REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 11 September 2025

REPORTING OFFICER: Director of Finance

PORTFOLIO: Corporate Services

SUBJECT: 2025/26 Councilwide Spending as at 31 July 2025

WARD(S): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To report the Council's overall revenue net spend position as at 31 July 2025 together with a 2025/26 forecast outturn position.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That;

- (i) Executive Directors continue to implement the approved 2025/26 saving proposals as detailed in Appendix 3;
- (ii) Executive Directors continue to identify areas where they can further reduce their directorate's spending or generate income, in order to ensure the council wide forecast outturn overspend position for the year remains within budget.
- (iii) 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.
- (iv) Council be asked to approve the revisions to the capital programme set-out in paragraph 3.24 and incorporated within Appendix 4;

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Revenue Spending

3.1 Appendix 1 presents a summary of spending against the operational revenue budget up to 31 July 2025 and Appendix 2 provides detailed figures for each individual Department. In overall terms, net Council spending as at 31 July 2025 is £1.629m over budget. The outturn forecast for the year estimates that net spending will be over budget by £5.572m if no corrective action is taken. This compares with the position at the end of May 2025 where forecast spend for the year was estimated to be £6.185m over budget.

- 3.2 The improved position on the forecast outturn from that reported at the end of May 2025 can be linked across a number of departments, there are though, two departments where the reported position is significantly changed from previously reported. Adult Social Care (excl Care Homes and Community Care) is forecasting a £0.698m overspend against budget, mainly as a result of higher than forecast staffing costs. There is a significant improvement against Planning & Transportation which is now forecasting an underspend position against budget of £0.266m (as at May 2025 the forecast was a net overspend of £0.672m). This can be attributed to cessation of revenue spend for programmed works and higher forecast of income against fees and charges.
- 3.3 The forecast position remains a matter of great concern and action to reduce net spend must be taken immediately. Without action being taken the Council will not be in a position to provide a balanced budget by financial year-end and will further add to borrowings which will need to be taken through Exceptional Financial Support (EFS).
- 3.4 As part of the action to ensure spend for the year remains within budget, recovery meetings have been put into action where directorate leads will provide action points on how they aim to keep net spend within the approved budget.
- 3.5 On 10 February 2025 Government issued a letter to the Council confirming it was minded to approve a capitalisation direction of a total not exceeding £52.8 million. The total is broken down by each financial year of the Council's request:
 - £20.8 million in 2024-25.
 - £32 million in 2025-26.
- 3.6 Consistent with those councils that have previously sought Exceptional Financial Support, in order for Government to provide a final capitalisation direction, the council is required to undergo an external assurance review which will include, but will not be limited to, an assessment of the council's financial position and governance arrangements. No date has yet been fixed for the assessment
- 3.7 Council approved the annual budget of £183.052m on 05 March 2025, in doing so they agreed to the use of EFS totalling £29.385m. As a minimum the Council must aspire to ensure that spend for the year remains within the approved budget to ensure the provisional capitalisation direction is not breached.
- 3.8 The cost of EFS is significant over the long term for the Council, for every £1m borrowing undertaken it is estimated will cost the Council approximately £100k over each of the next 20 years. It is imperative that action is taken now to reduce the level of planned spend over the remainder of the year and that approved saving proposals are implemented with immediate effect

- 3.9 The figures reflect a prudent yet realistic view of spend and income levels through to the end of the year. Work will continue to progress on updating the financial position as more information is made available.
- 3.10 In setting the 2025/26 budget Council approved significant levels of growth to ensure the budget was more relevant to the planned level of spend. Budget growth of £33.555m (22%) was added to the 2025/26 budget to bring the approved net budget to £183.052m.
- 3.11 There are continued demand pressures on the budget which are above growth levels provided in the 2025/26 budget, these are more notable against adults community care and home to school transport. Levels of demand covering children in care appear to be under control for the first four months of the year, although still too high for an authority the size of Halton. Further information is provided within the report on the main budgetary pressure areas.
- 3.12 In setting the 2025/26 budget, inflation of 2% was provided for the pay award. The pay award has been agreed at 3.2%, therefore budgetary growth for the pay award is insufficient, it is currently forecast the additional cost of the 3.2% pay offer will add approximately £1m to the Council's running cost for the year. This additional cost is included within the reported forecast position for the year. Backdated pay will be paid during August 2025.
- 3.13 Another major factor in achieving a balanced budget position for the year is that all approved savings are fully achieved to the agreed levels. In total, savings of £7.225m were agreed for the current year, Appendix 3 provides detail on progress against the approved savings. As per Appendix 3, savings have been RAG rated to inform on progress, high level summary of this is provided below.

Department	On-course to be achieved	Uncertain or too early to say	Highly likely or certain will not
	acilieved	earry to say	be achieved
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adult Social Care	100	1,500	280
Finance	0	150	40
Legal	6	0	0
Children & Family Services	0	1,900	22
Education, Inclusion and Provision	0	300	0
Community and Greenspaces	282	0	0
Economy, Enterprise and Property	0	100	0
Planning & Transportation	0	0	100
Public Health	45	0	0
Corporate	0	2,200	200
Totals	433	6,150	642

- 3.14 The use and cost of agency staff continues to be one of the main contributing factors to the overspend position for the year. This is mostly evident within the Children & Families Department and the Council's inhouse Care Homes. Initiatives and support from the Transformation Programme are ongoing to reduce reliance upon agency staff.
- 3.15 Analysis of agency spend for the year to date, together with comparative analysis of 2024/25 costs, is included in the table below.

	2025/26				2024/25
			Total		
	As at 31	As at 31	2025/26 To		As at 31
	May 2025	July 2025	Date		March 2025
	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000
Adult Social Care	955	1,687	2,642		6,035
Chief Executives Delivery Unit	130	145	275		810
Children & Family Services	574	739	1,313		5,220
Community & Greenspace	71	59	130		447
Economy, Enterprise & Property	60	77	137		417
Education, Inclusion & Provision	54	72	126		295
Finance	3	0	3		114
Legal & Democratic Services	63	59	122		881
Planning & Transportation	2	0	2		210
Public Health & Public Protection	0	0	0		22
Total	1,912	2,838	4,750		14,451

Revenue - Operational Spending

- 3.16 Operational net spending for the first four months of the year is higher than the budget to date by £1.629m Based on current forecasts it is estimated net spend will be over budget for the year by £5.572m if no further corrective action is taken.
- 3.17 Within the overall budget forecast position for the period, the key budget pressure areas are as follows;

(i) Children and Families Department

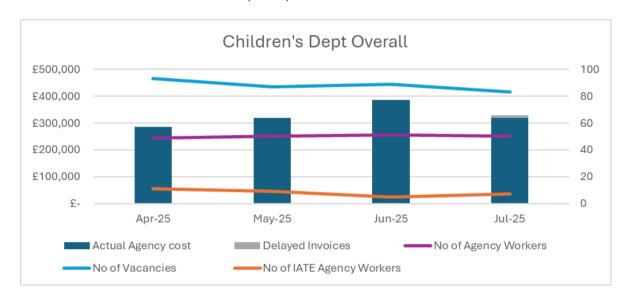
The net departmental outturn position is estimated to be over budget profile at the end of financial year 2025/26 by £2.190m with the majority relating to Social Care Services. Since last reported at 31 May 2025 there has been a reduction in overspend of £0.197m.

Employee costs are forecast to be over budget profile by the end of financial year 2025/26 by £1.204m this is a reduction of £0.245m since last reported on 31 May 2025. The reduction mainly relates to

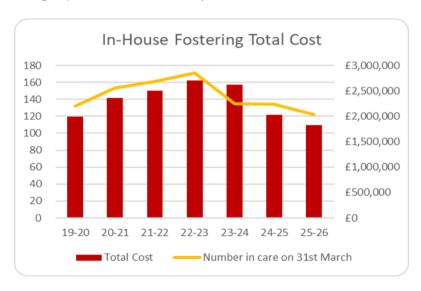
vacant posts that remain unfilled that are not being covered by agency and a slight increase in staffing budget.

The level of agency has remained consistent since April across the service. There is an expectation that a number of agency staff are due to convert to Halton BC employees in the coming months and the recruitment of newly qualified social workers should reduce the level of agency reliance. Forecasts will be updated as and when to reflect the changes in staffing.

The chart below demonstrates agency costs that cover April to July 2025, the number of agency staff that the Council have received an invoice for within each period, the number of vacancies across the department and the number of staff that are currently in addition to the establishment (IATE).

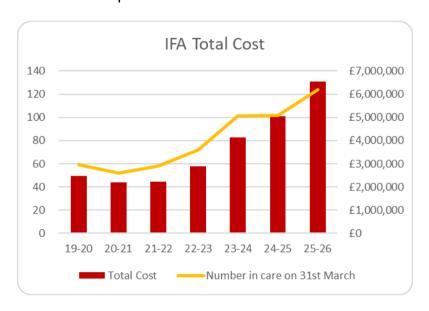


Inhouse fostering placements is estimated to be £0.493m under budget profile for financial year 2025/26.



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 Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA). Higher numbers of children placed within IFA provision and increased IFA rates has resulted in an estimated forecast overspend for the end of 2025/26 as £1.070m.



Out of Borough Residential Care continues to be a budget pressure for the Children and Families Department as the costs of residential care have continue 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.

Residential care costs are forecast to be over budget profile by £0.061m, this is an increase in forecast overspend since last reported of £0.099m. This is due to not receiving sufficient funding relating to accommodation costs for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children (UASC) and Care Leavers as well as a number of young people that have been placed within remand provision.

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 previous years.



The table below demonstrates the number of children that the department are forecasting to be in Residential care at 31 March 26.

		31-Jul-25			
Provision	Weekly Costs	No. Placed	Estimated cost for the year		
Residential	£1000 - £3000	4	369,378		
Residential	£3001 - £5000	28	6,674,247		
Residential	£5001 - £7000	20	6,451,576		
Residential	£7001 - £15982	19	10,713,790		
Secure	£6397 - £8137				
Leaving Care	£443 - £7175	17	2,465,705		
Parent & Child	£2000 - £5500	6	694,683		
Total:		94	27,369,380		

(ii) Adult Social Care Directorate

Community Care

The net spend position for the community care budget at the end of July 2025 is currently £0.876m over the available budget and the year end forecast is forecast to show net spend to be £2.627m over the annual budget.

This forecast is as things stand at the moment assuming no material changes, apart from increased demand of 4.9% and the agreed fee increase of 8% with care providers. However there is a risk that the forecast could be significantly more as the ICB carry out a formal "turnaround" reviewing all NHS spend which may impact on the community care budget and could result in more challenges to social care funding requests.

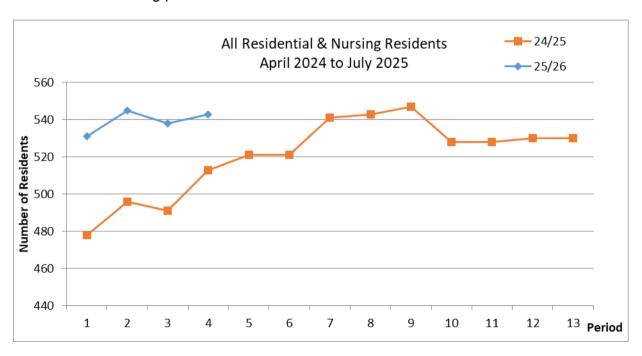
To mitigate this financial risk a number of actions are being considered for implementation to reduce costs and help bring spend back in line with budget. These are detailed below:

- Reduction of 1 to 1 packages of care if health's responsibility
- Review 15 minutes packages of domiciliary care to identify medicine prompts which are health's financial responsibility
- Ensure assessments carried out on discharge from hospital are complete and appropriate
- Maximise internal care home capacity

Residential & Nursing Care

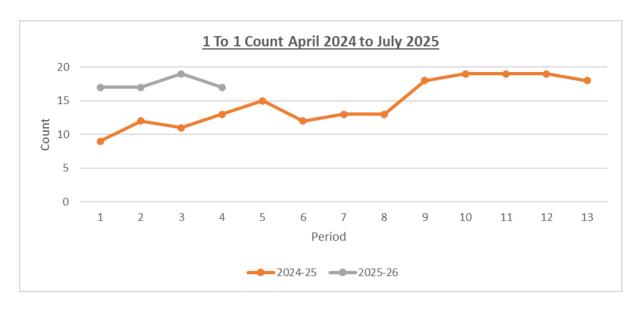
There are currently 543 residents in external residential/nursing care as at the end of July 2025 compared to 530 at the end of 2024/25, an increase of 2.45%. Compared to the 2024/25 average of 520 this is an increase of 4.4%. The average cost of a package of care is currently £869.21 compared to £850.24 at the end of 2024/25 an increase of 2.2%. Supplementary invoice payments so far amount to £0.205m.

The graph below illustrates the demand for all residential and nursing placements.



Payments for 1 to 1 support continue to exert pressure on the budget. These are generally to mitigate the risk from falls particularly on discharge from hospital. The full year cost for 2024/25 was £837,882.

The graph below shows the count of service users receiving 1 to 1 care by period. Currently there are 17 compared to 13 at the same point last year. This is an increase of 30%, although numbers have decreased from Period 3 to 4 as packages are being reviewed.



Additional payments to providers rose sharply throughout 2024/25, both in and out of the borough. This is where the care home charge an additional amount on top of the contracted bed rate. The cost of this for 2024/25 was £423,894.

The graph below illustrates the cost of additional payments by period. This clearly shows a steady increase in numbers and costs for 25/26. The spend up to Period 4 2025/26 is £188,542.83. If numbers and costs remain the same the forecast spend for the year will be approximately £0.605m.



Domiciliary Care & Supported Living

As at July there are 783 service users receiving a package of care at home, compared to the average in 2024/25 of 754, an increase of 3.8%. However compared with July 2024 the increase is 3.7%. The average

cost of a package of care is currently £519.79 compared with £450.64 in 2024/25 an increase of 15.3%.

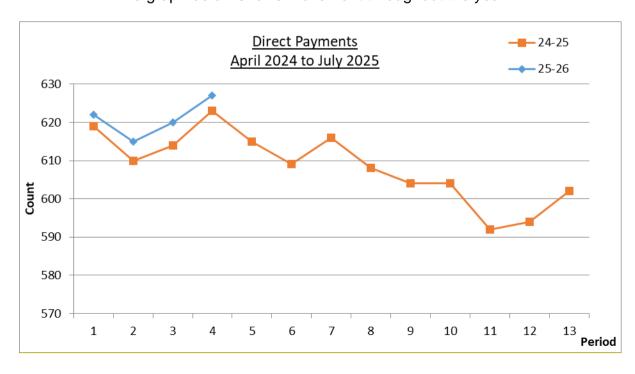
The graph below illustrates the demand for the service from April 2024 to July 2025.



Direct Payments

The average number of clients who received a Direct Payment (DP) in Period 4 was 627 compared with 622 in Period 1, a very small increase. The average cost of a package of care has decreased from £571.26 to £509.29, a reduction of 10.8%.

The graph below shows movement throughout the year.



Care Homes

Spend for the first four months of the 2025/26 financial year to 31 July is £0.330m above profile, with an estimated spend above budget for the year of £0.832m. This primarily relates to unbudgeted agency staffing costs.

Employee related expenditure is over budget profile at the end of July 2025 by £0.234m, with the expected outturn at the end of financial year being £0.713m over budget. Projections take into account agency spending patterns over the previous 3 financial years.

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

Due to pressures with recruitment and retention in the sector, heavy reliance is being placed on overtime and expensive agency staff to support the care homes. At the end of July 2025 total agency spend across the care homes reached £1.675m, the cost of this has partially been offset by staff vacancies.

Adult Social Care (excluding Care Homes and Community Care)

Net department expenditure, is currently £0.153m over budget profile at the end of the fourth period of the financial year. Current expenditure projections indicate an overspend for the full financial year in the region of £0.698m.

The projected full-year cost for employees is above the annual budget by £0.706m. Factors relating to the projected overspend include;

Unbudgeted agency costs in respect of covering vacant posts, particularly in terms of front-line Care Management and Mental Health Team posts. Due to ongoing and increase in vacancies, there has been an increase in agency staff use, by 6 additional agency staff members since May 2025, with the continued use of these agency staff members being forecasted until the end of the financial year.

Agency expenditure across the department as a whole at the end of July 2025 stood at £0.686m, with a full-year spend of £1.742m projected. This is partially offset by a forecasted underspend on the staffing budget of £1.036m.

An unbudgeted market supplement has been awarded to social workers across the division with spend at the end of July 2025 being £0.059m, a full year spend of £0.177m is forecasted.

(iii) Education, Inclusion and Provision

Net departmental expenditure is £0.359m over budget at the end of July, based on available information. The forecast outturn for 2025/26 is currently an overspend against budget of £1.184m.

Schools Transport is the main budget 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.

2025-26 as at July-25							
Area	Number of Users	Budget £000	Projected Spend £000	Variance £000	Average Cost per User		
In Borough	476	1857	2062	(205)	£3,806.54		
Out of Borough	147	1214	1546	(332)	£9,137.94		
Total	623	3071	3608	(537)			

Note the above table excludes efficiency savings of £0.300m approved for the 2025/26 budget.

Inter Authority income is projected to underachieve its target by £0.211m. This is due to an underachievement of income within the Integrated Youth Support Services & Commissioning Division for a shared service.

(iv) Corporate and Democracy

The Corporate & Democracy budget is currently forecasting an underspend against budget of £1.869m at the end of the financial year, there are a number of reasons for this.

Included within the budget are council wide saving proposals of £2.6m, it is currently estimated that only £0.3m of these savings will

be achieved by 31 March 2026. Further details of the agreed savings are included at Appendix 3.

The additional cost of the pay award over the approved budget is estimated to cost the Council an additional £1m in the current financial year. This estimate has been included within Corporate and Democracy until the pay award is implemented.

Contingency of £3.688m is included and assumed will not be called upon (for new spend) through to 31 March 2026. The high level of contingency was included within the budget to allow for the gradual reduction in agency costs, demand and general cost pressures.

Collection Fund

3.18 The council tax collection rate through to the end of July 2025 is 36.16% which is 0.07% lower than the collection rate at the same point last year.

Debt relating to previous years continues to be collected, and the Council utilises powers through charging orders and attachment to earnings/benefits to secure debts. £1.268m has so far been collected this year in relation to previous years' debt.

3.19 Business rate collection through to the end of July 2025 is 40.69% which is 0.9% lower than the collection rate at the same point last year.

£0.345m has so far been collected this year in relation to previous years' debt.

Review of Reserves

- 3.20 As at 31 July 2025 the Council's General Reserve is unchanged from the previous period at £5.149m, which represents 2.81% of the Council's 2025/26 net budget. This level of General Reserve is considered to be insufficient and provides little to cover unforeseen costs. Within the Medium Term Financial Strategy, growth to reserves will be included at a rate of £2m per year.
- 3.21 There is a regular review of earmarked reserves undertaken to determine whether they can be released in part or in full to assist with funding the Council's current financial challenges, recognising that this only provides one-year funding solutions.

Reserves Summary

3.22 A summary breakdown of the Council's reserves is presented in the table below, showing the balance of reserves as at 31 July 2025.

Summary of General and Earmarked Reserves				
Reserve	Reserve Value £m			
Corporate:				
General Fund	5.149			
Capital Reserve	0.398			
Insurance Reserve	0.849			
Specific Projects:				
Adult Social Care	0.710			
Fleet Replacement	0.454			
Highways Feasibility Costs	0.102			
Local Development Framework	0.538			
Community & Environment	0.542			
Mersey Valley Golf Club	0.480			
Mersey Gateway	33.542			
CCLA Property Fund	0.263			
Various Other	0.153			
Grants:				
Building Schools for the Future	6.529			
Public Health	1.468			
Supporting Families Performance Payments	0.204			
Children's & Education	1.188			
Domestic Abuse	0.915			
Enterprise & Employment	0.782			
Food Waste Collection	0.237			
Mersey Gateway Environmental Trust	0.492			
Various Other	0.156			
Total Earmarked Reserves	55.151			

3.23 The above table shows the diminishing level of reserves available to assist with funding any future budget overspends and balancing future budgets. Only the £5.149m of the General Fund could now be used for these purposes, as all remaining reserves are committed for specific purposes.

Capital Spending

3.24 Council approved the 2025/26 Capital Programme on 5 March 2025. Since then the capital programme has been revised to reflect a number of changes in spending profiles and funding as schemes have developed. Appendix 4 brings all the separate elements together and report on the Council's total planned capital programme expenditure. The schemes which have been revised within the programme are as follows:

- i. Grants Disabled Facilities
- ii. Stair Lifts
- iii. Joint Funding RSL Adaptations
- iv. Madeline McKenna Residential Home
- v. St Lukes Residential Home
- vi. Halton Leisure Centre
- vii. Landfill Tax Credit Schemes
- viii. Spike Island / Wigg Island
- ix. Cemetery Infrastructure work
- x. Stadium Public Address System
- xi. Town Deal
- xii. Astmoor Masterplan
- xiii. ATF4 Widnes Town Centre Accessibility
- xiv. A56 Reconstruction
- xv. Pot Hole Funding
- xvi. CRSTS
- xvii. Risk Management
- xviii. Fleet Replacements
- xix. Early Land Acquistion Mersey Gateway
- 3.25 Capital spending at 31 July 2025 totalled £11.4m, which represents 20.1% of the total Capital Programme of £56.5m (which assumes a 20% slippage between years).

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 As at 31 July 2025, net revenue spend is forecast to be £5.572m over the budget to date despite significant levels of growth being included within the budget.
- 4.2 Urgent corrective should be taken as soon as possible across all Council services to identity spend reductions and ensure that agreed savings are fully implemented in a timely manner.
- 4.3 Departments should ensure that all spending continues to be limited to what is absolutely essential throughout the remainder of the year, to ensure that the forecast outturn overspend is minimised as far as possible and future spending is brought in line with budget.

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.
- 7.2 A budget risk register of significant financial risks has been prepared and is included at Appendix 5.
- 8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES
- 8.1 None.
- 9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS
- 9.1 None
- 10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1072
- 10.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act

Directorate / Department	Annual Budget £'000	Budget To Date £'000	Actual To Date £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000	July 2025 Forecast Outturn (o'spend) £'000
Adult Social Care	24,522	7,812	7,965	(153)	(698)
Care Homes`	7,932	2,658	2,988	(330)	(832)
Community Care	27,968	8,515	9,391	(876)	(2,627)
Complex Care Pool	13,188	312	309	3	2
Adults Directorate	73,610	19,297	20,653	(1,356)	(4,155)
Finance	5,573	2,687	2,797	(110)	(331)
Legal & Democratic Services	297	64	70	(6)	(18)
ICT & Support Services	197	1,260	1,221	39	117
Chief Executives Delivery Unit	1,113	577	586	(9)	(26)
Chief Executives Directorate	7,180	4,588	4,674	(86)	(258)
Children & Families	53,959	13,823	14,703	(880)	(2,190)
Education, Inclusion & Provision	12,067	2,896	3,255	(359)	(1,184)
Children's Directorate	66,026	16,719	17,958	(1,239)	(3,374)
Community & Greenspace	23,711	5,651	5,690	(39)	(124)
Economy, Enterprise & Property	2,464	940	928	12	178
Planning & Transportation	9,256	1,939	1,817	122	266
Environment & Regeneration Directorate	35,431	8,530	8,435	95	320
Corporate & Democracy	-1,076	2,704	1,754	950	1,869
Public Health Directorate	1,881	-2,583	-2,590	7	26
Total Operational Net Spend	183,052	49,255	50,884	(1,629)	(5,572)

Adult Social Care APPENDIX 2

	Annual	Budget to	Actual	Variance	Forecast
	Budget £'000	Date £'000	Spend £'000	(Overspend) £'000	Outturn £'000
Expenditure	2,000	£ 000	£ 000	£ 000	£ 000
Employees	18,229	6,076	5,632	444	1,036
Agency- Covering Vacancies	10,229	0,070	686	(686)	(1,742)
Premises	498	215	185	30	(1,742)
Supplies & Services	712	273	363	(90)	(69)
Aids & Adaptations	37	12	10	(30)	8
Transport	341	114	106	8	22
Food & Drink Provisions	228	76	49	27	91
Supported Accommodation and Services	1,408	469	387	82	146
Emergency Duty Team	157	39	33	6	(4)
Transfer To Reserves	282	0	0	0	0
Contracts & SLAs	1,043	342	322	20	56
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Housing Solutions Grant Funded Schemes					
Homelessness Prevention	548	246	227	19	0
Rough Sleepers Initiative	167	56	36	20	0
Trailblazer	15	5	5	0	0
Total Expenditure	23,665	7,923	8,041	(118)	(371)
•					
Income					
Fees & Charges	-1,044	-348	-191	(157)	(338)
Sales & Rents Income	-538	-240	-243	3	7
Reimbursements & Grant Income	-2,182	-612	-729	117	23
Capital Salaries	-117	-29	-29	0	0
Housing Schemes Income	-783	-727	-727	0	0
Total Income	-4,664	-1,956	-1,919	(37)	(308)
Net Operational Expenditure	19,001	5,967	6,122	(155)	(679)
Recharges					
Premises Support	789	263	263	0	0
Transport	792	264	271	(7)	(19)
Central Support	4,039	1,346	1,346	0	0
Asset Rental Support	13	0	0,040	0	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-112	-28	-37	9	0
Net Total Recharges	5,521	1,845	1,843	2	-19
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Net Departmental Expenditure	24,522	7,812	7,965	(153)	(698)

Care Homes

	Annual	Budget to	Actual	Variance	Forecast
	Budget	Date	Spend	(Overspend)	Outturn
Evnenditure	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure					
Madeline Mckenna	781	261	252	0	•
Employees Other Premises			253	8	3 12
	90	25	24	1	
Supplies & Services	26	7	9	(2)	(7)
Food Provison	51	13	18	(5)	(5)
Private Client and Out Of Borough Income	-127	-42	-33	(9)	0
Reimbursements & other Grant Income	-34	-11	-11	0	6
Total Madeline Mckenna Expenditure	787	253	260	(7)	9
Millbrow	0.400	007	000	400	4 4 4 7
Employees	2,423	807	398	409	1,147
Agency - covering vacancies	0	0	377	(377)	(1,228)
Other Premises	117	34	46	(12)	(23)
Supplies & Services	72	21	22	(1)	(5)
Food Provison	81	20	28	(8)	(9)
Private Client and Out Of Borough Income	-13	-4	0	(4)	(9)
Reimbursements & other Grant Income	-885	-295	-220	(75)	(180)
Total Millbrow Expenditure	1,795	583	651	(68)	(307)
St Luke's					
Employees	3,411	1,137	570	567	1,566
Agency - covering vacancies	0	0	857	(857)	(2,234)
Other Premises	156	45	59	(14)	(52)
Supplies & Services	67	19	25	(6)	(11)
Food Provison	128	42	53	(11)	(29)
Private Client and Out Of Borough Income	-152	-50	-15	(35)	(9)
Reimbursements & other Grant Income	-896	-298	-417	119	375
Total St Luke's Expenditure	2,714	895	1,132	(237)	(394)
St Patrick's					
Employees	2,113	704	297	407	787
Agency - covering vacancies	0	0	441	(441)	(895)
Other Premises	144	41	48	(7)	(24)
Supplies & Services	67	20	24	(4)	2
Food Provison	127	42	37	5	10
Private Client and Out Of Borough Income	-99	-33	-5	(28)	(93)
Reimbursements & other Grant Income	-766	-186	-186	0	(68)
Total St Patrick's Expenditure	1,586	588	656	(68)	(281)
Care Homes Divison Management					
Employees	322	107	57	50	141
Care Home Divison Management	322	107	57	50	141
Net Operational Expenditure	7,204	2,426	2,756	(330)	(832)
Recharges					
Premises Support	65	21	21	0	0
Transport Support	0	0	0	0	0
Central Support	663	211	211	0	0
Asset Rental Support	0	0	0	0	0
Recharge Income	0	0	0	0	0
Net Total Recharges	728	232	232	0	0
Net Departmental Expenditure	7,932	2,658	2,988	(330)	(832)

Community Care

	Annual	Budget to	Actual	Variance	Forecast
	Budget	Date	Spend	(Overspend)	Outturn
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure					
Residential & Nursing	21,061	5,280	5,542	(262)	(333)
Domicilary Care & Supported living	16,093	4,153	4,394	(241)	(1,343)
Direct Payments	15,513	5,668	6,027	(359)	(972)
Day Care	712	164	158	6	13
Total Expenditure	53,379	15,265	16,121	(856)	(2,635)
Income					
Residential & Nursing Income	-11,881	-2,782	-2,765	(17)	14
Community Care Income	-3,115	-698	-634	(64)	(210)
Direct Payments Income	-1,034	-199	-260	61	204
Income from other CCGs	-429	-105	-105	0	0
Market sustainability & Improvement Grant	-2,796	-932	-932	0	0
Adult Social Care Support Grant	-6,102	-2,034	-2,034	0	0
War Pension Disregard Grant	-54	0	0	0	0
Total Income	-25,411	-6,750	-6,730	(20)	8
Net Operational Expenditure	27,968	8,515	9,391	(876)	(2,627)

Complex Care Pool

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual Spend	Variance (Overspend)	Forecast Outturn
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure					
Intermediate Care Services	6,281	1,339	1,345	(6)	(20)
Oakmeadow	2,025	643	625	18	54
Community Home Care First	1,941	169	153	16	48
Joint Equipment Store	880	147	147	0	0
Contracts & SLA's	3,262	-49	-49	0	0
Inglenook	134	37	26	11	32
HICafs	3,720	271	315	(44)	(132)
Carers Breaks	445	76	72	4	11
Carers centre	365	-15	-15	0	0
Residential Care	7,236	2,112	2,112	0	0
Domiciliary Care & Supported Living	4,336	1,445	1,445	0	0
Pathway 3/Discharge Access	426	111	111	0	0
HBC Contracts	72	43	43	0	0
Healthy at Home	28	-28	-28	0	0
Capacity	30	8	4	4	12
Total Expenditure	31,181	6,309	6,306	3	5
Income					
BCF	-15,032	-5,011	-5,011	0	0
CCG Contribution to Pool	-2,959	-986	-986	0	0
Oakmeadow Income	-2	0	0	0	0
Total Income	-17,993	-5,997	-5,997	0	0
ICP Contribution Share of Surplus	0	0	0	0	(2)
ICB Contribution Share of Surplus	U	U	U	U	(3)
Net Operational Expenditure	13,188	312	309	3	2

Finance Department

	Annual	Budget to	Actual	Variance	Forecast
	Budget	Date	Spend	(Overspend)	Outturn
Expenditure	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Employees	7,370	2,409	2,301	108	318
. ,			,		
Insurances	1,055	620	560	60	180
Supplies & Services	1,118	227	264	(37)	(110)
Rent Allowances	31,500	8,696	8,696	0	0
Concessionary Travel	1,902	281	261	20	58
LCR Levy	1,902	0	0	0	0
Bad Debt Provision	223	8	0	8	25
Non HRA Rent Rebates	70	27	9	18	55
Discretionary Social Fund	106	33	0	33	98
Discretionary Housing Payments	279	73	73	0	1
Household Support Fund Expenditure	1,051	1,051	1,051	0	0
Total Expenditure	46,576	13,425	13,215	210	625
I					
Income	240	470	000	00	70
Fees & Charges	-342	-176	-202	26	78
Burdens Grant	-58	-53	-58	5	14
Dedicated schools Grant	-150	0	0	0	0
Council Tax Liability Order	-670	-371	-386	15	43
Recovery of Legal Costs	-10	-3	0	(3)	(10)
Business Rates Admin Grant	-157	0	0	0	1
Schools SLAs	-319	-4	-2	(2)	(6)
LCR Reimbursement	-1,902	0	0	0	0
HB Overpayment Debt Recovery	-300	-89	-60	(29)	(88)
Rent Allowances	-30,700	-8,512	-8,110	(402)	(1,205)
Non HRA Rent Rebate	-70	-24	-23	(1)	(5)
Discretionary Housing Payment Grant	-279	-94	-93	(1)	(2)
Housing Benefits Admin Grant	-453	-151	-151	0	0
Housing Benefits Award Accuracy	0	-15	-22	7	22
Universal Credits	-5	-2	0	(2)	(5)
Household Support Fund Grant	-1,051	326	326	0	0
VEP Grant	0	0	0	0	3
CCG McMillan Reimbursement	-89	-23	-22	(1)	0
Reimbursements & Grant Income	-185	-124	-192	68	204
Transfer from Reserves	-34	-13	-13	0	0
Total Income	-36,774	-9,328	-9,008	(320)	(956)
Net Operational Expenditure	9,802	4,097	4,207	(110)	(331)
Pachargas					
Recharges Promises Support	493	164	164	0	0
Premises Support				0	_
Transport	0	0	0		0
Central Support	2,092	697	697	0	C
Asset Rental Support	0	0 074	0 074	0	C
HBC Support Costs Income	-6,814	-2,271	-2,271	0	C
Net Total Recharges	-4,229	-1,410	-1,410	0	0
Not Donortmontal Expanditure	5 F70	2,687	2 707	(110)	(331)
Net Departmental Expenditure	5,573	2,087	2,797	(110)	(331)

Legal Services

	Annual	Budget to	Actual	Variance	Forecast
	Budget £'000	Date £'000	Spend £'000	(Overspend) £'000	Outturn £'000
Expenditure	£ 000	£ 000	£ 000	£ 000	£ 000
•	0.007	007	F70	440	254
Employees	2,287	697	579	118	354
Agency Related Expenditure	64	64	122	(58)	(175)
Supplies & Services	178	101	92	9	28
Civic Catering & Functions	21	2	1	1	5
Legal Expenses	422	13	63	(50)	(152)
Transport Related Expenditure	8	3	3	0	(1)
Other Expenditure	1	1	1	0	(1)
Total Expenditure	2,981	881	861	20	58
Income					
Fees & Charges Income	-75	-19	-10	(9)	(26)
Reimbursement & Other Grants	0	0	0	0	2
School SLA's	-100	-8	0	(8)	(23)
Licence Income	-371	-78	-69	(9)	(29)
Total Income	-546	-105	-79	(26)	(76)
Net Operational Expenditure	2,435	776	782	(6)	(18)
Recharges					
Premises Support	62	21	21	0	0
Transport Recharges	0	0	0	0	0
Central Support Recharges	275	92	92	0	0
Asset Rental Support	0	0	0	0	0
Support Recharge Income	-2.475	-825	-825	0	0
Net Total Recharges	-2,138	-712	-712	0	0
	2,100	7.12			
Net Departmental Expenditure	297	64	70	(6)	(18)

ICT & Support Services Department

	Annual	Budget to	Actual	Variance	Forecast
	Budget	Date	Spend	(Overspend)	Outturn
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure					
Employees	5,827	1,867	1,808	59	177
Supplies & Services	1,169	579	646	(67)	(202)
Capital Finance	100	37	12	25	75
Computer Repairs & Software	2,019	2,058	1,962	96	288
Communication Costs	133	16	45	(29)	(87)
Premises	139	62	64	(2)	(5)
Transport	3	0	0	0	1
Other	4	2	4	(2)	(6)
Total Expenditure	9,394	4,621	4,541	80	241
Income					
Fees & Charges	-849	-250	-240	(10)	(29)
Schools SLA Income	-659	-48	-16	(32)	(98)
Transfer from Reserves	0	-2	-3	1	3
Total Income	-1,508	-300	-259	(41)	(124)
Net Operational Expenditure	7,886	4,321	4,282	39	117
			-		
Recharges					
Premises Support	373	124	124	0	0
Transport	22	7	7	0	0
Central Support	1,391	464	464	0	0
Asset Rental Support	1,494	0	0	0	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-10,969	-3,656	-3,656	0	0
Net Total Recharges	-7,689	-3,061	-3,061	0	0
Net Departmental Expenditure	197	1,260	1,221	39	117

Chief Executives Delivery Unit

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual Spend	Variance (Overspend	Forecast Outturn
)	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure					
Employees	3,525	1,115	1,085	30	91
Employees Training	99	49	40	9	27
Apprenticeship Levy	330	109	122	(13)	(40)
Supplies & Services	412	210	215	(5)	(14)
Agency	3	3	3	0	0
Total Expenditure	4,369	1,486	1,465	21	64
Income					
Fees & Charges	-241	-65	-67	2	6
Schools SLA Income	-580	-32	0	(32)	(96)
Total Income	-821	-97	-67	(30)	(90)
Net Operational Expenditure	3,548	1,389	1,398	(9)	(26)
Recharges					
Premises Support	157	52	52	0	0
Transport Support	0	0	0	0	0
Central Support	1,008	336	336	0	0
Asset Rental Support	53	18	18	0	0
Recharge Income	-3,653	-1,218	-1,218	0	0
Net Total Recharges	-2,435	-812	-812	0	0
Net Departmental Expenditure	1,113	577	586	(9)	(26)

Children & Families

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual Spend	Variance (Overspend)	Forecast Outturn
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure					
Employees	19,427	5,905	6,307	(402)	(1,204)
Other Premises	392	142	150	(8)	(23)
Supplies & Services	1,592	469	709	(240)	(721)
Transport	367	122	76	46	126
Direct Payments	1,220	477	447	30	86
Commissioned services to Vol Orgs	224	42	42	0	0
Residential Care	27,517	7,077	7,247	(170)	(61)
Out of Borough Adoption	97	24	0	24	92
Out of Borough Fostering	5,469	1,079	1,436	(357)	(1,070)
In House Adoption	557	50	36	14	41
Special Guardianship Order	2,604	725	701	24	73
In House Foster Carer Placements	2,766	791	626	165	493
Lavender House Contract Costs	279	70	69	1	4
Home Support & Respite	494	175	137	38	110
Care Leavers	434	107	106	1	3
Family Support	81	20	11	9	24
Contracted services	3	1	1	0	(1)
Emergency Duty	184	33	33	0	0
Youth Offending Services	461	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	64,168	17,309	18,134	(825)	(2,028)
Income					
Fees & Charges	-33	-12	-7	(5)	(14)
Rents	-82	-31	-31	0	0
Reimbursement & other Grant Income	-493	-217	-166	(51)	(153)
Transfer from reserve	-15	0	-1	1	5
Dedicated Schools Grant	-50	0	0	0	0
Government Grants	-13,477	-4,539		0	0
Total Income	-14,150	-4,799	-4,744	(55)	(162)
Net Operational Expenditure	50.018	12.510	13.390	(880)	(2,190)
Net Operational Experiulture	30,010	12,310	13,330	(660)	(2,190)
Recharges					
Premises Support	736	245	245	0	0
Transport	10	3	3	0	0
Central Support Recharges	3,331	1,110	1,110	0	0
Asset Rental Support	0	0	0	0	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-136	-45	-45	0	0
Net Total Recharges	3,941	1,313	1,313	0	0
Net Departmental Expenditure	53,959	13,823	14,703	(880)	(2,190)

Education, Inclusion & Provision

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual Spend	Variance (Overspend)	Forecast Outturn
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure					
Employees	8,788	2,575	2,588	(13)	260
Agency - covering vacancies	0	0	73	(73)	(204)
Agency - in addition to establishment	43	45	49	(4)	7
Premises	15	0	1	(1)	2
Supplies & Services	3,010	950	976	(26)	(79)
Independent School Fees	10,155	3,916	3,916	0	0
Schools Contingency	400	117	117	0	0
Transport	43	12	19	(7)	(20)
Schools Transport	2,771	735	914	(179)	(837)
Early Years Payments including Pupil Premium	15,615	3,976	3,976	0	0
Commissioned Services	1,982	578	576	2	9
Inter Authority Special Needs	1,545	503	503	0	0
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	115	0	16	(16)	(67)
Capital Finance	4,604	1,423	1,423	0	1
Total Expenditure	49,086	14,830	15,147	(317)	(928)
Income					
Fees & Charges Income	-267	-161	-164	3	20
Government Grant Income	-6,541	-1,925	-1,925	0	0
Dedicated Schools Grant	-30,267	-10,089	-10,089	0	0
Inter Authority Income	-234	-94	-59	(35)	(211)
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-1,744	-594	-594	0	Ô
Schools SLA Income	-608	-11	-1	(10)	(59)
Government Grant Income	-500	-142	-142	0	(1)
Total Income	-40,161	-13,016	-12,974	(42)	(251)
Net Operational Expenditure	8,925	1,814	2,173	(359)	(1,179)
Recharges					
Premises Support	405	135	135	0	0
Transport Support	773	298	298	0	(5)
Central Support	1,947	649	649	0	0
Asset Rental Support	1,547	043	049	0	0
Recharge Income	17	0	0	0	0
Net Total Recharges	3.142	1.082	1.082	0	(5)
,	-,	.,502	.,,,,,,		
Net Departmental Expenditure	12,067	2,896	3,255	(359)	(1,184)

Community & Greenspaces

	Annual	Budget to	Actual	Variance	Forecast
	Budget	Date	Spend	(Overspend)	Outturn
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure					
Employees	15,529	5,130	4,921	209	626
Agency - Covering vacancies	12	8	8	0	0
Agency - In addition to establishment	16	42	121	(79)	(237)
Premises	3,304	823	868	(45)	(136)
Supplies & Services	3,589	891	965	(74)	(224)
Transport	117	8	17	(9)	(28)
Extended Producer Responsibility	500	0	0	0	O
Other Agency Costs	454	176	191	(15)	(45)
Other Expenditure	187	12	13	(1)	(5)
Waste Disposal Contracts	7,121	942	955	(13)	(40)
Transfers to Reserves	1,091	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	31,920	8,032	8,059	(27)	(89)
Income					
Sales Income	-1,359	-544	-554	10	29
Fees & Charges Income	-6,300	-2,543	-2,530	(13)	(39)
Rental Income	-1,118	-324	-295	(29)	(86)
Government Grant Income	-5,210	-1,319	-1,319	0	0
Reimbursement & Other Grant Income	-871	-171	-171	0	0
SLA Income	-23	0	0	0	0
Internal Fees Income	-216	-37	-84	47	140
Capital Salaries	-236	-12	0	(12)	(35)
Transfers From Reserves	-619	0	0	0	0
Total Income	-15,952	-4,950	-4,953	3	9
Net Operational Expenditure	15,968	3,082	3,106	(24)	(80)
Recharges					
Premises Support	1,657	552	552	0	0
Transport Support	2,433	866	881	(15)	(44)
Central Support	4,297	1,432	1,432	(13)	(44)
Asset Rental Support	199	1,432	1,432	0	0
Recharge Income	-843	-281	-281	0	0
Net Total Recharges	7,743	2,569	2,584	(15)	(44)
Not Total Nechalyes	1,143	2,303	2,304	(13)	(44)
Net Departmental Expenditure	23,711	5,651	5,690	(39)	(124)

Economy, Enterprise & Property

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual Spend	Variance (Overspend)	Forecast Outturn
				(0.1010)	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure					
Employees	3,911	1,581	1,490	91	272
Agency - covering vacancies	0	0	137	(137)	(270)
Repairs & Mainenance	1,691	486	486	0	0
Premises	174	136	136	(0)	(1)
Energy & Water Costs	1,082	246	218	28	84
NNDR	647	658	655	3	10
Rents	157	40	40	0	0
Economic Regeneration Activities	43	0	0	0	0
Security	508	34	35	(1)	(3)
Supplies & Services	500	201	200	1	3
Supplies & Services - Grant	643	185	185	0	0
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	72	11	12	(0)	(1)
Total Expenditure	9,428	3,579	3,594	(16)	94
Income					
Fees & Charges Income	-482	-166	-195	29	86
Rent - Commercial Properties	-908	-329	-328	(1)	(2)
Rent - Investment Properties	-38	-14	-14	0	0
Government Grant	-668	-215	-215	0	0
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-133	-99	-99	0	0
Schools SLA Income	-55	-21	-21	0	0
Recharges to Capital	-412	-39	-39	0	0
Transfer from Reserves	-572	-522	-522	0	0
Total Income	-3,268	-1,405	-1,433	28	84
Net Operational Expenditure	6,160	2,174	2,162	12	178
Dackerses					
Recharges	0.700	912	912		
Premises Support	2,738			0	0
Transport	26	8 959	8 959	0	0
Central Support	2,878			-	
Asset Rental Support	4	0	0	0	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-9,342	-3,113	-3,113	0	0
Net Total Recharges	-3,695	-1,234	-1,234	0	U
Net Departmental Expenditure	2,464	940	928	12	178

Planning & Transportation Department

	Annual	Budget to	Actual	Variance	Forecast
	Budget	Date	Spend	(Overspend)	Outturn
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure					
Employees	6,070	1,980	1,901	79	238
Efficiency Savings	-100	-33	0	(33)	(100)
Premises	188	83	68	15	45
Hired & Contracted Services	415	69	60	9	27
Supplies & Services	117	119	196	(77)	(231)
Street Lighting	1,643	189	281	(92)	(275)
Highways Maintenance - Routine & Reactive	1,803	451	591	(140)	(419)
Highways Maintenance - Programmed Works	812	189	0	189	567
Fleet Transport	1,467	451	445	6	19
Bus Support - Halton Hopper Tickets	14	1	0	1	1
Bus Support	506	233	233	0	0
Agency Related Expenditure	8	0	0	0	0
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	31	31	31	0	0
NRA Levy	75	0	0	0	0
LCR Levy	1,553	388	388	0	0
Contribution to Reserves	359	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	14,961	4,151	4,194	(43)	(128)
-					
Income					
Sales & Rents Income	-97	-32	-20	(12)	(38)
Planning Fees	-798	-266	-248	(18)	(54)
Building Control Fees	-251	-84	-75	(9)	(27)
Other Fees & Charges	-971	-425	-528	103	306
Reimbursements & Grant Income	-174	-24	-55	31	0
Government Grant Income	-32	-50	-50	0	0
Halton Hopper Income	-15	-5	-3	(2)	(7)
Recharge to Capital	-305	0	0	0	0
LCR Levy Reimbursement	-1,553	-388	-388	0	0
Contribution from Reserves	-132	-132	-132	0	0
Total Income	-4,328	-1,406	-1,499	93	180
Net Operational Expenditure	10,633	2,745	2,695	50	52
Recharges					
Premises Support	739	246	246	0	0
Transport	808	253	249	4	11
Central Support	2,505	837	837	0	0
Asset Rental Support	918	0	0	0	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-6,347	-2,142	-2,210	68	203
Net Total Recharges	-1,377	-806	-878	72	214
Net Departmental Expenditure	9,256	1,939	1,817	122	266

Corporate & Democracy

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual Spend	Variance (Overspend	Forecast Outturn
	Budget	Date	Spenu)	Outturn
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure					
Employees	412	137	161	(24)	(16)
Contracted Services	12	3	0	3	0
Supplies & Services	102	44	22	22	0
Premises Expenditure	24	11	11	0	0
Transport Costs	1	0	40	(40)	0
Members Allowances	994	331	340	(9)	0
Interest Payable - Treasury Management	4,258	1,419	1,281	138	415
Interest Payable - Other	215	72	72	0	0
Contingency	3,638	1,229	0	1,229	3,688
Capital Financing	3,504	3,504	3,366	138	138
Contribution to Reserves	300	300	263	37	0
Debt Management Expenses	20	7	3		0
Precepts & Levies	244	244	244	0	0
Pay Award over 2%	0	0	0	0	(1,000)
Efficiency Savings:					(1,000)
Purchase of Additional Leave	-100	-33	0	(33)	(50)
Voluntary Severance Scheme	-200	-67	0	(67)	(200)
Apprenticeship First Model	-200	-67	0	(67)	(50)
Agency Staff Reduction	-1,700	-567	0	(567)	(1,700)
Accelerate the Lease or Sale of Surplus Land	-100	-33	0	(33)	(1,700)
Review of Debt Management	-100	-33	0	(33)	(100)
Review Existing Contracts	-200	-67	0	(67)	(100)
Total Expenditure	11,124	6,434	5.803	631	925
Total Experiature	11,124	0,101	0,000	001	320
Income					
Interest Receivable - Treasury Management	-3,045	-1,015	-1,330	315	944
Interest Receivable - Other	-19	-6	-6		0
Other Fees & Charges	-146	-46	-50	4	0
Grants & Reimbursements	-334	-56	-56	•	0
Government Grant Income	-6,272	-2,091	-2,091	0	0
Total Income	-9,816	-3,214	-3,533	319	944
Total income	-9,010	-3,214	-3,333	319	344
Net Operational Expenditure	1,308	3,220	2,270	950	1,869
Recharges					
Premises Support	22	7	7	0	0
Transport	0	0	0	0	0
Central Support	898	316	316	0	0
Asset Rental Support	0	0	0	0	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-3,304	-839	-839	0	0
Net Total Recharges	-2,384	-516	-516	0	0
Not Departmental Expenditure	4.070	2.704	4 754	050	4 000
Net Departmental Expenditure	-1,076	2,704	1,754	950	1,869

Public Health

	Annual	Budget to	Actual	Variance	Forecast
	Budget £'000	Date £'000	Spend £'000	(Overspend) £'000	Outturn £'000
Expenditure	2 000	2 000	£ 000	2.000	£ 000
Employees	5.708	1.656	1.585	71	210
Other Premises	5,700	1,030	1,565	2	6
Supplies & Services	370	80	140	(60)	(181)
Contracts & SLA's	6,875	1,976	1,979	(3)	(101)
Transport	0,873	1,970	1,979	(3)	2
Transfer to Reserves	380	0	0	0	0
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	20	0	0	0	0
Other Agency	24	24	24	0	0
Total Expenditure	13,387	3,739	3,728	11	38
	10,000	2,1 22	-,		
Income					
Fees & Charges	-122	-43	-35	(8)	(23)
Reimbursements & Grant Income	-203	-58	-63	5	13
Transfer from Reserves	-120	-36	-36	0	0
Government Grant Income	-12,522	-6,672	-6,672	0	0
Total Income	-12,967	-6,809	-6,806	(3)	(10)
Net Operational Expenditure	420	-3,070	-3,078	8	28
Recharges					
Premises Support	209	70	70	0	0
Transport Support	24	8	9	(1)	(2)
Central Support	1,897	632	632	0	0
Asset Rental Support	0	0	0	0	0
Recharge Income	-669	-223	-223	0	0
Net Total Recharges	1,461	487	488	(1)	(2)
Net Departmental Expenditure	1,881	-2,583	-2,590	7	26

Progress Against Agreed Savings

APPENDIX 3

Adult Social Care

Service Area	Net	Description of Saving Proposal	Savings	s Value	Current	Comments
	Budget £'000		25/26 Agreed Council 01 February 2023 £'000	25/26 Agreed Council 05 March 2025 £'000	Progress	
Housing Solutions	474	Remodel the current service based on good practice evidence from other areas.	125	0	U	Currently Under Review
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.	100	0	V	Achieved
Community Wardens/Telecare Service		Community Wardens/Telecare Service – a review will be undertaken of the various options available for the future delivery of these services, with support	0	280	×	Unlikely to be achieved – currently forecast overspend position

	from the Transformation Delivery Unit.				
Care Management Community Care Budget	Community Care – continuation of the work being undertaken to review care provided through the Community Care budget, in order to reduce the current overspend and ongoing costs.	0	1,000	U	Unlikely to be achieved – currently forecast overspend position
Various	Review of Service Delivery Options – reviews will be undertaken of the various service delivery options available for a number of areas including; Day Services, Halton Supported Housing Network, In-House Care Homes, Reablement Service and Oak Meadow.	0	375	U	Currently Under Review
Total ASC Directorate		225	1,655		

Finance

Service Area	Net	Description of Saving Proposal	Savings	Value	Current	Comments
	Budget		25/26	25/26	Progress	
	£'000		Agreed Council	Agreed Council		
			01 February 2023	05 March 2025		
			£'000	£'000		
Internal Audit	300	Restructure in light of potential	50	0		
		retirements over the next two				It appears unlikely that the proposed
		years within the Internal Audit			U	£50k budget saving will be fully
		Team.				realised this year, if at all
Council Tax	84	Increase the charges applied	40	0		Look to increase costs in 2026/27 but
		when a court summons is issued				this is pending a Government
		by 30% (£23), to achieve full cost			×	consultation on council tax of which
		recovery over the three year				summons charges are being
		period.				reviewed.
Debt		Debt Management – undertake a	0	100		Currently part of workstream being
Management		review of debt management				undertaken by the Transformation
		policies and procedures, in order				Programme.
		to implement a more robust				
		approach to debt management			U	
		and debt recovery, considering				
		options such as seeking payment				
		in advance wherever possible, to				
		improve cashflow and reduce the				
		risk of non-recovery.				

Legal and Democratic Services

Service Area	Net	Description of Saving Proposal	Savings Value		Current	Comments
	Budget		25/26	25/26	Progress	
	£'000		Agreed Council	Agreed Council		
			01 February 2023	05 March 2025		
			£'000	£'000		
Members		Deputy Mayor – cease provision of the Deputy Mayor's allowance, whilst retaining a nominated Deputy Mayor.	0	6	✓	Achieved.
Total Legal and Democratic Services		0	6			

Children and Families Department

Service Area	Net	Description of Saving Proposal	Savings	Value	Current	Comments
	Budget £'000		25/26 Agreed Council 01 February 2023 £'000	25/26 Agreed Council 05 March 2025 £'000	Progress	
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.	22	0	×	With the implementation of the family hubs the review of windmill hill will no longer be viable. The centre is located in an area of deprivation and the role of the centre as a family hub is a priority in the children's social care review and supporting families at an earlier level, improving access to services for the most vulnerable and ensure a positive start for all children. These priorities fit with the council priorities
Children's Residential Care		Residential Placements – continuation of the work being undertaken to review residential placements, especially high cost placements, and identify opportunities to step-down	0	1,500	U	Residential placements were all reviewed in early 2024 with some reduction in costs established. As part of the longer term plan included in the sufficiency strategy, Halton has partnered with a not for profit organisation, Juno, who are awaiting

Fostering	placements or find alternatives, in order to reduce the current overspend and ongoing costs. Independent Fostering Agencies				registration from OFSTED - this approach is part of the LCR approach working with NFP organisations. In addition significant changes have been made to reduce the numbers of children coming into care. Mocking bird constellation is in place and evidenced support has resulted in appropriate transition so the need for residential is mitigated. A property has been identified for care leavers and further properties identified for additional semi-independent provisions. Juno will focus on their second home after July
Tostering	and Out of Borough Fostering — continuation of the work being undertaken to review placements, to increase use of In-Borough foster carers wherever possible and thereby reduce costs, in order to reduce the current overspend and ongoing costs.	0	200	U	launched to attract in house foster carers so our reliance on IFA's is reduced. Unfortunately there is a national shortage of foster carers and as a result the reliance on IFA's continues
Legal Costs	Court Costs – implementation of measures in conjunction with Legal Services, to reduce the backlog and ongoing number of Children's cases going to court,	0	200	U	Progress has been made on reducing the cost of court with success in reducing the number of applications, the reduction in timeliness of proceedings, further work is currently underway to reduce the number of

	thereby reducing the timescales involved and cost of court proceedings, in order to reduce the current overspend and ongoing costs.			C2 applications to court. PLO process is proving effective for some families in diverting away from legal proceedings and safely maintaining children with parents, further exploration is taking place on the use of in house psychologists to undertake assessments in the court arena to further reduce court costs
Total Children & Families Department		22	1,900	

Education, Inclusion and Provision Department

Service Area	Net	Description of Saving	Savings	Value	Current	Comments
	Budget £'000	Proposal	25/26 Agreed Council 01 February 2023 £'000	25/26 Agreed Council 05 March 2025 £'000	Progress	
Home to School Transport		Home to School Transport – undertake consultation with stakeholders and partners with regard to implementing a new Home to School and College Travel and Transport Policy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.	0	300	U	The consultation with stakeholders and partners has taken place. The results have been analysed and recommendations put to Executive Board for possible policy changes from the beginning of the new academic year.
Total EIP Dep	artmen	t	0	300		

Community and Greenspace Department

Service Area	Net Budget	Description of Saving Proposal	Savings Value		Current Progress	Comments
	£'000		25/26 Agreed Council 01 February 2023 £'000	25/26 Agreed Council 05 March 2025 £'000		
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.	12	0	~	School meals service has ceased and is reflected in the 25/26 budget.
Green Waste		Green Waste – increase green waste charges from £43 to £50 per annum, to bring Halton onto a comparable basis with charges levied by neighbouring councils.	0	100	✓	Green waste charges have been increased to £50.
Area Forums		Area Forums – cease the funding for Area Forums.	0	170	~	Area forum budgets have been removed in 25-26

Service Area	Net Budget	Description of Saving Proposal	Savings Value		Current Progress	Comments
	£'000		25/26 Agreed Council 01 February 2023 £'000	25/26 Agreed Council 05 March 2025 £'000		
Total Community & Greenspace Dept		12	270			

Economy, Enterprise and Property Department

Service Area	Net	Description of Saving Proposal	Savings	Value	Current	Comments
	Budget £'000		25/26 Agreed Council	25/26 Agreed Council	Progress	
			01 February 2023 £'000	05 March 2025 £'000		
Asset Management		Accelerate the lease or sale of surplus land, non-operational buildings, surplus space within building, etc. to either generate lease rentals or capital receipts to help fund capital schemes and thereby reduce future capital financing costs.	0	100	U	It is currently too early to establish if this can be achieved. Although all options will be explored.
Total EEP De	pt		0	100		

Policy, Planning and Transportation Department

Service Area	Net	Description of Saving	Saving	s Value	Current	Comments
	Budget £'000	Proposal	24/25 £'000	25/26 £'000	Progress	
Highways		LED Advertising Screens – install LED advertising screens at appropriate locations within the Borough in order to generate advertising revenue. The estimated annual income is the Council's share of advertising revenue net of capital financing costs for the installations.	0	100	×	It is not anticipated that this income will be achieved this financial year as the LED screens are no closer to being installed.
Total PPT Dept		0	100			

Public Health Directorate Department

Service Area	Net	Description of Saving	Saving	s Value	Current	Comments
	Budget	Proposal	24/25	25/26	Progress	
	£'000		£'000	£'000		
Environmental		Pest Control – increase	0	45		Charges Increased
Health		charges for pest control on the				
		basis of benchmarking data, to			1	
		bring Halton onto a comparable				
		basis with charges levied by				
		neighbouring councils.				
Total Public Health Directorate		0	45			

Corporate and Democracy

Service Area	Net	Description of Saving	Saving	s Value	Current	Comments
	Budget £'000	Proposal	24/25 £'000	25/26 £'000	Progress	
Chief Executives Delivery Unit		Purchase of Additional Leave – development of a voluntary scheme to enable staff to purchase additional annual leave.	0	100	U	Scheme has been agreed and implemented. Work is being undertaken to identify the value of savings which will be achieved.
Chief Executives Delivery Unit		Voluntary Severance Scheme – development of a policy whereby staff may be offered voluntary severance in appropriate circumstances, but without creating a significant pension strain liability.	0	200	×	Scheme to be designed and approved. Uncertainty to timing and sign-up to the scheme. Unlikely to be in place for this financial year.
Chief Executives Delivery Unit		Apprenticeships - implement an "Apprentice First" policy, with all appropriate vacant posts assessed initially to determine whether they might be suitable as an apprenticeship. This will	0	200	U	Scheme being developed, uncertainty to take up of the scheme.

Total Corporate	P. Damagua	0	2,400		
Council Wide	Review all existing contracts across the Council to reconsider their requirements and performance on the basis of outputs achieved.	0	200	U	Currently part of workstream being undertaken by the Transformation Programme.
Council Wide	build longer term resilience into the organisation's workforce and provide short term cost savings by drawing down funding from the apprenticeship levy. The scheme will be coordinated by the newly appointed Apprenticeship Officer, funded and supported by the Transformation Delivery Unit. Agency Staff Reduction — continuation of the work being co-ordinated by the Transformation Delivery Unit to reduce the reliance upon agency workers across the Council, in particular within Adults and Children's Social Care. Target net savings of £1.7m for 2025/26, £1.3m for 2026/27 and £1.1m for 2027/28.	0	1,700	U	There is evidence of reduced agency usage within the Children's directorate but targets have been built into directorate budget which duplicate what is included here. Uncertainty with regard to reductions across Adult Social Care. Highly unlikely the £1.7m saving will be achieved in the current financial year.

Symbol		<u>Objective</u>
	\checkmark	Indicates that the <u>objective is on course to be achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.
	U	Indicates that it is <u>uncertain or too early to say at this stage</u> whether the milestone/objective will be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.
	x	Indicates that it is <u>highly likely or certain</u> that the objective will not be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.

2025/26 Capital Programme as at 31 July 2025

APPENDIX 4

Scheme Detail	205/26 Original Allocation £000	2025/26 Revised Allocation £000	Cumulative Spend to 31 July 2025 £000	Cumulative Forecast Spend to 30 Sept 2025 £000	Cumulative Forecast Spend to 30 Nov 2025 £000	Cumulative Forecast Spend to 31 Jan 2026 £000	Cumulative Forecast Spend to 31 March 2026 £000	Allocation remaining £000
Childrens Directorate								
Capital Repairs	882.1	882.1	189.0	675.0	688.0	700.0	754.0	128.1
Asbestos Management	10.0	10.0	0.4	3.0	5.0	6.0	10.0	0.0
Schools Access Initiative	37.7	37.7	11.0	15.0	20.0	25.0	30.0	7.7
Basic Need Projects	600.8	600.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	500.8
Small Capital Works	173.0	173.0	22.9	50.0	65.0	80.0	173.0	0.0
SEND capital allocation	1,871.2	1,871.2	142.2	171.0	400.0	575.0	1,022.0	849.2
SEND capital unallocated	1,775.5	1,775.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1,775.5
SCA unallocated	129.3	129.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	129.3
Family Hubs & Start for Life	63.0	63.0	2.3	15.0	35.0	48.0	63.0	0.0
Childcare Expansion	314.8	314.8	18.1	18.1	18.1	18.1	314.8	0.0
AMP Data	25.0	25.0	8.4	23.0	23.0	24.0	25.0	0.0
Childrens Directorate Total	5,882.4	5,882.4	394.3	970.1	1,254.1	1,476.1	2,491.8	3,390.6

2025/26 Capital Programme as at 31 July 2025 continued

Scheme Detail	205/26 Original Allocation	2025/26 Revised Allocation £000	Cumulative Spend to 31 July 2025 £000	Cumulative Forecast Spend to 30 Sept 2025	Cumulative Forecast Spend to 30 Nov 2025	Cumulative Forecast Spend to 31 Jan 2026	Cumulative Forecast Spend to 31 March 2026	Allocation remaining £000
Adults Directorate								
Grants - Disabled Facilities	2,200.0	2,000.0	248.7	1,100.0	1,450.0	1,800.0	2,000.0	0.0
Stair Lifts	400.0	650.0	191.9	325.0	430.0	550.0	650.0	0.0
Joint Funding RSL Adaptations	300.0	250.0	72.8	125.0	170.0	210.0	250.0	0.0
Madeline McKenna Residential Home	300.0	250.0	24.5	125.0	170.0	210.0	250.0	0.0
Millbrow Care Home	200.0	200.0	21.1	100.0	130.0	170.0	200.0	0.0
St Lukes	50.0	150.0	39.7	75.0	100.0	125.0	150.0	0.0
St Patricks	200.0	200.0	13.0	100.0	130.0	170.0	200.0	0.0
Care Home Refurbishment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Telehealthcare Digital Switchover	135.0	135.0	0.0	70.0	90.0	110.0	135.0	0.0
Oakmeadow and Peelhouse Network Improvements	40.0	40.0	0.0	20.0	30.0	30.0	40.0	0.0
Crow Wood Lane Specialist Housing	250.0	250.0	0.0	126.0	170.0	210.0	250.0	0.0
Adults Directorate Total	4,075.0	4,125.0	611.7	2,166.0	2,870.0	3,585.0	4,125.0	0.0



Scheme Detail	205/26 Original Allocation	2025/26 Revised Allocation	Cumulative Spend to 31 July 2025	Cumulative Forecast Spend to 30 Sept 2025	Cumulative Forecast Spend to 30 Nov 2025	Cumulative Forecast Spend to 31 Jan 2026	Cumulative Forecast Spend to 31 March 2026	Allocation
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Environment & Regeneration Directorat	е							
Stadium Minor Works	22.1	22.1	24.6	24.6	24.6			-2.5
Halton Leisure Centre	99.7	99.7	71.8	76.8	86.8	88.8	90.8	8.9
Children's Playground Equipment	67.8	67.8	50.5	55.5	60.5	60.5	65.0	2.8
Landfill Tax Credit Schemes	340.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Upton Improvements	13.0	13.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.0	0.0
Crow Wood Park Play Area	12.0	12.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.0	0.0
Open Spaces Schemes	600.0	600.0	384.0	434.0	484.0	534.0	600.0	0.0
Runcorn Town Park	450.6	450.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	60.0	125.0	325.6
Spike Island / Wigg Island	1,841.6	1,841.6	125.3	153.4	170.0	180.0	250.0	1,591.6
Pickerings Pasture Cafe	469.2	469.2	6.0	80.0	175.0	300.0	450.0	19.2
Cemetery Infrastructure work	469.1	469.1	0.0	0.0	89.0	207.0	410.0	59.1
Stadium Public Address System	810.0	346.0	26.0	76.0	176.0	286.0	346.0	0.0
Litter Bins	20.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	0.0
Replacement Cremator	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equality Act Improvement Works	303.5	303.5	0.0	20.0	150.0	236.0	303.5	0.0
Foundary Lane Residential Area	3,520.9	3,520.9	647.7	707.5	800.0	1,020.9	3,520.9	0.0
Property Improvements	231.1	231.1	89.4	95.5	133.2	153.6	231.1	0.0
Town Deal	21,823.1	18,949.5	3,010.7	5,631.6	8,663.1	11,300.7	13,210.2	5,739.3
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	101.2	101.2	0.0	0.0	20.0	55.0	102.2	-1.0
Runcorn Waterfront Residential Development	82.0	82.0	4.2	4.2	33.3	56.4	82.0	0.0
Changing Places	17.0	17.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.0	0.0
Kingsway Centre Demolition	708.0	708.0	293.0	345.2	535.0	602.2	708.0	0.0
Port of Weston	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sci-tech Daresbury Project Violet	2,200.0	2,200.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2,200.0	0.0
Astmoor Masterplan	81.6			0.0	0.0	30.0	81.6	0.0
Sci-tech Daresbury - CPO	3,000.0	3,000.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3,000.0	0.0

2025/26 Capital Programme as at 31 July 2025 continued

				Cumulative	Cumulative	Cumulative	Cumulative	
	205/26	2025/26	Cumulative	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	
	Original	Revised	Spend to 31	Spend to 30	Spend to 30	Spend to 31	Spend to 31	Allocation
Scheme Detail	Allocation	Allocation	July 2025	Sept 2025	Nov 2025	Jan 2026	March 2026	remaining
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Bridge and Highway Maintenance	839.2	839.2	0.0	209.8	419.6	629.4	839.2	0.0
Runcorn Busway	90.0	90.0	76.0	90.0	90.0	90.0	90.0	0.0
ATF3 Murdishaw to Whitehouse	757.0	757.0	370.0	757.0	757.0	757.0	757.0	0.0
ATF4 - Widnes Town Centre Accessibility	114.5	114.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	114.5
A56 Reconstruction	943.7	943.7	0.0	0.0	314.5	629.0	943.7	0.0
LCWIP phase 2 Daresbury	3,862	3,862	19.0	34.5	84.5	84.5	84.5	3,777.3
Pot Hole Funding	968	968	36.0	269.0	502.0	735.0	968.0	0.4
CRSTS	4,405	4,405	351.0	1,364.5	2,378.0	3,391.5	4,405.0	0.0
Street Lighting - Structural Maintenance	1,025.1	1,025.1	0.0	50.0	100.0	150.0	200.0	825.1
Street Lighting - Upgrades	728.4	728.4	0.0	25.0	50.0	75.0	100.0	628.4
East Runcorn Connectivity	5,851.7	5,851.7	3,141.0	4,496.4	5,851.8	5,851.8	5,851.8	-0.1
Risk Management	712.9	120.0	23.0	43.0	53.0	83.0	103.0	17.0
Widnes Loops	0.0	0.0	65.0	65.0	65.0	65.0	65.0	-65.0
Fleet Replacements	4,482.0	2,500.0	214.0	785.5	1,357.0	1,928.5	2,500.0	0.0
Early Land Acquistion Mersey Gateway	210.0	80.0	45.0	62.3	68.0	73.0	80.0	0.0
Mersey Gateway Crossings Board	60.0	0.0	-249.6	-247.0	-244.4	-241.8	-241.8	241.8
Environment & Regeneration Directorate Total	62,333.3	55,890.7	8,823.6	15,709.3	23,446.5	29,496.6	42,608.3	13,282.4
_								
Chief Executives Directorate								
IT Rolling Programme	805.6	1,305.6	677.1	767.1	937.5	1,100.5	1,305.6	0.0
Halton Smart Microgrid	10,870.0	1,000.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1,000.0	0.0
Transformation Programme	1,538.0	2,465.7	832.7	1,293.9	1,729.3	2,107.0	2,465.7	0.0
Chief Executives Directorate Total	13,213.6	4,771.3	1,509.8	2,061.0	2,666.8	3,207.5	4,771.3	0.0
Grand Total	85,504.4	70,669.4	11,339.4	20,906.4	30,237.4	37,765.2	53,996.4	16,673.0

Risk No	Risk Identified	Impact	Likelihood	Risk Score	Risk Control Measures			Risk with Control Measures Implemented		Risk with Control Measures Implemented		Risk with Control Measures Implemented		Risk with Control Measures Implemented		Risk with Control		Risk with Control		Risk with Control Measures Implemented		Risk with Control		Timescale for Review	Progress Comments	Date Updated																
1	Pay costs	4	4	16	 Budget based upon individual staff members/vacancies Budget monitoring Contingency Balances Medium Term Forecast Engage with Cheshire Pension Scheme and pension actuary Market supplement paid in multiple service areas Employer of Choice Initiative Connect to Halton – Review of Scheme 	3	3	9	ED/SB/ Directors	Monthly	2025/26 budget includes pay growth at forecast 2% pay award. Pay offer agreed at 3.2%, this will cost approximately a further £1m to the budget. Backdated pay to be paid in August 2025 Agency costs and usage remain high although some evidence of reduction in numbers within Children Social Care. Market Supplements being paid to increasing number of service users.	31/7/25																														

											Connect to Halton scheme went live September 2024, agency and casual appointments to be covered by the scheme.	
2	Redundancy and Early Retirements	3	3	9	 Benefits Tracking Process Future savings to take into account cost of redundancy and early retirements. Seek Government approval to use capital receipts to fund transformation costs. Develop policy for voluntary severance scheme 	2	3	6	ED/SB	Quarterly	Tracker created to monitor redundancy costs in current year. Look to capitalise redundancy costs where possible where evidence exists it creates a longer term saving. £0.200m saving included in 25/26 budget for savings from voluntary severance scheme.	31/07/25

3	Savings not achieved	4	3	12	Budget monitoring	4	2	8	RR/ED/SB/Di	Monthly	Savings for	31/07/25
					- Daagot monitoring				rectors		2025/26 have	
					 Contingency 						been written into	
					<u>.</u>						Directorate budgets.	
					Rigorous process in						budgets.	
					approving savings.						Budget savings	
					 Review of savings at 						monitored closely	
					departmental and						and if necessary	
					directorate level						offsetting savings	
											sought.	
					 Monthly budget 						Transformation	
					monitoring						Programme	
					Medium Term Financial						Board meeting	
					Forecast						on monthly basis to discuss	
											progress against	
					 RAG monitoring of 						programme.	
					savings included in bi-							
					monthly monitoring							
					reports.							
					Transformation saving							
					targets reported							
					monthly through							
					Transformation							
					Programme Board.							

4	Price inflation	3	3	9	 Prudent budget provision Latest forecast information used eg. utilities Budget monitoring Contingency Balances CPI/RPI monitoring MTFS 	3	3	9	ED/SB	Monthly	CPI for June 2025 is 3.6% and RPI is 4.4%. Both running higher than inflation included in 2025.26 budget. Office of Budget Responsibility (OBR) forecast inflation to be 3.2% in 2025 and 2.1% through to 2027. Rates are higher than forecast that at 2025/26 budget setting and remain above Governments 2% target.	31/07/25
5	Review of LG Finance Business rates retention – 100% Pilot and Review Fair Funding Review National Public Spending Plans Social Care Green Paper	4	4	16	 MPs SIGOMA / LG Futures Liverpool City Region & Merseyside Treasurers Group Medium Term Financial Strategy 	3	3	9	ED/SB/NS/M W/MG	Weekly/ Monthly	Business rate retention pilot continues through to March 2026. Government are committed to providing more certainty on LG Finances through multi year settlements.	31/07/25

					 Member of business rate retention pilot region Dialogue with DCLG Responding to reviews and consultations 						Government issued the Fair Funding consultation on 20 June 2025. Closing date of 15 August. Halton response together with that of LCR and Sigoma. Resetting the Business Rates Retention consultation was issued by Government in April 2025 with Halton submitting a response prior to the 02 June deadline.	
6	Treasury Management	2	3	6	 Treasury Management Strategy Link Asset Services advice Treasury Management planning and monitoring 	1	3	3	ED/SB/MG	Daily / Quarterly	BoE base rate reduced to 4.0%. Impact of Exceptional Financial Support request to be assessed with regards to timing of future borrowing.	31/07/25

	Domand Indianalists			40	 Attendance at Networking and Benchmarking Groups Officer and Member Training 					March		04/07/05
7	 Demand led budgets Children in Care Out of borough fostering Community Care High Needs 	4	4	16	 Budget monitoring Contingency Balances Review service demand Directorate recovery groups Monthly budget monitoring Children Improvement Plan Investment Funding 	4	4	16	ED/SB/NS/M W	Monthly	Numbers of children in care and with protection plans reviewed on a weekly basis. Community care costs and numbers on increase, reviewed on a regular basis. Investment in Children Services following OFSTED inspection to be monitored with regard to control and reduction of future costs.	31/07/25
8	Mersey Gateway Costs	4	2	8	Regular monitoring with Crossing Board	2	1	2	ED/SB/MG	Quarterly	Arrangements in place to monitor spend and	31/07/25

	CostsToll IncomeFundingAccounting treatment				Capital reserveGovernment GrantLiquidity Fund						availability of liquidity fund.	
9	Council Tax Collection	3	3	9	 Council tax monitoring on monthly basis Review of Collection Rate Collection Fund Balance Provision for bad debts Review recovery procedures Benchmarking 	3	2	6	ED/PG/SB/P D/BH/MG	Monthly	Collection rate to 31 July 2025 was 36.16% which is marginally lower than the rate of 36.09% at the same point last year. To 31 July 2025 £1.268m was collected in relation to old year debt.	31/07/25
10	Business Rates Retention Scheme	3	3	9	 Review and monitoring of latest business rates income to baseline and estimate for year. Prudent allowance for losses in collection 	3	1	3	ED/SB/LB/M G	Monthly	Collection rate to 31 July 2025 was 40.69% which is 0.9% lower than the rate at the same point last year. To 31 May 2025 £0.345m was	31/07/25

					 Prudent provision set aside for losses from valuation appeals Regular monitoring of annual yield and baseline / budget position Benchmarking Groups Review recovery procedures 						collected in relation to old year debt.	
11	Uncertainty to economy following cost of living and high inflation	3	3	9	 Corporate charging policy Budget monitoring Contingency Balances Income benchmarking 	3	2	6	ED/MM/SB	Monthly	Income shortfalls identified and cause of increased concern in certain areas are being closely monitored. Additional posts created within Adult Social Care Directorate, responsible for improving the overall collection of social care debt.	31/07/25
13	Capital Programme Costs	4	3	12	Project ManagementRegular monitoring	3	2	6	Project Managers/ED /SB/LH	Quarterly	Capital receipts have been fully committed therefore new	31/07/25

	 Funding Key Major Projects Clawback of Grant Availability and timing of capital receipts Cashflow Contractors 				 Detailed financial analysis of new schemes to ensure they are affordable Targets monitored to minimise clawback of grant. Contractor due diligence Dialogue with Government departments. 						capital schemes need to bring own funding.	
14	Academy Schools Impact of transfer upon Council budget Loss of income to Council Services	2	4	8	 Early identification of school decisions DfE Regulations Prudent consideration of financial transactions to facilitate transfer Services continue to be offered to academies Transfer Protocol 	1	3	3	ED/SB/NS	Monthly	Consideration given in MTFS for loss of funding.	31/07/25
15	Reserves • Diminishing reserves, used to balance budget,	3	4	12	Monitored on a bi- monthly basis, reported to Management Team and Exec Board	3	3	9	ED/SB	Quarterly	Monitored and reported on a regular basis.	31/07/25

fund overspend positions.				 Benchmarking Financial Forecast Programme to replenish reserves. 						Council reserves at historic low levels. Reserves will need to be replenished within future budgets	
 Budget Balancing Council has struggled to achieve a balanced budget position for a number of years. Forecast for current year is an overspend position of £19m. Reserves insufficient to balance current year budget. Council has been given approval inprinciple for Exceptional Financial Support (day to day costs funded through capital borrowings) for 2024/25 and 2025/26. 	4	4	16	 Current year budgets monitored on a regular basis. Forward forecasting through to March 2029 reported on a prudent basis. Regular conversations with DHLUC re Council's financial position. LGA to undertake a financial assurance review. Transformation programme in place. Financial Recovery Plan required to better inform how the Council 	4	4	16	ED/SB	Ongoing	Council has received inprinciple agreement to fund day to day costs through Exceptional Financial Support. EFS covers a total of £52.8m over two years, split: 24/25 - £20.8m 25/26 - £32.0m Council utilised £10m of EFS in 24/25, below the approved amount. Financial recovery plan to be put in place to limit Council exposure to EFS	31/07/25

		will achieve future			and repayment of
		sustainable budgets.			borrowings to
		· ·			date.