

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 12 June 2025

REPORTING OFFICER: Director of Finance

PORTFOLIO: Corporate Services

SUBJECT: 2024/25 Spending as at 31 March 2025

WARD(S): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report the Council's overall revenue and capital net spending position for the 2024/25 financial year.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That;

- (i) The Council's 2024/25 outturn position as presented in the report be noted;**
- (ii) Directorates take all possible steps to manage spending in line with budget during 2025/26;**
- (iii) Priority is given to the acceleration of the Council's Transformation Programme, to ensure it is sufficiently developed to deliver the savings required to meet the medium-term financial gap and help the Council replenish its reserves.**
- (iv) 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 Council's revenue budget for 2024/25 and Appendix 2 provides detailed figures for each individual Department.
- 3.2 In overall terms, net Council spending as at 31 March 2025 is £16.073m over budget. This is an improvement from the forecast outturn position of £18.906m reported at the end of January 2025. Whilst an improved position, given the scale of the budgetary overspend the Council will need to access the exceptional financial support provisionally approved by the

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on 24 February 2025.

- 3.3 Para 3.19 includes information on the balance of reserves held by the Council as at 31 March 2025. Reserves of £6.137m have been held for transformation purposes and to contribute towards future budget deficiencies. It is proposed £6.073m of this offsets the budget overspend leaving a balance of £10m which will be funded through borrowings via Exceptional Financial Support (EFS). The Council are required to repay borrowings for EFS over a 20 year period, resulting in an additional cost to the Council of £0.5m in each of the next 20 years. In addition the interest cost associated with the borrowings are estimated to cost £0.450m per year over the same period. Exact interest costs will be determined annually as part of the treasury management function.
- 3.3 Future EFS borrowings are expected over the next 3-4 years until the Council is in a position to contain net spend within the approved budget. Accelerating saving proposals and work within the Transformation Programme will go some way towards achieving. The Council will also lobby Government as part of the Fair Funding Review (proposed to take place summer 2025) to ensure Halton receives grant settlement reflective of increasing demand for services within the borough.
- 3.4 The table below summarises changes (by directorate) between the forecast outturn reported at 31 January 2025 and the actual outturn position at 31 March 2025.

	Forecast Outturn Variance 31 January 2024	Actual Outturn Variance to 31 March 2025	Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adults Directorate	-4,964	-4,480	484
Chief Executives Directorate	-1,692	-1,205	487
Children Services Directorate	-11,327	-9,688	1,639
Environment & Regeneration Directorate	1,271	659	-612
Public Health Directorate	78	98	20
Corporate & Democracy	-2,272	-1,457	815
Total Variance	-18,906	-16,073	2,833

- 3.5 The main areas which have contributed towards the improvement in the outturn position are:
- Community Care – Capitalisation of £1.3m of revenue costs through the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG). This is considered to be a one-off due to limited DFG funds held.

- Children and Families – Reduction in the budget overspend from £10.087m reported at Month 10 to the final outturn overspend of £8.434m.
- Business Rate Relief Grant – Following closure of the Collection Fund and reporting of the final position to Government, £1.2m of additional relief funding has been identified.

- 3.6 Further detail on significant departmental variances is included within the report at Para 3.13
- 3.7 The outturn position shows overspend positions across the majority of departments with the exceptions of Public Health and the Environment and Regeneration Directorate departments.
- 3.8 The largest pressure on the Council's budget continues to be within the Children & Families Department and the Adults Directorate. Against Children & Families operational net spend for the year was £6.132m (15.5%) above 2023/24 actual spend. Against the Adults Directorate net operational spend for the year is £4.873m (9.0%) higher than 2023/24 actual spend.
- 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 most evident within the Children & Families Department and the Care Homes Division. 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. There is an increase in agency costs over the year of £0.198m or 1.4%, which is below the rate of pay inflation suggesting a steady tightening and control of agency usage.

	2024/25					2023/24
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adult Social Care	1,341	1,656	1,210	1,828	6,035	5,927
Chief Executives Delivery Unit	132	179	239	260	810	0
Children & Family Services	1,283	1,432	1,321	1,184	5,220	6,157
Community & Greenspace	116	129	104	98	447	336
Economy, Enterprise & Property	86	105	110	116	417	343
Education, Inclusion & Provision	99	78	53	65	295	393
Finance	14	42	31	27	114	56
Legal & Democratic Services	253	274	212	142	881	814
Planning & Transportation	94	85	19	12	210	206
Public Health & Public Protection	11	10	1	0	22	21
Total	3,429	3,990	3,300	3,732	14,451	14,253

- 3.11 Inflation as at April 2025 is running at 3.5% for CPI, up from 2.6% in March largely driven by increases in utility prices. Rates continue to be above the Government target of 2% with a forecast increase in CPI of up to 3.7% during 2025 before heading back towards the Government 2% target during 2026.
- 3.12 The pay award, high inflation rates, increasing service demands and use of agency staff, continue to have a serious negative impact upon the

Council's financial position. As such there continues to be a real urgency for all departments to reduce spending and to implement any proposed efficiency savings as soon as possible.

Revenue - Operational Spending

3.13 Within the overall budget position for the year, the key variances are as follows;

(i) Children and Families Department

Staffing

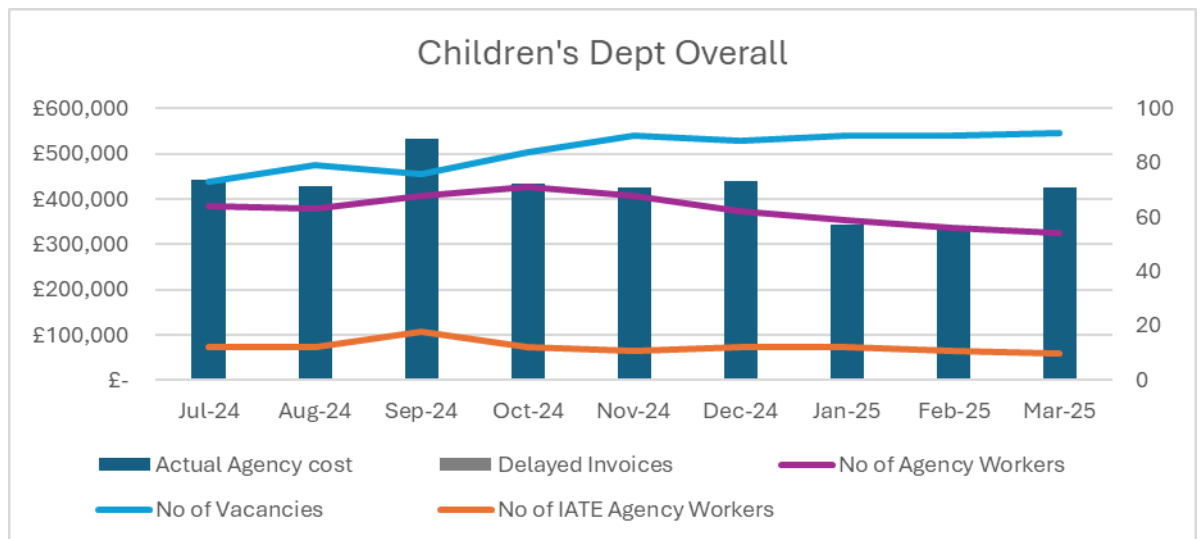
The net departmental expenditure is over budget at the end of the financial year by £8.433m with the majority of this relating to Social Care Services.

Significant investment as part of the Children's Social Care Improvement Plan has helped to reduce the overspend position as well as reductions in agency and placement costs.

Employee costs are over budget at the end of financial year 2024/25 by £1.450m, which is a reduction of £0.544m since last reported.

The reduction mainly relates to an agreed investment within children's services which has resulted in the establishment of 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 £0.714m (funded from contingency) has been provided for some of the newly established posts which has helped reduce the overspend position.

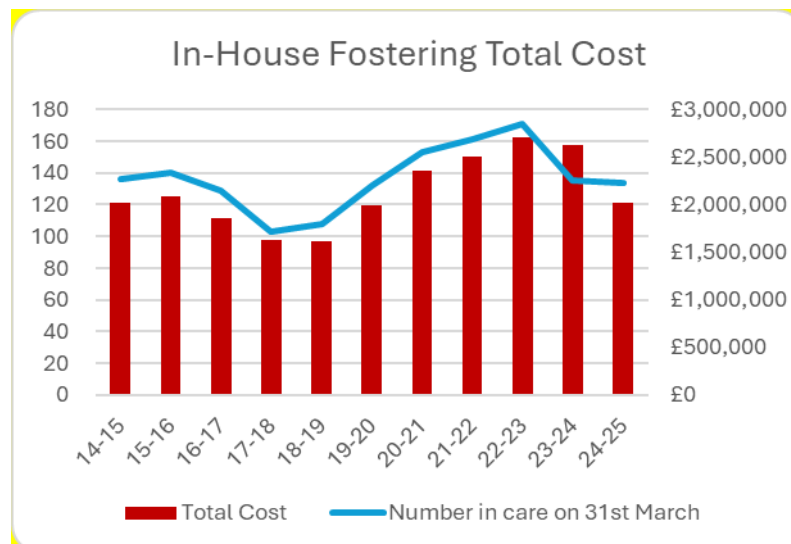
The chart below presents agency costs from July 2024 to March 2025 based upon the period that was worked, the number of agency members of staff for which invoices have been received within each period, the number of vacancies across the department, and the number of staff that are currently in addition to the establishment (IATE).



Fostering

Inhouse fostering placements are £0.487m under budget for the year. Inhouse fostering budgets were increased to support the budget pressure in this area.

Demand and costs for in-house fostering are shown below.

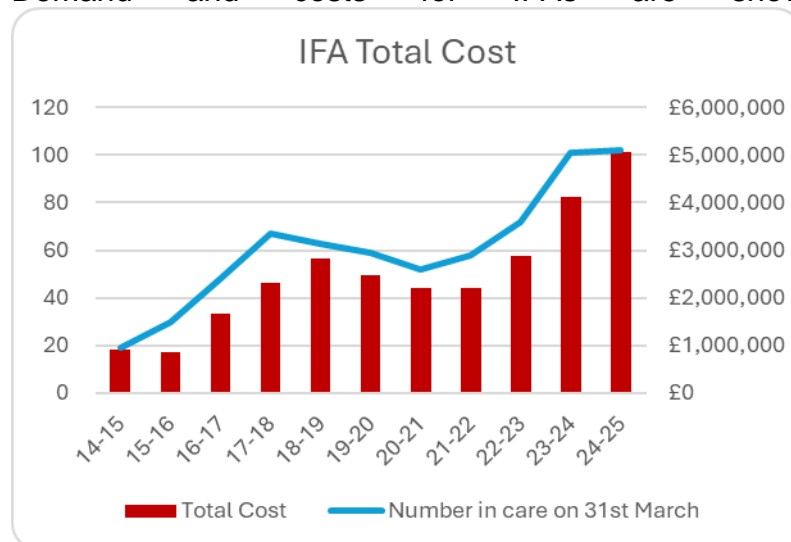


Work continues to recruit and retain Halton's In-house foster carers, along with training to develop carers enabling them to accommodate more specialist placements. This therefore means that costs could increase. However, the ability to accommodate young people within in-house provision provides a substantial saving in comparison to Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) or residential care.

Increasing numbers of children in care and insufficient in-house fostering provision has meant increased reliance on IFA. Higher numbers of children placed within IFA provision and increased IFA

rates has resulted in an overspend for the end of 2024/25 of £0.803m.

Demand and costs for IFAs are shown below



Residential Care

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

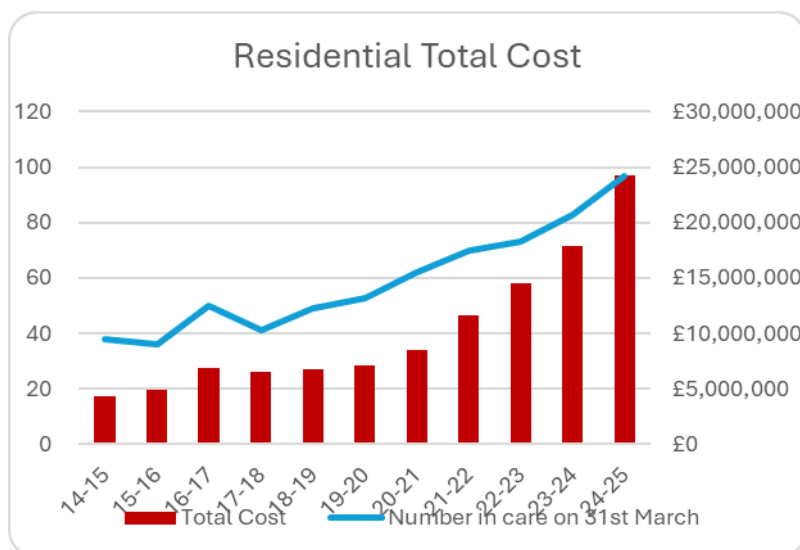
Provision	Weekly Costs	31-Mar-25		31-Jan-25	
		No. Placed	Estimated cost for the year	No. Placed	Estimated cost for the year
Residential	£1000 - £3000	6	838,280	4	488,662
Residential	£3001 - £5000	32	5,779,924	27	5,108,252
Residential	£5001 - £7000	20	5,478,530	26	6,737,694
Residential	£7001 - £15982	18	9,323,003	16	9,452,930
Secure	£6397 - £8137	1	53,295		
Leaving Care	£443 - £7175	11	2,058,824	11	2,134,843
Parent & Child	£2000 - £5500	9	717,242	7	774,025
Total:		97	24,249,098	91	24,696,405

Overall cost of packages are increasing due to the complexity of support the young people require as well as standard 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 last year, 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 a High Cost Placement Panel where high cost packages

are individually scrutinised to ensure the placement is right for the young person and at the best available cost for the placement.

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 for previous years and are funded by Home Office grant.



(ii) Adult Social Care Directorate

Community Care

At the end of the 2024/25 financial year expenditure on Community Care services before year-end adjustments was overspent against budget by £4.371m. This is an increase of £0.844m from the previous position reported at the end of January 2025.

In helping to mitigate the overall net spend against the department, a number of adjustments have been made at year-end, including:

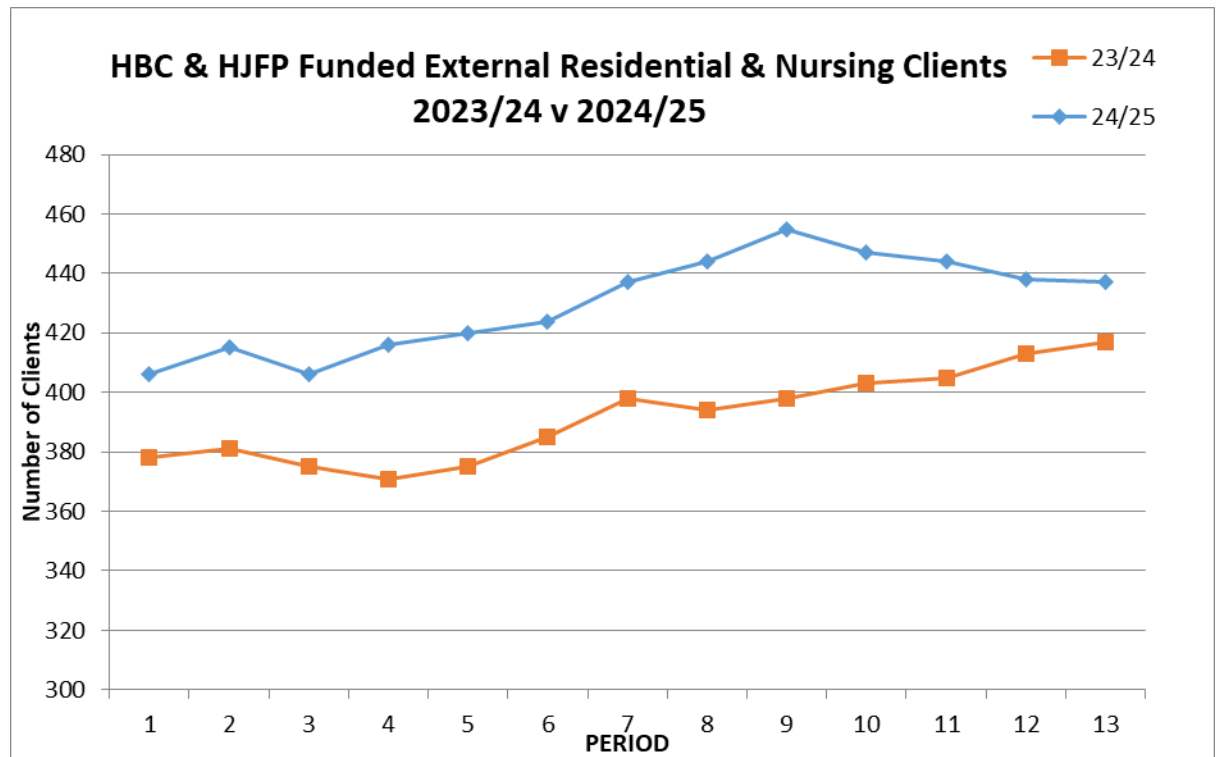
- Salary and supplies costs of £1.320m being capitalised and charged to available Disabled Facilities Grant funding (DFG). This is considered to be a one-off gain and unlikely to be achieved in future years due to diminishing levels of DFG funding.
- A contribution of £0.300m from the underspend achieved on the Pooled budget. The overall Pooled budget surplus is shared equally with the ICB.

Residential & Nursing Care

There are currently 437 residents in permanent external residential/nursing care placements as at the end of March 2025 compared to 406 in April 24, an increase of 7.6%. Compared to the

2023/24 average of 391 this is an increase of 11.8%. The average cost of a package of care in the current year, has increased from £866.47 to £915.08 an increase of 5.6% over last year. Supplementary invoice payments amounted to £1.2m for the year, as outlined below.

The graph below illustrates the demand for permanent placements.



Providers are increasingly requesting supplementary payments for 1 to 1 support, especially on discharge from hospital. This is generally to mitigate the risk from falls. The full year cost is £0.838m with £0.219m spent in the final 3 months. This is exerting additional pressure on the budget.

Additional payments to care homes are rising, both in and out of the borough. This is where the care home charges an additional amount on top of the contracted bed rate. There does not appear to be any consistency in these extra charges even within the same care home.

The risk, if the Council don't pay these extra charges, could be that care homes do not accept service users. This could result in even more people being placed out of borough at even higher rates.

The cost of this for 2024/25 is £0.424m. £0.131m of this occurred in the final 3 months. The average additional payment was £112.48 per week with the lowest being £12.50 week and the highest £748 per week.

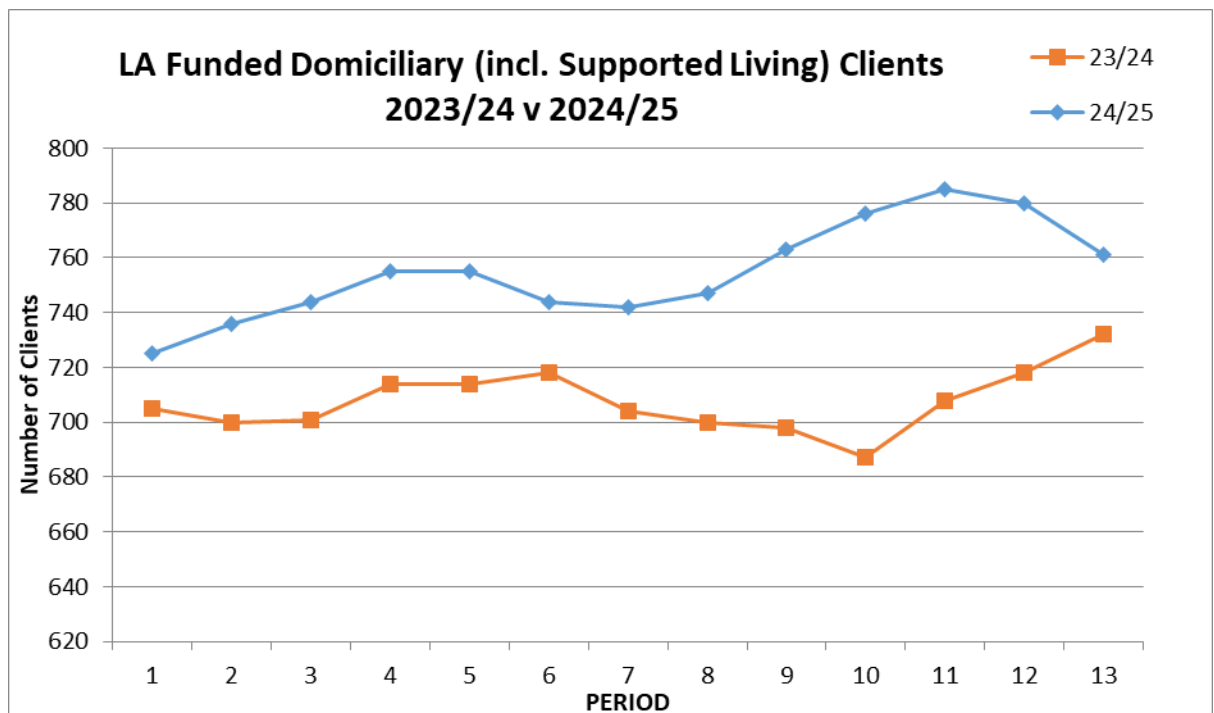
Domiciliary Care & Supported Living

There are currently 781 service users receiving a package of care at home compared to 776 in January an increase of 4 (0.6%). However, the average number of service users during 2023/24 was 707, so there has been an increase of 10.4% demonstrating that demand for the service has increased this financial year.

The average cost of a package of care has increased since January by 5.24% from £475.14 to £500.04.

The average cost over the full financial year has increased from £425.47 to £500.04, an increase of 17.52%. This suggests packages are more complex.

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



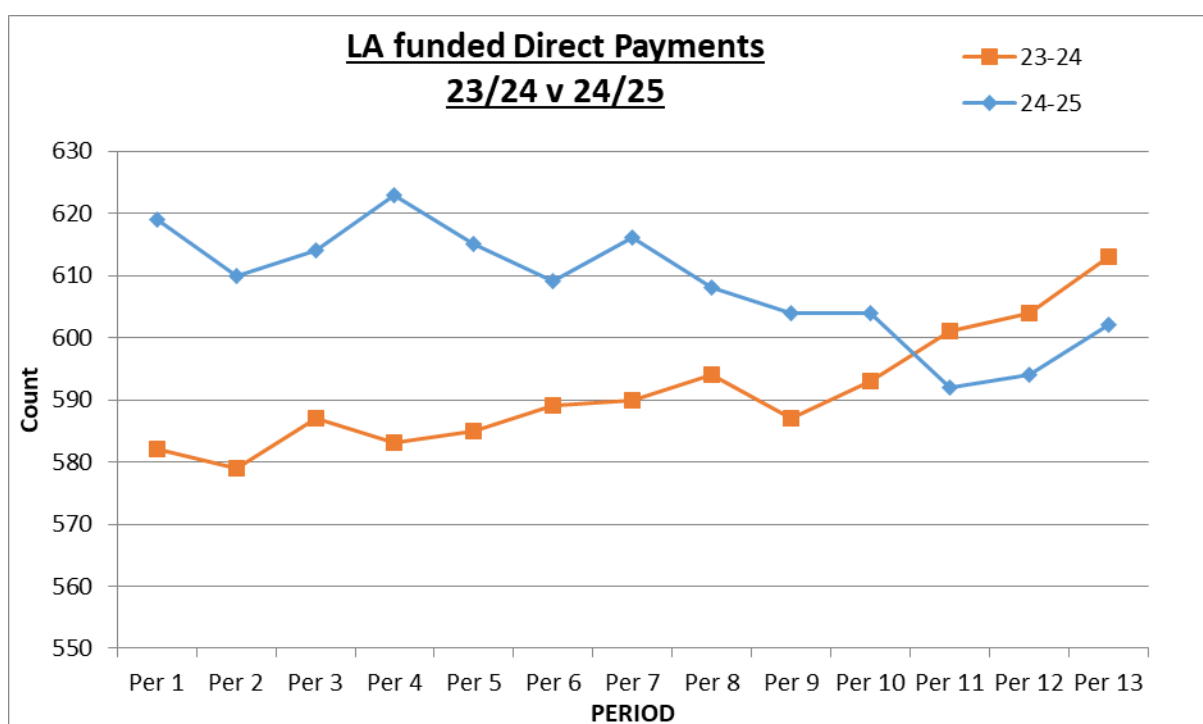
Direct Payments

The average number of clients who received a Direct Payment (DP) in 2024/25 was 608 compared with 591 in 2023/24, an increase of 2.8%.

The average cost of a package of care in 2024/25 was £486.65 compared with £488.68 in 2023/24, a decrease of 0.4%.

An amount of £1.6m has been recovered from service users following audits to seek assurance the DP is spent in line with their care and support needs.

The graph below shows movement throughout the year.



Care Homes

The net departmental expenditure across the division is over budget for 2024-25 financial year by £1.283m, largely as a result of staffing costs.

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 the financial year total agency spend across the care homes reached £3.815m, the cost of this has partially been offset by staff vacancies.

Recruitment of staff is a continued pressure across the care homes. There remains a high number of staff vacancies.

The 2024-25 pay award offer of £1,290 was accepted, and included in the November pay award with backpay to April 2024. This resulted in an over budget spend of £0.188m across the Care Home Division for the full financial year.

(iii) Community and Greenspaces

The net Departmental Expenditure has fallen to £0.204m under budget at the end of the 2024/25 financial year. The position is £0.614m lower than forecast at month 10 and is due to several factors detailed below.

The largest shift from month 10 is in regards to Waste Disposal Contracts, which has seen a drop from a forecasted £0.284m underspend against the budget profile to £0.118m overspend. The invoices for these contracts are typically received very late after expenditure has been incurred so it can be difficult to forecast, fortunately within recent years the performance has been well within the budget. However, costs have risen by at least 25% during 2024/25 which is producing a significant budget pressure due to the monetary value of the contracts.

Fees and Charges has also seen a significant change from that reported in Month 10. The change from £0.183m overachieved against income target to £0.138m underachieved is due to a larger than expected portion of the funds received within the 2024/25 period relating to subsequent financial years.

Transfers From Reserves has also seen an increase as more funds were identified for utilisation against community and library services, releasing £0.505m of funds in comparison to the £0.202m in Month 10. Work will be carried out in 2025/26 to continue to identify opportunities such as this to help alleviate revenue budget pressures.

The largest contributor to the underspend continued to be spend on employees within the department, being £0.808m under the approved budget profile by the end of the financial year. There have been several restructures taking place across the Department in this financial year, in order to facilitate these, a number of vacancies have been held vacant whilst waiting for the new structure to be implemented. These will continue to be held into the 2025/26 financial year. Offsetting this however, is agency spend within the Department which reached £0.447m for the 2024/25 financial year. As the Department offers a number of front-line services, including waste collections, in order to continue operations in the event of staff sickness, there is a reliance on agency to reduce the impact on residents within the borough.

(iv) Education, Inclusion and Provision

Net departmental expenditure is £1.254m over budget at the end of 2024/25. Throughout the year it had been forecast to be over budget by approximately £1.240m at year end. The main variances being school transport and staffing.

Employee expenditure, including agency staff, is £0.359m over budget at year end. There are a number of vacant positions across

the department some of which are filled by agency staff, at a cost of £0.271m for the year.

The employee overspend is largely due to two services, Psychology and SEN Assessment, posts were previously funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The Department for Education have advised that these costs cannot be DSG funded because they do not meet the grant conditions. Therefore this cost has fallen upon the Council's budget at a cost of £0.860m.

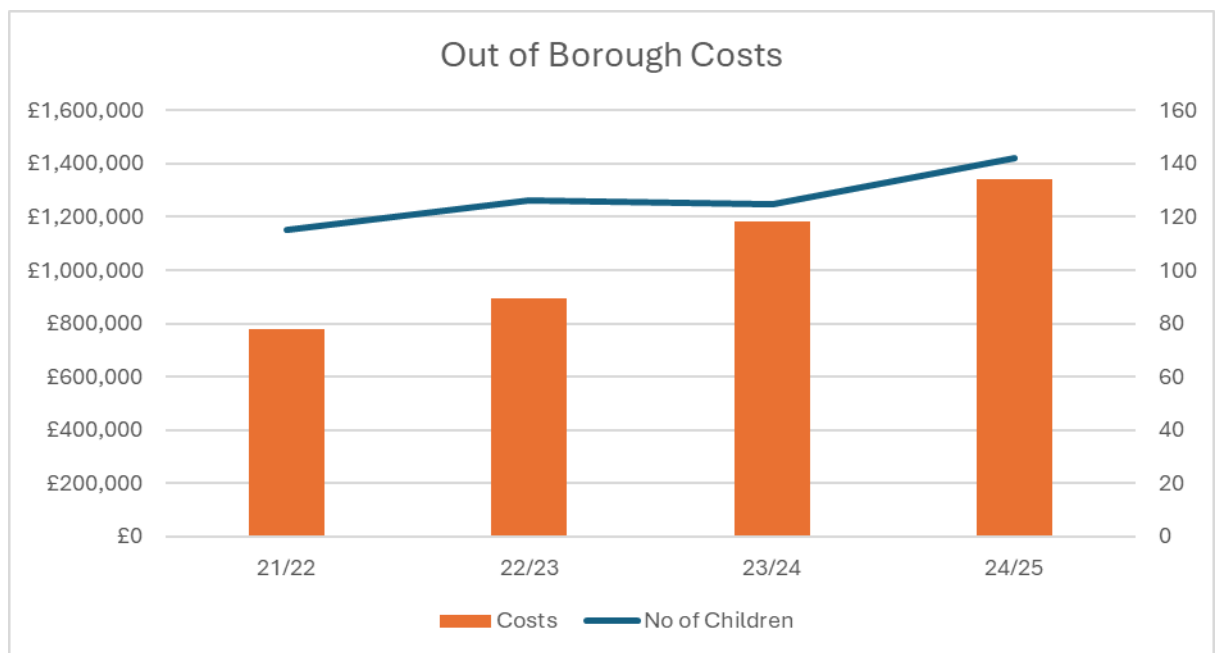
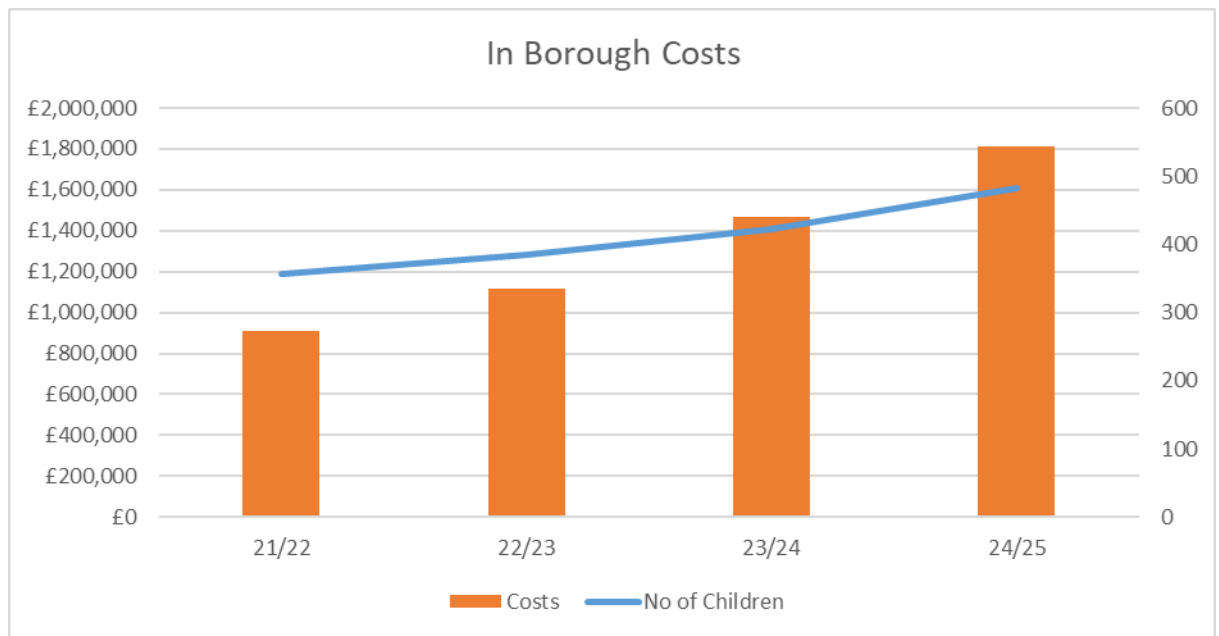
Schools Transport is the main budgetary demand pressure for Education, Inclusion and Provision. The Council has a statutory responsibility to provide Special Educational Needs (SEN) pupils with transport. This is split into two main areas of SEN pupils attending In Borough and out of Borough Schools.

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

2024-25					
Area	Number of Users	Budget £000	Spend £000	Variance £000	Average Cost per User
In Borough	486	1826	1789	37	£3,728.22
Out of Borough	146	530	1329	(799)	£9,200.53
Total	632	2356	3118	(762)	

As at 31 March 2025 there were 632 service users, 8 more than previously reported in January 2025. The majority of which attend schools within the Borough, 486 compared to 146 out of the Borough. The out of Borough overspend is £0.799m at the end of the financial year. The demand for the School Transport service is increasing 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.



(v) Legal and Democratic Services

As at 31 March 2025 the departmental net spend is £1.144m over the approved budget for the year.

Employee costs (excl agency) for the year are marginally below the approved budget (including staff payments for recent elections). This is a result of the number of vacancies that exist within the department but due to the demand on the service, agency staff are required to maintain the service. The main area of concern for the department is the volume of agency costs resulting from hard to fill vacant posts. These costs totalled £0.881m at the end of the financial year.

Within the £0.275m overspend against budget of legal expenses, there is an estimated £0.357m costs relating to the contracting of barristers, most of which again, are due to the limited number of staff available to clear an increasing caseload.

(vi) **Corporate and Democracy**

As at the end of March 2025 the net spend on corporate and democracy activities was £1.457m above the approved budget for the year.

The main area which drove the budgetary overspend position was the £4m target against the Transformation Programme, from which savings for the year were minimal.

Helping to mitigate against the above was a number of one-off grants received for which no budget had been allocated. The largest of which was £1.225m of business rate relief grants which were not identified until the end of the financial year when the Collection Fund position was fully reconciled and reported to Government.

Collection Fund

- 3.14 Council tax collection for the financial year ending 31 March 2025 is 93.98% which is 0.17% up on the 2023/24 collection rate.
- 3.15 The figure of 93.98% is the highest collection rate % since 2021/22 and is the first year since 2013/14 (when council tax reduction scheme was introduced), that the collection rate for the current year is an improvement on the previous year.
- 3.16 Debt relating to previous years continues to be collected, the Council utilises powers through charging orders and attachment to earnings/benefits to secure debts. £2.615m (14.85%) has been collected in relation to previous year debt. This is an improvement of £0.332m compared to prior year debt collected in 2023/24
- 3.17 Business rate collection for the financial year ending 31 March 2025 is 98.74% which is 2.05% higher than the collection rate at the same point last year.
- 3.18 £2.257m has been collected in relation to previous year debt.

Review of Reserves

- 3.19 As at 31 March 2025 the Council's General Reserve is unchanged from the previous year at £5.147m, which represents 3.44% of the Council's 2024/25 net budget. This is considered to be a minimum balance level.
- 3.20 A review of earmarked reserves has been undertaken and depending upon their purpose and level of commitment, it has been determined 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 solutions.

Reserves Summary

- 3.21 A summary breakdown of Council reserves is presented in the table below, this shows the remaining position after funding £6.179m of the 2024/25 overspend.

Summary of General and Earmarked Reserves	
Reserve	Reserve Value £m
Corporate:	
General Fund	5.149
Capital Reserve	0.499
Insurance Reserve	0.849
Specific Projects:	
Adult Social Care	0.787
Fleet Replacement	0.454
Highways Feasibility Costs	0.231
Local Development Framework	0.544
Community & Environment	0.546
Mersey Valley Golf Club	0.483
Various Other	0.336
Grants:	
Mersey Gateway	27.222
Building Schools for the Future	6.529
Public Health	1.504
Supporting Families	0.204
Children's & Education	1.367
Domestic Abuse	0.915
Community & Environment	0.237
Enterprise & Employment	0.584
Various Other	1.474
Total Earmarked Reserves	49.914

- 3.22 Other than the General Fund reserve of £5.149m there are no further reserves available to help fund future budgets. The remaining reserves are held as part of grant funded works or for other specific projects.

Capital Spending

- 3.23 Capital spending at 31st March 2025 totalled £46.517m, which is 91.7% of the planned spending of £50.748m (which assumes a 20% slippage between years). Appendix 3 presents details of spending against all capital schemes.

- 3.24 There are a number of capital schemes where spend for the year exceeds the revised budget as reported to Executive Board on 13 March 2025. Narrative has been provided on how additional costs above budget will be funded, in the majority of cases this will be from external grant funding or bringing forward capital allocations from 2025.26

Outstanding Sundry Debts

- 3.25 A review of aged debt outstanding as at March 2025, shows a decrease from March 2024 in overdue sundry debts of £0.877m or 5.0%. The total balance outstanding and currently overdue is £16.573m.
- 3.26 The greatest concern in terms of outstanding debt is with the Adult Social Care Directorate, there has been a slight increase in debt, as at 31 March 2025 the amount outstanding was £12.686m, an increase of £0.458m. In March 2024 Management Team agreed to the creation of two new permanent Community Care Worker posts to concentrate on collection of old debt and prompt recovery of new debt. The creation of a third post has recently been approved. Despite this the scale of debt within this area remains a significant concern.
- 3.27 The table below summarises debt at March 25 compared to March 24 and also shows the bad debt provision the Council has had to prudently set aside to account for any future write off of debt.

Department	Outstanding Debt March 2025 £'000	Outstanding Debt March 2024 £'000	Increase (Decrease) in Debt £'000	Bad Debt Provision March 2025 £'000
Adult Social Care	12,686	12,228	458	2,873
Chief Executives Delivery Unit	15	13	2	9
Children & Family Services	309	1,016	(707)	46
Community & Greenspace	1,216	1,324	(108)	307
Economy, Enterprise & Property	594	1,116	(522)	81
Education, Inclusion & Provision	355	296	59	28
Finance Department	673	676	(3)	66
ICT & Support Services	83	180	(97)	38
Legal & Democratic Services	70	75	(5)	68
Planning & Transportation	516	441	75	93
Public Health & Public Protection	56	85	(29)	3
Total	16,573	17,450	(877)	3,612

- 3.28 It should be noted that the profile of aged debt is a snapshot taken at a point in time and there is constant work being undertaken to recover outstanding debt.
- 3.29 Higher debt levels result in missed opportunities for the Council given the high level of return the Council can currently obtain on cash investments. For every £1m of debt, the Council is missing the opportunity to generate around £45,000 per annum in interest income. Therefore, it is essential that

additional work is undertaken to analyse the debt in more detail to enable more prompt recovery action to be taken.

Approved Savings

- 3.30 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 The £16.073m overspend for the year is a major concern for the Council. It is clear the Council cannot continue on the same course as it has over the last 7 years where overspends against budget have increased year on year. Prompt action and an urgent reset and implementation of the Council's Transformation Programme is essential to start bringing net spend under control.
- 4.2 The 2025/26 budget has been increased significantly to reflect the increased spend against those high pressure areas, including children's social care, community care and schools transport. Growth has also been included for inflation, demand growth and increasing complexities of care.
- 4.3 Departmental budget managers must ensure that any spend should be limited to essential items only. Departments should ensure that all spending continues to be restricted and tightly controlled throughout the financial year.
- 4.4 The use of agency staff should be a last resort and only used where there is a vacant post within the permanent establishment to mitigate against the additional cost.
- 4.5 A report on the 2025/26 budget monitoring position as at 31st May 2025 along with an initial outturn forecast, will be presented at the earliest opportunity to enable any further corrective action to be taken as a matter of urgency.

5.0 POLICY AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

- 6.1 **Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence**
- 6.2 **Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy**
- 6.3 **Supporting Children, Young People and Families**

6.4 Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need

6.5 Working Towards a Greener Future

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 above.

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.

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 31 March 2025

APPENDIX 1

Directorate / Department	Annual Budget £'000	Actual To Date £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000
Adult Social Care	22,059	22,605	(546)
Care Homes	10,372	11,655	(1,283)
Community Care	18,072	20,723	(2,651)
Complex Care Pool	10,066	10,066	0
Adults Directorate	60,569	65,049	(4,480)
Finance	5,032	5,344	(312)
Legal & Democratic Services	-572	572	(1,144)
ICT & Support Services	1,498	1,217	282
Chief Executives Delivery Unit	1,162	1,193	(31)
Chief Executives Directorate	7,120	8,326	(1,205)
Children & Families	39,266	47,700	(8,434)
Education, Inclusion & Provision	10,124	11,378	(1,254)
Childrens Directorate	49,390	59,078	(9,688)
Community & Greenspace	28,016	27,812	204
Economy, Enterprise & Property	3,484	3,309	175
Planning & Transportation	17,829	17,549	280
Environment & Regeneration Directorate	49,329	48,670	659
Corporate & Democracy	-26,234	-24,777	(1,457)
Mersey Gateway	8,030	8,030	0
Public Health Directorate	1,291	1,193	98
Total Operational Net Spend	149,496	157,539	(16,073)

Adult Social Care

APPENDIX 2

	Annual Budget	Actual Spend	Variance (Overspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure			
Employees	17,409	16,377	1,032
Agency- Covering Vacancies	0	1,173	(1,173)
Premises	492	501	(9)
Supplies & Services	1,120	1,352	(232)
Aids & Adaptations	37	43	(6)
Transport	242	437	(195)
Food & Drink Provisions	213	197	16
Supported Accommodation and Services	1,385	1,153	232
Emergency Duty Team	115	104	11
Transfer To Reserves	-75	-75	0
Contracts & SLAs	1,090	1,149	(59)
<u>Housing Solutions Grant Funded Schemes</u>			
Homelessness Prevention	563	554	9
Rough Sleepers Initiative	137	135	2
Total Expenditure	22,728	23,100	(372)
Income			
Fees & Charges	-921	-938	17
Sales & Rents Income	-480	-495	15
Reimbursements & Grant Income	-1,933	-1,964	31
Capital Salaries	-1,115	-1,115	0
Transfer from Reserves	-49	-49	0
Housing Schemes Income	-995	-994	(1)
Total Income	-5,493	-5,555	62
Net Operational Expenditure	17,235	17,545	(310)
Recharges			
Premises Support	529	529	0
Transport Support	582	818	(236)
Central Support	3,465	3,465	0
Asset Rental Support	360	360	0
Recharge Income	-112	-112	0
Net Total Recharges	4,824	5,060	(236)
Net Departmental Expenditure	22,059	22,605	(546)

Adult In-House Care Homes

	Annual Budget	Actual Spend	Variance (Overspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure			
<u>Madeline Mckenna</u>			
Employees	698	674	24
Agency - covering vacancies	0	112	(112)
Other Premises	101	104	(3)
Supplies & Services	20	30	(10)
Food Provison	48	49	(1)
Total Madeline Mckenna Expenditure	867	969	(102)
<u>Millbrow</u>			
Employees	2,057	1,244	813
Agency - covering vacancies	3	1,071	(1,068)
Other Premises	129	169	(40)
Supplies & Services	61	104	(43)
Food Provison	78	80	(2)
Total Millbrow Expenditure	2,328	2,668	(340)
<u>St Luke's</u>			
Employees	2,884	2,158	726
Agency - covering vacancies	551	1,653	(1,102)
Other Premises	172	273	(101)
Supplies & Services	59	156	(97)
Reimbursements & other Grant Income	-325	-318	(7)
Private Client Income 1:1	-81	-81	0
Food Provison	120	143	(23)
Total St Luke's Expenditure	3,380	3,984	(604)
<u>St Patrick's</u>			
Employees	1,839	1,217	622
Agency - covering vacancies	91	1,067	(976)
Other Premises	157	156	1
Supplies & Services	63	12	51
Food Provison	122	114	8
Reimbursements & other Grant Income	-45	-45	0
Total St Patrick's Expenditure	2,227	2,521	(294)
<u>Care Homes Divison Management</u>			
Employees	305	244	61
Supplies & Services		4	(4)
Care Home Divison Management	305	248	57
Net Operational Expenditure	9,107	10,390	(1,283)
Recharges			
Premises Support	264	264	0
Transport Support	0	0	0
Central Support	683	683	0
Asset Rental Support	318	318	0
Recharge Income	0	0	0
Net Total Recharges	1,265	1,265	0
Net Departmental Expenditure	10,372	11,655	(1,283)

Community Care

	Annual Budget £'000	Actual Spend £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000
Expenditure			
Residential & Nursing	14,942	18,415	(3,473)
Domiciliary Care & Supported living	13,332	14,436	(1,104)
Direct Payments	14,291	14,194	97
Day Care	648	617	31
Total Expenditure	43,213	47,662	(4,449)
Income			
Residential & Nursing Income	-13,794	-13,836	42
Community Care Income	-2,670	-2,715	45
Direct Payments Income	-1,154	-1,157	3
Income from other CCGs	-587	-587	0
Market sustainability & Improvement Grant	-2,796	-2,796	0
Adult Social Care Support Grant	-5,167	-5,167	0
War Pension Disregard Grant	-67	-55	(12)
Total Income	-26,235	-26,313	78
Net Operational Expenditure before year end adjustments	16,978	21,349	(4,371)
Additional Non-Recurrent Funding Identified			
Capitalised salaries (DFG)	994	0	994
Capitalised equipment (DFG)	0	-326	326
Pool budget contribution	0	-300	300
ASC contribution	100	0	100
Total additional Non-Recurrent Funding	1,094	-626	1,720
Net Operational Expenditure after adjustments	18,072	20,723	(2,651)

Complex Care Pool

	Annual Budget	Actual Spend	Variance (Overspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure			
Intermediate Care Services	5,298	5,393	(95)
Oakmeadow	1,936	1,941	(5)
Community Home Care First	2,088	1,807	281
Joint Equipment Store	535	564	(29)
Development Fund	27	0	27
Contracts & SLA's	3,247	3,243	4
Inglenook	134	108	26
HICafs	3,703	3,373	330
Carers Breaks	554	455	99
Carers centre	357	357	0
Residential Care	6,952	7,552	(600)
Domiciliary Care & Supported Living	4,227	4,227	0
Pathway 3/Discharge Access	391	416	(25)
HBC Contracts	72	78	(6)
Total Expenditure	29,521	29,514	7
Income			
BCF	-13,484	-13,484	0
CCG Contribution to Pool	-2,959	-2,959	0
Oakmeadow Income	-19	-13	(6)
ASC Discharge Grant Income	-1,631	-1,631	0
ICB Discharge Grant Income	-1,282	-1,282	0
Other Income	-80	-80	0
Total Income	-19,455	-19,449	(6)
ICB Contribution Share of Surplus		1	(1)
Net Operational Expenditure	10,066	10,066	0

Finance Department

	Annual Budget £'000	Actual Spend £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000
Expenditure			
Employees	6,969	6,846	123
Insurances	975	958	17
Supplies & Services	410	564	(154)
Rent Allowances	35,500	35,500	0
Concessionary Travel	1,748	1,872	(124)
LCR Levy	1,748	1,748	0
Transfer to Reserves	0	37	(37)
Bad Debt Provision	77	-7	84
Non HRA Rent Rebates	70	49	21
Discretionary Social Fund	106	12	94
Discretionary Housing Payments	300	275	25
Household Support Fund Expenditure	2,475	2,475	0
Total Expenditure	50,378	50,329	49
Income			
Fees & Charges	-335	-348	13
Burdens Grant	-60	-91	31
Dedicated schools Grant	-144	-144	0
Council Tax Liability Order	-581	-664	83
Business Rates Admin Grant	-157	-157	0
Schools SLAs	-312	-307	(5)
LCR Reimbursement	-1,748	-1,748	0
HB Overpayment Debt Recovery	-400	-198	(202)
Rent Allowances	-34,700	-33,909	(791)
Non HRA Rent Rebate	-70	-63	(7)
Discretionary Housing Payment Grant	-300	-277	(23)
Housing Benefits Admin Grant	-498	-489	(9)
Housing Benefits Award Accuracy	0	-12	12
Universal Credits	-5	0	(5)
Household Support Fund Grant	-2,475	-2,523	48
VEP Grant	0	-7	7
CCG McMillan Reimbursement	-87	-92	5
Reimbursements & Grant Income	-185	-495	310
Transfer from Reserves	0	-172	172
Total Income	-42,057	-41,696	(361)
Net Operational Expenditure	8,321	8,633	(312)
Recharges			
Premises Support	377	377	0
Transport Support	0	0	0
Central Support	2,365	2,365	0
Asset Rental Support	0	0	0
Recharge Income	-6,031	-6,031	0
Net Total Recharges	-3,289	-3,289	0
Net Departmental Expenditure	5,032	5,344	(312)

Legal & Democratic Services Department

	Annual Budget £'000	Actual Spend £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000
Expenditure			
Employees	1,557	1,542	15
Agency Related Expenditure	0	881	(881)
Supplies & Services	364	323	41
Civic Catering & Functions	23	18	5
Legal Expenses	218	493	(275)
Transport Related Expenditure	11	5	6
Total Expenditure	2,173	3,262	(1,089)
Income			
School SLA's	-98	-77	(21)
Licence Income	-301	-296	(5)
Government Grant	-67	-67	0
Reimbursement & Other Grants	-115	-115	0
Fees & Charges Income	-74	-45	(29)
Transfer from Reserves	-27	-27	0
Total Income	-682	-627	(55)
Net Operational Expenditure	1,491	2,635	(1,144)
Recharges			
Premises Support	53	53	0
Transport Recharges	0	0	0
Central Support Recharges	275	275	0
Asset Rental Support Costs	0	0	0
Support Recharge Income	-2,391	-2,391	0
Net Total Recharges	-2,063	-2,063	0
Net Departmental Expenditure	-572	572	(1,144)

ICT & Support Services Department

	Annual Budget £'000	Actual Spend £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000
Expenditure			
Employees	5,596	5,285	311
Supplies & Services	921	1,174	(253)
Capital Finance	100	43	57
Computer Repairs & Software	1,576	1,483	92
Communication Costs	13	175	(162)
Premises	159	137	23
Transport	3	2	1
Total Expenditure	8,367	8,298	69
Income			
Fees & Charges	-1,056	-1,167	111
Schools SLA Income	-646	-571	(75)
Reimbursements & Grant Income	0	-30	30
Transfer from Reserves	0	-148	148
Total Income	-1,703	-1,916	213
Net Operational Expenditure	6,664	6,383	282
Recharges			
Premises Support	550	550	0
Transport Support	19	19	0
Central Support	2,380	2,380	0
Asset Rental Support	716	716	0
Support Costs Income	-8,831	-8,831	0
Net Total Recharges	-5,166	-5,166	0
Net Departmental Expenditure	1,498	1,217	282

Chief Executives Delivery Unit

	Annual Budget	Actual Spend	Variance (Overspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure			
Employees	3,350	3,398	(48)
Employees Training	99	69	30
Apprenticeship Levy	300	326	(26)
Supplies & Services	391	340	51
Total Expenditure	4,140	4,133	7
Income			
Fees & Charges	-223	-211	(12)
Schools SLA Income	-565	-529	(36)
Transfer from Reserves	0	-5	5
Reimbursements & Grant Income	0	-5	5
Total Income	-788	-750	(38)
Net Operational Expenditure	3,352	3,383	(31)
Recharges			
Premises Support	174	174	0
Transport	0	0	0
Central Support	1,209	1,209	0
Asset Rental Support	0	0	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-3,573	-3,573	0
Net Total Recharges	-2,190	-2,190	0
Net Departmental Expenditure	1,162	1,193	(31)

Children & Families Department

	Annual Budget	Actual Spend	Variance (Overspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure			
Employees	16,311	17,761	(1,450)
Other Premises	430	390	40
Supplies & Services	2,907	3,496	(589)
Transport	360	312	48
Direct Payments	1,097	1,074	23
Commissioned services to Vol Orgs	224	209	15
Residential Care	19,594	25,550	(5,956)
Out of Borough Adoption	96	0	96
Out of Borough Fostering	4,408	5,211	(803)
In House Adoption	548	505	43
Special Guardianship Order	2,510	2,520	(10)
In House Foster Carer Placements	2,788	2,301	487
Lavender House Contract Costs	234	219	15
Home Support & Respite	478	347	131
Care Leavers	290	472	(182)
Family Support	53	50	3
Contracted services	3	4	(1)
Emergency Duty	132	175	(43)
Youth Offending Services	321	335	(14)
Transfer to Reserves	149	149	0
Finance Costing	2	2	0
Total Expenditure	52,935	61,082	(8,147)
Income			
Fees & Charges	-54	-34	(20)
Sales Income	-4	-2	(2)
Rents	-97	-97	0
Reimbursement & other Grant Income	-1,092	-914	(178)
Transfer from reserve	-214	-214	0
Dedicated Schools Grant	-50	-50	0
Government Grants	-14,150	-14,064	(86)
Total Income	-15,661	-15,375	(286)
Net Operational Expenditure	37,274	45,707	(8,433)
Recharges			
Premises Support	669	669	0
Transport	16	17	(1)
Central Support Recharges	2,274	2,274	0
Asset Rental Support	0	0	0
Internal Recharge Income	-967	-967	0
Net Total Recharges	1,992	1,993	(1)
Net Departmental Expenditure	39,266	47,700	(8,434)

Education, Inclusion & Provision Department

	Annual Budget	Actual Spend	Variance (Overspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure			
Employees	7,449	7,592	(143)
Agency - covering vacancies	0	271	(271)
Agency - addition to establishment	86	25	61
Premises	14	11	3
Supplies & Services	3,793	3,854	(61)
Independent School Fees	10,410	10,410	0
Schools Contingency	441	441	0
Transport	43	60	(17)
Schools Transport	2,356	3,118	(762)
Early Years Payments	12,320	12,320	0
Early Years Pupil Premium	257	257	0
Commissioned Services	1,918	2,116	(198)
Inter Authority Special Needs	1,415	1,415	0
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	112	176	(64)
Capital Financing	3,200	3,033	167
Total Expenditure	43,814	45,099	(1,285)
Income			
Fees & Charges Income	-440	-451	11
Government Grant Income	-8,442	-8,442	0
Dedicated Schools Grant	-27,114	-26,963	(151)
Inter Authority Income	-274	-274	0
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-1,717	-1,718	1
Schools SLA Income	-518	-478	(40)
Transfers from Reserves	-176	-596	420
Total Income	-38,681	-38,922	241
Net Operational Expenditure	5,133	6,177	(1,044)
Recharges			
Premises Support	344	344	0
Transport Support	528	738	(210)
Central Support	1,605	1,605	0
Asset Rental Support	2,514	2,514	0
Recharge Income	0	0	0
Net Total Recharges	4,991	5,201	(210)
Net Departmental Expenditure	10,124	11,378	(1,254)

Community & Greenspaces Department

	Annual Budget	Actual Spend	Variance (Overspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure			
Employees	16,534	15,726	808
Agency - covering vacancies	0	191	(191)
Agency - in addition to establishment	0	256	(256)
Premises	3,443	3,367	76
Supplies & Services	1,452	1,710	(258)
Hired & Contracted Services	1,636	1,617	19
Book Fund	128	134	(6)
Food Provisions	388	416	(28)
School Meals Food	1,107	1,236	(129)
Transport	117	121	(4)
Other Agency Costs	460	486	(26)
Other Expenditure	41	63	(22)
Waste Disposal Contracts	7,072	7,190	(118)
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	64	30	34
Grants to Norton Priory	174	174	0
Transfer to reserves	1,357	1,357	0
Total Expenditure	33,973	34,074	(101)
Income			
Sales Income	-1,389	-1,353	(36)
Fees & Charges Income	-5,771	-5,633	(138)
Rental Income	-235	-280	45
Markets Income	-910	-847	(63)
Government Grant Income	-2,034	-2,034	0
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-1,053	-1,053	0
School SLA Income	-553	-553	0
School Meals Income	-2,622	-2,622	0
Internal Fees Income	-322	-434	112
Capital Salaries	-173	-92	(81)
Transfers From Reserves	-421	-925	504
Total Income	-15,483	-15,826	343
Net Operational Expenditure	18,490	18,248	242
Recharges			
Premises Support	1,675	1,675	0
Transport	2,257	2,295	(38)
Central Support	3,592	3,592	0
Asset Rental Support	2,845	2,845	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-843	-843	0
Net Total Recharges	9,526	9,564	(38)
Net Departmental Expenditure	28,016	27,812	204

Economy, Enterprise & Property Department

	Annual Budget	Actual Spend	Variance (Overspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure			
Employees	5,264	4,778	486
Agency - covering vacancies	0	417	(417)
Repairs & Mainenance	1,746	1,831	(85)
Premises	167	160	7
Energy & Water Costs	1,258	1,132	126
NNDR	687	666	21
Rents	173	166	7
Economic Regeneration Activities	17	-4	21
Security	544	588	(44)
Supplies & Services	477	570	(93)
Supplies & Services - Grant	1,270	1,270	0
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	159	154	5
Capital Finance	0	0	0
Transfer to Reserves	1,177	1,231	(54)
Total Expenditure	12,939	12,959	(20)
Income			
Fees & Charges Income	-1,065	-1,175	110
Rent - Commercial Properties	-872	-900	28
Rent - Investment Properties	-38	-38	0
Government Grant	-2,652	-2,661	9
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-330	-387	57
Schools SLA Income	-221	-212	(9)
Recharges to Capital	-383	-383	0
Transfer from Reserves	-1,170	-1,170	0
Total Income	-6,731	-6,926	195
Net Operational Expenditure	6,208	6,033	175
Recharges			
Premises Support	2,074	2,074	0
Transport Support	28	28	0
Central Support	1,947	1,947	0
Asset Rental Support	1,154	1,154	0
Recharge Income	-7,927	-7,927	0
Net Total Recharges	-2,724	-2,724	0
Net Departmental Expenditure	3,484	3,309	175

Planning & Transportation Department

	Annual Budget	Actual Spend	Variance (Overspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure			
Employees	6,156	5,796	360
Agency - covering vacancies	110	53	57
Agency - in addition to establishment	24	2	22
Efficiency savings	-150	0	(150)
Premises	193	152	41
Hired & Contracted Services	94	239	(145)
Planning Appeal Decision	0	300	(300)
Supplies & Services	187	416	(229)
Street Lighting	1,678	1,933	(255)
Highways Maintenance - Routine & Reactive	1,772	2,146	(374)
Highways Maintenance - Programmed Works	1,775	1,431	344
Fleet Transport	1,455	1,451	4
Bus Support - Halton Hopper Tickets	24	18	6
Bus Support	498	498	0
Agency Related Expenditure	8	71	(63)
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	31	31	0
NRA Levy	74	73	1
LCR Levy	1,649	1,649	0
Contribution to Reserves	539	539	0
Total Expenditure	16,117	16,798	(681)
Income			
Sales & Rent Income	-97	-183	86
Planning Fees	-826	-568	(258)
Building Control Fees	-245	-213	(32)
Other Fees & Charges	-908	-1,615	707
Grants & Reimbursements	-253	-253	0
Government Grant Income	-360	-360	0
Halton Hopper Income	-24	-9	(15)
Recharge to Capital	-878	-846	(32)
LCR Levy Reimbursement	-1,649	-1,649	0
Contribution from Reserves	-1,036	-1,036	0
Total Income	-6,276	-6,732	456
Net Operational Expenditure	9,841	10,066	(225)
Recharges			
Premises Recharges	560	560	0
Transport Recharges	749	774	(25)
Asset Charges	10,274	10,274	0
Central Recharges	1,534	1,534	0
Transport Recharge Income	-4,238	-4,768	530
Central Recharge Income	-891	-891	0
Net Total Recharges	7,988	7,483	505
Net Departmental Expenditure	17,829	17,549	280

Corporate & Democracy

	Annual Budget	Actual Spend	Variance (Overspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure			
Employees	412	352	60
Contracted Services	39	32	7
Supplies & Services	119	137	(18)
Premises Expenditure	5	7	(2)
Transport Costs	1	7	(6)
Members Allowances	983	988	(5)
Interest Payable - Treasury Management	1,341	2,217	(876)
Interest Payable - Other	1,535	1,553	(18)
Bank Charges	132	245	(113)
Audit Fees	348	457	(109)
Contingency	350	0	350
Capital Financing	3,037	2,953	84
Debt Management Expenses	20	41	(21)
Precepts & Levies	240	229	11
Transformation Efficiency Savings	-4,000	0	(4,000)
Total Expenditure	4,562	9,218	(4,656)
Income			
Interest Receivable - Treasury Management	-3,618	-4,827	1,209
Interest Receivable - Other	-549	-667	118
Other Fees & Charges	-158	-111	(47)
Grants - NNDR Relief	0	-1,225	1,225
Grants & Reimbursements	-255	-591	336
Government Grant Income	-377	-735	358
Total Income	-4,957	-8,156	3,199
Net Operational Expenditure	-395	1,062	(1,457)
Recharges			
Premises Support	21	21	0
Transport	0	0	0
Central Support	1,066	1,066	0
Asset Rental Support	159	159	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-27,085	-27,085	0
Net Total Recharges	-25,839	-25,839	0
Net Departmental Expenditure	-26,234	-24,777	(1,457)

Public Health

	Annual Budget	Actual Spend	Variance (Overspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure			
Employees	4,799	4,796	3
Other Premises	6	0	6
Supplies & Services	354	287	67
Contracts & SLA's	7,741	7,704	37
Transport	4	2	1
Transfer to Reserves	1,281	1,281	0
Other Agency	24	24	(0)
Total Expenditure	14,208	14,095	113
Income			
Fees & Charges	-148	-147	(0)
Reimbursements & Grant Income	-714	-714	0
Transfer from Reserves	-1,714	-1,714	0
Government Grant Income	-12,231	-12,231	0
Total Income	-14,807	-14,806	(0)
Net Operational Expenditure	-598	-711	113
Recharges			
Premises Support	150	150	(0)
Transport Support	22	24	(3)
Central Support	2,387	2,399	(12)
Asset Rental Support			0
Recharge Income	-669	-669	0
Net Total Recharges	1,890	1,904	(15)
Net Departmental Expenditure	1,291	1,193	98

Capital Programme as at 31 March 2025

Appendix 3

	2024/25 Revised Allocation £000	Actual Spend to 31 March 2025 £000	Allocation remaining £000	Comment on Overspend against Allocation
Childrens Directorate				
Capital Repairs	749.0	741.2	7.8	
Basic Need Projects	0.0	0.0	0.0	
SEND capital allocation	1,529.2	1,532.2	(3.0)	Funded from External Grant
Family Hubs & Start for Life	110.4	112.8	(2.4)	Funded from External Grant
Asbestos Management	0.0	2.9	(2.9)	Funded from External Grant
Asset Management	0.0	23.6	(23.6)	Funded from External Grant
Small Capital Works - Schools	0.0	54.9	(54.9)	Funded from External Grant
Access Initiative	0.0	22.6	(22.6)	Funded from External Grant
Grange BSF	0.0	49.3	(49.3)	
Childrens Directorate Total	2,388.6	2,539.5	(150.9)	
Adults Directorate				
Halton Carers Centre Refurbishment	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Grants - Disabled Facilities	1,050.0	2,461.8	(1,411.8)	Funded from External Grant
Stair Lifts	250.0	304.2	(54.2)	Funded from External Grant
Joint Funding RSL Adaptations	250.0	317.9	(67.9)	Funded from External Grant
Telehealthcare Digital Switchover	135.0	60.0	75.0	
Oakmeadow & Peelhouse Network Improvements	40.0	0.0	40.0	
Madeline McKenna Refurbishment	120.0	90.8	29.2	
Millbrow Refurbishment	50.0	54.9	(4.9)	Funded from External Grant
St Lukes Care Home	120.0	159.8	(39.8)	Funded from External Grant
St Patricks Care Home	150.0	120.8	29.2	
Adults Directorate Total	2,165.0	3,570.2	(1,405.2)	

Capital Programme as at 31 March 2025 continued

	2024/25 Revised Allocation £000	Actual Spend to 31 March 2025 £000	Allocation remaining £000	Comment on Overspend against Allocation
Environment & Regeneration Directorate				
Stadium Minor Works	30.0	37.8	(7.8)	
Halton Leisure Centre	8,997.0	8,897.3	99.7	
Children's Playground Equipment	67.8	48.0	19.8	
Landfill Tax Credit Schemes	340.0	0.0	340.0	
Upton Improvements	13.0	0.0	13.0	
Crow Wood Park Play Area	12.0	0.0	12.0	
Open Spaces Schemes	600.0	591.7	8.3	
Runcorn Town Park	468.6	18.1	450.5	
Spike Island / Wigg Island	1,933.5	90.9	1,842.6	
Pickerings Pasture Cafe	503.0	33.8	469.2	
Replacement Cremator Widnes	308.0	325.9	(17.9)	Allocation brought forward from 2025/26
Litter Bins	20.0	20.0	0.0	
3MG	134.5	0.0	134.5	
Sandymoor Open Spaces Improvements	0.0	2.9	(2.9)	Funded from Balance Sheet
Murdishaw redevelopment	21.2	21.9	(0.7)	Funded from Prudential Borrowing
Equality Act Improvement Works	93.2	89.7	3.5	
Foundary Lane Residential Area	1,240.0	494.1	745.9	
Town Deal	11,552.9	3,160.1	8,392.8	
Property Improvements	460.5	627.4	(166.9)	Funded from External Contributions
Runcorn Station Quarter	76.0	76.0	(0.0)	
Waterloo Building	75.0	4.5	70.5	
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	178.2	236.7	(58.5)	Funded from External Grant
Runcorn Waterfront Residential Development	268.7	186.7	82.0	
Changing Places	24.1	7.0	17.1	
Sci-tech Daresbury Project Violet	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Port of Weston	20.0	3.0	17.0	
Kingsway Leisure Centre Demolition	750.0	41.2	708.8	
Bridge and Highway Maintenance	2,265.6	1,024.6	1,241.0	
Runcorn Busway	0.0	934.6	(934.6)	Funded from External Grant
ATF3 Murdishaw to Whitehouse	3,000.0	1,632.0	1,368.0	
ATF4 Widnes Town Centre Accessibility	114.5	0.0	114.5	
A56 Reconstruction (Delph Lane)	943.7	362.7	581.0	







Capital Programme as at 31 March 2025 continued

	2024/25 Revised Allocation	Actual Spend to 31 March 2025	Allocation remaining	Comment on Overspend against Allocation
	£000	£000	£000	
Dukesfield ATL (Waterloo Bridge)	0.0	1.1	(1.1)	Funded from External Grant
LCWIP Phase 2 Daresbury	3,861.7	733.6	3,128.1	
Additional Pothole Funding	429.1	0.0	429.1	
CRSTS	5,288.6	6,380.8	(1,092.2)	Funded from External Grant
Street Lighting - Structural Maintenance	250.0	200.5	49.5	
Street Lighting - Upgrades	100.0	241.0	(141.0)	Allocation brought forward from 2025/26
East Runcorn Connectivity	5,851.7	7,147.1	(1,295.4)	Funded from External Grant
Risk Management	50.0	4.9	45.1	
Fleet Replacements	2,500.0	1,868.7	631.3	
Early Land Acquisition Mersey Gateway	212.4	259.4	(47.0)	Allocation brought forward from 2025/26
Mersey Gateway Crossings Board	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Mersey Gateway Handback Land	60.1	67.3	(7.2)	Allocation brought forward from 2025/26
Widnes Loops	0.0	13.9	(13.9)	Funded from External Grant
Challenge Fund Part 1	0.0	6.2	(6.2)	Funded from External Grant
S106 DEW	0.0	18.3	(18.3)	Funded from External Grant
A56 Redbrow Lane	0.0	57.1	(57.1)	Funded from External Grant
Leiria Way Loop	0.0	123.1	(123.1)	Funded from External Grant
SJB to Shopping City	0.0	39.3	(39.3)	Funded from External Grant
Measures to Assist Buses	0.0	22.7	(22.7)	Funded from External Grant
Environment & Regeneration Directorate Total	53,114.6	36,153.6	17,248.7	
Chief Executives Directorate				
IT Rolling Programme	1,026.9	921.6	105.3	
Halton Smart Microgrid	1,000.0	130.4	869.6	
Transformation Programme	3,740.0	3,202.1	537.9	
Chief Executives Directorate Total	5,766.9	4,254.2	1,512.7	
Grand Total	63,435.1	46,517.5	17,205.3	



Progress Against Agreed Savings

Appendix 4




Adult Social Care

	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.	100	0	✓	Contracts being re-costed on renewal, saving anticipated to be achieved
			Review the Integrated Care Board contribution for Adults, to ensure the full recovery of related costs.	150	0	✗	Increased contribution from ICB not agreed.

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		Contribution of £0.400m received from 2024.25 Pool Budget. One-off contribution only. Uncertainty if this will be achieved in 2025.26
Total Adult Social Care Department				1,837	1,225		




Finance

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

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			Budget adjusted inline with the savings in the ICT department
Total Legal Services Department				15	0		



Children and Families

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

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 are commissioned by the Integrated Care Board.	148	0		To be reviewed.
Total Education, Inclusion and Provision Department				280	0		


Community and Greenspace

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		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		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		

Economy, Enterprise and Property

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

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		

