position (subject to audit) for 2023/24 as reported within the Revenue and Capital Outturn Report 2023-2024, included on the same agenda as this report. The revision to the original budget includes:

- (i) Acceleration of £0.054m of earmarked reserve-funded schemes from 2024/25 into 2023/24

- (ii) Carry-forward of earmarked reserve-funded schemes of £1.344m into 2024/25 from prior years
- (iii) Carry-forward of unconditional grants (£0.352m) and previously approved budget provision (£0.136m) from 2023/24
- (iv) Approved use of earmarked reserves in the period
- (v) Neutral technical adjustments between portfolios (e.g. recharges)

- 2.4 There is a forecast underspend within the corporate budgets of £0.112m relating to the Minimum Revenue Provision, as a consequence of changes to the profile and financing of the Council's capital programme.
- 2.5 There is also an underspend of £0.271m as a result of a favourable variance on Section 31 grants received in 2023/24. This will materialise in 2024/25 due to the prescribed statutory mechanics of the Collection Fund.
- 2.6 Details of portfolio budget movements can be found in Annex A. This report also provides details of the forecast outturn position on a priority basis at Annex B.
- 2.7 Commentary in relation to the key portfolio variations is detailed in Annex C.

SECTION 3: IMPLEMENTATION OF 2024/25 SAVINGS PROPOSALS AND OUTSTANDING SAVING PROPOSALS FROM PRIOR YEARS

- 3.1 The budget for 2024/25 was set against a backdrop of significant demand and inflationary pressures, with significant savings that must be delivered during the year to protect the Council's financial position. It is imperative that approved savings are delivered in a timely manner.
- 3.2 Savings for the financial year 2024/25 have been reported in three categories:
- Savings slipped from previous financial years
 - 2024/25 savings approved when setting previous years' budgets
 - 2024/25 savings approved in setting the latest Medium-Term Financial Strategy.
- 3.3 As Table 2 shows, of the required savings total of £12.977m, it is currently forecast that 71.40% of these savings will be achieved in year.

Table 2 - Budget Savings 2024/25	Total Saving Requirement 2024/25 £000	Savings on track to be delivered £000 (a)	Slippage on delivery in year £000 (b)	Saving Not Achievable £000 (c)	Mitigation 2024/25 £000 (d)
Corporate Services	839	822	-	17	17
Integrated Health and Care	3,114	2,805	309	-	-
Children's Services	3,873	2,359	1,514	-	-
Public Health	427	173	254	-	254
Place Services	1,779	161	1,618	-	1,618
Council-Wide	2,945	2,945	-	-	-
Total	12,977	9,265	3,695	17	1,889
%	100%	71.40%	28.47%	0.13%	
Total forecast financial saving 2024/25 (a)+(d)	11,154				

- 3.4 The value of savings that are on track to be delivered is £9.265m.
- 3.5 Of the £3.712m of savings that have not yet been achieved, temporary mitigations of £1.889m have been identified for 2024/25 only. Allowing for these mitigations, the total forecast financial saving still required is £1.823m. Further work is needed to bring these savings forward in order to minimise the impact on outturn.
- 3.6 The only saving that is not considered achievable is in Corporate Services (CORP18 Freeze in Members' Allowances – £0.017m), with Council having approved an increase in Members' allowances for 2024/25 on 17 January 2024 in view of an Independent Remuneration Panel review of the Council's allowances rates. Procurement efficiencies are generating and will continue to generate savings on supplies and services budgets which will offset the unachieved saving in full. **It is therefore recommended that approval be granted to formalise this mitigation and make the required £0.017m saving via a permanent reduction to supplies and services budgets.**
- 3.7 Integrated Health and Care has an ambitious savings requirement in 2024/25 of £3.114m, and a savings task group involving key service leads meets monthly to progress and

monitor delivery of these savings. This process has identified a number of multi-year savings which will be achieved earlier than planned, and others where there is currently slippage on delivery. **Cabinet is therefore recommended to approve the following reprofiling of these savings over the period 2024-2027.**

Budget Saving	Year	Original £000	Reprofile £000	Proposed £000
Day Support (IH&SC06)	2024/25	100	46	146
	2025/26	100	(46)	54
	2026/27	0	0	0
Total IH&SC06		200	0	200
Review of Quality Monitoring Service (IHC03)	2024/25	0	45	45
	2025/26	0	0	0
	2026/27	410	(45)	365
Total IHC03		410	0	410
Review of Intermediate Care Service at Brookfield Support Centre (IHC01)	2024/25	485	(91)	394
	2025/26	485	46	531
	2026/27	0	45	45
Total IHC01		970	0	970

- 3.8 The non-achievement of savings presents a severe risk for both current and future financial years. It is imperative that action continues to be taken to alleviate these risks, either by delivering the approved savings in full or by identifying alternatives to offset savings that have slipped or can no longer be delivered. These actions will continue to be monitored and challenged through the Budget and Performance Monitoring Board, which has been established to monitor implementation of savings throughout 2024/25 and ensure that directorates are accountable for the delivery of approved savings.

SECTION 4: CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25 to 2026/27

- 4.1 The capital budget has been updated to reflect the outturn position for 2023/24 (subject to audit), as reported to Cabinet in the Revenue and Capital Outturn Report 2023-2024 included on the same agenda as this report.
- 4.2 In addition, other key revisions to the programme this period relate to:
- (i) The addition of £0.456m for energy efficiency works at Newton-le-Willows Health & Fitness, funded by a government grant from the Swimming Pool Support Fund, as detailed in Delegated Executive Decision 0095 2023/24
 - (ii) The addition of £0.400m to bring Ruskin Sports Village Changing Rooms back into use, as agreed via Delegated Executive Decision 0082 2023/24
 - (iii) The addition of a scheme to upgrade the pitch and floodlighting at Newton-le-Willows Health & Fitness, as approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 13 March 2024 following confirmation of grant funding from the Football Foundation, as detailed in Operational Decision ENVP003361
 - (iv) The allocation of school condition funding to specific schemes as agreed via Delegated Executive Decision 0105 2023/24 and increased Higher Needs Provision Capital grant
 - (v) The addition of Network North Allocations to reflect the Council's share of additional funding awarded to the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority for maintenance and improvement of the highways network
 - (vi) The allocation of the 2024/25 City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement to the areas of the programme, with the same split as those approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 26 April 2023 for the 2023/24 programme
 - (vii) The addition of enabling works for the St Helens Multi-Modal Interchange in advance of the formal approval from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority to maintain programme delivery, as approved by Cabinet on 19 June 2024
 - (viii) The addition of capital expenditure in relation to the Millersdale Staying Put Project. This project includes a capital contribution of £0.440m to Torus for the regeneration of a property into bespoke care leaver flats and the undertaking of a lease for the property.
- 4.3 Under IFRS 16, the Council is now required to account for the acquisition of a 'right to use' asset through the capital programme when undertaking a new lease or lease extension. In addition to the lease for the Millersdale property, the capital programme has been updated to reflect decisions to grant or extend leases in 2023/24 which were not signed as at 31 March 2024. Further details are included in Annex F.
- 4.4 The capital financing has been updated to reflect additional grant funding from the Freeport Seed Investment Fund for the Parkside Link Road, as detailed in section 7.1, reducing the value of the Council underwrite required for this scheme.
- 4.5 In setting the 2024/25 budget, the Council approved the deferral of the capital pipeline to achieve savings on the revenue impact of financing capital schemes through borrowing. In order to mitigate the impact of the deferral, £10m of capital receipts were set aside to fund schemes over the next three years which meet specific criteria, focussed on essential

maintenance, health and safety works, and leveraging match funding for key strategic schemes. Schemes in the capital pipeline are being reviewed, refreshed and prioritised for use of the funding. There are three schemes brought forward to Cabinet as part of this report for approval and addition to the capital programme where the nature of the works and/or funding agreements require a decision at this time:

(i) St Helens Cemetery and Crematorium Flood Alleviation Scheme

An allocation of £335k to develop and construct a scheme to reduce the risks of flooding at the Crematorium and its adjacent properties. The Council has been successful in securing a funding allocation of £145k from the Environment Agency for this scheme, with the balance of £190k to be funded from capital receipts.

(ii) Demolition of the former Penkford School

An allocation of £115k for the demolition of the former Penkford School, which is required as soon as permitted for health and safety reasons. This scheme would be fully funded by capital receipts.

(iii) Bold Forest Garden Village Masterplan

This scheme would develop a Masterplan Framework and Delivery Plan Supplementary Planning Document for the Bold Forest Garden Village. An allocation of £480k is necessary for the development of the Masterplan and it is anticipated that the cost will be shared with other major landowners, with the mechanism for landowner involvement to be brought forward for delegated approval following consultation.

4.6 Table 3 presents a summary of the Council's current 3-year capital programme. The detailed programme is provided at Annex F.

Table 3 - Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2026/27	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000
Children & Young People	19,461	1,300	1,858
Integrated Health & Social Care	350	0	0
Supporting Neighbourhoods	6,230	3,478	3,148
Business, Culture & Leisure	3,692	0	0
Finance & Governance	276	0	0
People, Performance & ICT	1,243	0	0
Transport & Environment	40,500	8,345	8,358
Inclusive Growth & Regeneration	80,425	39,323	23,424
Total	152,177	52,446	36,788
FINANCED BY			
Grants and Other Contributions	94,967	17,508	12,664
Capital Receipts	1,387	350	20
Revenue Contribution	1,099	24	0
Borrowing	54,724	34,564	24,104
Total	152,177	52,446	36,788

SECTION 5: RESERVES AND BALANCES

5.1 General Balances

The general balances position at 31 March 2025 is forecast to be as follows, having regard to the net current forecast outturn position detailed in Table 1.

Table 4 – General Balances	Original Estimate £000	Forecast Outturn £000
General Balances at 1 April 2024	12,000	12,000
Net Position 2024/25	-	(2,241)
General Balances at 31 March 2025	12,000	9,759

- 5.1.1 The Council recognises that the level of reserves it maintains must have regard to its future priorities and the operational and financial risks it faces. The Council's current Reserves Strategy is included within the Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2024-2027 and Revenue and Capital Budget 2024/25 report considered by Cabinet on 28 February 2024 and approved by Council on 6 March 2024.
- 5.1.2 The forecast unfavourable movement in 2024/25 is due entirely to the forecast overspend of £2.241m detailed at Section 2.
- 5.1.3 The Council's required level of general balances is identified as being £12m. This is considered a prudent amount set aside to cushion against uncertainty and act as an emergency fund in exceptional circumstances. As outlined at paragraph 1.33, this figure will decrease to £9.759m if the forecast overspend is not reduced. This presents a risk to the Council's financial resilience and is not sustainable.

5.2 Earmarked Balances

The forecast position in relation to earmarked balances at 31 March 2025 is provided in Table 5. Annex D details approved use of earmarked balances during the period and Annex E provides details of earmarked balances to 2026/27.

Table 5 – Earmarked Balances	£000
Earmarked Balances at 1 April 2024	44,395
Transfer to / (from) during the year	(4,535)
Forecast Earmarked Balances at 31 March 2025	39,860

5.3 Schools Balances

The projected position reflects schools' current spending plans for the financial year, as approved by the individual governing bodies.

Table 6 – School Balances	£000
School Balances at 1 April 2024	10,015
Forecast Net Position 2024/25	(1,015)
Forecast School Balances at 31 March 2025	9,000

5.4 **Usable Capital Receipts**

Table 7 – Usable Capital Receipts	£000
Capital receipts brought forward at 1 April 2024	19,012
Receipts generated in year to date from land, property and fleet sales	-
Receipts set aside to resource the transformation programme where the use of flexibilities can be applied	(1,000)
Receipts from the repayment of Council grants and loans ringfenced for future years' Housing programme	(114)
Repurposed for capital investment per approved MTFS – unapplied	(9,215)
Repurposed for capital investment per approved MTFS – applied to schemes in this report	(785)
Required to fund capital programme 2024/25 to 2026/27	(972)
Available Balance (after taking commitments into account)	6,926

SECTION 6: DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT

6.1 The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2024/25 allocation is summarised below.

Table 8 – Dedicated Schools Grant allocation 2024/25	£000
Schools Block	86,862
High Needs Block	3,217
Early Years Block	21,288
Central School Services Block	1,262
Total DSG received by the Authority	142,629
<u>Other DSG funding / adjustments</u>	
Academy Schools	57,623
Business Rates	1,302
Directly funded SEND places	1,396
Total DSG for St Helens	202,950

- 6.2 The allocations relating to the schools and early years blocks are predominately distributed to schools and early years settings via formulae, whilst the central schools services block helps to support the delivery of statutory/regulatory duties and other centrally provided services.
- 6.3 The Council determines use of the high needs block, and it is this area that presents the most financial challenges. There are significant pressures associated with costs to support children remaining in mainstream settings and the cost of out-of-borough provision in independent special schools. In relation to the latter, it can be the case that the Council is left with no alternative to this if the placement has been specifically directed following a tribunal judgement.
- 6.4 In response, the Council continues to expand capacity within its own special schools and resource bases. Places in these settings are usually at a significantly lower cost than out-of-borough alternatives.
- 6.5 An increasing number of local authorities are experiencing significant DSG pressures due to the rising demand associated with pupils with additional educational needs. Locally, it is expected that such costs will continue to rise, resulting in increased pressures on the DSG and potentially leading to an in-year deficit. The position will continue to be monitored and a forecast provided at P2.

SECTION 7: OTHER FINANCIAL MONITORING MATTERS

7.1 External Grant Funding

7.1.1 Freeport Seed Investment Fund

The Council has been awarded £9m of Freeport Seed Investment Funding via the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority towards the construction of the Parkside Link Road. This will reduce the amount of Council borrowing underwrite required to finance the remainder of the scheme. **Cabinet is recommended to approve acceptance of the funding and agree a change request to the existing grant funding agreement with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority to reflect the additional funding.**

7.1.2 Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant

The Office for Health Improvement & Disparities has announced additional funding over the next five years to build demand for stop-smoking services and deliver increases in the number of people quitting smoking. The Council has been awarded £0.207m for 2024/25.

7.1.3 Adult Skills Funding

The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority has confirmed Adult Skills grant allocations for the 2024/25 academic year, with the Council having been awarded £0.682m.

7.1.4 Healthy Homes Research Pilot Funding

The Department for Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities has awarded the Council £0.130m for 2024/25 to participate in research exploring the effectiveness of a range of interventions when enforcing damp and mould standards in the private rented housing sector. Operational Decision ENVP003309 provides further details.

7.1.5 Household Support Fund

In March 2024, the Government announced a six-month extension to the Household Support Fund. The aim of the funding is to help councils support households who would otherwise struggle to meet essential living costs. The Council has been awarded £1.780m for the period April to September 2024.

7.1.6 Long-Term Plan for Towns Funding

In March 2024, the Department for Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities announced that Newton-le-Willows has been chosen as one of 75 UK towns to benefit from 'endowment-style' funding worth up to £20m over the next ten years under its Long-Term Plan for Towns programme. Further detail is awaited and will be provided in future reports.

7.2 Term-Time-Only Staff Employment Tribunal Claims

7.2.1 In July 2022, the Supreme Court ruled that employees who only work for part of the year are entitled to the same amount of holiday pay as full-time workers. The Council has received a number of legal claims for historical back-payments of holiday pay as a consequence of this ruling.

7.2.2 The Council has now made a number of settlement offers in response to these claims. As part of the closure of the 2023/24 accounts, provision was set aside to cover these costs as and when they crystallise. It is therefore not envisaged that they will generate a budget pressure in 2024/25 or future years.

7.2.4 Further updates will be provided in future Financial Monitoring Reports.

7.3 Business Rates Write-Offs

The table below details Business Rates debts over £5,000, which have been pursued in accordance with the Council's Debt Recovery Policy but have been deemed irrecoverable for the reasons stated. **Cabinet is therefore recommended to agree the proposed write-off of the below 94 accounts with a total value of £1.969m.** Bad debt provision is in place to minimise the impact of these write-offs on the Council's Collection Fund.

Number of accounts	Reason for write-off	Value £000
11	Absconded	281
17	Gone into Administration/Liquidation	227
1	Sole Trader Deceased	5
61	Company Dissolved/Dormant	1,419
3	Unable to Pursue – No Assets to Take Control Of	20
1	Statute Barred	17
94	Total	1,969

SECTION 8: TREASURY MANAGEMENT POSITION STATEMENT

- 8.1 A summary of the Council's Treasury position at the end of the reporting period is included in Table 9. The Treasury Management Position Statement is included in Annex G.

Table 9 – Treasury Management Position	As at 1 April 2024	As at Current Period
Investments Outstanding	£107.7m	£138.9m
Investment Returns (average for the year to date)	-	5.405%
Benchmark Returns	-	5.225%
Borrowing	£132.5m	£132.5m

Budget Movements since the previous reporting period

Annex A

PORTFOLIO	Approved Budget	Carry Forward/ Acceleration of Earmarked Reserves	Carry Forward of Budget Provision/ RCCO	Release of Unconditional Grants/ICB Funding	Use of Reserves in Period	Technical & Accounting Adjustments	Current Budget
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	*1	*2	*3	*4	*5	*6	
Transport and Environment	22,982	428	36	-	-	-	23,446
Finance and Governance	7,340	-	-	-	113	79	7,532
People, Performance and IT	-	-	100	-	-	(100)	-
Inclusive Growth and Regeneration	4,202	3	-	-	25	21	4,251
Integrated Health and Social Care	67,882	(31)	-	75	-	-	67,926
Public Health	244	38	-	-	-	-	282
Business, Culture and Leisure	4,536	180	-	-	100	-	4,816
Children and Young People	67,769	-	-	-	-	-	67,769
Supporting Neighbourhoods	8,274	672	-	277	-	-	9,223
TOTAL DIRECTORATE BUDGETS	183,229	1,290	136	352	238	-	185,245
Council-Wide Budgets	(183,229)	(1,290)	(136)	(352)	(238)	-	185,245
Net Position 2024/25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

*1 Approved budget – Council, 6 March 2024

*2 Approved earmarked reserve carry-forward from 2023/24 into 2024/25 and acceleration of earmarked reserves from 2024/25 into 2023/24 (see Section 2.3)

*3 Approved budget carry-forward from 2023/24 for revenue and capital commitments continuing into 2024/25 (see Section 2.3)

*4 Approved earmarking of unconditional grants/ICB funding for commitments in 2024/25 (see Section 2.3)

*5 Use of earmarked reserves during the period (see Annex D)

*6 Neutral technical and accounting adjustments (e.g. recharges)

Portfolio Budgets on a Priority Basis

	Current Net Budget 2024/25 £000	Forecast Outturn 2024/25 £000	Variance 2024/25 £000
Priority 1 – Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	67,769	68,412	+643
Priority 2 – Promote good health, independence, and care across our communities	68,208	68,708	+500
Priority 3 – Create safe and strong communities and neighbourhoods for all	9,480	9,480	0
Priority 4 – Support a strong, thriving, inclusive and well-connected local economy	5,181	5,181	0
Priority 5 – Create green vibrant places that reflect our heritage and culture	27,914	29,645	+1,731
Priority 6 – Be a modern, efficient and effective Council	6,693	6,443	(250)
Total	185,245	187,869	+2,624

Annex C**(i) Transport and Environment**

Transport and Environment	Current Expend. Budget 2024/25 £000 (a)	Current Income Budget 2024/25 £000 (b)	Current Net Budget 2024/25 £000 (c)=(a)+(b)	Forecast Outturn 2024/25 £000 (d)	Variance P1 2024/25 £000 (e)=(d)-(c)
Place Services Directorate					
Parking Services	1,275	(1,202)	73	73	0
Highways Maintenance	11,999	(2,587)	9,412	9,412	0
Street Lighting	2,272	(158)	2,114	2,114	0
Traffic Management & Road Safety	790	(287)	503	503	0
Transport Planning, Policy & Strategy	833	0	833	833	0
Parks & Open Spaces	2,825	(197)	2,628	2,628	0
Street Cleansing	2,164	(186)	1,978	1,978	0
Cemetery and Crematorium	1,994	(2,667)	(673)	(673)	0
Waste Collection	3,108	(694)	2,414	2,414	0
Recycling	7,087	(3,209)	3,878	5,415	+1,537
Climate Change	103	(25)	78	78	0
Direct Services	22,389	(22,272)	117	311	+194
Management & Support Services	1,691	(1,691)	0	(250)	(250)
Councillor Improvement Fund	91	0	91	91	0
Total	58,621	(35,175)	23,446	24,927	+1,481

- 1.1 The portfolio is currently projecting an overspend of £1.481m.
- 1.2 There is a forecast pressure of £1.515m in Recycling, where the unsuccessful retendering of the contract has resulted in increased gate fees and reduced income from recycled materials. The forecast overspend assumes that this situation will continue for the whole of 2024/25.
- 1.3 Within the secondary School Meals service, there is a forecast pressure of £0.300m where menu prices are struggling to keep pace with significant inflation experienced on employee pay and food costs. Work is ongoing to address this, including proposed increased in school meals charges, which have historically seen sub-inflationary increases.
- 1.4 There is a further £0.075m pressure relating to unachieved employee savings within the Security service, where a phase 3 restructure is to be completed.
- 1.5 These pressures are being mitigated by staff slippage within the Transport (£0.181m) and Directorate (£0.250m) budgets.

(ii) **Finance and Governance**

Finance and Governance	Current Expend. Budget 2024/25 £000 (a)	Current Income Budget 2024/25 £000 (b)	Current Net Budget 2024/25 £000 (c)=(a)+(b)	Forecast Outturn 2024/25 £000 (d)	Variance Q1 2024/25 £000 (e) =(d)-(c)
Corporate Services Directorate					
Local Tax Collection	1,713	0	1,713	1,713	0
Emergency Planning	124	0	124	124	0
Local Welfare Assistance Schemes	179	0	179	179	0
Grants & Donations	43	0	43	43	0
Non-Distributed Costs	1,251	(34)	1,217	1,217	0
Finance	10,546	(10,546)	0	0	0
Audit & Risk	1,340	(1,340)	0	0	0
Coroners Court Services	270	0	270	270	0
Registration of Births, Deaths & Marriages	320	(222)	98	98	0
Democratic Representation & Management	1,556	0	1,556	1,556	0
Elections	436	(53)	383	383	0
Legal Services	1,990	(1,990)	0	0	0
Housing Benefit Administration	43,821	(43,564)	257	257	0
Corporate Management	1,692	0	1,692	1,692	0
Other Services	129	(129)	0	0	0
Total	65,410	(57,878)	7,532	7,532	0

People, Performance and IT

People, Performance and IT	Current Expend. Budget 2024/25 £000 (a)	Current Income Budget 2024/25 £000 (b)	Current Net Budget 2024/25 £000 (c)=(a)+(b)	Forecast Outturn 2024/24 £000 (d)	Variance Q1 2024/25 £000 (e) =(d)-(c)
Corporate Services Directorate					
People Management	3,140	(3,140)	0	0	0
Governance & Administration	283	(283)	0	0	0
I.T.	8,996	(8,996)	0	0	0
Press and Public Affairs	1,399	(1,399)	0	0	0
Policy Development	2,310	(2,310)	0	0	0
Organisational Development	1,138	(1,138)	0	0	0
Total	17,266	(17,266)	0	0	0

- 2.1 The two Corporate Services portfolios have a combined staffing savings target of £1.260m over the next two years, with £0.630m of this relating to 2024/25. In response to this, significant staffing reductions have already been implemented through the Council's MARS programme. Based on historical trends, it is also anticipated that both portfolios will experience a degree of staff slippage in 2024/25, though the amount is currently uncertain pending confirmation of further staffing reductions agreed through MARS.
- 2.2 In 2023/24, there was a significant pressure in Housing Benefit Administration, and this is expected to continue for 2024/25, though it is currently too early to determine the exact pressure. The pressure has two main causes. First, high levels of

homelessness in the Borough have led to an increased use of hotel accommodation, for which the Council does not receive full cost subsidy. Second, providers are increasingly using high-cost supported accommodation for which the Council is only able to reclaim 60% of its costs. An update on this will be provided within the Period 2 Financial Monitoring Report.

- 2.3 The dividend receivable from Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation (YPO) has generated a recurring pressure in recent years, and efforts are ongoing to determine the position for 2024/25 through continued work with YPO.
- 2.4 All savings in the portfolios are on track to be achieved, including the staffing savings detailed at 2.1.

(iii) **Inclusive Growth and Regeneration**

Inclusive Growth and Regeneration	Current Expend. Budget 2024/25 £000 (a)	Current Income Budget 2024/25 £000 (b)	Current Net Budget 2024/25 £000 (c)=(a)+(b)	Forecast Outturn 2024/25 £000 (d)	Variance Q1 2024/25 £000 (e) =(d)-(c)
Place Services Directorate					
Economic Development	1,202	(1,072)	130	130	0
Building Control	788	(372)	416	416	0
Development Control	2,006	(1,064)	942	942	0
Planning Policy	799	(175)	624	624	0
Estates - Industrial & Commercial Premises (including Town Centre)	6,799	(5,882)	917	917	0
Market Undertakings	940	(365)	575	575	0
Growth Delivering Prosperity	752	(105)	647	647	0
Management & Support Services	1,604	(1,604)	0	0	0
Building Support Services	6,208	(6,208)	0	0	0
Estates Management	705	(705)	0	0	0
Total	21,803	(17,552)	4,251	4,251	0

(iv) **Integrated Health and Social Care**

Integrated Health and Social Care	Current Expend. Budget 2024/25 £000 (a)	Current Income Budget 2024/25 £000 (b)	Current Net Budget 2024/25 £000 (c)=(a)+(b)	Forecast Outturn 2024/25 £000 (d)	Variance Q1 2024/25 £000 (e) = (d)-(c)
People's Services Directorate					
Physical Support - Frail & Elderly	41,317	(25,866)	15,451	15,742	+291
Sensory Support	1,506	(300)	1,206	1,247	+41
Support with Memory & Cognition	17,493	(8,108)	9,385	9,457	+72
Learning Disability Support	41,415	(13,580)	27,835	27,848	+13
Mental Health Support	5,937	(1,071)	4,866	5,093	+227
Assistive Equipment & Technology	4,644	(3,340)	1,304	1,304	0
Care Management - Assessment & Review	12,808	(4,929)	7,879	7,829	(50)
Transport and Generic Services	1,676	(1,676)	0	0	0
Management, Commissioning & Support Services	5,290	(5,290)	0	(94)	(94)
Total	132,086	(64,160)	67,926	68,426	+500

- 4.1 It is recognised that adult social care is facing a challenging period, with a funding crisis across the sector. As part of the development of the 2024/25 budget and recognising the pressures that existed in 2023/24 from demand, inflation and the cost of supporting individuals with complex needs, £3.900m of additional funding was provided to the portfolio for 2024/25.
- 4.2 The Integrated Health and Social Care budget can be unpredictable as care needs fluctuate, and we are currently seeing an increased number of residents requiring dementia care. Therefore, it is difficult at this early stage in the year to project the longer-term budget position. At this stage, there is a projected overall overspend of circa £0.500m. This is in part due to the position on the pooled budget, where it is forecast that there will be a pressure to the Council of around £0.350m in 2024/25. There was significant growth on the pool in 2023/24, and the position this year will be closely monitored, with further updates provided in future Financial Monitoring Reports.
- 4.3 There are other potential risks to the portfolio budget arising from demand, both within the community and from hospital discharges. One approach to managing this is through the development of a Home First model, the first phase of which is due to commence on 1st July, whereby social care and healthcare providers work together to reduce the length of hospital stays and avoid more expensive and higher levels of support when individuals are discharged from hospital.
- 4.4 Other risks that may materialise during 2024/25 include:
- the cost of supporting young people transitioning from children's services
 - costs associated with supporting individuals with complex mental health conditions being released from long-stay hospitals
 - pressures relating to all-age continuing care reviews

- any change in the partner's share of the pooled budget

4.5 In addition, although provider fee levels have been set based on the available budget, there are risks in relation to out-of-borough and bespoke packages of care for complex individuals, where providers may request fee rates with higher inflationary uplifts than those budgeted, or request uplifts in line with host local authority rates, and these can vary considerably between authorities.

(v) **Public Health**

Public Health	Current Expend. Budget 2024/25 £000 (a)	Current Income Budget 2024/25 £000 (b)	Current Net Budget 2024/25 £000 (c)=(a)+(b)	Forecast Outturn 2024/25 £000 (d)	Variance Q1 2024/25 £000 (e) =(d)-(c)
People's Services Directorate					
Sexual Health	1,948	0	1,948	1,948	0
Primary Care	96	0	96	96	0
Public Health Advice	631	0	631	631	0
Obesity	1,035	0	1,035	1,035	0
Physical Activity	641	0	641	641	0
Substance Misuse	4,403	(1,838)	2,565	2,565	0
Stop Smoking Services and Interventions	617	(207)	410	410	0
Healthy Child Programme	4,357	0	4,357	4,357	0
Miscellaneous Public Health Services	1,109	(104)	1,005	1,005	0
Management & Support Services	2,075	(2,075)	0	0	0
Public Health Grant	0	(12,406)	(12,406)	(12,406)	0
Total	16,912	(16,630)	282	282	0

- 5.1 The Public Health Grant allocations for 2024/25 were published on 5 February 2024, with an allocation of £15.877m for St Helens, representing an increase of just over 2% from the 2023/24 allocation. Of this, £12.406m has been set aside to be spent on externally commissioned services. At this stage, the Public Health Grant is committed and is expected to be fully spent during the year.
- 5.2 The Public Health budget includes a saving of £0.254m against the Integrated Wellbeing service. In March 2024, the current service provider informed the Council that it could not safely deliver this saving due to financial pressures, and therefore did not wish to extend the contract beyond the initial five-year term which would end in June 2024. The two one-year extensions allowed for within the contract would not therefore be invoked. The Council had already reduced the contract value during 2023/24.
- 5.3 Following a series of negotiations with the provider, agreement has been reached to extend the contract until June 2025 to allow for a full retendering of the service during 2024/25. However, as part of this agreement, the core contract is to remain at the 2023/24 contract value, and therefore the proposed saving cannot be delivered this year. For 2024/25, it is proposed to mitigate the saving temporarily through the use of Public Health Grant monies carried forward at March 2024.

(vi) **Business, Culture and Leisure**

Business, Culture and Leisure	Current Expend. Budget 2024/25 £000 (a)	Current Income Budget 2024/25 £000 (b)	Current Net Budget 2024/25 £000 (c)=(a)+(b)	Forecast Outturn 2024/25 £000 (d)	Variance Q1 2024/25 £000 (e) =(d)-(c)
People's Services Directorate					
Adult Community Learning	718	(694)	24	24	0
Total People's Services	718	(694)	24	24	0
Place Services Directorate					
Arts Development and Support	353	(45)	308	308	0
Archiving	502	(347)	155	155	0
Sports Development	436	(349)	87	87	0
Indoor Sports & Recreation	4,856	(3,512)	1,344	1,344	0
Outdoor Sports & Recreation	500	(154)	346	346	0
Library Services	2,544	(159)	2,385	2,385	0
Tourism and Events	167	0	167	167	0
Total Culture and Heritage Services	9,358	(4,566)	4,792	4,792	0
Total	10,076	(5,260)	4,816	4,816	0

(vii) **Children and Young People**

Children and Young People	Current Expend. Budget 2024/25 £000 (a)	Current Income Budget 2024/25 £000 (b)	Current Net Budget 2024/25 £000 (c)=(a)+(b)	Forecast Outturn 2024/25 £000 (d)	Variance Q1 2024/25 £000 (e) =(d)-(c)
People's Services Directorate					
Schools					
Schools Delegated Budget	139,159	(139,159)	0	0	0
Schools Total	139,159	(139,159)	0	0	0
Non-Schools					
Alternative Provision	3,397	(3,341)	56	56	0
Child Protection	15,371	(699)	14,672	14,932	+260
Children Looked After	40,494	(9,029)	31,465	31,848	+383
Children's Centres and Early Help	3,856	(2,323)	1,533	1,533	0
CWD Services	2,556	(432)	2,124	2,124	0
Family Support Services	2,035	0	2,035	2,035	0
LA/Corporate Expenditure Attributable to Schools	13,640	(8,334)	5,306	5,306	0
Other Education Functions	20,962	(11,178)	9,784	9,784	0
Service Strategy - Education	656	(656)	0	0	0
Service Strategy - Social Care	776	(653)	123	123	0
Youth Justice Services	1,932	(1,261)	671	671	0
Alternative Provision	3,397	(3,341)	56	56	0
Non-Schools Total	105,675	(37,906)	67,769	68,412	+643

- 7.1 The costs associated with caring for children looked after and maintaining an adequate level of social worker capacity to manage caseloads effectively will continue to be the main financial challenges during 2024/25.
- 7.2 Nationally, there has been a lack of capacity within the residential care market that has had an upwards effect on prices as local authorities seek to secure available placements to accommodate their children looked after. Challenges are also evident with the recruitment and retention of foster carers. There are also pressures within the wider system, e.g., within child and adolescent mental health services and as a result of the care arrangements for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, that are having adverse financial consequences.
- 7.3 Placement costs in relation to children looked after can be volatile, with many influencing factors, particularly the needs and demographics of the service users and the complexity of support required. It is currently expected that there will be a budget pressure of £0.350m in relation to these costs in 2024/25.
- 7.4 Demand for experienced social worker professionals continues to be high across the whole sector. In addition, the earning opportunities of agency employment can be considerable, potentially contributing to an adverse level of staff turnover. It is anticipated that recruitment and retention of suitably experienced staff will continue to be challenging, and that this will generate a budget pressure in the region of £0.293m in 2024/25.
- 7.5 These experiences and financial challenges are prevalent within many local authorities. A recent report published by Health Equality North on behalf of the Child of the North All-Party Parliamentary Group echoed many of the themes experienced locally. The report also identified and highlighted disproportionately high rates of children in care in the North of England.
- 7.6 The report also explicitly highlighted the impact that poverty (which has been further exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis) has on demand for children's social care, noting that poverty affects parents' ability to cope and makes it harder for children to return to the home environment if they are in care. Furthermore, the report also singled out workforce sufficiency as a challenging problem, with caseloads, complexity of cases and a shift towards agency employment for perceived better conditions as key drivers in higher turnover rates.

(viii) **Supporting Neighbourhoods**

Supporting Neighbourhoods	Current Expend. Budget 2024/25 £000 (a)	Current Income Budget 2024/25 £000 (b)	Current Net Budget 2024/25 £000 (c)=(a)+(b)	Forecast Outturn 2024/25 £000 (d)	Variance Q1 2024/25 £000 (e) =(d)-(c)
Place Services Directorate					
Housing Services	6,945	(2,179)	4,766	4,766	0
Homelessness	1,209	(846)	363	363	0
Community Safety	2,914	(717)	2,197	2,197	0
Environmental Health	1,724	(490)	1,234	1,234	0
Trading Standards	618	(15)	603	603	0
Licensing & Land Charges	754	(694)	60	60	0
Total	14,164	(4,941)	9,223	9,223	0

Utilisation of Earmarked Reserves during the period**Annex D**

This table details the approved decisions to utilise Earmarked Reserves in 2024/25 during the period				
Portfolio / Corporate Items	Reserve	Detail	Decision Reference	Cash Limit Change 2024/25 £000
Inclusive Growth and Regeneration	Transformation Reserve	To procure legal services in relation to the Bold Forest Garden Village Masterplan project.	ENVP003258	+25
Business, Culture and Leisure	Transformation Reserve	To provide resource to strengthen the Council's approach to community engagement.	CORP001510	+100
Finance and Governance	Insurance & Contingent Liability Reserve	To meet the additional cost of insurance premiums in 2024/25.	Cabinet 19 June 2024	+113
Subtotal – New Approved Uses of Reserves in the Period				+238
People, Performance and IT	Funding Reform & Volatility Reserve	Release of previously approved budget provision earmarked at 2023/24 outturn to support specific programmes of work	Cabinet 19 June 2024	+100
Transport and Environment				+36
Integrated Health and Social Care	Revenue Grants and Contributions Reserve	Release of unringfenced grants and contributions earmarked prior to 2024/25 to support specific programmes of work	Cabinet 19 June 2024	+75
Supporting Neighbourhoods				+277
Total				+726

Annex E**EARMARKED BALANCES 2024/25 to 2026/27**

Reserve	Balance at 31 March 2024 £000	Balance at 31 March 2025 £000	Balance at 31 March 2026 £000	Balance at 31 March 2027 £000
Transformation Reserve	4,545	2,910	2,761	2,761
Growth Reserve	4,105	4,082	4,082	4,082
Councillor Improvement Fund	184	-	-	-
Insurance & Contingent Liability Reserve	2,930	2,817	2,817	2,817
Waste Management Development Fund	74	66	66	66
Inflationary Reserve	5,340	5,130	5,130	5,130
Restructuring Reserve	3,707	3,707	3,707	3,707
Funding Reform & Volatility Reserve	4,994	6,148	6,936	6,936
Pension Reserve	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Reserve	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Revenue Grants & Contributions Reserve	2,516	-	-	-
Subtotal - General Earmarked Balances	43,395	39,860	40,499	40,499
Covid-19 Reserve - Collection Fund	1,000	-	-	-
Covid-19 Reserve - Other	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	44,395	39,860	40,499	40,499

SUMMARY CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25 TO 2026/27

PORTFOLIO					Funding			
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total	Borrowing	Capital Receipts	Revenue	Grants / Confs.
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Children & Young People	19,461	1,300	1,858	22,619	3,396	0	27	19,196
Integrated Health & Social Care	350	0	0	350	325	0	0	25
Supporting Neighbourhoods	6,230	3,478	3,148	12,856	1,781	330	0	10,745
Business, Culture & Leisure	3,692	0	0	3,692	2,613	0	100	979
Finance & Governance	276	0	0	276	276	0	0	0
People, Performance & ICT	1,243	0	0	1,243	22	457	764	0
Transport & Environment	40,500	8,345	8,358	57,203	9,450	235	40	47,478
Inclusive Growth & Regeneration	80,425	39,323	23,424	143,172	95,529	735	192	46,716
TOTAL	152,177	52,446	36,788	241,411	113,392	1,757	1,123	125,139

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25 TO 2026/27

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO
Primary Schools
Allanson Street - Structural Works
Allanson Street - Windows
Allanson Street - Heating
Ashurst Primary Rebuild
Bleak Hill - Roof Repairs
Bleak Hill - Drainage
Bleak Hill - Lighting
Bleak Hill - Gutters
Broad Oak - Windows
Broad Oak - Structural Works
Eccleston Lane - Heating
Grange Valley - Roof
Merton Bank - Structural Works
Merton Bank - Dining Room Damp
Merton Bank - Dining Room Windows
Merton Bank - Structural Works
Newton Le Willows Primary - Heating
Queens Park - Roof Replacement
Queens Park - Health & Safety Works
Queens Park - Windows
Queens Park - Lift
Rivington - Boiler Replacement
Rivington - Roof
Rivington - Windows
Robins Lane - Roof
Robins Lane - Windows
Sutton Manor - Health & Safety Works

2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
£000	£000	£000	£000
40	0	0	40
100	0	0	100
100	0	0	100
158	0	0	158
50	0	0	50
75	0	0	75
50	0	0	50
70	0	0	70
100	0	0	100
50	0	0	50
100	0	0	100
60	0	0	60
29	0	0	29
50	0	0	50
100	0	0	100
50	0	0	50
15	0	0	15
100	0	0	100
13	0	0	13
100	0	0	100
25	0	0	25
70	0	0	70
80	0	0	80
100	0	0	100
100	0	0	100
150	0	0	150
50	0	0	50

Funding			
Borrowing	Capital Receipts	Revenue	Grants / Conts.
£000	£000	£000	£000
0	0	0	40
0	0	0	100
0	0	0	100
0	0	0	158
0	0	0	50
0	0	0	75
0	0	0	50
0	0	0	70
0	0	0	100
0	0	0	50
0	0	0	100
0	0	0	60
0	0	0	29
0	0	0	50
0	0	0	100
0	0	0	50
0	0	0	15
0	0	0	100
0	0	0	13
0	0	0	100
0	0	0	25
0	0	0	70
0	0	0	80
0	0	0	100
0	0	0	100
0	0	0	150
0	0	0	50

Sutton Oak - Boiler Replacement	80	0	0	80	0	0	0	80
Thatto Heath - Structural Works	25	0	0	25	0	0	0	25
Thatto Heath - Heating	100	0	0	100	0	0	0	100
The District Primary - Fire Doors	6	0	0	6	0	0	0	6
Wargave - Drainage	40	0	0	40	0	0	0	40
Secondary Schools								
De La Salle SEND Base	944	0	0	944	0	0	0	944
Special & Other Schools								
Launchpad - Roof Renewal	100	0	0	100	0	0	0	100
Penkford Relocation	43	0	0	43	0	0	0	43
Pupil Referral Heating	40	0	0	40	0	0	0	40
Other Schemes								
School Devolved Formula Capital	1,200	300	300	1,800	0	0	0	1,800
Connect the Classroom	27	0	0	27	0	0	27	0
Various Schools - Fire Safety	200	0	0	200	0	0	0	200
Various Schools Heating	106	0	0	106	0	0	0	106
ACM Removal	50	0	0	50	0	0	0	50
Children's Residential Homes	2,314	0	0	2,314	2,314	0	0	0
Family Hubs	84	0	0	84	0	0	0	84
Single Social Care & Education system	328	0	0	328	328	0	0	0
Millersdale - grant	440	0	0	440	440	0	0	0
Millersdale - lease	314	0	0	314	314	0	0	0
Uncommitted Grant Funding								
Healthy Pupils Capital Funding	125	0	0	125	0	0	0	125
Childcare Expansion	329	0	0	329	0	0	0	329
Higher Needs Provision Capital	5,422	0	0	5,422	0	0	0	5,422
Basic Need Uncommitted	690	0	558	1,248	0	0	0	1,248
School Condition Funding Uncommitted	4,469	1,000	1,000	6,469	0	0	0	6,469
TOTAL	19,461	1,300	1,858	22,619	3,396	0	27	19,196

INTEGRATED HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO
Unallocated Community Capacity Grant
Nightingale House Lease Extension
Transitional Apartment Lease - Heathside
TOTAL

2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
£000	£000	£000	£000
25	0	0	25
206	0	0	206
119	0	0	119
350	0	0	350

Borrowing	Capital Receipts	Revenue	Grants / Conts.
£000	£000	£000	£000
0	0	0	25
206	0	0	0
119	0	0	0
325	0	0	25

SUPPORTING NEIGHBOURHOODS PORTFOLIO
Replacement of Housing & Regulatory Services Case Management System
CCTV Replacement
Disabled Facilities Grants and Adaptations
General Fund Housing (Housing Assistance)
Housing Clearance and Enforcement
Insulation Measures and Fuel Poverty
TOTAL

2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
£000	£000	£000	£000
11	0	0	11
701	0	0	701
5,104	3,148	3,148	11,400
40	50	0	90
92	50	0	142
282	230	0	512
6,230	3,478	3,148	12,856

Borrowing	Capital Receipts	Revenue	Grants / Conts.
£000	£000	£000	£000
11	0	0	0
676	0	0	25
680	0	0	10,720
40	50	0	0
92	50	0	0
282	230	0	0
1,781	330	0	10,745

BUSINESS, CULTURE & LEISURE PORTFOLIO
Libraries ICT Refresh
Newton-le-Willows Health and Fitness Centre Equipment
Parr Locality Hub
Parr Swimming & Fitness Centre Demolition
Sutton Leisure Centre - Swimming provision
Ruskin Sports Village Changing Facilities
Newton-le-Willows Fitness Centre Pitch

2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
£000	£000	£000	£000
44	0	0	44
65	0	0	65
625	0	0	625
1,032	0	0	1,032
352	0	0	352
400	0	0	400
616	0	0	616

Borrowing	Capital Receipts	Revenue	Grants / Conts.
£000	£000	£000	£000
44	0	0	0
65	0	0	0
625	0	0	0
1,032	0	0	0
352	0	0	0
300	0	100	0
195	0	0	421

Newton-le-Willows Swimming Pool Energy Efficiency	456	0	0	456	0	0	0	456
UK Shared Prosperity Fund - Culture, Arts and Heritage	102	0	0	102	0	0	0	102
TOTAL	3,692	0	0	3,692	2,613	0	100	979

FINANCE & GOVERNANCE PORTFOLIO	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total	Borrowing	Capital Receipts	Revenue	Grants / Conts.
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Finance System (Unit4 ERP)	276	0	0	276	276	0	0	0
TOTAL	276	0	0	276	276	0	0	0

PEOPLE, PERFORMANCE & ICT PORTFOLIO	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total	Borrowing	Capital Receipts	Revenue	Grants / Conts.
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
ICT Device & Systems Refresh	1,221	0	0	1,221	0	457	764	0
Telephone & Contact Centre System	22	0	0	22	22	0	0	0
TOTAL	1,243	0	0	1,243	22	457	764	0

TRANSPORT & ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total	Borrowing	Capital Receipts	Revenue	Grants / Conts.
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Highway Schemes								
A49 to M6 Junction 22 Link Road	15,148	0	0	15,148	4,180	0	0	10,968
KRN Levelling Up (Parkside Junction Mitigation Works)	4,542	0	0	4,542	0	0	0	4,542
Active Travel Fund - Tranche 2	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Active Travel Fund - Tranche 3	1,869	0	0	1,869	0	0	0	1,869
Active Travel Fund - Tranche 4	2,184	0	0	2,184	0	0	0	2,184
Carriageway Maintenance	37	0	0	37	37	0	0	0
Highway / Road Investment	86	0	0	86	86	0	0	0
LCR Sustainable Urban Development	37	0	0	37	0	0	0	37
Local Transport Plan Unallocated (CRSTS)	0	7,020	7,020	14,040	0	0	0	14,040
CRSTS- Active Travel-City Region	1,077	0	0	1,077	0	0	0	1,077
CRSTS- Strategic Maintenance	5,142	0	0	5,142	0	0	0	5,142
CRSTS - Bridges	976	0	0	976	0	0	0	976
CRSTS - Technology & Comms Upgrade	922	0	0	922	0	0	0	922
CRSTS - Potholes	364	0	0	364	0	0	0	364
CRSTS - Flooding / Drainage	897	0	0	897	0	0	0	897
CRSTS - Resource Funding	1,201	625	638	2,464	0	0	0	2,464
Safer Routes to Schools	23	0	0	23	23	0	0	0
Section 106 Arrangements	81	0	0	81	0	0	0	81
St. Helens Southern Gateway Package	388	0	0	388	0	0	0	388
Traffic Signal Improvements on A58 and A572	9	0	0	9	0	0	0	9
LED Retrofit - Traffic Signals	254	0	0	254	0	0	0	254
DfT Pothole Fund	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Network North 23-24	375	0	0	375	0	0	0	375
Network North 24-25	430	0	0	430	0	0	0	430
Environmental Schemes								
Air Quality - Indoor Monitoring Equipment	21	0	0	21	0	0	0	21
Climate Change Emergency Response Fund	46	0	0	46	46	0	0	0
Haydock KGV Playing Field- Site Improvements	4	0	0	4	0	0	4	0

Recycling & Waste Collection	45	0	0	45	0	45	0	0
Section 106 Arrangements (Non-Highway Schemes)	48	0	0	48	0	0	0	48
Sherdley Park Skate Park	64	0	0	64	0	0	36	28
UK Shared Prosperity Fund - Green, Resilient & Safe Communities	201	0	0	201	0	0	0	201
Improvements to Vulcan Village Conservation Area & Greenway	10	0	0	10	0	0	0	10
St Helens Cemetery and Crematorium Flood Alleviation Scheme	335	0	0	335	0	190	0	145
Resources and Waste Strategy	790	0	0	790	790	0	0	0
Fleet Replacement Programme 22-23	1,216	0	0	1,216	1,216	0	0	0
Fleet Replacement Programme 23-24	972	700	700	2,372	2,372	0	0	0
Fleet Replacement Programme 24-25	700	0	0	700	700	0	0	0
TOTAL	40,500	8,345	8,358	57,203	9,450	235	40	47,478

INCLUSIVE REGENERATION & GROWTH PORTFOLIO
Chalon Way Meanwhile Use
Ground Conditions Survey
New Asset Data System (Concerto)
St Helens Town Centre Masterplan
St Helens Town Centre Phase 1 Investment
Hardshaw Brook Depot Review
Modernisation of St Helens Crematorium
Former Penkford School Demolition
The Gamble Building (Phase 4)
Earlestown Regeneration
Earlestown Market
Earlestown Town Hall (Internal)
Earlestown Railway Station
Parade Footbridge Art Installation
Town Deal - Glass Futures (Phase 2)
Town Deal - Cannington Shaw
Town Deal - Digital Infrastructure
Town Deal - TC Living & Regen - Infrastructure
Town Deal - Health Hub
Town Deal - Youth Zone
Town Centre Bus Station Strategic Acquisitions
St Helens Multi Modal Interchange
St Helens Manufacturing and Innovation Campus Strategic Acquisitions
Parkside Regeneration Equity Investment
UK Shared Prosperity Fund - Town Centres
Bold Forest Garden Masterplan
Market Street Lease
TOTAL

2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
£000	£000	£000	£000
142	0	0	142
121	20	20	161
61	0	0	61
2,476	0	0	2,476
22,946	27,232	23,404	73,582
73	0	0	73
40	0	0	40
115	0	0	115
447	0	0	447
211	291	0	502
7,575	2,846	0	10,421
3,570	3,257	0	6,827
4,763	4,700	0	9,463
25	0	0	25
5,557	0	0	5,557
1,375	0	0	1,375
1,397	977	0	2,374
0	0	0	0
1,398	0	0	1,398
0	0	0	0
1,697	0	0	1,697
8,906	0	0	8,906
317	0	0	317
16,650	0	0	16,650
43	0	0	43
480	0	0	480
40	0	0	40
80,425	39,323	23,424	143,172

Borrowing	Capital Receipts	Revenue	Grants / Conts.
£000	£000	£000	£000
142	0	0	0
21	140	0	0
61	0	0	0
2,476	0	0	0
66,202	0	0	7,380
73	0	0	0
40	0	0	0
0	115	0	0
447	0	0	0
502	0	0	0
2,511	0	0	7,910
1,384	0	0	5,443
3,258	0	0	6,205
25	0	0	0
0	0	57	5,500
0	0	111	1,264
0	0	24	2,350
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	1,398
0	0	0	0
1,697	0	0	0
0	0	0	8,906
0	0	0	317
16,650	0	0	0
0	0	0	43
0	480	0	0
40	0	0	0
95,529	735	192	46,716

TOTAL ALL PORTFOLIOS

152,177	52,446	36,788	241,411
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113,392	1,757	1,123	125,139
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CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO	Post Outturn Budget	New Schemes/ Funding Changes	Reprofiled into / from Future Years	Changes to be approved in this Period	Revised Budget	Narrative
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Primary Schools						
Allanson Street - Structural Works	0	40	0	40	40	New Scheme approved under DED 0105 2023/24
Allanson Street - Windows	0	100	0	100	100	New Scheme approved under DED 0105 2023/24
Allanson Street - Heating	0	100	0	100	100	New Scheme approved under DED 0105 2023/24
Ashurst Primary Rebuild	158	0	0	0	158	Demolition of old site completed 30th April 2024. Project now deemed complete.
Bleak Hill - Roof Repairs	50	0	0	0	50	
Bleak Hill - Drainage	0	75	0	75	75	New Scheme approved under DED 0105 2023/24
Bleak Hill - Lighting	0	50	0	50	50	New Scheme approved under DED 0105 2023/24
Bleak Hill - Gutters	0	70	0	70	70	New Scheme approved under DED 0105 2023/24
Broad Oak - Windows	0	100	0	100	100	New Scheme approved under DED 0105 2023/24
Broad Oak - Structural Works	0	50	0	50	50	New Scheme approved under DED 0105 2023/24
Eccleston Lane - Heating	0	100	0	100	100	New Scheme approved under DED 0105 2023/24
Grange Valley - Roof	0	60	0	60	60	New Scheme approved under DED 0105 2023/24
Merton Bank - Structural Works	29	0	0	0	29	
Merton Bank - Dining Room Damp	0	50	0	50	50	New Scheme approved under DED 0105 2023/24
Merton Bank - Dining Room Windows	0	100	0	100	100	New Scheme approved under DED 0105 2023/24
Merton Bank - Structural Works	0	50	0	50	50	New Scheme approved under DED 0105 2023/24
Newton Le Willows Primary - Heating	15	0	0	0	15	
Queens Park - Roof Replacement	100	0	0	0	100	Designed and with procurement
Queens Park - Health & Safety Works	13	0	0	0	13	
Queens Park - Windows	0	100	0	100	100	New Scheme approved under DED 0105 2023/24
Queens Park - Lift	0	25	0	25	25	New Scheme approved under DED 0105 2023/24 - Tendered
Rivington - Boiler Replacement	30	40	0	40	70	Additional funding to provide more efficient boiler in school (approved under DED 0105 2023/24)

Rivington - Roof	0	80	0	80	80	New Scheme approved under DED 0105 2023/24
Rivington - Windows	0	100	0	100	100	New Scheme approved under DED 0105 2023/24
Robins Lane - Roof	0	100	0	100	100	New Scheme approved under DED 0105 2023/24
Robins Lane - Windows	0	150	0	150	150	New Scheme approved under DED 0105 2023/24
Sutton Manor - Health & Safety Works	50	0	0	0	50	Waiting on design
Sutton Oak - Boiler Replacement	40	40	0	40	80	Additional funding to provide more efficient boiler in school (approved under DED 0105 2023/24)
Thatto Heath - Structural Works	25	0	0	0	25	
Thatto Heath - Heating	0	100	0	100	100	New Scheme approved under DED 0105 2023/24
The District Primary - Fire Doors	6	0	0	0	6	
Wargave - Drainage	0	40	0	40	40	New Scheme approved under DED 0105 2023/24
Secondary Schools						
De La Salle SEND Base	944	0	0	0	944	Requirements relating to the delivery of this scheme are currently being evaluated.
Special & Other Schools						
Launchpad - Roof Renewal	100	0	0	0	100	Delivery of the scheme has been paused pending identification and evaluation of the optimal solution, in terms of both the existing building and the needs of the service.
Other Schemes						
School Devolved Formula Capital	1,248	-48	0	-48	1,200	
Connect the Classroom	27	0	0	0	27	
Various Schools - Fire Safety	0	200	0	200	200	Funding to ensure fire safety across schools pending survey results in year. Approved under DED 0105 2023/24
Various Schools Heating	6	100	0	100	106	Funding to ensure adequate heating across schools pending survey results in year. Approved under DED 0105 2023/24
ACM Removal	0	50	0	50	50	Funding to ensure ACM safety across schools pending survey results in year. Approved under DED 0105 2023/24
Children's Residential Homes	2,314	0	0	0	2,314	Scheme relates to purchase of 4 properties and refurb of a 5th property (Windle Cottage). Offers have been made and accepted on 3 properties and work is ongoing to identify a fourth property. Extensive discussions have taken place in relation to property #5 - the refurb requirements are currently being reviewed to determine whether this provides the best and most cost effective solution to deliver accommodation needs.

Family Hubs	84	0	0	0	84	Capital works started on Central Link site and due to commence soon on Newton-le-Willows site. All work expected to be completed this year. Currently on track to complete go live for 5th August	
Single Social Care & Education system	328	0	0	0	328		
Millersdale - grant	0	440	0	440	440		Capital grant to Torus to regenerate a property into bespoke care leaver flats Lease for care leaver flats - under IFRS 16 the Council is now required to treat the agreement of the lease as a capital addition of a right to use asset for 21 years use of the flats
Millersdale - lease	0	314	0	314	314		
Uncommitted Grant Funding							
Healthy Pupils Capital Funding	125	0	0	0	125		
Childcare Expansion	329	0	0	0	329		
Higher Needs Provision Capital	4,895	527	0	527	5,422		
Basic Need Uncommitted	690	0	0	0	690		
School Condition Funding Uncommitted	6,097	-1,628	0	-1,628	4,469		
TOTAL	17,786	1,675	0	1,675	19,461		

INTEGRATED HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO	Post Outturn Budget	New Schemes/ Funding Changes	Reprofiled into future Years	Changes to be approved in this Period	Revised Budget
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Unallocated Community Capacity Grant	25		0	0	25
Nightingale House Lease Extension		206		206	206
Transitional Apartment Lease - Heathside		119		119	119
TOTAL	25	325	0	325	350

Narrative
Under IFRS16 the Council is now required to treat the agreement of a lease extension as a capital addition of a right to use asset for the 3 years of the extension
Under IFRS16 the Council is now required to treat the agreement of a lease as a capital addition of a right to use asset for 10 years use of the flats

SUPPORTING NEIGHBOURHOODS PORTFOLIO	Post Outturn Budget	New Schemes/ Funding Changes	Reprofiled into / from Future Years	Changes to be approved in this Period	Revised Budget
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Replacement of Housing & Regulatory Services Case Management System	11			0	11
CCTV Replacement	701			0	701
Disabled Facilities Grants and Adaptations	4,819	285		285	5,104
General Fund Housing (Housing Assistance)	40			0	40
Housing Clearance and Enforcement	92			0	92
Insulation Measures and Fuel Poverty	282			0	282
TOTAL	5,945	285	0	285	6,230

Narrative
Work progressing Budget updated to reflect additional DFG funding

BUSINESS, CULTURE & LEISURE PORTFOLIO	Post Outturn Budget	New Schemes/ Funding Changes	Reprofiled into / from Future Years	Changes to be approved in this Period	Revised Budget
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Libraries ICT Refresh	44	0	0	0	44
Newton-le-Willows Health and Fitness Centre Equipment	65	0	0	0	65
Parr Locality Hub	625	0	0	0	625
Parr Swimming & Fitness Centre Demolition	1,032	0	0	0	1,032
Sutton Leisure Centre - Swimming provision	352	0	0	0	352
Ruskin Sports Village - Changing Facilities	0	400	0	400	400
Newton-le-Willows Health and Fitness Centre - Pitch	0	616	0	616	616
Newton-le-Willows Swimming Pool Energy Efficiency	0	456	0	456	456
UK Shared Prosperity Fund - Culture, Arts and Heritage	102	0	0	0	102
TOTAL	2,220	1,472	0	1,472	3,692

Narrative
Work has commenced and is scheduled for completion by the end of the year Awaiting the relocation of the substation before the demolition can commence Options are under consideration and included in Phase 2 of the transformation programme As approved by DED 0082 2023/24. Scheduled to start in September and complete this financial year. As approved by Cabinet in March 24. Funding contribution confirmed by Sport England. Scheme on site in July and scheduled for completion in the Autumn As approved by DED0095 2023/24. To be delivered by March 25.

FINANCE & GOVERNANCE PORTFOLIO	Post Outturn Budget	New Schemes/ Funding Changes	Reprofiled into / from Future Years	Changes to be approved in this Period	Revised Budget
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Finance System (Unit4 ERP)	276	0	0	0	276
TOTAL	276	0	0	0	276

Narrative
The core system was rolled out in April 24 and is now in use across the Council. Additional modules will be implemented during 2024-2025.

PEOPLE, PERFORMANCE & ICT PORTFOLIO	Post Outturn Budget	New Schemes/ Funding Changes	Reprofiled into / from Future Years	Changes to be approved in this Period	Revised Budget
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
ICT Device & Systems Refresh	1,221	0	0	0	1,221
Telephone & Contact Centre System	22	0	0	0	22
TOTAL	1,243	0	0	0	1,243

Narrative
Scheme to refresh devices and core systems

TRANSPORT & ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO	Post Outturn Budget	New Schemes/ Funding Changes	Reprofiled into / from Future Years	Changes to be approved in this Period	Revised Budget	Narrative
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Highway Schemes						
A49 to M6 Junction 22 Link Road	15,148	0	0	0	15,148	The Link Road is now complete. The scheme can be opened to traffic with the completion of Junction 22 mitigation works.
KRN Levelling Up (Parkside Junction Mitigation Works)	4,542	0	0	0	4,542	Phase 1 & 2 of the scheme are now complete. Liaison with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority is taking place on schemes for the remaining funding.
Active Travel Fund - Tranche 2	3	0	0	0	3	Project completed
Active Travel Fund - Tranche 3	1,869	0	0	0	1,869	Project being progressed with delivery partners
Active Travel Fund - Tranche 4	1,334	850	0	850	2,184	Project being progressed with delivery partners. The Council has recently been successful in securing additional funding from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority for this scheme.
Carriageway Maintenance	37	0	0	0	37	Project completed
Highway / Road Investment	86	0	0	0	86	Project completed
LCR Sustainable Urban Development	37	0	0	0	37	Project completed
Local Transport Plan Unallocated (CRSTS)	7,020	-7,020	0	-7,020	0	CRSTS funding accepted and allocated to schemes as per Cabinet report 26/04/2023
CRSTS- Active Travel-City Region	207	870	0	870	1,077	Project being progressed with delivery partners
CRSTS- Strategic Maintenance	1,832	3,310	0	3,310	5,142	Project being progressed with delivery partners
CRSTS - Bridges	266	710	0	710	976	Project being progressed with delivery partners
CRSTS - Technology & Comms Upgrade	-88	1,010	0	1,010	922	Project being progressed with delivery partners
CRSTS - Potholes	-46	410	0	410	364	Project being progressed with delivery partners
CRSTS - Flooding / Drainage	187	710	0	710	897	Project being progressed with delivery partners
CRSTS - Resource Funding	1,201	0	0	0	1,201	Cabinet Report 26/4/23
Safer Routes to Schools	23	0	0	0	23	Project completed
Section 106 Arrangements	81	0	0	0	81	Project being progressed with delivery partners
St. Helens Southern Gateway Package	388	0	0	0	388	Project being progressed with delivery partners
Traffic Signal Improvements on A58 and A572	9	0	0	0	9	Project completed
LED Retrofit - Traffic Signals	254	0	0	0	254	Project being progressed with delivery partners
DfT Pothole Fund	3	0	0	0	3	Project completed
Network North 23-24	0	375	0	375	375	Additional funding for maintenance and improvement of the highways network
Network North 24-25	0	430	0	430	430	Additional funding for maintenance and improvement of the highways network

Environmental Schemes					
Air Quality - Indoor Monitoring Equipment	21	0	0	0	21
Climate Change Emergency Response Fund	46	0	0	0	46
Haydock KGV Playing Field- Site Improvements	4	0	0	0	4
Recycling & Waste Collection	45	0	0	0	45
Section 106 Arrangements (Non-Highway Schemes)	48	0	0	0	48
Sherdley Park Skate Park	64	0	0	0	64
UK Shared Prosperity Fund - Green, Resilient & Safe Communities	201	0	0	0	201
Improvements to Vulcan Village Conservation Area & Greenway	10	0	0	0	10
St Helens Cemetery and Crematorium Flood Alleviation Scheme	0	335	0	335	335
Resources and Waste Strategy	790	0	0	0	790
Fleet Replacement Programme 22-23	1,216	0	0	0	1,216
Fleet Replacement Programme 23-24	972	0	0	0	972
Fleet Replacement Programme 24-25	700	0	0	0	700
TOTAL	38,510	1,990	0	1,990	40,500

Works to design and create basins to reduce frequency and severity of flooding at the site
Balance of funding for the scheme, including works to improve the energy infrastructure for the electric vehicles.
Remainder of the vehicles are expected to be delivered in this financial year
Remainder of the vehicles are expected to be delivered in this financial year

REGENERATION & PLANNING PORTFOLIO	Post Outturn Budget	New Schemes/ Funding Changes	Reprofiled into / from Future Years	Changes to be approved in this Period	Revised Budget
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Chalon Way Meanwhile Use	142	0	0	0	142
Ground Conditions Survey	121	0	0	0	121
New Asset Data System (Concerto)	61	0	0	0	61
St Helens Town Centre Masterplan	2,476	0	0	0	2,476
St Helens Town Centre Phase 1 Investment	22,946	0	0	0	22,946
Hardshaw Brook Depot Review	73	0	0	0	73
Modernisation of St Helens Crematorium	40	0	0	0	40
Former Penkford School Demolition	0	115	0	115	115
The Gamble Building (Phase 4)	447	0	0	0	447
Earlestown Regeneration	211	0	0	0	211
Earlestown Market	7,575	0	0	0	7,575
Earlestown Town Hall (Internal)	3,570	0	0	0	3,570
Earlestown Railway Station	4,763	0	0	0	4,763
Parr Footbridge Art Installation	25	0	0	0	25
Town Deal - Glass Futures (Phase 2)	5,557	0	0	0	5,557

Narrative
Compensation for two final relocations to be agreed
Cabinet approved progression of the enabling works in June 24
Demolition of the former school is required as soon as habitat season is over on health and safety grounds. Design work is progressing on this scheme
Project progressing Project progressing Project is being progressed with delivery partners
Grant funding for contribution to works for the Glass Futures 2 project, to be drawn down over the year

Town Deal - Cannington Shaw	1,375	0	0	0	1,375	Grant funding for contribution to works for the Cannington Shaw project, to be drawn down over the year
Town Deal - Digital Infrastructure	1,397	0	0	0	1,397	Project progressing
Town Deal - Health Hub	1,398	0	0	0	1,398	Works progressing on Business Connect element. Revised business case under development for the Skills Academy.
Town Centre Bus Station Strategic Acquisitions	1,697	0	0	0	1,697	Discussions ongoing for remaining acquisitions
St Helens Multi Modal Interchange	0	8,906	0	8,906	8,906	Cabinet approved enabling works for the Multi Modal Interchange in June 24, pending confirmation of funding from Liverpool City Region Combined Authority for the scheme
St Helens Manufacturing and Innovation Campus Strategic Acquisitions	317	0	0	0	317	
Parkside Regeneration Equity Investment	16,650	0	0	0	16,650	Additional Equity Investment in Parkside Joint Venture as approved by full Cabinet in January 23
UK Shared Prosperity Fund - Town Centres	43	0	0	0	43	
Bold Forest Garden Masterplan	0	480	0	480	480	Creation of a masterplan to unlock development of the Bold Forest Garden site
Market Street Lease	0	40	0	40	40	Under IFRS16 the Council is now required to treat the agreement of a lease as a capital addition of a right to use asset
TOTAL	70,884	9,541	0	9,541	80,425	
TOTAL ALL PORTFOLIOS	136,889	15,288	0	15,288	152,177	

TREASURY MANAGEMENT POSITION STATEMENT

1.1 The CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) Code of Practice for Treasury Management recommends that Members be updated on treasury management activities regularly. This Section therefore ensures the Council is implementing best practice in accordance with the Code.

Investments

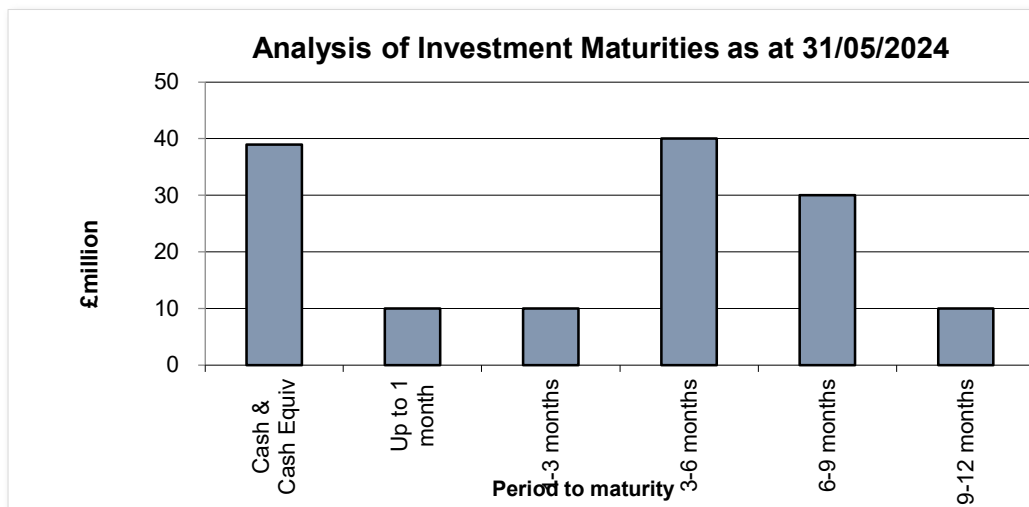
1.2 As detailed in the Council's Annual Investment Strategy (which is incorporated into the annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement) the Council's investment priorities are the security of capital and liquidity of funds. The Council's investment dealings in the period, therefore, have been undertaken in order to achieve the optimum return on its investments, commensurate with the proper levels of security and liquidity and having properly assessed all inherent risks.

1.3 It is necessary to ensure that all investments are placed with highly credit rated financial institutions in line with the Council's authorised Counterparty List (i.e. those institutions with whom we invest monies). It has also been deemed appropriate to ensure that the Council maintains a high degree of liquidity with its investments, to ensure cash is available to deal with emerging pressures due to the current inflation environment.

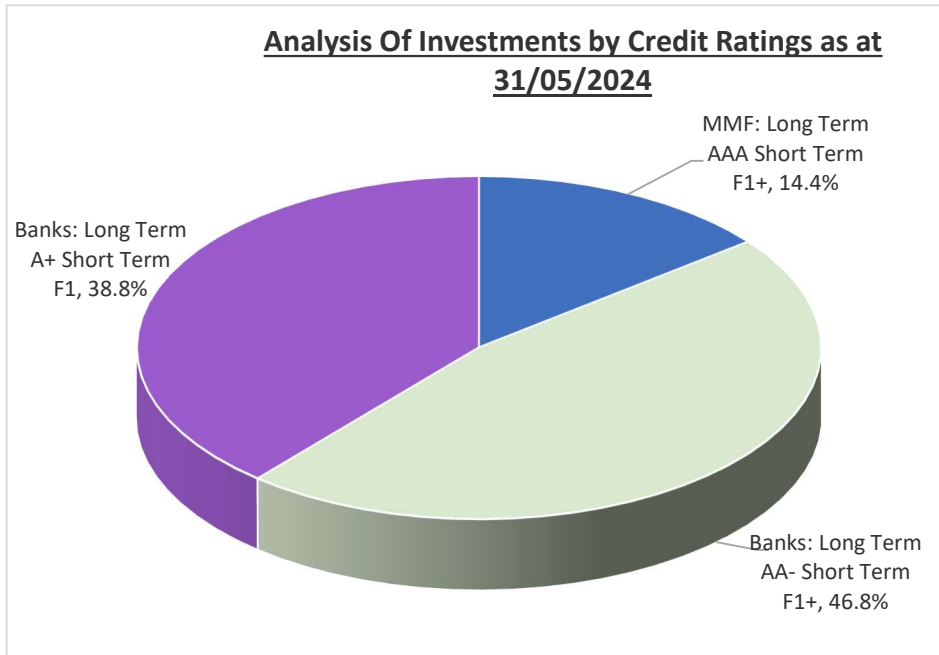
1.4 The Council has sought to maintain a mix of investments with the Counterparties who meet the Council's criteria. However, the profile of maturities has been influenced by a number of factors:

- i. the availability of advantageous call rates from some high-quality Counterparties
- ii. limits on the duration of investments with certain counterparties
- iii. availability of investment opportunities in excess of one year with a number of counterparties.

The following chart provides an overview of the split in the Authority's investments by maturity as at 31 May 2024.



1.5 As at 31 May 2024, the Council has investments of £138.940m. The chart below details the split of the Council’s investment by type and the credit rating assigned to the different groups of Counterparties.



These investments include funds (circa. £11m) held in relation to Schools and Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority.

1.6 14.4% of investments are with the highest-graded counterparties, i.e. those with the very best prospects and the lowest risk of failure, with extremely strong and stable characteristics. 46.8% of investments are with counterparties graded AA-/F1+. These counterparties have strong prospects for ongoing viability, strong and stable fundamentals and a particularly good liquidity profile. The remainder (38.8%) are with counterparties who are graded A+/F1. These have very strong prospects for ongoing viability and are not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.

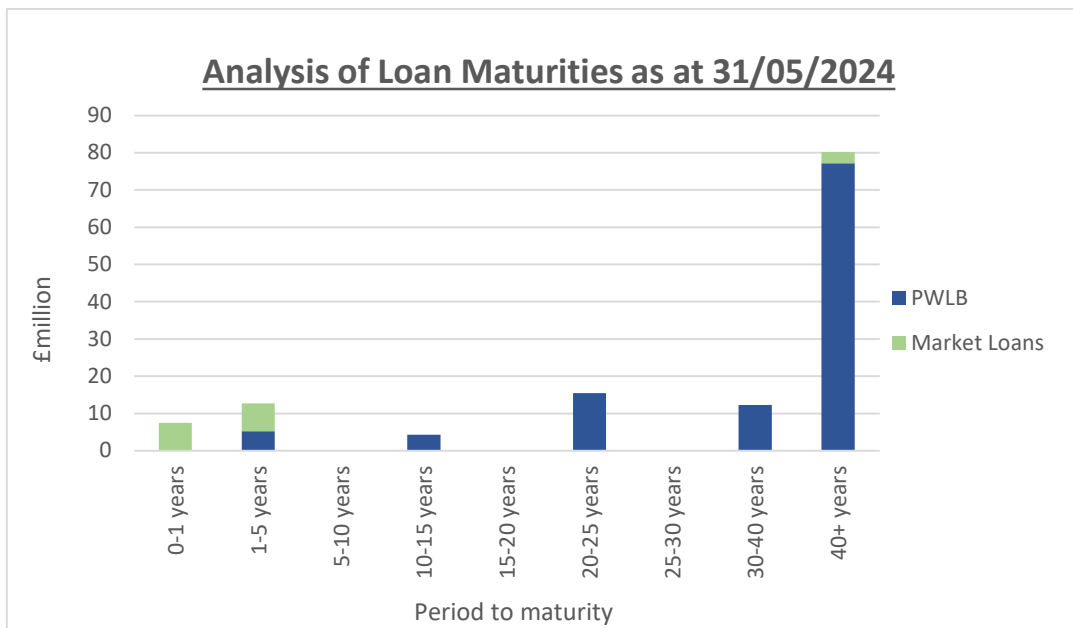
1.7 The average level of funds available, for investment purposes, for the period April to May 2024 was £134.452m. Investment rates available in the market have remained high over the last six months due to the increases in Bank Rate earlier in the year. Any sudden changes in rates will impact upon performance against benchmarks as investment decisions need to be made based, having properly assessed all inherent risks, upon ensuring the security of investments, managing the liquidity of the authorities’ investments for cashflow purposes, and achieving the optimum return on its investments.

Investment Returns 2024/25 up to 31 May 2024					
2024/25	Returns Achieved			Benchmark Returns	Performance relative to Benchmarks
Month	Fixed Term Investments	Call Accounts	Combined Return	Backward Looking 90 Day SONIA	Overall +/- return
April	5.701%	5.233%	5.500%	5.223%	0.277%
May	5.636%	4.783%	5.311%	5.226%	0.085%

- 1.8 Cash holdings are currently above the forecast levels in the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, which is primarily due to the timing of income being received and expenditure being incurred and the levels of MRWA balances.

Borrowing

- 1.9 As at 31 May 2024, the Council has outstanding debt of £132.509m. No new borrowing has been taken during the period.
- 1.10 The following chart shows the maturity profile of the Council's loan portfolio as at 31 May 2024.



- 1.11 In accordance with the revised Prudential Code, the maturity of borrowing should be determined by reference to the earliest date on which the lender can require payment. If the lender does have the right to increase the interest rate payable (as is the case with a Market Loan (LOBO – Lender Option Borrower Option loan), then this should be treated as a right to require payment. In accordance with this guidance, the maturity dates of the Council's LOBO loans have been profiled as the next call date for each loan. This has made the Council's position look much more short term when all of these loans have maturity dates of 25+ years.
- 1.12 The current economic conditions mean that there will be volatility in gilt yields, and in turn PWLB borrowing rates. Whilst movements will not impact on the Council's current borrowing portfolio, which is wholly comprised of fixed rate agreements, inflated rates will mean that servicing of future debt requirements becomes more expensive and future capital investment and borrowing decisions will need to be considered in that light, as part of the Council's Medium Term Financial and Capital Investment strategies.

Prudential Indicators

- 1.13 In line with the revised Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (2021), the Council produces updated prudential indicators every period and the indicators for the first period are included in Appendix 1.

Treasury Limits and Prudential Indicators			2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
2024/25			Revised	Estimates	Estimates	Estimates
1(i)	Proposed capital expenditure that the Council plans to commit to during the forthcoming and subsequent two financial years.	Capital Expenditure (£m)	152.177	52.446	36.788	0.700
1(ii)	Additional in-year borrowing requirement for capital expenditure.	In Year Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) (£m)	50.293	28.900	14.319	(5.135)
2	The CFR is an aggregation of historic and cumulative capital expenditure, which has yet been paid for by either revenue or capital resources.	Capital Financing Requirement as at 31 March (£m)	260.1555	289.454	303.773	298.638
3	The "net borrowing" position represents the net of the Authority's gross external borrowing and investments sums held.	Net Borrowing Requirement: External Borrowing (£m) Investments Held (£m) Net Requirement (£m)	225.569 <u>(133.940)</u> (96.629)	254.453 <u>(120.000)</u> (134.453)	268.757 <u>(116.000)</u> (152.757)	263.607 <u>(116.000)</u> (147.607)
4	Identifies the impact and trend of the revenue costs of capital financing decisions will have on the General Fund Budget over time.	Ratio of financing cost to net revenue stream	4.85%	6.61%	9.08%	7.31%

Treasury Limits and Prudential Indicators			2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
2024/25			Revised	Estimates	Estimates	Estimates
5	The Council's Budget Strategy with regards to unsupported borrowing is such that there is no incremental impact to Council Tax.	Incremental impact of capital investment decisions (increase in Council Tax Band D equivalent)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
6	This represents an absolute limit of borrowing at any one point in time. It reflects the level of external debt, which, while not desired, could be afforded in the short term, but is not sustainable in the longer term.	Authorised Limit for External Debt (£m)	271.941	300.433	314.450	291.601
7	This is the limit beyond which external debt is not normally expected to exceed.	Operational Limit for External Debt (£m)	263.195	291.682	305.696	282.843
8	These limits seek to ensure that the authority does not expose itself to an inappropriate level of interest rate risk, and has a suitable proportion of debt.	Upper Limit for Fixed Interest Rate Exposure	100%	100%	100%	100%
		Upper Limit for Variable Interest Rate Exposure	50%	50%	50%	50%
9	This limit seeks to ensure liquidity and reduce the likelihood of any inherent or associated risk.	Upper Limit for Sums Invested over 365 Days	60%	60%	60%	60%
10	This indicator is used to highlight where an authority may be borrowing in advance of need	Gross Debt and the CFR (£m)	15.890	16.715	17.440	35.031

Liability Benchmark

Since 2023/24, the Authority is required to estimate and measure the Liability Benchmark for the forthcoming financial year and the following two financial years, as a minimum.

There are four components to the Liability Benchmark: -

1. **Existing loan debt outstanding:** the Authority's existing loans that are still outstanding in future years.
2. **Loans Capital Financing Requirement (CFR):** this is calculated in accordance with the loans CFR definition in the Prudential Code and projected into the future based on approved prudential borrowing and planned Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). Due to only approved prudential borrowing being included in the calculation a peak will appear after four years as no further borrowing will be approved at this point.
3. **Net loans requirement:** this will show the Authority's gross loan debt less treasury management investments at the last financial year-end, projected into the future and based on its approved prudential borrowing, planned MRP and any other major cash flows forecast. This becomes a negative due to the position the Authority is in as a result of the balance of treasury investments, which are in excess of borrowing; this allows the Authority flexibility in regard to the timing of taking out future borrowing and therefore allows it to make sound treasury management decisions.
4. **Liability benchmark (or gross loans requirement):** this equals net loans requirement plus short-term liquidity allowance.

