Bath & North East Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

Council

Date: Tuesday 20th February 2024

Time: 6.30 pm

Venue: Council Chamber - Guildhall, Bath

To: All Members of the Council

Dear Member

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Council on Tuesday 20th February 2024 in the Council Chamber - Guildhall, Bath.

The agenda is set out overleaf.

Yours sincerely



Jo Morrison
Democratic Services Manager
for Chief Executive

Please note the following arrangements for pre-group meetings:

Liberal Democrat

Labour

Independent

Conservative

Green

Brunswick room, ground floor
Labour Group room, floor 2
Independent Group room, floor 2
Conservative Group room, floor 2
Green Group room, floor 2

Jo Morrison
Democratic Services
Lewis House, Manvers Street, Bath, BA1 1JG

Telephone: 01225 39 4435

Web-site - http://www.bathnes.gov.uk

E-mail: Democratic Services@bathnes.gov.uk

NOTES:

1. **Inspection of Papers:** Papers are available for inspection as follows:

Council's website: https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?bcr=1

2. **Details of decisions taken at this meeting** can be found in the minutes which will be circulated with the agenda for the next meeting. In the meantime, details can be obtained by contacting as above.

3. Recording at Meetings:-

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 now allows filming and recording by anyone attending a meeting. This is not within the Council's control. Some of our meetings are webcast. At the start of the meeting, the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is to be filmed. If you would prefer not to be filmed for the webcast, please make yourself known to the camera operators. We request that those filming/recording meetings avoid filming public seating areas, children, vulnerable people etc; however, the Council cannot guarantee this will happen.

The Council will broadcast the images and sounds live via the internet www.bathnes.gov.uk/webcast. The Council may also use the images/sound recordings on its social media site or share with other organisations, such as broadcasters.

4. Public Speaking at Meetings

The Council has a scheme to encourage the public to make their views known at meetings. They may make a statement relevant to what the meeting has power to do. They may also present a petition or a deputation on behalf of a group.

Advance notice is required not less than two full working days before the meeting. This means that for meetings held on Thursdays notice must be received in Democratic Services by 5.00pm the previous Monday.

The Council now has a maximum time limit for this, so any requests to speak cannot be guaranteed if the list is full.

Further details of the scheme can be found at: https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=12942

5. Emergency Evacuation Procedure

When the continuous alarm sounds, you must evacuate the building by one of the designated exits and proceed to the named assembly point. The designated exits are signposted. Arrangements are in place for the safe evacuation of disabled people.

6. Supplementary information for meetings

Additional information and Protocols and procedures relating to meetings https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13505

Council - Tuesday 20th February 2024

at 6.30 pm in the Council Chamber - Guildhall, Bath

AGENDA

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chair will draw attention to the emergency evacuation procedure as set out under Note 5.

- APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
- DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

At this point in the meeting declarations of interest are received from Members in any of the agenda items under consideration at the meeting. Members are asked to complete the green interest forms circulated to groups in their pre-meetings (which will be announced at the Council Meeting) to indicate:

- (a) The agenda item number in which they have an interest to declare.
- (b) The nature of their interest.
- (c) Whether their interest is a disclosable pecuniary interest or an other interest, (as defined in Part 4.4 Appendix B of the Code of Conduct and Rules for Registration of Interests)

Any Member who needs to clarify any matters relating to the declaration of interests is recommended to seek advice from the Council's Monitoring Officer or a member of his staff before the meeting to expedite dealing with the item during the meeting.

4. MINUTES - 30TH NOVEMBER 2023 (Pages 5 - 18)

To be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL OR FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

These are matters of information for Members of the Council. No decisions will be required arising from the announcements.

6. TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

If there is any urgent business arising since the formal agenda was published, the Chair will announce this and give reasons why it has been agreed for consideration at this meeting. In making this decision, the Chair will, where practicable, have consulted with the Leaders of the Political Groups. Any documentation on urgent business will be circulated at the meeting, if not made available previously.

7. QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Democratic Services Manager will announce any submissions received. The Council will be invited to decide what action it wishes to take, if any, on the matters raised in these submissions. As the questions received and the answers given will be circulated in written form there is no requirement for them to be read out at the meeting. The questions and answers will be published with the draft minutes.

8. BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2024/25 AND FINANCIAL OUTLOOK (Pages 19 - 276)

The attached report presents the revenue and capital budgets together with proposals for increases in Council Tax and the Adult Social Care Precept for 2024/25.

9. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2024/25 (Pages 277 - 308)

To consider the attached report regarding the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement. The Authority is required to approve a treasury management strategy before the start of each financial year.

10. QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

The Democratic Services Manager will announce any submissions received. The Council will be invited to decide what action it wishes to take, if any, on the matters raised in these submissions. As the questions received and the answers given will be circulated in written form there is no requirement for them to be read out at the meeting. The questions and answers will be published with the draft minutes.

The Committee Administrator for this meeting is Jo Morrison who can be contacted on 01225 394358.

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, 30th November, 2023

Present:-**Councillors** Michael Auton, Tim Ball, Alex Beaumont, David Biddleston, Deborah Collins. Paul Crossley, Chris Dando. Jess David. Mark Elliott. Anna Box. Kevin Guy, Alan Hale, Ian Halsall, Liz Hardman, Fiona Gourley. Gavin Heathcote, Steve Hedges, Saskia Heijltjes, Oli Henman, Joel Hirst, Lucy Hodge, Duncan Hounsell, Shaun Hughes. Dr Eleanor Jackson. Samantha Kelly. George Leach. John Leach. Lesley Mansell, Matt McCabe, Ann Morgan, Sarah Moore, Robin Moss, Michelle O'Doherty, Manda Rigby, Paul Roper, Sam Ross, Onkar Saini, Toby Simon, Shaun Stephenson-McGall, George Tomlin, Malcolm Treby, Karen Walker, Sarah Warren, Tim Warren CBE, Andy Wait, David Wood and Joanna Wright

Apologies for absence: **Councillors** Colin Blackburn, Alison Born, Sarah Evans, Dave Harding, Grant Johnson, Hal MacFie, Ruth Malloy, Paul May, Bharat Pankhania, June Player, Dine Romero and Alison Streatfeild-James

48 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chair drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure, as set out on the agenda.

49 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Councillors declared interests;

Councillors David Biddleston, Paul Crossley and Lucy Hodge declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 10 "Council Tax – Second Homes" and left the Chamber for the duration of this item.

50 MINUTES - 21ST SEPTEMBER 2023

On a motion from Councillor Kevin Guy, seconded by Councillor Michelle O'Doherty, it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of 21st September 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

51 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL OR FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

At the request of the Chair, Council stood for a minute's silence in recognition of the recent death of Peter Edwards, former B&NES Councillor for Publow & Whitchurch (2003 – 2015) and Council Chair.

52 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

There were no items of urgent business.

53 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Statements were made by the following members of the public;

Kate Uzell, South West Area Coordinator of RoadPeace, a national charity for road crash victims, made a statement about preventing road deaths. A full copy of the statement is attached to the online record and added to the Minute book. Councillor Joanna Wright asked if the RoadPeace charity supported the Vision Zero motion on the agenda, to which Ms Uzell confirmed that it did.

Matt Cooper made a statement about accelerating the transition to a clean energy future. A full copy of the statement is attached to the online record and added to the Minute book. He reflected on progress that had been made since he spoke to Council a year ago and commended the process so far, but also reflected on the overwhelming extreme climate events and stressed that we must seek to phase out fossil fuels via the Fossil Fuel non-proliferation treaty. Councillor Saskia Heijltjes asked which other bodies had signed the treaty, to which Matt listed various states, cities and international organisations that had signed up.

Adam Reynolds made a statement about the Bath City Riverside Enterprise Area, a copy of which is attached to the online record and the Minute book. He highlighted some of the missing infrastructure links for the Sustainable Transport Route, which affected people cycling and walking in the area, and called for various actions to address these.

David Redgewell made a statement about the relationship between the Council and WECA and called for an urgent serious discussion about the transport levy and bus services. He expressed his disappointment that so many posts at WECA are filled on an interim basis, which were expensive and not conducive to achieving effective results. Councillor Sarah Warren asked Mr Redgewell if he was aware of other Combined Authorities where the Mayor listened to the unitary authorities, to which he replied that he thought this worked in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. Councillor Liz Hardman asked if Mr Redgewell considered that more money was needed in the transport levy, to which he agreed, and said that we need to look carefully at the Bus Service Improvement plan. Councillor Tim Warren asked whether, if money was prioritised differently and collaboration was better, that would mean there was enough money for bus services, to which Mr Redgewell responded he would welcome better collaboration but stressed again it came down to the calibre of officers and having permanent people in place. Councillor Joanna Wright asked what meetings were currently in place to agree a positive solution for buses in the region, to which Mr Redgewell replied that a meeting was needed as there had not been budget discussions or recent scrutiny meetings, and the meeting the following day was focussed on one issue, which would not address the urgent need for bus solutions for the area.

Callum Clafferty made a statement about young people and students' experience with regard to the Vision Zero motion, outlining the particular difficulties they may experience. A full copy of the statement is attached to the online record and added to the Minute book. Councillor Kevin Guy asked Mr Clafferty if he would like to meet the Cabinet Member to discuss the issues further, to which he responded that he

would find that helpful. Councillor Saskia Heijltjes asked if the measures in the Vision Zero motion would make journeys safer and encourage more walking and cycling, Mr Clafferty responded that he considered they would.

Lucy Taylor made a statement in support of the measures in the Vision Zero motion. As a cyclist in the city since 1982, she explained how she felt more vulnerable now, and called for a series of measures that would help deal with the inevitable rise in traffic numbers. A full copy of the statement is attached to the online record and added to the Minute book. Councillor Saskia Heijltjes asked if Ms Taylor considered that the measures in the Vision Zero motion would help her encourage more friends to take up cycling, to which Ms Taylor responded that they would, as currently they were too scared to consider cycling in the city.

Hanna Haizer (Student Union representative for the University of Bath) & Jas Raymond-Baker (Student Union representative for Bath Spa University) made a joint statement about the poor quality of student housing. They referred to an increase in respiratory problems from mould and a rise in reported mental health problems related to accommodation issues. They explained that many landlords charged very high rents, but demonstrated little accountability for their properties. They aspired for students to be more integrated within local communities. Councillor Kevin Guy asked if they would like to meet the responsible Cabinet Member, which they welcomed. Councillor Robin Moss asked what support the Universities were able to give; to which Hanna and Jas explained that they can look over contracts and help with emergency housing and support. Councillor Shaun Hughes checked they were referring to HMOs, which they agreed was the case. Councillor Tim Warren asked for an amount for average rents, which was explained was typically between £600 and £1000 a month. In response to a question from Councillor Joanna Wright about the option of involving the Housing Enforcement team, the students explained that many students were too scared of jeopardising their housing by raising concerns.

Robbie Bentley made a statement calling for a solution to the current difficulties with WECA and the effect this was having on local transport and stressed the need for consistency of service provision, which was particularly important for people with Autism. Councillor Sam Ross identified with the issues raised by Robbie Bentley and asked if extended P&R sites could play a part. Robbie Bentley replied that they were worthy of consideration and gave the Portway P&R as a good example.

Nicola James made a statement condemning violence on both sides in the Israel/Gaza conflict and calling on Councillors to sign up to a permanent ceasefire. A full copy of the statement is attached to the online record and added to the Minute book. Councillor Lesley Mansell asked about the response from local Members of Parliament, to which Ms James responded that Jacob Rees-Mogg was not calling for a ceasefire, but Wera Hobhouse was. Councillor Joanna Wright asked which other Councils had passed a motion for peace in the Middle East, to which Ms James replied that Preston Council had done so and they were hoping that more would follow.

The Chair thanked the Speakers for their statements which would be referred to the relevant Cabinet Members.

54 LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT CHANGES 2024/25

On a motion from Councillor Mark Elliot, seconded by Councillor Toby Simon, it was unanimously

RESOLVED to agree the proposals put forward in the report.

55 COUNCIL TAX - LONG TERM EMPTY PROPERTY PREMIUM

In moving this item, Councillor Mark Elliott highlighted a minor technical amendment that was needed to the report in sections 3.3 and 3.6 from "section 72" to "section 79" of the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (The Act) (numbering change from the draft Bill to the final Act receiving Royal Assent).

On a motion from Councillor Mark Elliott, seconded by Councillor Malcolm Treby, it was unanimously

RESOLVED to increase the council tax empty homes premium to 100% for properties empty for between one and five years (currently between two and five years), from 1 April 2024.

56 COUNCIL TAX - SECOND HOMES

In moving this item, Councillor Mark Elliott highlighted another minor technical amendment that was needed to the report in sections 3.1, 3.4 and 3.5 from "section 73" to "section 80" of the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (The Act) (numbering change from the draft Bill to the final Act receiving Royal Assent).

On a motion from Councillor Mark Elliott, seconded by Councillor Matt McCabe, it was unanimously

RESOLVED to increase the council tax for all second homes by 100% from 1 April 2025.

57 HOUSING BENEFIT WAR PENSION DISREGARD POLICY (MODIFIED SCHEME)

On a motion from Councillor Mark Elliott, seconded by Councillor Kevin Guy, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that Council is asked to adopt the policy included in the appendix to this report which gives officers a direction to disregard War Pension income in the assessment of Housing Benefit.

58 TREASURY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE REPORT TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023

On a motion from Councillor Mark Elliott, seconded by Councillor Oli Henman, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that

- 1. The Treasury Management Report to 30th September 2023, prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Code of Practice, is noted; and
- 2. The Treasury Management Indicators to 30th September 2023 are noted.

59 REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS & POLLING PLACES 2023

On a motion from Councillor Dave Wood, seconded by Councillor Ian Halsall, it was unanimously

RESOLVED to

- 1. Approve the proposed changes to polling districts and polling places, except for the proposed merger of polling districts B-BK4 and B-BK5; i.e. separate polling districts and polling stations to be maintained at University of Bath Library and Claverton Down Community Hall.
- 2. Authorise the Electoral Registration Officer to take the necessary measures to give effect to any new or amended polling districts, ensuring that the electoral register published on 1 December 2023 reflects the proposed changes.
- 3. Agree to hold a consultation on changing the name of Twerton ward to 'Twerton and Whiteway', as referenced in paragraph 3.8 of the report.

60 ANNUAL REPORT OF AVON PENSION FUND COMMITTEE

On a motion from Councillor Paul Crossley, seconded by Councillor Shaun Stephenson-McGall, it was unanimously

RESOLVED

- 1. To note the Committee's Annual Report to Council; and
- 2. To note the Pension Board's Annual Report.

61 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHARITABLE TRUST BOARD

On a motion from Councillor Tim Ball, seconded by Councillor Joanna Wright, it was unanimously

RESOLVED to

- 1. To note the Annual Report of the Charitable Trust Board for 2021/22; and
- 2. To note that, in future, the Annual Report of the Charitable Trust Board will be brought to Council before the end of the financial year.

62 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT RIPA (2000) & INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT IPA (2016)

On a motion from Councillor Tim Ball, seconded by Councillor Shaun Hughes, it was unanimously

RESOLVED to

- 1. Note the summary on the use of Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 and Investigatory Powers Act 2016 (RIPA/IPA) by the Council (Appendix 1);
- 2. Note the RIPA & IPA training module (Appendix 2); and
- 3. Adopt the Home Office Covert Human Intelligence Sources Code of Practice (revised December 2022) set out at paragraph C.1.13 of the Council's Policy on the use of Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) & Investigatory Powers Act (IPA) 2016 (Appendix 3).

63 MOTION FROM THE GREEN GROUP - ADOPT A VISION ZERO APPROACH TO ELIMINATE ROAD DEATHS IN BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

On a motion from Councillor Saskia Heijltjes, seconded by Councillor Joanna Wright, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that

Council notes:

- 1. Statistics from the Department for Transport state that between 2017 and 2021 the last period with complete data, 15 people were killed and 133 seriously injured by vehicle collisions within Bath and North East Somerset. On average, 292 are injured every year on B&NES Roads and 31 are killed or seriously injured. The number of all reported personal injury collisions on Bath and North East Somerset highways has reduced by 46% over the last decade, however vulnerable road users like cyclists and pedestrians are disproportionately affected.
- 2. Bath and North East Somerset's aspirations on road safety are included in the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) Joint Local Transport Plan 4 (JLTP4), which contains a target: 'a vision of zero avoidable deaths on locally managed roads by 2036,' and an objective: 'Road safety for transport users is improved, particularly for those most at risk.' Progress against the targets in JLTP4 is monitored through the Combined Authority's annual Progress Reports. The council's current and recent efforts to make roads safer include:
 - More than 10,000 children in Bath & North East Somerset will receive some form of road safety education this year;
 - Recent road layout schemes, including the B3114 collision reduction scheme and the London Road cyclist safety scheme;
 - Numerous pedestrian improvements near schools;
 - A programme of 20mph speed limits.
 - Support for Community Speedwatch programmes in collaboration with the Police

- 3. As part of any highway scheme, Bath and North East Somerset Council undertakes a series of robust safety audits in line with national guidance, to provide a detailed independent assessment of a scheme. This ensures that safety aspects of design and implementation have been scrutinised and addressed. Reduction in the number and severity of casualties for all road users is supported through the following interventions:
 - Considering the needs of all road users in the design of transport and highway schemes, particularly vulnerable road users
 - Delivering road safety education and skills training to equip people with the knowledge and skills to travel in a safe and sustainable way
 - Working in partnership to build safer communities
- 4. Vision Zero is a proven strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries while increasing safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all. Key principles include:
 - Safe speeds encouraging speeds appropriate to the street;
 - Safe streets designing an environment forgiving of mistakes;
 - Safe vehicles reducing risks posed by the most dangerous vehicles;
 - Safe behaviours improving the behaviours of people using our roads;
 - Post-collision response learning from collisions and improving justice and care for victims.
- 5. B&NES council has recently launched the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Corporate Strategy which set out priorities for healthy communities as well as safe neighbourhoods.
- 6. Councils and organisations that have adopted Vision Zero include: Bristol, Kent, Devon, Cornwall, Brighton and Hove, Blackpool, Leeds, Hackney, Transport for London, National Fire Chiefs Council, The AA, and RAC.
- 7. The Vision Zero approach is endorsed by international organisations, including the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and is led by an ethical stance that it is not acceptable that people should be killed or seriously injured as a price for mobility. These are avoidable events not accidents.
- 8. Actions that can be taken to achieve vision zero often include:
 - Road Design, including separation of cycle users and pedestrians from vehicles:
 - Enforcement of Speed Limits and the Highway Code;
 - School Streets;
 - Liveable (Low Traffic) Neighbourhoods;
 - Education;
 - A cohesive network of walking and cycling routes

Council believes that:

- 1. The vast majority of road deaths are avoidable, and the only acceptable longterm casualty target for road deaths and serious injuries in Bath and North East Somerset is Zero.
- 2. It is vitally important to provide consistent, accessible active travel infrastructure for people to use across Bath and North East Somerset, as outlined in the council's Journey to Net Zero strategy, as it is known that fear of injury suppresses the demand for walking and cycling, adversely affecting children, older people and people with disabling conditions.
- 3. Much of Bath and North East Somerset's active travel infrastructure is disconnected and does not meet the accessibility requirements of a modern diverse society in our region. Projects to create more connected active travel infrastructure across Bath and North East Somerset, providing greater separation of people walking and cycling from those in motor vehicles, such as the City Region Sustainable Transport Fund project "Somer Valley Links", will reduce casualties and are to be welcomed. By separating people walking, cycling, and using vehicles, casualties will be reduced.
- 4. High-quality, consistent road design can reduce road deaths. Local Transport Note LTN 1/20, Cycle infrastructure design, is the current best practice design guideline for all transport schemes and is endorsed by Active Travel England and has been put in place by the UK Government.
- 5. There are a number of actions that will require joined-up work with partner organisations. However, there are some steps to reduce road casualties that B&NES Council could report on feasibility of in the short term, these include:
 - Encourage and investigate actions with partners, such as the Police, to enforce 20mph and safer driving practices as part of their operations;
 - Identify the ten most dangerous locations in B&NES and implement coordinated and evidence-based changes to make them safer;
 - Reduce risk through intelligence-led enforcement;
 - Increase further use of bicycles by Bath and North East Somerset officers while at work:
 - Accelerate the roll out of school streets;
 - Provide a road safety forum for Schools.
- 6. The following actions are likely to cost money and, acknowledging the severe constraints upon all local authority budgets, should therefore be costed with a view to future implementation:
 - Speed Limiters in all council vehicles to act as pace vehicles for the whole City;
 - Roll out of 'vision zero' training to all council employees who drive as part of their role;
 - Re-deployable average speed cameras at hotspots;
 - A public awareness campaign on Vision Zero BANES with targeted education programmes that change road user attitudes and behaviour;
 - Run an "Exchanging Places" programme to make HGV drivers, bus drivers and cyclists more aware of one another;

- Investigate the use of safer HGVs based on the Transport for London (TfL) policy;
- Review and reduce wait times for pedestrians at the ten busiest signalised crossings or junctions;

Council therefore resolves to:

- 1. Set a Vision Zero target for road deaths and serious injuries by 2030.
- 2. Call upon WECA, as our transport authority, to fund and publish a plan to support achievement of the Vision Zero target adopted in JLTP4, to explore feasibility of bringing the target date forward to 2030, and to work with its constituent Unitary Authorities to promote a joined-up approach to Vision Zero across the region.
- Include consideration of this target in all relevant council decisions and strategies
 e.g. road design and procurement, by implementing LTN1/20 when building any
 new walking, cycling and road projects, and adopting best efforts to meet
 LTN1/20 standards when providing diversions around highway maintenance
 work.
- 4. Work with partners and other organisations including West of England Combined Authority, Major Employers, Avon & Somerset Police, Avon Fire and Rescue, South West Ambulance Trust, First Bus, Faresaver, TIER, Developers and residents to achieve Vision Zero.
- 5. Recognise the need for ongoing support to implement this motion and ensure that, within the constraints of the approved budget and existing staffing resource, a Vision Zero approach is consistently used at all times.
- 6. Request the administration to report back to the relevant Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel on progress towards these steps in 12 months' time.

64 MOTION FROM THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP - CLIMATE COMMITMENTS

On a motion from Councillor John Leach, seconded by Councillor Anna Box, it was

RESOLVED that

Council notes:

- 1. The recent announcements by the Prime Minister, moving back the dates for the banning of sales of new petrol and diesel cars from 2030 to 2035, loosening the phase out of gas boilers and reducing the obligations on landlords to insulate their properties.
- 2. Delaying the ban on combustion engine car sales will mean that more petrol and diesel cars will be on our roads for longer, resulting in more harmful emissions for longer.

- 3. Cutting the budget for cycling and walking in England by more than 50% will mean that people will be relying on cars to get around, resulting in more harmful emissions for longer.
- 4. Loosening the phaseout of new gas boilers will mean that more gas boilers are in use for longer, resulting in more harmful emissions for longer.
- 5. Reducing the obligations on landlords to insulate their properties will also lead to higher emissions for longer and cost renters more in higher bills for longer.
- 6. Car and boiler manufacturers that have been working to the previous dates now have uncertainty over the investments there were making, creating doubt over their future strategy.
- 7. Even if the overall Net Zero target of 2050 is subsequently met, more greenhouse gases will have been emitted into our atmosphere, exacerbating the effects of Climate Change.

Council therefore resolves that:

- 1. The Leader of the Council should write to the PM expressing our concern at this change in policy, our frustration that it will increase the impact of Climate Change and our anger that it will undermine our country's climate change strategy, and to urge the government to reverse its announcement.
- 2. The Council should seek to join forces with other like-minded Councils to explore the best way to challenge the Government's change in policy, for example, via the LGA.

65 MOTION FROM THE LABOUR GROUP - SAFE TRAVEL HOME FOR NIGHT ECONOMY WORKERS

On a motion from Councillor Lesley Mansell, seconded by Councillor Robin Moss, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that

Council notes:

- the campaign initiated by Unite the Union called: 'Get me home safely' to ensure safe home transport is widely available for night time economy and shift workers who often struggle to find and pay for transport home after midnight.
- the campaign's call on employers to take all reasonable steps to ensure workers are able to get home safely from work at night
- that shift work is widespread in many industries, particularly hospitality, as well as health and care workers, retail, cleaning, security and porter staff, and can often entail late-night working;

- and that many workers, especially women, are increasingly worried about their safety when travelling to and from work at night;
- only 2% of victims report sexual harassment on public transport.
- the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) is the is the regional transport authority responsible for planning bus services, in cooperation with local bus operators.

Council believes that:

- while employers may feel their duty of care to staff ends when an employee finishes a shift, they should take into consideration journeys home, especially during unsocial hours;
- the weakness of enforcement of the law against sexual assault, including upskirting, on public transport is appalling, and
- greater numbers of trained staff and stronger enforcement of the law against sexual assault and harassment on public transport are urgently needed;
- Such a move would significantly benefit the safety and wellbeing of hospitality workers, particularly women, who often cannot afford, or access, safe transport options late at night and will also benefit our community.

Council therefore resolves to:

- 1. work through business and partnership forums to highlight safe travel home concerns and to encourage sharing of best practice, and call on the Licensing Committee to review opportunities to use appropriate licensing processes to include additional criteria when considering late opening applications from licensed premises, such as encouraging venues to provide free transport home for night shift employees;
- 2. campaign for & encourage improvements to late night and off-peak transport service provision, as well the lowering of fares;
- 3. oppose any cuts to public transport funding and for our elected officials to use their powers and political platforms to achieve this;
- 4. reiterate its call for the WECA Mayor to develop a co-ordinated, long-term approach to public transport in our area, through bus franchising or equivalent, and to call on the Mayor to make better use of Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) funding in order to secure lower prices and improve service provision, including safety provision, especially for rural, night-time and off-peak services;
- 5. call on our local MPs to make representation to the Government and other appropriate authorities at regional and local levels of governance to bring forward national minimum standards for taxis and private hire as per the

recommendations of the Department of Transport independent Taxi & Licencing group, Unite's Get Me Home Safely campaign, in support of this motion and its demands on behalf of our local community.

[Notes;

1. The above successful resolution incorporates the underlined wording proposed by Councillor Manda Rigby and accepted into the substantive motion by the mover and seconder.]

66 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Councillor Eleanor Jackson made a statement about developments in the arrangements for future bus services in NE Somerset, a copy of which is attached to the online record and the Minute book.

Councillor Fiona Gourley made a statement about rural bus service provision discussions with WECA & recent developments with Westlink, a copy of which is attached to the online record and the Minute book. Councillor Sam Ross asked if local Councillors could be included in discussions

Councillor Tim Warren made a short statement about the Charlton Park estate in Midsomer Norton and the lack of grass cutting which has continued since No Mow May. He acknowledged the ecological reasons for leaving meadows and patches of grassland uncut but explained that residents were upset about the state particularly of the entrance and exit and wondered why it was necessary to leave small areas such as this unmowed.

Councillor also noted the statements from the following Councillors which were circulated to Members;

Councillor Paul May - Care Leavers' protected status.

Councillor Shaun Stephenson-McGall – Pavement parking*.

Councillor Sam Ross – Rural connectivity.

The Chair thanked the Councillors for their statements, before closing the meeting.

[*As statements were not taken verbally at the meeting, a follow up question was subsequently submitted from Councillor Heijltjes to Councillor Stephenson-McGall (with the agreement of the Chair) asking whether there were any actions B&NES could take to stop pavement parking without a national ban in place? The response was;

All Councils do have the power under the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 to make Traffic Regulation Orders, allowing for specific parking regulations to be implemented in specific areas, according to the demands of local circumstances. We could, for example, introduce a Traffic Regulation Order in a single road banning the parking of vehicles on any part of the pavement. However, the order would need to be signed appropriately and the restriction would apply to all vehicles.

It would not be possible to take this approach over a large area such as the whole of B&NES or indeed all of Bath as this would require thousands of signs and posts. Although a TRO could be applied to specific streets, this can cause confusion with motorists and it might be interpreted by some drivers that in the roads not covered or signed that parking on pavements is allowed.]

he meeting ended at 9.25 pm
Chair
Pate Confirmed and Signed
repared by Democratic Services

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Bath & North East Somerset Council					
MEETING:	Council				
MEETING DATE:	20 th February 2024	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:			
		E3500			
TITLE:	Budget and Council Tax 2024/25 and Financial Outlo	ook			
WARD:	All				
AN OPEN PURI IC ITEM					

AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM

List of attachments to this report

Annex 1: Revenue Budget 2024/25 – individual service cash limits

Annex 2: (i) 2024/25 to 2026/27 Budget Savings and Income proposals & (ii) 2024/25 to 2026/27 Funding Requirements.

Annex 3: Equalities Impact Assessment of 2024/25 to 2026/27 Savings Proposals

Annex 4: Efficiency Strategy

Annex 5: Draft Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2028/29

Annex 5 (i): New and Emerging Capital Schemes

Annex 5 (ii): Highways Maintenance Programme

Annex 5 (iii): Transport Improvement Programme

Annex 5 (iv): Corporate Estate Planned Maintenance Programme

Annex 5 (v): Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Allocations

Annex 6: Capital & Investment Strategy

Annex 7: MRP Policy

Annex 8: Council Pay & Reward Policy 2024/25

Annex 9: Advice of Monitoring Officer on the Budget Setting Process

Annex 10: Budget 2024/25 Consultation Report

Annex 11: Fees & Charges Brochure 2024/25

Annex 12: Formal Council Tax Setting Resolutions (incorporating precepts from

Parishes, Fire, and Police) – TO FOLLOW

1. THE ISSUE

This report presents the revenue and capital budgets together with proposals for increases in Council Tax and the Adult Social Care Precept for 2024/25.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Council approves-

• The General Fund net revenue budget for 2024/25 of £135.85m and the individual service cash limits for 2024/25 as outlined in Annex 1.

- The savings and income plans outlined in Annex 2(i), funding requirements 2(ii), in conjunction with the Equalities Impact Assessment Report in Annex 3.
- An increase in Council Tax of 2.99% in 2024/25 (an increase of £49.45 per Band D property or 95p per week).
- An increase of 2% to Council Tax for the Adult Social Care Precept in recognition of the current demands and financial pressures on this service. This is equivalent to an increase of £33.07 on a Band D property (64p per week).
- The movement in reserves outlined in section 5.6 and the adequacy of Unearmarked Reserves at £12.58m within a risk assessed range requirement of £12.3m - £13.6m.
- To note the Children's Services management plan set out in section 5.2.7 of the report.
- The Efficiency Strategy attached at Annex 4.
- The Capital Programme for 2024/25 of £71.91m including new and emerging capital bids outlined in Annex 5(i), planned sources of funding in 5.8.3, and notes the programme for 2025/26 to 2028/29 and that any wholly funded projects coming forward during the year will be added to the Capital Programme in line with the Budget Management Scheme.
- The delegation of implementation, subject to consultation where appropriate, of the capital programmes set out in Annex 5(i) to Annex 5(iv) to the relevant Director in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Portfolio Holder.
- The schedule of asset disposals as set out in section 5.8.2 and delegates the final disposal decision to the Head of Commercial and/or Corporate Estate in consultation with the S151 Officer and appropriate Cabinet Portfolio Holder.
- The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) allocations and amendments outlined in Annex 5(v).
- The Capital & Investment Strategy attached at Annex 6.
- The MRP Policy attached at Annex 7.
- The Capital Prudential Indicators outlined in 5.8.7.
- The Annual Pay Policy Statement at Annex 8.
- The Community Contribution Fund extension outlined section 5.5.
- The Council Tax Support Scheme for 2024/25 shown in the following link: https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-01/Bath%20%26%20NE%20Someset%20S13A%20202425%20FINAL.pdf and referred to in 5.3.5
- The Fees and Charges schedule for 2024/25 at Annex 11 and support its publication following approval of the budget, with delegation to amend individual

costs within the schedule in line with market needs, to the Director of Place Management, in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Portfolio Holder.

- 2.2 That the Council approves the technical resolutions that are derived from the budget report, and all the figures in that report, including the precepts for towns, parishes and other precepting bodies as set out in Annex 12.
- 2.3 That the Council note the S151 Officer's report on the robustness of the proposed budget and the adequacy of the Council's reserves outlined in 5.7.
- 2.4 That the Council note the budget consultation responses in Annex 10.

3. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

The resource implications are contained within the body of the report.

4. STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSALS

A local authority has a statutory duty to set an annual budget and Council Tax. The advice of the Council's Monitoring Officer regarding the budget setting process is attached at Annex 9.

Members must have regard to the impact on specific groups in their decision making. The Equalities Team has reviewed savings plans to ensure that any impact the saving will have on diversity and equality has been assessed and to ensure that any issues are highlighted to members before a decision is made. The analysis is attached at Annex 3.

5. THE REPORT

5.1 **The 2024/25 Budget Summary**

The Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) was approved in November 2023 and outlined how the budget would be delivered over the medium to long-term. This considers the current economic outlook together with the ongoing inflationary pressures from the 'Cost-of-Living crisis'. The MTFS for B&NES spans two years with a further three added to show the likely longer-term picture.

The Council needs to deliver a balanced budget over the term of the plan. A balanced budget means that Council one-off cash balances (reserves) are not being used to fund recurrent expenditure. The updated plan shows a balanced budget for 2024/25 and 2025/26 with a future years budget gap from 2026/27 although this is expected to reduce to a balanced position once the impacts of income growth and further efficiencies are factored in to budget planning. The figures include all estimates for future pay awards, pension costs, Council Tax, business rates, Government grant, and inflation. The revenue budget contingency includes £3m for general budget risk and £1m for inflationary pressures for new unbudgeted contract risk in 2024/25.

The budget has been developed considering how to operate with a higher cost base and lower income levels whilst delivering the Corporate Strategy to meet our key principles and commitments. After taking account of ongoing service cost pressures and new funding requirements, the starting point for the 2024/25 budget is a funding gap of £16.42m. The proposed budget meets this funding gap in two ways:

- 1) Income generation plans of £6.51m.
- 2) Cost reduction plans of £9.91m.

The ongoing impact of high inflation and high demand for Social Care has created an imbalance in how the Council funds its services, Council tax and Business rates alone do not fully fund the Council's services. To balance the budget the Council needs to grow its commercial and fees and charges income and also reduce its running costs. The Council revenue support grant has reduced from £31m in 2013/14 to £0.83m per annum in 2024/25 and as a result we have become more reliant on external income to help fund core Council services. After considering demands on services and inflationary pressure the Council revenue budget requires £24.94m in budget growth. This is funded through increases in Council tax, Business rates, income and savings plans and grant adjustments. This is highlighted in more detail in section 5.2.5 of the report and supporting annexes.

The budget includes a recommendation that general Council Tax is increased by 2.99% in 2024/25 (an increase of £49.45 per Band D property) and the Adult Social Care Precept is increased by 2% (an increase of £33.07 per Band D property). This results in a total proposed Band D Council Tax for Bath and North East Somerset Council next year of £1,736.42 (£1,653.90 in 2023/24) an overall increase of 4.99% or £82.52 per Band D (£1.59 per week).

The proposed net revenue budget for Bath and North East Somerset for 2024/25 is £135.85m.

5.1.1 Corporate Strategy and the Councils' Priorities

The Budget proposal sets out the framework and allocation of financial resources across the Council. How this is achieved will require close alignment to the Corporate Strategy as set out below.

One: We have one overriding purpose – to improve people's lives.

Two: We have two core policies – tackling the climate and ecological emergency and giving people a bigger say. These will shape everything we do.

Three: To translate our purpose into commitments, we have identified three principles. We want to prepare for the future, deliver for local residents and focus on prevention.

Our four values - bold, empowered, supportive and transparent - continue to underpin all of our work.

Our Corporate Strategy to 2027 builds on our achievements and reflects the ambitions and priorities of the council's administration elected in May 2023. It provides a clear and ambitious framework for delivery, it also sets out how shared

outcomes will be embedded through partnerships such as our Future Ambition Board and Health and Wellbeing Board.

This is all set out clearly in the diagram below:



This is the "golden thread" which drives what we do ensuring that setting budgets and managing our people - our most valuable resource - are guided by the council's priorities. It also means that our commitments are realistic and achievable.

Areas of overarching strategic priority and focus over the next two years will include:

- Delivery of the Council's Being Our Best programme to enable a joined up organisational structure that meets the objectives of providing the Council with Great Jobs, Smarter Structures and a Culture of Excellence.
- Develop a new strategy and service provision of Adult Social Care services to the residents of Bath and North East Somerset.
- Focus on ensuring financial sustainability in Children's services. This recognises the
 increased demand and complexity of caseload. We continue to work on improving
 our financial and management information which are key to creating a modern and
 resilient service.
- Delivery against an ambitious new Economic Strategy for Bath and North East Somerset, prioritising green growth, good jobs and affordable housing.

- Manage the Councils operational assets through the introduction of a Corporate Landlord model that ensures the best use for the Council's services and its communities.
- Continued investment to support the most vulnerable people in our communities.
- Continued commitment to secure action to address the climate and ecological emergency.
- Continue to focus on council wide business change programmes which balance service improvement within a clear return on investment framework.
- Deliver new ways for our residents, businesses, partner organisations, visitors and internal service teams to interact and receive council information and services, using digital channels.
- Ensuring that we are able to manage labour market demands and fluctuations across our workforce but particularly in operational roles in both social care and neighbourhood services.

5.2 The Revenue Budget 2024/25

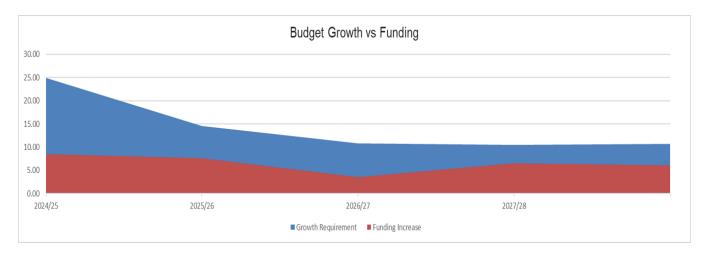
5.2.1 2023/24 Current Budget Position

The Council is currently forecasting an over budget position at Quarter 3 of £1.84m at year end. Cost pressures have arisen due to significant inflationary and demand pressures, this has had a material impact on Children's services, which like many councils, has meant this year has been financially challenging. However, increases in interest rates have had a positive impact on our cash balances, the borrowing requirement for the capital programme has been reprofiled forward, whilst strong visitor recovery in Bath has meant increased income for our Heritage and Parking services. In addition, services have been required to mitigate the over budget position through vacancy management and reducing discretionary spend where possible. All of which has part mitigated the aforementioned pressures. Financial recovery actions continue to be put in place to further mitigate the over budget position to bring the Council back into budget by year-end. Recurrent service budget pressures that cannot be mitigated have been incorporated into the funding requirement for 2024/25.

5.2.2 The Budget and Medium-Term Financial Outlook

The budget summary is set out below showing the demand and funding changes over the next five years:

	Future years assumptions £m					
Budget Planning	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	Total
Growth Requirement	24.94	14.58	10.86	10.45	10.74	71.57
Funding Increase	8.52	7.61	3.61	6.52	6.14	32.40
Annual Funding gap	16.42	6.97	7.25	3.93	4.60	39.17
Savings Proposals	16.42	6.97	2.05	1.10	1.33	27.87
Remaining Funding Gap	0.00	0.00	5.20	2.83	3.27	11.30



This illustrates a balanced budget for the next two years with a forecast budget gap of £11.3m from 2026/27 to 2028/29.

The budget detail, assumptions, and the future forecast is shown in the table below:

	Future years assumptions £m					
Budget Planning	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	
Budget Requirement (Previous Year)	131.03	135.85	143.46	147.07	153.59	
Budget Adjustments	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Pay & Pension	4.54	3.64	3.37	3.23	3.23	
Demographic Growth	4.19	3.00	3.07	3.83	3.51	
Contract Inflation	5.25	4.52	2.36	2.34	2.37	
New Homes Bonus Pressure	0.10	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Capital Financing	2.01	1.78	0.99	1.21	1.21	
Settlement grant funding	(3.02)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Budget pressure / rebasing	8.88	(1.67)	1.08	(0.17)	0.42	
Funding Requirement Sub Total	24.94	14.58	10.86	10.45	10.74	
Draft Budget Before Savings	155.96	150.44	154.32	157.52	164.34	
Proposed Savings Plans	(16.42)	(6.97)	(2.05)	(1.10)	(1.33)	
Estimated Savings Required	(0.00)	(0.00)	(5.20)	(2.83)	(3.27)	
Savings Requirement Sub Total	(16.42)	(6.97)	(7.25)	(3.93)	(4.60)	
Budget Requirement	139.54	143.46	147.07	153.59	159.73	
Business Rate Relief Adjustment*	(3.69)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Revised Budget Requirement	135.85	143.46	147.07	153.59	159.73	
Funding of Budget Requirement						
Council Tax	120.01	125.09	130.12	135.35	140.79	
Business rates retention*	19.35	20.07	17.55	18.24	18.94	
Reserve transfers From	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Reserve transfers (To)	(3.50)	(1.70)	(0.60)	0.00	0.00	
Funding of Budget Requirement Total	135.85	143.46	147.07	153.59	159.73	

Gfv * Budget adjustment realigns s31 grant income for 2024/25 from government funded business rate relief compensation.

The forecast includes the following cost pressures and assumptions:

- **Pay Inflation** Estimated 5% in 2024/25, 4% 2025/26, 3% thereafter.
- Council tax General assumed at 2.99% in 2024/25 and future years, Social Care precept 2% until 2024/25.
- **Pension Costs** Have been revised in line with the recent revaluation no increase up to 2026/27.
- **Demographic Growth & Increase in Service Volumes** Additional demand from new placement and market pressures in Adult & Children Social Care;
- Interest Rates Higher interest rate to follow movement in Bank of England base rate currently 5.25% for treasury management cash investments. The Council will fix budget interest rates following the provisional settlement;
- **Inflation** CPI projections modelled on a higher rate c5% for 2024/25 falling to the Bank of England target of 2% for future years;

- **Budget Pressures** / **Rebasing*** 2024/25 budget rebasing takes into account current pressures identified in budget monitoring on demand driven services including Children's Services.
- Capital Spending an allowance has been made to fund previously agreed provisional schemes requiring borrowing.
- Borrowing longer term borrowing costs have been factored into the MTFS
 however the authority will continue to optimise the use of cash balances subject to
 market conditions and the overriding need to meet cash outflows;
- **New Priorities** the budget proposal for 2024/25 has incorporated revenue budget growth that will enable the Council to take forward priorities from its Corporate Strategy.
- Reserves the Council's reserve balances have been reviewed to ensure an
 appropriate level of general unearmarked reserve for budget risk and specific
 earmarked reserves that will enable the Council to fully deliver the budget proposal.

5.2.3 The Government Settlement

The Final Settlement was received on 5th February 2024 and final grant allocations have been reflected in this report.

Revenue Support Grant (RSG)

As a result of a further delay in the Fairer Funding and Business Rate Retention Review, the Council will continue to receive the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) in 2024/25 of £0.831m (2023/24 £0.779m). The increase reflects an inflationary uplift of £0.052m.

The RSG allocated to B&NES has been rolled into the 100% Business Rate Pilot Scheme, with the Council retaining an equivalent amount of business rates instead of receiving a RSG payment.

Services Grant

The Services Grant has been reduced from £0.958m to £0.165m in 2024/25, the reduction of £0.793m reflects the use of this grant by government to fund other grants within the finance settlement.

New Homes Bonus

The New Homes Bonus is a grant paid by central government to local councils to reflect and incentivise housing growth in their areas. It is based on the amount of extra Council Tax revenue raised for new-build homes, conversions and long-term empty homes brought back into use. There is also an extra payment for providing affordable homes.

The Provisional Settlement has outlined continuation of the changes made to the funding arrangements for New Homes Bonus since 2020/21, pending the delayed announcement on the future position of the scheme, which is now expected ahead of the 2025/26 local government finance settlement. This results in a 2024/25 New

^{*} Rebasing is the alignment of budgets to current and forecast expenditure and income levels

Homes Bonus grant payment of £0.327m for new housing growth over the past year, a reduction of £0.098m from 2023/24. The settlement announced that the grant would only be paid for one year and that the national housing growth baseline adjustment would remain at 0.4% for 2024/25.

Social Care Grant

The December 2023 provisional settlement included an increase of £1.66m in Social Care grant funding taking the grant for 2024/25 to £11.73m. This increase is allocated to fund Children's Social Care demand pressures in line with previous years use of the Social Care grant. The final settlement provided an additional £500m nationally to top up the Social Care Grant, increasing the Council's grant allocation by £1.520m taking the total grant for 2024/25 to £13.250m. This additional funding is allocated to fund a £1.101m Adult Social Care contingency and a £0.419m Children's Services contingency for managing in year budget risk. This funding is assumed as recurrent in the base budget.

• Adult Social Care Market Sustainability & Improvement Fund Grant

The Local Government Finance Settlement includes grant funding for 2024/25 of £3.193m through the Market Sustainability & Improvement Fund Grant. This includes the transfer in of the Workforce Fund grant which was paid separately in 2023/24. Taken together this represents an increase of £0.374m. This funding is assumed as recurrent in the base budget.

• Adult Social Care Discharge Fund Grant

The Local Government Finance Settlement includes an increase in the ring-fenced Adult Social Care Discharge Fund grant funding for 2024/25 of £0.458m taking the total grant for 2024/25 to £1.146m. This funding is assumed as recurrent in the base budget.

Better Care Fund

The Better Care Fund is intended to incentivise the integration of health and social care, requiring Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and Local Authorities to pool budgets and agree an integrated spending plan, owned by the health and wellbeing board. Greater integration is seen as a potential way to use resources more efficiently and achieve better outcomes for people, in particular by reducing avoidable hospital admissions and facilitating early discharge from hospital.

The Council & B&NES ICB Better Care fund for 2024/25 is anticipated to be £26m with the Council contribution of £9m and ICB contribution of £17m. The ICB contribution is expected to rise in line with planned NHS uplifts once confirmed. For 2023-24 this increase was 5.66%.

The Council budget assumes that the funding transfer of £14.9m NHS mandated minimum contribution will remain consistent with prior years; with £10.7m of this funding transferred in 2023/24 for Council commissioned schemes under the S75 pooled budget arrangements.

The Local Government Finance Settlement has confirmed that the existing improved Better Care Fund social grant will be maintained at the same value as 2023/24, for B&NES this is £4.9m. This will protect the Better Care Fund schemes that have committed this funding on an annual basis.

Business Rates

It has been confirmed that the 100% Business Rate Retention Pilot will continue into 2024/25. The estimated benefit is approximately £3.2m. The MTFS currently reflects the risk that this benefit could be removed as part of the 2026/27 financial settlement, with the Council reverting to the national funding scheme following the Local Government Financing and Fairer Funding review by the government. The government confirmed in the December 2022 Local Government Finance Policy Statement that these reforms would not take place in the current parliament. Therefore, it is unlikely that these reforms will take place before 2026/27 due to the time needed to develop and review options for change and also to carry out the necessary consultation on the impacts of any proposals.

As part of the proposed budget, reasonable assumptions have been made for likely levels of future Business Rate income, together with specific provisions for appeals, increase in reliefs and growth and deletions. Any surplus or deficit on the Business Rate Collection Fund and associated income will be transferred to or from the Business Rates Reserve for consideration as part of the Business Rates calculations for future years. This approach will include any changes that arise from the final settlement announcement relating to Business Rates, the announcement was still awaited at the time this report was finalised.

As part of the Autumn Budget Statement, the Chancellor announced that for 2024/25:

- the small business multiplier (for properties with a Rateable Value below £51k) will be frozen at 49.9p
- the standard multiplier (for properties with a Rateable Value of £51k and above) will be uprated in April by September's CPI figure (6.7%), increasing the multiplier from 51.2p to 54.6p
- the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure (RHL) scheme will be extended for a fifth year into 2024/25, retaining the existing scope and providing eligible properties with 75% relief, up to a cap of £110,000 per business

The government has confirmed that the Council would be compensated for the loss of Business Rates for granting the reliefs and the freezing of the small business multiplier through section 31 grants paid to the revenue account.

2023/24 Business Rate Collection Fund Deficit

The forecast for the Business Rate element of the collection fund in 2023/24 is for a deficit of £0.061m. The Council's share of the estimated deficit, after allowing for amounts due from Avon Fire Authority and the West of England Combined Authority, is £0.057m. The deficit is due to a forecast in year deficit of £0.721m, partly offset by the surplus carried forward from 2022/23 of £0.660m.

Schools Funding

Schools are funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) which is initially allocated to the Council by the Department for Education (DfE). The DSG supports all expenditure in schools (who set their own budgets) and the activities that the Council carries out directly for schools. It does not cover the statutory responsibilities the Council has towards parents. These responsibilities are funded through the Councils main revenue funding and included as part of the proposed budget.

As schools convert to academies the DfE take back the element of DSG payable to the local authority in order to make payments direct to the academies. It is estimated that 92% of B&NES schools will have converted to academies by April 2024 and a number of other schools will develop plans to convert in the coming years.

With the introduction of the National Funding Formula for schools the DSG for schools (the Schools Block) was ring-fenced for schools from 2018/19 leaving it unclear as to which body was responsible for the demographic pressures being observed in the other Blocks, in particular the SEND / High Needs element of the DSG. The Government has confirmed in legislation that local authorities cannot support High Needs costs through their General Funds unless they obtain Secretary of State approval. In addition, it states that the local authority must carry forward the whole of the overspend to the schools budget in future years. This legislation is time limited and it is anticipated that further legislation will be included within the SEN review due to be published soon.

The DFE invited B&NES to participate in the national DSG Safety Valve programme where the DFE require the LA to produce a recovery plan and if agreed the DFE will support the eradication of the on going cumulative deficit. An agreement was signed with the DFE in February 2023 but due to difficulties with the overall position of the plan a new plan is to be submitted by March 2024. Officers have been working on the revision and are having ongoing discussions with the DFE about the details of that plan. It is anticipated that the outcome will be known during March 2024.

As part of this agreement the DFE have agreed to make payments to the LA of £19.2m over a 6 year period. To date payments of £8.1m have been received but further payments will be reliant on approval of the revised plan.

The underlying overspend on the DSG including the High Needs Block (having taken account of the additional payments) was £13.4m in 2022/23 and that balance was carried forward to 2023/24. The estimated forecast in 2023/24 (including the carry forward from 2022/23) is £21.4m.

Schools through the Schools Forum agreed to support the High Needs pressures to the full extent of their delegated powers with a contribution of 0.5% of the schools budget amounting to £0.7m.

5.2.4 Savings and Income Generation

To deliver a balanced budget in 2024/25 and 2025/26 savings and income generation plans total £16.42m for 2024/25 and £6.97m for 2025/26. The Council has a good track record of delivering proposed savings. In relation to the 2023/24

approved savings of £14.38m, 72% (£10.33m) have been delivered in full, 4% (£0.51m) have been mitigated by one-off underspends in year, with the remaining 24% delayed until 2024/25 or addressed through the budget setting proposals.

The proposals for savings and income generation are outlined in Annex 2(i).

5.2.5 **Budget Funding Requirements**

Budget growth and additional pressures across portfolios of £24.94m have been added to ensure that the budget remains robust and to add additional budget funding to areas that require rebasing. This does not mean that savings cannot be found from these areas in future once savings opportunities are identified, but this ensures that spend and budget are aligned especially in high demand areas. Growth and pressures are outlined in Annex 2.

The material items requiring additional funding on top of annual budget adjustments such as pay inflation are listed below, this illustrates some of the economic and financial challenges the Council is facing.

- Adult Services budget growth £5.7m
- Children's Services budget growth £7.3m
- Highways budget growth £1.6m
- Neighbourhood Services budget growth £2.1m

5.2.6 Adult Social Care Delivery Changes 2024/25

Adult Social Care services are currently delivered as part of the existing contract with HCRG Care Group. This contract is now in the final year of the initial seven-year term, and ends on the 31 March 2024.

B&NES Council approved the in-house transfer of ASC services, in line with the standard operating model seen nationally for these services, via a Strategic Outline Business Case (SOC) by Cabinet on 10 November 2022.

The transfer in of the ASC service will create a budgetary pressure of c.£1 million in the first year when it transfers back to the Council. Mitigations have been proposed and the practice framework that will support the management of these cost pressures is already in place.

At the point of transfer there is overhead funding for corporate support services of £1.1m to transfer back to the Resources portfolio from Adult Services. This value will be passed to the appropriate corporate resources functions that will be supporting the service on going. The table below illustrates the original make up of the value of the overhead and the services that it will be passed to.

	Admin & Management	Information Mgt & Technology	Finance & Resources		HR (including Training)	Property	Total
Available 01.4.24	£145,196	£289,051	£198,582	£11,485	£301,789	£112,187	£1,058,290

A Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Review of adult social work was carried out during September 2023. The Peer Challenge Review team congratulated the Council on its excellent leadership and cited the Council as 'a well led organisation with a positive workforce culture built upon mutual respect and values.'

It also highlighted opportunities to strengthen areas of the service and these are being taken forward to ensure that we provide assurance over the provision of adult social work for the B&NES population.

5.2.7 Children's Services Management Plan

B&NES Children's services were rated as "Good" in all categories by Ofsted in 2022. An independent assessment by CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy) in late 2022 found that whilst services remain Good they were under stress. Children's services remains under significant pressure due to a number of contributing factors including: a significant increase in demand and complexity of need across Children Social Care and Special Needs and Disability (SEND), increase in the number of looked after children, to include Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC), high cost of placements and a shortage of local residential placements. The service has introduced incentives to attract and retain a skilled workforce, reduce staff turnover and reduce use of agency staff. The service has also experienced significant demand and increased cost of home to school transport.

The Children's Transformation Programme which has cross council support, has successfully delivered in year savings in 2023/2024.

Its key priorities for 2024 include:

- Enhancing some elements of early help and prevention, to include further strengthening family group conferencing and reunification
- Continued recruitment of our own in house foster carers and supported lodgings providers
- Provision of local residential accommodation and education arrangements, linked to the Dedicated Schools Grant Safety Valve Programme
- Develop our arrangements for young people as they move from children to adult services
- Refresh our workforce strategy
- Improving financial management, decision making, controls and governance across teams and functions

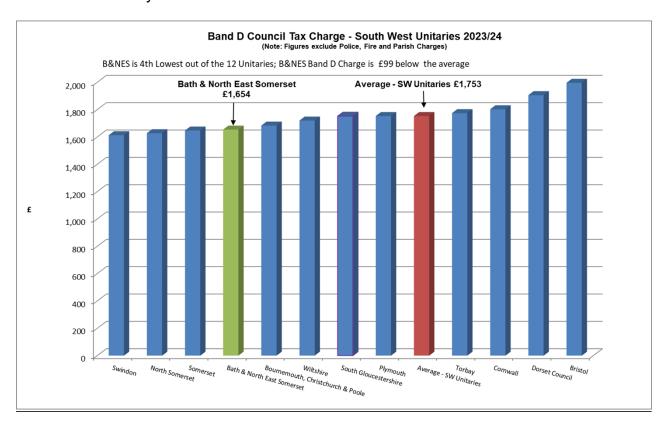
The council commissioned EY in late 2023 to work with Children's Services to identify opportunities for efficiency and savings, in the short to medium term so that the service can move to a balanced budget position.

5.3 Council Tax

5.3.1 Band D Equivalent Council Tax

The government has announced the same referendum cap of 3% will be in place for 2024/25. The proposal therefore within this report is to increase general Council Tax by 2.99% in 2024/25. This will increase a Band D by £49.45 for 2024/25 to £1,484.14. The overall proposed Band D Council Tax for Bath and North East Somerset Council next year, including the Adult Social Care Precept increase of 2.00%, is £1,736.42 (£1,653.90 in 2023/24) an increase of 4.99% and £82.52 per Band D (£1.59 per week). The tax base for 2024/25 is 69,255.88, an increase of 645.94 (+0.94%) from 2023/24.

The diagram below shows that B&NES had the fourth lowest Council Tax of the South West Unitary Authorities in 2023/24:



As billing authority, B&NES calculates a basic level of tax based on its own spending plans, to which is added the precepts from, Adult Social Care, Avon Fire Authority, Avon and Somerset Police Authority, and any town/parish Council. The actual total of Council Tax for Bath and North East Somerset residents will be calculated once all precepting authorities have notified B&NES of their proposals to be approved at Full Council on 20th February 2024.

5.3.2 Adult Social Care Precept

The Government, in recognising the continued pressures facing Adult Social Care (ASC) authorities, has allowed for a further 2% increase per annum through the final two years of the current spending review period to 2024/25. The Council's plans include this for 2024/25 (this would increase the Adult Social Care Precept to £17.47m an increase of £2.43m from 2023/24) with any future years increases subject to further government announcement.

The funding requirement for Adult Social Care before savings and grant funding is £4.6m (Annex 2i) which will be part funded from the Adult Social Care Precept increase.

5.3.3 2023/24 Council Tax Collection Fund Deficit

The forecast for the Council Tax element of the collection fund in 2023/24 is for a deficit of £0.300m. The Council's share of the estimated deficit, after allowing for amounts due to Avon Fire Authority and Avon & Somerset Police, is £0.249m. The deficit is due to Collection Fund position carried forward from 2022/23, partly offset by a forecast in year surplus of £0.109m.

5.3.4 Estimates for Future Years Band D Council Tax

The current Medium Term Financial Plan has factored in an annual increase of 2.99% for 2025/26 and future years for general Council Tax, with no further Adult Social Care precept increases included until future policy is announced. Projections will be adjusted accordingly in line with any future referendum limits set by the new Government after the next general election.

5.3.5 **Council Tax Support**

The base Council Tax Support Scheme was approved in November 2019 and has been updated to reflect annual changes to statutory legislation and benefit rates from April 2024. The Council also agreed, at its November 2023 meeting, to make some changes to the rules of entitlement for households who receive Universal Credit. This includes the following:

- The disregard of the Housing and Childcare elements of Universal Credit and Housing Benefit as income.
- The introduction of 100% support for the poorest households.
- Changes to the amount of support provided for each income band.
- Setting the lowest income band in line with the standard allowance of Universal Credit.

The 2024/25 Scheme is available at the following link:

https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-01/Bath%20%26%20NE%20Someset%20S13A%20202425%20FINAL.pdf

The tax base currently assumes the same number of recipients as at the end of November 2023 will continue into 2024/25 and incorporates the scheme changes agreed at November Council. The budget estimate is £10.8m compared to £10.3m in 2023/24 reflecting Council Tax increases, schemes changes and changes in claimants since the previous year's taxbase calculations.

The Government have announced that from April 2024, most working age Welfare Benefits rates, including Universal Credit, will be increased by 6.7%. We are proposing to set the lowest income band in line with the standard allowance for

Universal Credit. This will allow the poorest households to keep more of their benefit income and receive more support towards their council tax.

The proposed new income band values would take effect from April 2024.

5.4 West of England Combined Authority (WECA)

The West of England Combined Authority was formed in 2017. Since its formation, the West of England Combined Authority has successfully secured over £1.7bn of new funding, ensuring the region has strong foundations in place to deliver on the ground transformation that will have a positive impact on the lives of people right across the West of England for our region.

The strength of the West of England Combined Authority in securing significant new funding directly supports improvements for our region and adds value to the work the region's councils. With this funding, we are able to work in partnership to invest in and deliver services and programmes that would not have been possible otherwise. Our delivery includes significant changes to our public transport services following our successful proposals for £540m investment from the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement. This funding allocation is the highest amount of funding per head awarded anywhere in England. On top of this, we are also delivering significant bus reform, using the £57.5m Bus Service Improvement funding that we have secured for the region.

The West of England Combined Authority has secured the following key additional investment for our region:

- £693m for major transport schemes
- £15m of Active Travel funding.
- £47.5m for MetroWest Phase 1 and 2
- £24m for a Future Transport Zone
- £4m for the Multiply Programme
- £10m from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund
- £95m for Bristol Temple Quarter from Homes England
- £75m from our business rates retention*
- Around £16m per annum to invest in Adult Education
- £46m for Net Zero and Retrofit projects
- £15m for Business Skills and Delivery
- £10m for Skills Bootcamps
- £2m for UK Community Renewal Fund
- £5m to run the Combined Authority

Operating the West of England Combined Authority incurs no additional costs to our constituent councils, because it is entirely funded through government grants and a

^{* 100%} of business rates growth are kept in the region – 5% to the West of England Combined Authority

small element of regional business rates retention growth (which would not have been available without forming the West of England Combined Authority).

The West of England is an economic leader. We have a strong and diverse economy, where people have access to amazing jobs and we continue to attract new employers and industry to the region, further strengthening the opportunities available to people who live here. However, challenges remain in our economy. We need to widen opportunities for people from deprived parts of the region or disadvantages groups. And we need to have the conditions in place for living standards across the region to raise against a backdrop of challenging national economic circumstances. And while we have taken significant action to tackle the climate and nature emergencies we all face – we will not hit our net zero ambitions without redoubling our efforts.

The West England Combined Authority is working with its constituent councils, other regional partners and government, to ensure people and businesses across the region are getting the support they need.

The West of England Combined Authority and its partner authorities agreed five strategic investment priorities, which the budget will support as listed below:

- 1. Climate and ecological emergency
- 2. Sustainable communities and places
- 3. Jobs and training
- 4. Strategic infrastructure
- 5. Putting the region on the map for national and global success.

The Budget for the Combined Authority will be set on 26 January 2024 by the West England Combined Authority Committee – at the time of writing the budget assumptions set out below are based upon the Combined Authority Budget proposals and are subject to the outcome of the above meeting. The following elements of the West England Combined Authority Budget and medium-term financial plan have therefore been incorporated within the Council Budget proposal:

- An annual revenue transport levy to reflect the cost of the core regional Integrated Transport services of:
- Concessionary Travel
- Real Time Information for bus services
- Community Transport
- Bus Service Information
- Supported Bus Services (whilst remaining a joint function with the constituent councils)
- TravelWest and
- Metrobus operations

The levy charge for 2024/25 is £5.194m. Unitary Authority levies are pooled by the West of England Combined Authority's Transport Integration Team and managed on a regional basis. Projected surpluses or deficits are managed on a regional basis and a transport smoothing reserve has been created to help manage financial risk.

Within the City Region Sustainable Transport Programme, the West of England

Combined Authority will passport £25m per annum of capital funding to the West of England Unitary Authorities to provide Highways Maintenance and Transport Improvement Grants. The Council's share is £6.997m per annum.

An additional new pothole funding award was announced in November 2023 – The Council's allocation for 2024/25 is £0.562m.

The published West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Investment Programme will continue to support a number of projects and initiatives for our Unitary Authority throughout 2024/25 including:

- Love Our High Streets
 - Bath City Centre High Streets Renewal £1.5m
 - Midsomer Norton High Street £1.1m
 - Local Centres £0.3m
- Milsom Quarter Masterplan £2.5m
- Bath Riverline Phase 1 £1.3m
- Bath Quays North £31m
- Somer Valley Rediscovered £0.9m
- ISTART £1.5m

These are funded from the additional investment funds received by the West of England Combined Authority as part of the devolution arrangements and are reflected accordingly within the councils' revenue and capital budget proposals. Further bids for infrastructure funding may be made in line with the Combined Authority's Strategy and Local Growth Assurance Framework and may come forward for inclusion in the capital programme in line with future delivery arrangements.

Alongside specific projects, West of England Combined Authority will continue to develop, and progress, key longer term strategic initiatives including mass transit options, strategic rail investment and spatial planning to enable clean and green sustainable growth.

The Combined Authority is not currently permitted to raise Council Tax to fund any of its activity and therefore no precept will be requested.

Full details of the West of England Combined Authority Budget proposals are available at www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk

5.5 Community Contribution fund

Community Contribution Fund

The Community Contribution Fund was launched in March 2021, initially as a pilot to offer residents the chance to contribute to good causes that help local charity, community and voluntary groups to reduce health inequalities. The total amount donated has reached £40,114.32 as at 5th January 2024. There have been over 500

individual donations received. Most people donated between £20 and £50, with the largest donation to date being £2,000.

The scheme has been promoted through local media and on the Council's social media and website. Whilst there were more donations given in the first year, donations have continued with individuals donating more than once. Nationally UK charities have reported a decline in public donations.

Grants awarded

So far, £31,235 has been allocated to local causes. In the first year, grants of up to £2,000 were awarded to 15 community organisations. Projects included those that supported people's mental health; provided emergency medical supplies; invested in refurbishment of community facilities; mentoring; support for families; training; group therapy and youth provision. A further 24 grants were awarded to community-run Warm Spaces that were registered with the Council. Organisations were awarded £250 to support these activities.

Applications for grants reopened in December 2023 with a focus on projects that support residents with the ongoing cost of living crisis, this also includes support Warm Spaces. Applications are open until 16th February 2024 and organisations can apply up to £500.

Subject to further donations received, it is recommended that the scheme continues into 2024/25.

5.6 Revenue Balances, Contingency & Reserves

Reserves are amounts that have been set aside from annual revenue budgets to meet specific known events that will happen in the future. An estimate of the key reserves has been made for 2024/25 and future years.

	2023/24 Reallocations	Estimated Balance 1/4/24	Estimated Balance 31/3/25	Estimated Balance 31/3/26	Estimated Balance 31/3/27
	£m	£'m	£'m	£'m	£'m
Revenue Budget Contingency	0.0	3.2	3.2	3.7	4.3
Financial Planning and Smoothing Reserve	0.0	5.7	5.3	5.2	5.2
Transformation Investment Reserve	0.0	0.0	0	1.2	1.2
Covid Grant Reserve	(2.0)	0.4	0.4	0	0

5.6.1 Revenue Budget Contingency £3.2m

The primary purpose of this reserve is to fund in year unforeseen events, overspends, and to meet the risks of non-delivery of budget savings. Budget monitoring for the period April to December 2023 forecast a £1.8m over budget position, further recovery actions during the remaining period are expected to mitigate this pressure. If the year-end position results in an over-budget position the revenue budget contingency will be utilised. The Budget proposal fully replenishes the reserve balance to pre-covid levels by 2026/27 following its use in previous years to mitigate the Covid impact on the Council's income levels.

5.6.2 Financial Planning and Smoothing Reserve £5.7m

The Financial Planning Reserve will be used to smooth the delivery of organisational change. The Budget proposal includes a £3.5m transfer to the reserve to fully replenish the reserve balance to above pre-covid levels following its use to mitigate the Covid impact on the Council's income levels in previous years. There has been a commitment to utilise the Financial Planning Reserve (£788k) to fund a review and improvements to the Council's financial systems resulting in a programme of works to be implemented over the next 24 months. As the programme of work evolves it is likely that further commitments will be made.

5.6.3 Transformation Investment Reserve £0.0m

The reserve facilitates delivery of future savings by providing additional short-term capacity and specialist advice. The reserve is planned to be increased by £1.2m in 2025/26 to enable the development and delivery of future year savings plans.

5.6.4 Covid Grant Reserve £0.4m

Following a review of this reserve balance, it is proposed to reallocate £2m into the Restructuring and Severance Reserve to cover potential redundancy and pension costs in 2024/25. The remaining balance will be reviewed during 2024/25.

5.6.5 Restructuring and Severance Reserve £5.0m

The 2024/25 budget includes a transfer of £3.2m to the reserve, consisting of £1.2m reallocation from the Business Rate Reserve and £2.0m reallocation from the Covid Grant reserve, following a review of these reserves by the S151 officer. The revised balance on the reserve after the transfer is £5m. The projected use in 2024/25 is a one-off allocation of £3m following the implementation of the Being our Best Programme, this will result in changes to structures across the Council contributing to the £2.5m recurrent savings requirement in 2024/25.

5.6.6 Reserves and Flexible Capital Receipts

Flexible capital Receipts can be used for revenue spend that results in ongoing revenue savings. Estimated usage for 2023/24 is expected to be up to £1.25m with the remaining £2m carried forward for use in 2024/25 as outlined in the Efficiency Strategy attached at Annex 4. Currently £4.27m of unapplied capital receipts through estate assets, land holdings etc are held as at the end of December 2023 with a further £5.9m forecast in 2024/25 to meet requirements for flexible capital receipts and to finance the capital programme in those years.

	Actual Usage 2017/18 – 2022/23 £'m	Estimated Usage 2023/24 £'m	Available Balance 2024/25 £'m	Est. Total Usage £'m
Flexible Capital Receipts	8.25	1.25	2.00	11.50

5.6.1 General Fund Un-Earmarked Reserve

The General Fund Un-earmarked reserve is retained to meet the Council's key financial risks. Budget Monitoring for the period April to December 2023 estimated that Un-earmarked reserves would total £12.58m by 31st March 2024.

The budget risk assessment has set a range of between £12.3m and £13.6m to meet those risks. The available balance is £12.58m which is within the budget risk assessment range.

As set out in the Council's Financial Regulations the specific arrangements for the governance and release of reserves are delegated to the Council's Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources and the Chief Executive.

5.7 Local Government Act 2003: Section 25

Robustness of and Risks within the Proposed Budget for 2024/25 Statutory Section 151 Officer (CFO) Report and Advice on the Robustness of the Budget and Adequacy of Reserves and Balances

5.7.1 Introduction

The Local Government Act 2003 states that when a local authority is preparing its budget, "the Chief Finance Officer of the authority must report to it on the following matters:

- (a) the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the calculations; and
- (b) the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves."

And goes on to state that the authority "shall have regard to the report when making decisions about the calculations in connection with which it is made."

The Section 151 Officer for the Council is Andy Rothery (in the post of

Executive Director - Resources S151).

In expressing his opinion, the Section 151 Officer has considered the financial management arrangements that are in place, budget assumptions, levels of reserves and the financial risks facing the Council within this budget. Also, it identifies the Council's approach to budget risk management and assesses the particular risks associated with the 2024/25 budget to inform the advice.

5.7.2 Robustness of Estimates

The Council's November 2023 Medium Term Financial Strategy considered the national economic outlook that has informed the 2024/25 budget assumptions that are in section 5.2.2. of the report.

Cost and income estimates have been informed by the 2023/24 Budget Monitoring and taken into account current activity levels alongside future years projections to ensure the budget proposals are aligned to operating costs.

Budget sensitivity analysis in the Medium Term Financial Strategy has been modelled at +/- 20% on the budget growth estimates covering contract inflation, demography and rebasing of budget pressures totalling c£17m. This has shown a risk or benefit exposure of c£3.4m.

The budget savings requirement for 2024/25 is £16.42m, these have been through an internal review process and budget challenge session led by the Cabinet Member for Resources to ensure the robustness of the proposals that are set out in annex 1.

In recognition of the budget risks from changes in cost and demand, alongside savings delivery a £3m corporate contingency budget has been provided in the 2024/25 budget.

CIPFA has published its 2022/23 Financial Resilience Indicators for each authority, these measure different aspects of financial indicators such as levels of reserves across each tier of local authority.

The majority of indicators show (in 2022/23) B&NES to be medium to low risk within the CIPFA family group of Unitary Authorities.

There have been improvements in the Councils reserve sustainability which indicate a lower level of reserve movements that demonstrates the Council's financial sustainability. However, the main area of higher risk is the Social Care ratio which shows that a great proportion of the revenue budget is funding Social Care.

The resilience index has identified that the cost of delivering Social Care in comparison to net revenue budget has increased by 2% from 2021/22. There have been continuing increases in the cost of Children's Social Care, this has been recognised in the 2024/25 budget proposal. This report sets out the commitment to deliver the Children's Services management plan that will help put appropriate measures in place to control the rising cost of care.

5.7.3 Executive Summary of the Section 151 Officer on the budget position

For 2024/25 the savings requirement is £16.42m after the inclusion of council tax increases. The assessment of the plans to close the gap do not require additional funds from the Financial Planning Reserve to smooth the delivery of savings in 2024/25 as the amounts proposed have been profiled to consider the delivery timeframe. To recognise risk the revenue budget has provided a £3m budget contingency to mitigate slippage on savings delivery. This will enable a balanced budget with a £3.5m replenishment of corporate reserves which the Council committed to following utilising c£10m of reserves in the 2021/22 and 2022/23 budget to fund the impact of income loss post Covid.

5.7.4 Consequences of Failing to Deliver a Budget

If the Council is unable to produce a budget or a plan for reducing the budget requirement for future years or finds it cannot deliver the budget in year, the CFO (under s151 of the Local Government Act) would be required to produce a Section 114 report. (Note the conclusion under 5.7.5 of this report).

Section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 requires a report to all the authority's members to be made by the CFO, in consultation with the Council's Monitoring Officer and Head of Paid Service, if "the expenditure of the authority incurred (including expenditure it proposes to incur) in a financial year is likely to exceed the resources (including sums borrowed) available to it to meet that expenditure" (i.e. there is likely to be an unbalanced budget). In this event the Council must consider the report within 21 days and decide whether it agrees or disagrees with the views in the report and what action it proposes to take to bring the budget into balance. The publication of such a report starts an immediate 'prohibition period'. This means that everyone who has delegated authority to spend the Council money immediately has those powers suspended during the prohibition period, and only the CFO can authorise new commitments.

5.7.5 Report of the Director of Finance (CFO) in Respect of Statutory Duties

The Budget Report sets out the Council's financial position and budget. This is the formal report and is part of a continuum of professional advice and is the culmination of a budget process in which substantial detailed work has already been carried out with Directors, Senior Managers and their teams and Members. This section provides a summary of the conclusions which are considered in more detail within this report and its appendices.

In respect of the robustness of estimates, estimates have been prepared by Directors and their staff supported by appropriate finance staff reviewing pressures, priorities, savings, demographics, inflation and contractual obligations, and income generation. Each Director has completed a Robustness Statement outlining savings and service delivery risk that have been incorporated into a corporate wide assessment. In recognition of contract risk £1m has been added to the contingency for inflationary pressures alongside a £3m contingency for general budget and savings delivery risk in 2024/25.

The budget has recognised the current and future years funding requirement with £24.94m allocated to portfolios in 2024/25 to ensure there should be sufficient funds to meet service demand and delivery costs as currently forecast. These have been reviewed on a regular basis by the Corporate Management Team and the Directors as part of the regular budget monitoring process in 2023/24.

The Council in 2023/24 is forecasting a deficit balance on the Dedicated Schools Grant of £21.4m at the year end due to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities placements (SEND). Whilst there is a Government statutory override in place this is not a liability on the Council's general fund budget, however it does need to be noted that if there is a change in the treatment of this deficit this would need to be incorporated into future years budget setting.

In the context of the overall budget the financial position continues to be challenging, but the **CFO concludes that the estimates are robust**, in that they have been robustly constructed.

With regard to the adequacy of balances, the 2024/25 planned level of General Fund Un-earmarked reserve at £12.58m (is within the required range of £12.3m to £13.6m).

The conclusion of the CFO is that the estimates for 2024/25 are robust and the budget is lawful, levels of balances have improved and are adequate and reasonable in meeting the Council's risks.

5.8 Capital Strategy, Programme and Capital Receipts 2024/25 to 2028/29

5.8.1 Capital & Investment Strategy

Production of a Capital and Investment Strategy is the overarching document which sets the policy framework for the development, management and monitoring of capital investment as well as lending to other organisations and commercial investments. The strategy focuses on core principles that underpin the Council's capital programme, investment plans, financing and the risks that will impact on the delivery of the programme and commercial estate; and the governance framework required for decision making and delivery. The Capital and Investment Strategy is attached at Annex 6.

5.8.2 **Capital Receipts 2024/25**

The list below sets out the proposed asset disposals for 2024/25 that will generate capital receipts to fund the Council's capital programme.

- Lewis House
- Industrial Unit Brassmill Lane
- 12 James Street West
- Lyncombe Hill Barn
- Land Rear of Sladebrook Avenue
- Land at Labbott CP Keynsham
- Land adjacent to 18 Wellsway, Keynsham

Following the approval and adoption of the Council's budget, officer delegation for the final disposal decision will be given to the Head of Commercial and/or Corporate Estate in consultation with the S151 Officer and appropriate Cabinet Portfolio Holder.

5.8.3 Overall Capital Programme & Financing including New Capital Schemes

The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities was updated in December 2021. The objectives of the Prudential Code are to ensure that the capital expenditure plans of local authorities are affordable, prudent and sustainable and that treasury management decisions are taken in accordance with good professional practice and in full understanding of the risks involved.

It requires authorities to assess capital expenditure and investment plans in the light of overall organisational strategy and resources and ensure that decisions are made with sufficient regard to the long-term financial implications and potential risks to the authority.

The Council follows this approach through:

- Continuing to review all existing schemes and simplify, reduce, pause or stop as necessary;
- Minimising new schemes except those that meet corporate priorities;
- Agreeing an affordable limit for new schemes requiring corporate borrowing;
- Ensuring adequate investment in assets supporting key service provision (including meeting health and safety requirements or replace obsolete or inefficient assets/equipment) and generate revenue savings for the council; and
- Delivering or working with partners to deliver high priority government funded programmes and West of England programmes where they meet corporate priorities.

The Capital Programme will retain the clear separation of schemes for **Full Approval** and those which are for **Provisional Approval**.

Items gaining **Full Approval** are clear to proceed to full scheme implementation and delivery, subject to appropriate project management and governance.

Items for **Provisional Approval** will require either a further Officer decision or in some cases a formal Cabinet member decision for Full Approval. The budget estimates for schemes shown for Provisional Approval are therefore included on an indicative basis, and as an aid to planning.

The Capital Programme will retain narrative only reference to pipeline projects and grant funding in early stage progression. These items will require further decision to incorporate into the programme at a later date, in line with the delegations outlined in the February Budget report.

The capital programme is aligned with the Community Infrastructure Levy allocations agreed for the coming financial year.

A summary of the proposed capital programme and its financing for 2024/2025 – 2028/2029 is shown below

Capital Schemes for Approval

Cabinet Portfolio: Capital Schemes	Budget 2024/2025 £'m	Budget 2025/2026 £'m	Budget 2026/2027 £'m	Budget 2027/2028 £'m	Budget 2028/2029 £'m	Total £'m
Resources	19.177	0	0	0	0	19.177
Economic & Cultural Sustainable Development	15.175	2.068	8.030	15.846	7.000	48.119
Leader	0	0	0	0	0	0
Climate Emergency & Sustainable Travel	1.948	0.247	0.032	0.008	0	2.235
Built Environment & Sustainable Development	4.002	4.318	0	0	0	8.320
Adult Services	1.800	1.441	1.442	1.442	1.442	7.567
Children's Services	8.287	3.271	0	0	0	11.558
Neighbourhood Services	5.167	0.257	0.020	0.020	0.02	5.484
Highways	16.357	0	0	0	0	16.357
Total	71.913	11.602	9.524	17.316	8.462	118.817

Capital Schemes for Provisional Approval (Subject to)

Cabinet Portfolio: Capital Schemes	Budget 2024/2025 £'m	Budget 2025/2026 £'m	Budget 2026/2027 £'m	Budget 2027/2028 £'m	Budget 2028/2029 £'m	Total £'m
Resources	8.893	4.500	4.500	5.500	5.500	28.893
Economic & Cultural Development	11.309	17.452	14.038	12.605	4.550	59.954
Leader	0.206	0	0	0	0	0.206
Climate Emergency & Sustainable Travel	7.368	7.559	2.460	1.015	0.550	18.953
Built Environment &	14.359	21.478	8.105	0.382	0	44.324

Sustainable Development						
Adult Services	2.202	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	2.402
Children's Services	17.800	10.374	0.359	0	0	28.533
Neighbourhood Services	7.875	7.655	9.607	9.250	1.402	35.789
Highways	11.024	10.027	8.997	8.997	9.122	48.167
Total	81.035	79.096	48.116	37.798	21.174	267.220

Funded By

Financing	Budget 2024/2025 £'m	Budget 2025/2026 £'m	Budget 2026/2027 £'m	Budget 2027/2028 £'m	Budget 2028/2029 £'m	Total £'m
Grant	52.856	40.166	15.828	8.812	8.489	126.151
Capital Receipts/RTB	11.183	0.994	1.000	0	0	13.177
Revenue	3.878	0.020	0.040	0.020	0.020	3.978
Borrowing	77.315	46.028	38.583	43.294	20.124	225.344
3rd Party (inc S106 & CIL)	7.717	3.490	2.189	2.987	1.003	17.386
Total	152.949	90.698	57.640	55.113	29.636	386.036

Note1: The figures in the tables above include re-phasing from prior years.

Note 2: Some of the figures in the above table are affected by rounding.

Attached at Annex 5(ii) is the Highways Maintenance Programme, at 5(iii) the Transport Improvement Programme, and at 5(iv) the Corporate Estate Planned Maintenance Programme for approval. The substitution of one scheme for another that is unable to proceed within these programmes will be allowed following consultation and approval with the Section 151 Officer, and subject of any specific provisions agreed as part of the budget approval.

5.8.4 Efficiency Strategy

Central Government outlined in December 2015 that local authorities will be able under certain circumstances to utilise capital receipts for revenue expenditure for certain purposes. The flexibility has been extended for a further 3 years from 2022/23 onwards for councils to use capital receipts to fund transformation projects that produce long-term savings or reduce the costs of service delivery.

The Efficiency Strategy remains a key lever in funding the one-off costs to deliver savings plans. An updated Strategy is attached at Annex 4 to earmark up to £2m in capital receipts to fund proposed savings plans in 2024/25. The Strategy must be approved by Full Council.

5.8.5 Capital Risk Contingency

There are three levels of risk provision in relation to the capital programme.

- Individual major projects within the capital programme hold their own contingency in accordance with good project management practise to meet unavoidable and unforeseen costs;
- The capital programme includes a funded corporate risk contingency of £2.5m;
- The corporate risk assessment on which the general reserves target is based includes an element in the context of the capital programme based on the risks of the current programme.

As with all capital projects, relevant risks are being considered as part of the overall risk-assessed general reserves and the Corporate Risk Register.

5.8.6 Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy

The Council is required to make revenue provision to repay capital spend that is financed by borrowing (either supported or unsupported). This is called the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). The Department of Communities & Local Government has issued regulations that require full Council to approve an MRP Policy in advance each year, or if revisions are proposed during the year they should be put to the Council at that time. The policy is attached at Annex 7 has been updated to include treatment in respect of former operating leases due to adoption of IFRS 16 Leases accounting standard and the treatment of capital expenditure loans to third parties in line with current government proposals to amend MRP regulations.

5.8.7 Prudential Indicators

The key objectives of the Prudential Code are to ensure that capital investment plans of local authorities are affordable, prudent, and sustainable. The Capital Prudential Indicators are shown below:

Prudential Indicator	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Forecast Outturn	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Estima	ate of Capita	al Expenditu	re (£'000s)		
Actual/estimates of capital expenditure	74,160	83,892	152,949	90,698	57,640
Net Increase in Council	Net Increase in Council Tax (band D per annum) Figures in £'s (not £'000's)				
The implied estimate of incremental impact of the new capital investment decisions on the Council Tax	·		£1.07	£2.18	£2.11
Cumulative totals:			£1.07	£3.25	£5.36
Capital Financing as % of Net Revenue Stream					
Actual/estimates of the ratio of financing costs to net revenue			15.18%	16.80%	18.39%

		4.82%	5.54%	6.16%	
Borrowir	ng Limits (£m	1)			
		£413m	£447m	£472m	
		£9m	£9m	£9m	
		£422m	£456m	£481m	
		£442m	£475m	£499m	
		£9m	£9m	£9m	
		£451m	£484m	£508m	
Capital Financing Requirement (£'000s) (as at 31 March)					
341,039	376,543	441,682	474,682	499,017	
	Borrowir	Borrowing Limits (£m	### Borrowing Limits (£m) ### £413m ### £9m ### £422m ### £442m ### £9m ### £451m ### ing Requirement (£'000s) (as at 31	### Borrowing Limits (£m) ### £413m	

Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement

In order to ensure that over the medium-term debt will only be for a capital purpose, the Council should ensure that external debt does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of the capital financing requirement in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional capital financing requirement for the current and next two financial years.

After reviewing the capital programme and borrowing proposals, the Section 151 officer reports that the Council will continue to meet the demands of this indicator.

Borrowing limits

The Authorised limits for external debt include current commitments and proposals in the budget report for capital expenditure, plus additional headroom over and above the operational limit for unusual cash movements.

The Operational boundary for external debt (or planned borrowing level) is based on the same estimates as the authorised limit, but including an allowance for cash flow funding of specific capital schemes and without the additional headroom for unusual cash movements.

5.8.8 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Spend Proposals 2024/25

The allocations proposed for CIL spend are attached in Annex 5(v) for approval. These allocations have been included in the capital programme where appropriate.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision-making risk management guidance. The key risks to the budget are currently assessed as:

Risk Reinstated government restrictions in the event	Likelihood Possible	Impact High	Risk Management Update This is certainly a material risk, whilst not one the Council has direct control
of new Covid variants.			over, every step is being put in place to follow government guidance following the recommendations of our Director of Public Health.
Operational budget pressures due to rising demand	Likely	High	There is the risk of unplanned and unbudgeted growth in demand on Council services as a result of the cost of living crises.
Ongoing impacts on the Councils Commercial Estate over and above anticipated levels.	Possible	High	Current modelling has been prudent following the Covid pandemic and impact on retail economy. There are risks in the retail & hospitality sector from a challenging labour market that is impacting recruitment to these sectors, so this may have an impact on business viability and income from Council tenants.
Contract inflationary pressure	Likely	High	With increase in wage, energy and fuel costs, Council contracted services are at risk of above budget price increases. This is an economic risk that has been recognised in the budget with a corporate inflation contingency for known areas that cannot be mitigated through activity management. Capital Schemes may need to be paused due to unfunded viability gaps due to increased supply chain costs.
Impact on Reserves	Possible	High	Without additional government grant in recognition of unfunded inflationary pressures there is the risk that Council reserve levels are not enough to manage in-year and future years risk.

Interest rates increase	Possible	Medium	A reserve is available for borrowing to manage market risk and long-term borrowing costs have been factored into the longer-term MTFS. Borrowing rates have reduced since a peak in October 2023 as the Bank of England tackles more persistent inflation pressures. The latest forecast from our treasury management advisors is that longer term borrowing rates will remain broadly flat over the medium term, although periodic volatility is likely.
Volatility and uncertainty around business rates	Likely	High	The impacts of the current economic challenges will increase the volatility and uncertainty around business rate income. In 2024/25 this risk has been partly offset by the extension of the business rate relief scheme for Retail, Leisure and Hospitality businesses. We continue to monitor arrears, CVAs, and liquidations with a specific reserve held to manage in-year volatility.
Capital projects not delivered resulting in revenue reversion costs or liabilities from underwriting agreements	Possible	High	The Council has a number of projects within this category. These risks will continue to be monitored and reported. An assessment is made as part of the budget process to ensure that revenue reserves are sufficient to meet these risks. The capital programme methodology looks to derisk projects wherever possible.
Changes to Government Policy that affects future funding	Likely	High	Need to monitor and continue to highlight impact
Funding pressures through WECA, ICB and other partners	Possible	Medium	Ensure good communication links with partner organisations.
Capital receipts in the areas identified are insufficient to meet target	Possible	Medium	There is a risk that a depressed market will impact on current values, in the short to medium term the Council should not rely on capital receipts as a key funding source.

The key risks will continue to be monitored and reported through regular budget monitoring to Cabinet.

In addition, this report includes the Section 151 Officer's assessment of the Robustness of Estimates and Adequacy of Reserves. This assessment includes a review of the Directors' reviews of their budget, budget risks/sensitivities, and the Corporate Risk Register.

7 CLIMATE CHANGE

The Corporate Strategy highlights that "Addressing the Climate Emergency" is one of the key themes reflected in the administration's priorities. This includes plans to work with local communities to deliver the Council resolution agreed in March 2019 to declare a climate emergency, and for the area to become carbon neutral by 2030.

8 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The report and annexes also contain the other options that can be considered in making any recommendations.

9 CONSULTATION

Details of the consultation carried out on the budget process for 2024/25, along with the feedback received and council responses are set out in Annex 10. The consultation comprised of:

 An online consultation on the council's draft budget proposals, which took place from December 15th 2023 to January 15th 2024

In addition, scrutiny of the savings proposals, priorities, one-offs, pressures and capital bids took place at the 23rd January 2024 Corporate Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel. The panel was joined by members of the Climate Emergency PDS and Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing PDS panel to enable all members to scrutinise the budget.

-	Andy Rothery, Executive Director of Resources (S151 Officer), 01225 477103
	January Corporate PDS Panel November Cabinet - Medium Term Financial Strategy https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cld=122 &MId=6390

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Annex 1 - Portfolio Cash Limits 2024/25 - Proposed Revenue Budget

CABINET PORTFOLIO	Service	Nov'23 Revised Cash Limits	Removal of One- offs (including one-off virements in 2023/24) + Add Feb'24 on-going Technical Virements	2023/24 Base Budget £'000	MTFS - Funding / Growth	MTFS - Savings	Business Rates Relief and Grant Adjustments	Adult Social Care Delivery Changes Corporate Overhead Budget Adjustment	Total 2024/25 Budget Changes £'000	2024/25 Proposed Budget
	Housing Delivery Vehicle	(1,000)	£ 000	(1,000)	£ 000	£ 000	£ 000	£ 000	£ 000	(1,000)
Leader	Emergency Planning	659	40	698						698
	External Affairs & Partnerships									
	PORTFOLIO SUB TOTAL	(341)	40	(302)						(302)
Climate	Environmental Monitoring (Air Pollution)	191	9	201	3	(1)			2	202
Emergency &	Transport Strategy	381	22	403	50	. ,			46	449
Sustainable Travel	Green Transformation	760	29	789		(175)			(175)	614
	PORTFOLIO SUB TOTAL	1,333	60	1,393	53	,			(128)	1,265
	Human Resources & Organisational Development	2,192	102	2,294		(2,502)			(2,502)	(208)
Council Priorities	Business Change	821	76	897		(2,002)			(=,00=)	897
& Delivery	Corporate Governance	1,819	86	1,905		(1)			(1)	1,904
	Corporate Strategy & Communications	4,249	(3,157)	1,092	(177)	(1)			(178)	914
	PORTFOLIO SUB TOTAL	9,081	(2,893)	6,188	(177)	(2,504)			(2,681)	3,507
	Council Solicitor & Democratic Services	2,655	179	2,834	(111)	(2)			(2)	2,832
	Finance	2,167	168	2,334		(-/			(-)	2,334
	Revenues & Benefits	1,893	170	2,063	1				1	2,064
	Risk & Assurance Services	1,284	193	1,477	6	(2)			4	1,481
Page	Procurement & Commissioning	313	17	330	150	. ,				330
Dr.	Information Technology	5,355	172	5,528	709	,			555	6,083
Ф	Commercial Estate	(12,650)	31	(12,619)	189	,			183	(12,436)
ပုံ ယ Resources	Hsg / Council Tax Benefits Subsidy	(195)		(195)	600	· ,			600	405
Resources	Capital Financing / Interest	4,789		4,789	2,117	(2,000)			117	4,906
	Unfunded Pensions	1,388		1,388		(2,000)				1,388
	Corporate Budgets incl. Capital, Audit & Bank Charges	(2,354)	(5,834)	(8,188)	10,725	(460)	(3,691)	1,058	7,633	(555)
	New Homes Bonus Grant	(425)	(0,001)	(425)	98		(0,001)	1,000	98	(327)
	Magistrates	12		12						12
	Coroners	450		450	100				100	550
	Environment Agency	258		258	4				4	262
	West of England Combined Authority Levy	5,194		5,194					-	5,194
	PORTFOLIO SUB TOTAL	10,133	(4,903)	5,230	14,699	(2,774)	(3,691)	1,058	9,293	14,523
	Property Services	580	32	612	3		(-,)	1,000	3	614
	Corporate Estate Including R&M	4,789	(340)	4,450	168				44	4,494
	Regeneration	(33)	8	(25)	5	,			(653)	(678)
Economic & Cultural	Business & Skills	385	19	404	25	, ,			(16)	388
Sustainable	Heritage Services	(8,233)		(8,233)	323	(4,332)			(4,009)	(12,242)
Development	World Heritage	120	4	124	120	(2)			(2)	122
	Visit Bath	76	·	76		(-)			. ,	76
	Events & Active Lifestyles	332	19	351	25	(76)			(51)	300
	PORTFOLIO SUB TOTAL	(1,983)	(258)	(2,241)	549				(4,685)	(6,925)
	Adult Services	59,243	982	60,225	3,029			(1,058)	271	60,496
	Public Health	22,210		,===	2,120	(200)	200		=- 1	
Adult Services	Adult Substance Misuse (Drug Action Team)	64	5	69	1				1	70
	Leisure	342	(71)	271	30				18	289
	PORTFOLIO SUB TOTAL	59,649	916	60,565	3,060		200	(1,058)	290	60,855

CABINET PORTFOLIO	Service	Nov'23 Revised Cash Limits	Removal of One- offs (including one-off virements in 2023/24) + Add Feb'24 on-going Technical Virements	2023/24 Base Budget	MTFS - Funding / Growth	MTFS - Savings	Business Rates Relief and Grant Adjustments	Adult Social Care Delivery Changes Corporate Overhead Budget Adjustment	Total 2024/25 Budget Changes	2024/25 Proposed Budget
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
	Children, Young People & Families	17,215	440	17,654	1,964	(960)			1,004	18,658
	Integrated Commissioning - CYP	2,662	4	2,666	115	(150)	(200)		(235)	2,431
Children's	Safeguarding - CYP	85	5	90						90
Services	Inclusion & Prevention	2,522	(19)	2,504	27	(150)			(123)	2,381
	Education Transformation	11,083	212	11,295	1,853				1,853	13,148
	Schools' Budget	(1,767)	(46)	(1,812)	333				333	(1,479
	PORTFOLIO SUB TOTAL	31,800	596	32,396	4,292	(1,260)	(200)		2,832	35,228
	Transport & Parking Services - Parking	(8,668)	164	(8,504)	664	(1,056)			(392)	(8,896
	Transport & Parking Services - Public & Passenger Transport	216	115	331	(28)	(293)			(321)	10
Highways	Network & Traffic Management	728	101	829	17	(166)			(149)	680
	Highway Maintenance	6,416	71	6,488	588	(123)			465	6,952
	Clean Air Zone									
	PORTFOLIO SUB TOTAL	(1,308)	452	(857)	1,241	(1,638)			(397)	(1,254
	Neighbourhoods & Environment - Waste & Fleet Services	19,086	808	19,893	1,021	(703)			318	20,21
	Neighbourhoods & Environment - Parks & Bereavement Services	1,536	334	1,869	91	(48)			43	1,91
Neighbourhood	Customer Services (including Libraries)	2,405	572	2,978	46	(122)			(76)	2,902
Services	Public Protection	1,107	73	1,180		(2)			(2)	1,178
	Community Safety	194	3	196		(6)			(6)	190
ס	Registrars Service	(98)	40	(58)	(45)				(45)	(103
<u>a</u> g	PORTFOLIO SUB TOTAL	24,229	1,829	26,058	1,113	(881)			232	26,290
	Building Control	(39)	76	38	(5)				(5)	3:
	Development Management	1,208	128	1,336	13				(19)	1,317
Development	Housing	1,295	(73)	1,221	100				95	1,310
	PORTFOLIO SUB TOTAL	2,464	130	2,594	108				71	2,669
	NET BUDGET	135,056	(4,031)	131,026	24,938	(16,419)	(3,691)		4,828	135,85
	Sources of Funding									
	Council Tax	113,474		113,474					6,783	120,25
	Retained Business Rates	19,254		19,254					148	19,40
	Collection Fund Deficit (-) or Surplus (+)	5,442		5,442					(5,748)	(306
	Transfers (to) / from Reserves	(3,114)	(4,031)	(7,145)					3,645	(3,500
	TOTAL FUNDING	135,056	(4,031)	131,026					4,828	135,85

Council Tax - Calculation

Council Tax Debt £'000
Taxbase (No. of Band D equivalent properties)
Band D Charge £
%age increase

113,474 68609.94 £1,653.90 120,257 69255.88 £1,736.42 4.99%

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	Generation Proposals					
Savings Proposal Title	Description	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	Impacts to Service Delivery	Current Exp Budget / (Income Budget) £000
Portfolio: Leader of the Council						
Development and introduction of City Centre Permit	A review of the current process and procedure is proposed to understand whether this can be streamlined into one City Centre Permit.		(30)		Scheme to be developed to deliver outcomes. Increase reflects current inflationary pressures.	N/A
Leader of the Council Total		0	(30)	0		
Portfolio: Climate Emergency and Susta						
Corporate Strategy priority projects	Swap recurring revenue funding for draw down from a policy reserve to fund individual time-limited projects related to delivering the Corporate Strategy where external funding is likely to be secured. Overall funding for Green Transformation being maintained over the next three years (2024-27).	(150)			Projects will demonstrate a sustainable external funding source before reserve funding is agreed	N/A
Contract savings	Volume cap or reduce our contract spend by 3%.	(30)			Service levels will need to be assessed and revised in line with the reduced contract spending	1,029
Climate Emergency and Sustainable Tra	<u>vel Total</u>	(180)	0	0		
Portfolio: Council Priorities and Deliver	Y					
Being Our Best programme	The Being Our Best programme is a planned review and rationalisation of our management and operating structures to best serve the authority. Senior management structures will be reviewed first, followed by Heads of Service and service leads. This may result also in savings.	(2,500)	(2,000)		Service delivery risks will be closely monitored and managed at a programme level to enable structural changes to be made without causing undue disruptions to the provision of our services.	109,835
Contract savings	Volume cap or reduce our contract spend by 3%.	(4)			Service levels will need to be assessed and revised in line with the reduced contract spending	146
Council Priorities and Delivery Total		(2,504)	(2,000)	0		
Portfolio: Resources						
Thermae Spa income	Adjustments to our income budget to align with the current income performance of the Thermae Spa.	(100)			No impact to service delivery	(1,052)
Capital programme borrowing review	Review all capital programme items that are funded by council borrowing to align the delivery programme with our expenditure cashflow requirements. Based on current capital monitoring and assessment of cash balances this will reduce our revenue budget requirement to fund borrowing costs.	(2,000)			No impact to service delivery as the capital programme will continue to be prioritised to ensure we meet our legal duties.	20,777
Consolidation of IT Systems	Rationalisation of our IT systems to enable consolidation and added functionality to the core systems we have adopted. This will remove legacy service specific systems that can be costly to maintain, are at risk of becoming obsolete. and do not enhance reporting or the customer experience.	(154)			All impacts to be managed through a transition period from old system to new	5,527
Review transport expenditure	Review the level of the Transport Levy and top-up to protect specific supported bus services by reflecting the underspend by WECA.	(160)			Actual spend on concessionary bus fares is lower than projected. No anticipated service impacts.	5,354
Corporate overhead rebasing	Economies of scale to be identified from the £2m budget funding corporate overheads within the existing HRCG contract. These functions will be provided by us from April 2024 as part of the in-house delivery model.	(200)			Resourcing levels and service requirements will need to be understood during the transition back to us.	1,990
Contract management	Review and upgrade the Council's approach to contract management through a phased multi-year programme of improvements.	(150)	(50)		This will introduce an improved management approach to specifying, reprocuring and managing contracts to deliver greater value and recurrent savings	7,022
Contract savings	Volume cap or reduce our contract spend by 3%.	(10)			Service levels will need to be assessed and revised in line with the reduced contract spending	330
Council Tax Second Homes Premium	Introduce Seconds Home Council Tax Premium after required consultation period		(1,400)		Impacts on Council Tax billing and collection activity including disputes and appeals	N/A
Resources Total		(2,774)	(1,450)	0		

2024/25 - 2026/27 Savings and Income (Generation Proposals					
Savings Proposal Title	Description	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	Impacts to Service Delivery	Current Exp Budget / (Income Budget) £000
Portfolio: Economic and Cultural Sustain	nable Development					
Business and Skills: recharge officer time to projects	Provide Business and Skills services to employers through external grant funded activity only and reduce additional Council support.	(38)	(6)	(6)	Flexibility to add additional services and support for local businesses will reduce and focus will be on external grant funded activity only	385
Heritage Services additional income	Gross income uplift for 24/25 based on business plan projections.	(4,270)	(218)	(248)	No impact to service delivery	(21,189)
Corporate landlord: centralisation of facilities management	Centralisation of our facilities management activity to generate efficiency savings in the management of Councilowned buildings, and growing income from construction/project delivery service.	(100)	(150)	(20)	Assets may not be required any longer and can be rationalised to reduce running costs. Service impacts will be managed through the asset review process.	3,800
Corporate Estate operating cost review	Corporate Estate reduction and rationalisation to reduce the revenue running costs including energy consumption, consider investing in energy generation.		(125)	(200)	No impact to service delivery	4,349
Income generation from new regeneration assets	Potential income stream to Corporate Estates team from joint projects with Regeneration to unlock under used assets and support with grant funded activities.		(50)	(50)	No impact to service delivery	N/A
Bath Quays South lettings	New lettings secured for Bath Quays South offices over and above previous financial projections.	(600)	(400)		No impact to service delivery	N/A
City and Town Centre Management Service redesign	Implement transformational change to deliver services in a different way across City & Town Centre Management, including Events & Film Office.	(60)			The savings will impact on the resources available and will result in a reduction in the level and breadth of service the City & Town Centre Service will provide	351
Contract savings	Volume cap or reduce our contract spend by 3%.	(165)			Service levels will need to be assessed and revised in line with the reduced contract spending	5,547
Economic and Cultural Sustainable Deve	elopment Total	(5,233)	(949)	(524)		
Portfolio: Adult Services						
Social care package review	Review of care packages so that they match user needs in an affordable way.	(270)	(50)		Service user needs will be met by alternative provision	18,100
Community Resource Centres	Redesign in-house services so that they match areas of high demand for care.	(300)	(75)		New structure in place as part of the redesign of services	8,356
Commissioning	Commission local services to match users needs in an affordable way.	(280)	(75)		Service user needs will be met by local provision	15,312
Review of Better Care Fund	Improved Better Care Fund with enhanced allocation process whilst protecting social care expenditure.	(200)	(50)		No impact to service delivery	4,803
Commissioning review	Planned review of commissioning model across Adult and Children's Services.	(250)			Ensure there is capacity across commissioning to deliver a robust contract management and quality assurance	1,352
Community Support Contracts	Review and recommission community support contracts.	(400)	(402)		Impacts to service users will be reviewed, assessed, and where possible mitigated through the recommissioning process	3,747
Royal Victoria Park leisure facilities	Procurement of new operator for RVP café, tennis, adventure golf, and event spaces (incl. ice rink) presents opportunity to increase income.	(10)	(15)	(20)	Improved service via contract including added benefits to our other priorities. Project Officer time to deliver and monitor.	(65)
Health and Wellbeing Services	Health improvement projects re-evaluation.	(200)			Minimal negative impact expected	9,292
Commissioning Review of Community Based Services	Review current provision during 2024-25 to inform future requirement for delivery of services via community partners			(100)	Commissioning input and programme support required to review current arrangements and develop new models of care.	40,316
Consistent & Efficient processes	Streamline commissioning processes to create efficiencies for managing demand for care across all age groups.		(50)		Commissioning input and systems improvement support required to review and redesign current processes.	4,557
Target Operating Model	Review current and future requirements within a TOM following in sourcing of Statutory and Social Services		(50)		Service user and staff impact into proposals benchmarking with other councils	4,557
HCRG Care Group provider services	Review the provider services - day services, shared lives and supported living.		(100)	(100)	Commissioning resource required to review current arrangements.	15,336
Technology	Improve our approach to using technology to reduce resource requirements.		(50)	(75)	Commissioning and project support required to review current arrangements and develop new approaches.	40,316
Contract savings	Volume cap or reduce our contract spend by 3%.	(2)			Service levels will need to be assessed and revised in line with the reduced contract spending	50
Adult Services Total		(1,912)	(842)	(295)	·	

2024/25 - 2026/27 Savings and Income G	Seneration Proposals					
Savings Proposal Title	Description	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	Impacts to Service Delivery	Current Exp Budget / (Income Budget) £000
Portfolio: Children's Services						
Specialist commissioning	Rebasing of contracts as part of the commissioning review.	(500)	(500)		This will not impact negatively on service delivery	12,593
Reprofiled transformation savings	Remodelling of service delivery to increase in house provision.	(460)	(540)	(390)	This will not impact negatively on service delivery	12,593
Reduce Children's Services discretionary spend	Reduce discretionary spending in areas including family support.	(300)	(150)	(150)	Service users will need to be consulted where there are changes to existing support	12,593
Residential Provision	New Specialist Residential Unit.			(450)	This will not impact negatively on service delivery	18,731
Children's Services Total		(1,260)	(1,190)	(990)		
Portfolio: Highways						
Parking Services: income rebasing	Review of price and demand across all Highways Services, including Parking, Park and Ride, and Streetworks services.	(1,045)	(60)	(60)	Minor impacts to manage changes to prices and deal with feedback from customers	(13,331)
Parking charge increases and implementation of new emissions-based parking charges	Inflationary price rises, alongside the introduction of emission-based parking charges for all vehicles to all locations in Bath (on and off street), Keynsham, Saltford, Midsomer Norton, and Radstock. Motorbikes will also require valid permits in residential parking zones.	(206)	(374)	(180)	The proposed introduction of parking charges (based on vehicle emissions) to MSN and Radstock, where parking is currently free of charge, to an equivalent level as those in Keynsham is proposed to enable improvements in pedestrian safety through improved air quality and reduced air pollution to the benefit of the most vulnerable especially, whilst also encouraging turnover for shoppers and visitors.	(13,331)
Contract savings	Volume cap or reduce our contract spend by 3%.	(387)			Service levels will need to be assessed and revised in line with the reduced contract spending	12,888
Highways Total		(1,638)	(434)	(240)		
Portfolio: Neighbourhood Services Income from new fees and charges for businesses	Introduction of new chargeable services for commercial customers in our fleet workshop, and charge developers for waste & recycling containers to be provided for each new build property.	(89)	(77)		Increased range of services will be available to commercial fleet customers, and the initial provision of waste & recycling containers will be charged to developers of new housing	(4,550)
Operational & contract efficiencies	Efficiency savings through changes to operational practices of both council and contractor run services.	(362)			The majority of changes will have no impact on the service delivery to the public, as changes to operations are in service areas without public interaction, although there will be a reduction in resource to deliver strategic projects. One public toilet will remain closed due to ongoing antisocial behaviour.	12,856
Weekday Recycling Centre efficiency savings	Retaining 7 day access to waste recycling sites whilst managing opening times of each most efficiently.	(60)			Reduced availability of booking slots at Bath & Welton Recycling Centre. No impact on operating hours of Keynsham Recycling Centre	6,910
Customer experience programme	Conduct a review of customer experience to support customer channel shift and seek to maximise the use of our channels to manage customer contact more efficiently.	(115)			Improved processes, better outcomes, more streamlined service delivery	2,549
Parks Service redesign	Implement transformational change to deliver services in a different way across Parks & Green Spaces.	(40)			Changes to Parks delivery model	2,289
Contract savings	Volume cap or reduce our contract spend by 3%.	(215)			Service levels will need to be assessed and revised in line with the reduced contract spending	7,161
Neighbourhood Services Total		(881)	(77)	0		
Postfolio Puilt Environment or d Cortein	able Development					
Portfolio: Built Environment and Sustain Contract savings	Volume cap or reduce our contract spend by 3%.	(37)			Service levels will need to be assessed and revised in line with the reduced contract spending	1,249
Built Environment and Sustainable Deve	lopment Total	(37)	0	0		
OVERALL SAVINGS AND INCOME GENER	ATION PROPOSALS	(16,419)	(6,972)	(2,049)		

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			2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Funding Title	Description of Funding Requirement	Portfolio Holder / Director	Funding £000	Funding £000	Funding £000
Portfolio: Leader of the Council					
Pay Inflation	Salary inflation estimated at 5% in 24/25, 4% in 25/26, 3% in 26/27, and allowing for annual staff pay increments.	Cllr Kevin Guy / Various	26	20	15
Leader of the Council Total			26	20	15
Portfolio: Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel					
Develop Walking and Cycling Routes	Officer resource to develop walking and cycling plans to successfully bid for external funding.	Cllr Sarah Warren / Sophie Broadfield	50		
Contractual Inflation	Annual increases in contract costs within the portfolio.	Cllr Sarah Warren / Various	3	1	1
Pay Inflation	Salary inflation estimated at 5% in 24/25, 4% in 25/26, 3% in 26/27, and allowing for annual staff pay increments.	Cllr Sarah Warren / Various	62	49	37
Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel Total			115	50	38
Portfolio: Council Priorities and Delivery					
Pay Inflation	Salary inflation estimated at 5% in 24/25, 4% in 25/26, 3% in 26/27, and allowing for annual staff pay increments.	Cllr Dave Wood / Various	315	252	189
Technical adjustment relating to 2023/24 Funding Item - Ward Councillor Empowerment Fund Scheme	Extension of Ward Councillor Empowerment Fund Scheme until 31st March 2025. Budget added in 2023/24 to cover two year period and therefore reversed in 2024/25.	Cllr Dave Wood / Various	(177)		
Council Priorities and Delivery Total	period and therefore reversed in 2024/25.		138	252	189
Portfolio: Resources					
Capital Financing and Treasury Management - return budget from 2022/23 two year saving item	Planned return of £1m temporary capital financing saving approved in 2022/23 to base budget.	Cllr Mark Elliot / Andy Rothery	1,000		
Benefits Subsidy	Rebase existing over-recovery budget.	Cllr Mark Elliot / Andy Rothery	200		
Commercial Estate Staffing	Regrading of surveyor posts.	Cllr Mark Elliot / Andy Rothery	150		
Commercial Estate Income	Reduction in Commercial Estate income as a result realising a capital receipt from sale of lease.	Cllr Mark Elliot / Andy Rothery	37		
Council Tax Discount	Increase in allowance for discretionary care leavers council tax discount.	Cllr Mark Elliot / Andy Rothery	20		
Reduction in Clean Air Zone Corporate Overheads	Bring CAZ overheads into baseline budget - reducing the original £280k saving applied to the 23/24 budget.	Cllr Mark Elliot / Andy Rothery	80	85	
Reversal of One-Off 23/24 Saving - Managing Debt Across the Council	Review bad debt provision across the council (one-off release) - reversing the one-off £400k applied in 23/24.	Cllr Mark Elliot / Andy Rothery	400		
Cloud IT Systems Migration	Migration of all IT Systems to Microsoft Azure Cloud Infrastructure.	Cllr Mark Elliot / Andy Rothery	300	(133)	(76)
IT Operating Model	Specific additional roles to deliver the Digital Strategy, these roles will also deliver operational efficiencies such as data integrations between IT Systems and consolidation of a number of purchased systems onto Office 365.	Cllr Mark Elliot / Andy Rothery	154		
New Recruitment System	Replacement of iTrent recruitment system.	Cllr Mark Elliot / Andy Rothery	25	(25)	
Cyber Improvements	Following on from the Cyber Investment plan (£600k one-off investment over 2 years). In order to maintain Cyber improvements there are ongoing revenue implications.	Cllr Mark Elliot / Andy Rothery	50	30	
Contract Management Resource	Requirement based on external review. Linked to on-going saving listed in savings annex.	Cllr Mark Elliot / Andy Rothery	150		
Corporate Supported Borrowing	Increase in borrowing requirement linked to new schemes added to capital programme.	Cllr Mark Elliot / Andy Rothery	75	153	305
Corporate Budget Adjustments	Corporate Base Budget Adjustments including Contingency allocation, Capital Financing, New Homes Bonus & Settlement	Cllr Mark Elliot / Andy Rothery	7,103	8,268	2,922
Business Rate Revaluation and Inflation Increases	Grants Business Rate Revaluation and Inflation Increase on Corporate Properties.	Cllr Mark Elliot / Andy Rothery	8	4	
Contractual Inflation	Annual increases in contract costs within the portfolio.	Cllr Mark Elliot / Andy Rothery	288	288	243
	Growth in numbers of service users - Temporary Accommodation / Housing Benefit Subsidy.	Cllr Mark Elliot / Andy Rothery	400	200	243
Demography Pay Inflation	Salary inflation estimated at 5% in 24/25, 4% in 25/26, 3% in 26/27, and allowing for annual staff pay increments.	Cllr Mark Elliot / Andy Rothery	591	470	362
ray innation Technical adjustment relating to 2023/24 Funding Item - Supported Bus Service investment	Additional Transport Levy funding for cost pressures in supported bus routes - £281k built into 2023/24, this reduces the growth down by £121k to give a base budget of £160k. Base budget given up as savings in savings and income annex.	Cllr Mark Elliot / Andy Rothery	(121)	4/0	302
Resources Total			10.910	9.140	3,756

2024/25 - 2026/27 Funding Proposals					
Funding Title	Funding Title Description of Funding Requirement Reversal of growth in previous years. Additional income generation over and above reversal of growth shown in savings and income annex. Growth in service staffing budgets required to deliver 24/25 profit target. Description of Funding Requirement Description of Funding Requirement Reversal of growth in previous years. Additional income generation over and above reversal of growth shown in savings and income annex. Growth in service staffing budgets required to deliver 24/25 profit target. Description of Funding Properties. Description of Funding Properties. Description of Funding Requirement Description of Funding Properties. Description of Fund		2024/25 Funding £000	2025/26 Funding £000	2026/27 Funding £000
Portfolio: Economic and Cultural Sustainable Development					
Build back of income built into MTFS. Original 2021/22 growth £4.235m for significantly reduced income resulting from the pandemic.	Reversal of growth in previous years. Additional income generation over and above reversal of growth shown in savings and income annex.	Cllr Paul Roper / Sophie Broadfield	(2,032)	(2,838)	(387)
Heritage Services gross expenditure increases	Growth in service staffing budgets required to deliver 24/25 profit target.	Cllr Paul Roper / Sophie Broadfield	1,472		
Heritage Services gross expenditure increases	Growth in service running cost budgets required to deliver 24/25 profit target.	Cllr Paul Roper / Sophie Broadfield	883		
Tourism and Festivals	Recurrent budget to support events in Bath.	Cllr Paul Roper / Sophie Broadfield	20		
Business Rate Revaluation and Inflation Increases	Business Rate Revaluation and Inflation Increase on Corporate Properties.	Cllr Paul Roper / Various	127	39	
Contractual Inflation	Annual increases in contract costs within the portfolio.	Cllr Paul Roper / Various	79	32	32
Pay Inflation	Salary inflation estimated at 5% in 24/25, 4% in 25/26, 3% in 26/27, and allowing for annual staff pay increments.	Cllr Paul Roper / Various	141	112	84
Economic and Cultural Sustainable Development Total			690	(2,655)	(271)
Portfolio: Adult Services					
Adult Social Care Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund Grant Funding (net of reduction in Workforce Fund).	Ring-fenced grant income announced in Local Government Finance Settlement.	Cllr Alison Born / Suzanne Westhead	(374)		
Adult Social Care Discharge Fund Grant Funding.	Ring-fenced grant income announced in Local Government Finance Settlement.	Cllr Alison Born / Suzanne Westhead	(459)		
Matched expenditure to ring-fenced grant funding	Spend linked to ring-fenced Adult Social Care Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund Grant Funding (net of reduction in Workforce Fund).	Cllr Alison Born / Suzanne Westhead	374		
Matched expenditure to ring-fenced grant funding	Spend linked to ring-fenced Adult Social Care Discharge Fund Grant Funding .	Cllr Alison Born / Suzanne Westhead	459		
Social Care Settlement Grant Increase	Ring-fenced grant income announced in Local Government Finance Settlement.	Cllr Alison Born / Suzanne Westhead	(1,101)		
Adult Social Care Risk Contingency	Budget contingency for managing in year budget risk.	Cllr Alison Born / Suzanne Westhead	1,101		
Contractual Inflation	Annual increases in contract costs within the portfolio.	Cllr Alison Born / Suzanne Westhead	1,930	1,316	1,343
Demography	Growth in numbers of service users.	Cllr Alison Born / Suzanne Westhead	999	999	999
Pay Inflation	Salary inflation estimated at 5% in 24/25, 4% in 25/26, 3% in 26/27, and allowing for annual staff pay increments.	Cllr Alison Born / Suzanne Westhead	852	708	564
Adult Services Total			3,781	3,023	2,906
Portfolio: Children's Services					
Social Care Settlement Grant Increase	Ring-fenced grant income announced in Local Government Finance Settlement.	Cllr Paul May / Mary Kearney-Knowles	(2,076)		
Children's Services Budget Contingency	Budget contingency for managing in year budget risk.	Cllr Paul May / Mary Kearney-Knowles	419		
Corporate Overhead Rebasing	Dedicated Schools Grant recovery phased over 3 years (£1m) from 2024/25.	Cllr Paul May / Mary Kearney-Knowles	333	333	333
SEND Demand	This is needed to reflect the growth in the volume of children and young people that are being supported across a number of education teams. SEND now managing a 30% growth in cases. CMES & ALT managing an equivalent increase in demand.	Cllr Paul May / Chris Wilford	90		
Home to School Transport (HTST)	Combined demand and market pressures resulting in unavoidable cost pressures.	Cllr Paul May / Chris Wilford	1,760		
Business Rate Revaluation and Inflation Increases	Business Rate Revaluation and Inflation Increase on Corporate Properties.	Cllr Paul May / Mary Kearney-Knowles	19	2	
Contractual Inflation	Annual increases in contract costs within the portfolio.	Cllr Paul May / Mary Kearney-Knowles	941	446	461
Demography	Growth in numbers of service users.	Cllr Paul May / Mary Kearney-Knowles	2,786	1,408	1,639
Pay Inflation	Salary inflation estimated at 5% in 24/25, 4% in 25/26, 3% in 26/27, and allowing for annual staff pay increments.	Cllr Paul May / Various	950	744	558
Children's Services Total			5,222	2,933	2,991

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2024/25 - 2026/27 Funding Proposals					
Funding Title	Description of Funding Requirement	Portfolio Holder / Director	2024/25 Funding £000	2025/26 Funding £000	2026/27 Funding £000
Portfolio: Highways					
Line Painting	Dedicated funding for rolling out an improved line painting programme.	Cllr Manda Rigby / Chris Major	80		
Business Rate Revaluation and Inflation Increases	Business Rate Revaluation and Inflation Increase on Corporate Properties (including car parks).	Cllr Manda Rigby / Chris Major	55	92	
Contractual Inflation	Annual increases in contract costs within the portfolio.	Cllr Manda Rigby / Chris Major	362	155	158
Fees and Charges Income	Annual increases in fees and charges income within the portfolio.	Cllr Manda Rigby / Chris Major	(85)	(13)	(14)
Pay Inflation	Salary inflation estimated at 5% in 24/25, 4% in 25/26, 3% in 26/27, and allowing for annual staff pay increments.	Cllr Manda Rigby / Chris Major	330	264	198
Technical adjustment relating to 2023/24 Savings Item - Reversal of One-Off Service Efficiencies	Review of hire vehicles and financing options, management of service including holding vacancies, alternative funding streams increased fees, contract volume capping and capitalisation of management overhead.	Cllr Manda Rigby / Chris Major	301		
Technical adjustment relating to 2023/24 Savings Item - Reversal of One-Off Clean Air Zone (CAZ) Financial Assistance Scheme Income	Income from Financial Assistance Scheme use by other Authorities, HGV Euro 6 charge and review of CAZ fee.	Cllr Manda Rigby / Chris Major	528	24	
Highways Total			1,571	522	342
Portfolio: Neighbourhood Services					
Clean and Green Initiative - Permanent £750k Base Budget	Additional recurrent funding for Neighbourhoods initiatives to tackle litter and prevention.	Cllr Tim Ball / Chris Major	292		
Grounds Maintenance - Adopted Land	Recurrent budget for the management and maintenance of recently adopted land by the Council.	Cllr Tim Ball / Chris Major	20		
Regrading of bereavement grounds operatives	Bereavement operative posts should have been regraded as part of the review of all neighbourhoods operations posts, following the TU negotiated regrading of waste posts.	Cllr Tim Ball / Chris Major	47		
Sendias Grant Funding to be replaced by revenue funding	Replace annual grant funding that has been in place for 4 years and now ending, with base revenue budget in order for the service to continue to deliver its statutory duty and not impact the council's reputation.	Cllr Tim Ball / Amanda George	30		
Income ceasing from Curo	No longer receiving income from Curo .	Cllr Tim Ball / Amanda George	10		
Business Rate Revaluation and Inflation Increases	Business Rate Revaluation and Inflation Increase on Corporate Properties.	Cllr Tim Ball / Various	93	26	
Contractual Inflation	Annual increases in contract costs within the portfolio.	Cllr Tim Ball / Various	1,049	255	260
Fees and Charges Income	Annual increases in fees and charges income within the portfolio.	Cllr Tim Ball / Various	(275)	(107)	(109)
Pay Inflation	Salary inflation estimated at 5% in 24/25, 4% in 25/26, 3% in 26/27, and allowing for annual staff pay increments.	Cllr Tim Ball / Various	1,023	818	614
Technical adjustment relating to 2023/24 Savings Item - Reversal of One-Off Clean and Green Initiative	Growth funding for Neighbourhoods initiatives to tackle litter and prevention work - reversal of one-off growth in 2023/24. Recurrent growth subsequently agreed above.	Cllr Tim Ball / Chris Major	(542)		
Technical adjustment relating to 2023/24 Savings Item - Recyclates Income	Sale of material to contracted merchants at prices tracking market fluctuations - market was overachieving budget projections in 2023/24. As expected, prices have reduced in 2023/24, resulting in the need to rebase income budget.	Cllr Tim Ball / Chris Major	225		
Technical adjustment relating to 2023/24 Savings Item - Reversal of One-Off Capitalisation of salaries	To accommodate management overheads.	Cllr Tim Ball / Chris Major	100		
Technical adjustment relating to 2023/24 Savings Item - Reversal of One-Off Neighbourhood Environmental Services Efficiencies	Temporarily held vacant post for 2023/24 only.	Cllr Tim Ball / Chris Major	40		
Technical adjustment relating to 2023/24 Savings Item - Reversal of One-Off Vehicle Efficiencies	Review of hire vehicles and financing options.	Cllr Tim Ball / Chris Major	24		
Neighbourhood Services Total			2,136	992	765
Portfolio: Built Environment and Sustainable Development					
Council House Building	Revenue resource to build capacity for B&NES Homes, the council's own social housing programme.	Cllr Matt McCabe / Simon Martin	150		
Land Charges His Majesty's Land Registry (HMLR) Project	Statutory HMLR take over of LLC1 part of land charge search as part of national scheme.	Cllr Matt McCabe / Chris Major		125	
Contractual Inflation	Annual increases in contract costs within the portfolio.	Cllr Matt McCabe / Various	5	2	2
Fees and Charges Income	Annual increases in fees and charges income within the portfolio.	Cllr Matt McCabe / Various	(55)	(20)	(20)
Pay Inflation	Salary inflation estimated at 5% in 24/25, 4% in 25/26, 3% in 26/27, and allowing for annual staff pay increments.	Cllr Matt McCabe / Various	249	197	147
Built Environment and Sustainable Development Total	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	,	349	304	129
OVERALL FUNDING PROPOSALS			24,938	14,582	10,859

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Annex 3

Equality Impacts of 2024 to 2025 Budget Proposals

1. Introduction and legal background

- a. This report outlines how the impacts of the Council's budget proposals are being considered within the context of the Equality Act 2010¹ The Act makes it unlawful to discriminate directly or indirectly against an individual because of certain personal characteristics ('protected characteristics'). The Act also requires that equality issues are considered by public bodies as part of decision making, especially where services are reduced or redesigned.
- b. Failure to undertake proportionate Equality Analysis (Equality Impact Assessment) could present risks of legal challenge to the Council for failing to pay due regard to its Public Sector Equality Duty². Courts have held that a local authority has to show they have consciously addressed their mind to the duty and actively considered any new plan or policy in light of the potential impact it may have on particular protected groups.

2. Bath and North East Somerset background

- a. The results of the Census 2021 have been collated and presented via the Strategic Evidence Base; this is available for public access.
- b. Bath and North East Somerset is a diverse area which includes the City of Bath as well as vibrant towns, villages and rural communities. The latest population <u>2021 United Kingdom Census</u> shows there is an estimated 193,400 residents in B&NES an increase of 9.9% since 2011.
- c. Bath & North East Somerset Council covers approximately 135 square miles. Bath is the largest urban settlement in the area, acting as the commercial and recreational centre of the district. It is home to just over 50% of the B&NES population and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- d. The Ethnicity data from the 2021 Census informs us that 85.6 % (165,409) of people in B&NES identify as White British, compared with 90.1% in 2011. The next largest ethnic group is White Other with 5.75% (11,114) of the of the population. There is an increase of people from all ethnic categories apart from Black, Black British, Caribbean. The area has become more diverse since 2011 with 8.6% of people from a variety of ethnic groups including from the following groups:
 - Chinese (2089 people) 1%
 - Other Asian (1876 people) 0.9%
 - Asian (Indian): (1787 people) 0.9%
 - Mixed white and Asian (1846 people) 0.9%
 - Mixed white and Caribbean (1505 people) 0.7%
 - Black British African (980 people) 0.5%
 - Black Caribbean (672 people) 0.3%

¹ https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents

² https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/2260/contents/made

- e. The 9.9% increase in the size of the population (from an estimated 176,016) to an estimated 193,400 is higher than the overall increase for England (6.6%) and the South West (7.8%). This growth has come from a combination of increasing student numbers at the two Universities and an increasing number of new housing developments.
- f. As of 2021, B&NES is the 11th most densely populated local authority in the South West; since 2011 there has been a 17.5% increase in people aged 65 years and over in B&NES, lower than the national increase of 20.1%. We have also seen an increase of 8.2% in people aged 15-64 years and an increase of 7.6% in children under 15 years.
- g. The 2021 Census data indicates that 16.5% (31,778) of people in B&NES identify as Disabled.
- h. Despite being an area with generally good health and low crime, there is significant variation within the area. Compared with the most affluent communities in the area, the most deprived communities experience a range of inequalities and poorer life outcomes. Bath and North East Somerset is ranked 269 out of 317 Local Authorities in England for overall deprivation, making it one of the least deprived in the country, however two areas are within the most deprived 10% nationally.

3. Actions to date

- a. As part of the Council's equality analysis process, Directors (and their officers with delegated responsibilities) have considered their proposals from an equality perspective. Where available, these have been set out in a 2024/25 budget proposal template, with the high-level intentions outlined. The proposals describe what service redesign is being proposed and should identify if there will be impacts upon residents, employees and/or service users.
- b. This document highlights those individual proposals where Directors have identified a potential impact, either positive or negative on residents, employees and or service users.
- c. This process aims to highlight if any of the proposals have the potential to have significant impacts upon service users, and if so, what actions, if any, could be taken to mitigate any unexpected or unintentional impacts.

4. Equality scrutiny process

a. The PDS panel members have received a brief to support them to scrutinise the proposals from an equality perspective (see Appendix 1).

5. Savings proposals for 2024-25

- a. Across the Council, every attempt has been made to achieve efficiencies through service redesign, with minimum reduction in frontline services.
- b. It should be noted that a number of proposals refer and rely on income generation. This in itself has the potential to increase pressure on stretched teams and have indirect impacts to other parts of the service, particularly should the income generation not be realised.

c. Regarding any equality impacts on staff, the council's Human Resources policies and procedures ensure there is full consultation and consideration of staffing matters and that employment-related equality issues are fully considered.

6. Detailed equality analysis

- a. The details of how the selected proposals will be implemented will follow in due course. It is recommended that a comprehensive and detailed equality analysis is carried out on some of the proposals as they are taken forward. This will help to ensure that opportunities to promote equality are identified, and any possible negative impacts or barriers for particular groups are considered, and where possible, mitigated.
- b. As above, regarding equality impacts on staff, the Council's Human Resources policies and procedures ensure there is full consultation and consideration of staffing matters and that employment-related equality issues are fully considered. Therefore, the focus here is largely on impacts upon service delivery and service users.
- c. The process has highlighted a number of proposals where there is a possibility of negative impact upon certain groups of people with protected characteristics and/or opportunities to promote equality. Each item is accompanied by an appropriate recommendation based on information available at time of drafting.
- d. The selected budget proposals, considerations and recommendations are listed below grouped in order of portfolio holder.

7. Table of portfolio holders holding budget proposals with potential impact

	Page
Adult Services – Cllr Alison Born	
Social Care Package Review	5
Health and Wellbeing Services	6
 Community Support Contracts part (1/2) – Prevention and Early Intervention in Adult Social Care Housing 	7-8
 Community Support Contracts (part 2/2) – Prevention and Early Intervention in Adult Social Care 	9
Royal Victoria Park Leisure Facilities	10
Children's Services – CIIr Paul May	
Specialist Commissioning – Recommissioning Early Help Contract	11
Specialist Commissioning – Integrated Commissioning Review	12
Reprofiled Transformation Savings – Increase In-House Foster Care	rs 13
 Reduce Children's Services Discretionary Spend – Family Reunification 	14
Council Priorities and Delivery – Cllr Dave Wood	
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Being Our Best Programme Seighbourhood Services - Clir Tim Ball	16 I 17 on 18
 Being Our Best Programme Weekday Recycling Centre Efficiency Savings Weekday Recycling Centre Efficiency Savings Highways – Cllr Manda Rigby Parking Charges and Emissions Based Charging – Emissions based parking charges in Bath car parks, Radstock, MSN, Keynsham and Saltford. Parking Charges and Emissions Based Charging – Emission-based street charges 	16 I 17 on 18
 Being Our Best Programme Neighbourhood Services - Cllr Tim Ball Weekday Recycling Centre Efficiency Savings Highways - Cllr Manda Rigby Parking Charges and Emissions Based Charging - Emissions based parking charges in Bath car parks, Radstock, MSN, Keynsham and Saltford. Parking Charges and Emissions Based Charging - Emission-based street charges Parking Charges and Emissions Based Charging - Motorbike permit Parking Services Income Rebasing - Park & Ride fare increase and 	16 I 17 on 18 s 19

8. Budget proposals that note a potential impact on people with protected characteristics.

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Alison Born

Adult Services Proposal: Social Care Package Review

Precis:

Review of statutory duties to ensure that the service offer meets eligible needs that are proportionate, adequate and cost effective.

2024-25 budget proposal statement

- Establish practice forums, practice guidance and process.
- Establish clear pathways for funding requirements that are not the responsibility of Adult Social Care
- Ensure that a robust reporting mechanism including the use of the councils IT systems is available.
- Strengthen the role of commission to ensure that the best value options are known and that fees are negotiated in line with care cubed and national benchmarks.
- Develop a training and resource pack for practitioners that focuses on best practice and positive outcomes for residents.
- Demonstrating the directorates commitment to delivery of the peer review recommendations in readiness for CQC inspection.
- Ensure that practice forums are a key element of the audit and assurance process for Adult Social Care through the ASC assurance board.

Considerations:

- There is no anticipated impact on people with protected characteristics as:
 - All People eligible for a service will still receive one and it will be compliant with statutory requirements.
 - service requirements will be assessed and met to comply with statutory requirements. Service users will continue to receive a social care package as per their identified needs.

Recommendation:

Proportionate equality analysis should be carried out as part of the review and implementation process

All	Age	Disability	Gender reassignment	Marriage & civil partnership	Pregnancy & maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual orientation	Socio economic
	~	~								

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Alison Born

Public Health Proposal: Health and Wellbeing Services

Precis:

Move use of identified funding from Public Health services and programmes / projects to the delivery of other council services that also contribute to improving population health

2024-25 budget proposal statement

'Reduction in number and scale of health improvement projects and programmes.'

Considerations:

- Allocations of the government Public Health Grant are made annually.
- ➤ Potential for reduction in capacity of commissioned public health services and number and scale of PH campaigns and projects to have negative impact on one or more equalities groups. However, such interventions are already focused on particular groups that experience poorer health outcomes.
- Mitigation continue to ensure that services/projects/campaigns are focused on meeting needs of groups, including equalities groups, experiencing poorer health outcomes and greater barriers in accessing opportunities.

Recommendation:

During implementation and through an ongoing review process, consider any knockon effects of the other proposals where the focus in on reducing or removing events and facilities that promote or enhance health and welfare including social contact and activities, and / or where transfer of funding puts extra pressure on other stretched services.

Age Cender reassignment Marriage & civil partnership partnership Religion or belief Sexual crientation Socio economic		All
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Socio economic	\	Sexual orientation
_	✓	Socio economic

Portfolio Holder: Alison Born

Proposal: Community Support Contracts (part 1/2) – Prevention and Early Intervention in Adult Social Care Housing

Precis: Deliver savings through efficiencies from services and disinvesting in several prevention and early intervention and accommodation services.

2024-25 budget proposal statement:

"Review and recommission community support contracts"

Considerations:

- Women reductions in support to avoid homelessness with disproportionately and negatively impact women as they are over-represented in statutory homelessness applications.
- ➤ Men reduction in rough sleeper support will negatively impact men as they are over represented as rough sleepers.
- Women female rough sleepers often have higher levels of complexity in their rough sleeping than men and have more difficulty resolving their homelessness.
- ➤ Pregnancy & maternity Families with pregnant woman who present as homeless could face longer periods in temporary accommodation due to reduced support to move on.
- ➤ All any extended waiting period for pregnant women will increase others' waiting time in B&B or hotel accommodation.
- ➤ Disabled people Reduction in support will impact on the likelihood of homelessness compounding their disability and vice versa. This is particularly relevant to homeless people who are neurodiverse.
- ➤ Disabled people Increased homelessness levels are likely to include people with mental ill health who cannot always access healthcare.
- Race Decommissioning the only dedicated service in B&NES would directly negatively impact Gypsy & traveller households.
- Age Young people experiencing conflict at home will not be able to access preventative mediation services.
- ➤ Age Reduction of supported accommodation for 18-25s will increase difficulties in preventing homelessness and will have knock on impact on ability to find training & employment opportunities.

Overall, it is likely that there will be an increase in demand for statutory services and spend on formal care.

Recommendation:

- ➤ Complete detailed Equality Impact Assessment on each of the services referenced and affected by this savings proposal.
- Consider where people with protected characteristics may be disproportionately negatively impacted.
- Consider the cumulative impact re financial implications of increased demand in statutory services and formal care provision.
- Consider knock-on effects across statutory services and community effects.
- Consider health and wellbeing implications across all protected characteristics.
- Carry out inclusive consultation

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~ ¤	Pregnancy⋅&· maternity¤
✓ ¤	Race¤
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✓ ¤	Sex¤
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Portfolio Holder - Cllr Alison Born

Adult Services Proposal: Community Support Contracts (part 2/2) – Prevention and Early Intervention in Adult Social Care

Precis:

Deliver savings through efficiencies from services and disinvesting in several prevention and early intervention services.

2024-25 budget proposal statement

The proposal is twofold:

- Deliver savings through more efficient provision of community based and accommodation-based support for older people, people with learning disabilities, sensory impairment and mental health related needs, people from ethnic minorities.
- Disinvest in several prevention and early intervention services providing low level support to older people and people with mental health related needs. Community based and accommodation-based services focused on prevention and early intervention would be provided in a more efficient way, including capping volume and spend where necessary

Considerations:

- Some types of low-level support for older people and people with mental health related needs would be stopped to enable available budgets to be prioritised on meeting statutory needs under the Care Act 2014.
- People on the edge of formal care may require a higher level of support which often costs more.
- Providers handing back services and contracts to the council.
- Prevention and early intervention offer from third sector in B&NES reduced and destabilised.

Recommendation:

- Detailed equality analysis should be carried out as part of the review and implementation process.
- During implementation and through an ongoing review process, consider any knockon effects on vulnerable people when reducing or removing service provision.

	Age Age Gender reassignment Marriage & civil partnership Pregnancy & maternity Race Race Sex
	Sexual orientation
~	Socio economic

Portfolio Holder - Cllr Alison Born

Proposal: Royal Victoria Park Leisure Facilities

Precis:

Increased income from RVP Leisure Facilities through new 20-year contract and lease

2024-25 budget proposal statement:

'New contract in place for the operation of the leisure facilities in RVP including tennis courts, adventure golf, events spaces and café. Increase usage and improved facilities.'

Considerations:

- Although an exciting opportunity to improve facilities for residents, change may provoke negative feedback, particularly from existing customers of the existing tenants. This will need support from Comms Team and community engagement.
- ➤ Potential operators will need to demonstrate how their proposals support the Council's required outcomes.

Recommendation:

- Complete a detailed Equality Impact Assessment as part of the process of commissioning a new service and to demonstrate consideration for people with protected characteristics.
- Carry out inclusive consultation.

All	Age	Disability	Gender reassignment	Marriage & civil partnership	Pregnancy & maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual orientation	Socio economic
'										

Children and Young People Proposal: Specialist Commissioning – Recommissioning Early Help Contract

Precis:

The Early Help review is considering what is needed from current provision and what may need to be changed or stopped or delivered in a different way.

2024-25 budget proposal statement:

The review will ensure our we develop services in line with strategic aims and our changing population needs to ensure improved experiences and outcomes for families.

Considerations:

- Insufficient provision of preventative services resulting in a higher demand for statutory services
- People with protected characteristics at risk of needs not being identified and met.

- Complete a detailed EqIA considering where people with protected characteristics may be more impacted than others (see below). Determine whether people from particular groups are disproportionately more likely to benefit from preventative services therefore reducing the need for statutory services.
- Consultation, including with Independent Equality Advisory Group (IEAG).

	All
~	Age
~	Disability
	Gender reassignment
	Marriage & civil partnership
>	Pregnancy & maternity
>	Race
	Religion or belief
>	Sex
	Sexual orientation
~	Socio economic

Proposal: Specialist Commissioning – Integrated Commissioning Review

Precis:

Renegotiation of contracted services for Children Looked After.

2024-25 budget proposal statement:

- 1. Review of all high-cost placements (monthly)
- 2. Review all accommodation and support placements (ongoing)
- 3. Review all leaving care placements (ongoing)

Considerations:

- Risk that B&NES will not offer competitive or comparative prices and lose ability to deliver statutory duties.
- > Cumulative effect on service delivery for children and young people.
- Not being able to find placements for Children Looked After.
- > Providers will hand in notice of contract, potentially leading to sourcing more expensive placements.

Recommendation:

Review and update the detailed Equality Impact Assessment as an ongoing process to consider the impact of decisions and service delivery for people with protected characteristics.

Age Age Gender reassignment Marriage & cippartnership Pregnancy & maternity Race Race Race Race Sex Sexual orientation Socio economic

Proposal: Reprofiled Transformation Savings – Increase In-House Foster Carers

Precis:

To implement strategies to increase the number of in-house foster carers thus reducing costs.

2024-25 budget proposal statement:

'Increased number of fostering households in B&NES, reduced reliance on independent fostering agency placements and or residential provision'.

Considerations:

Positive impact anticipated for people with protected characteristics (both foster carers and Children/Young People Looked After.

Recommendation:

Review and update the detailed Equality Impact Assessment as an ongoing process to consider the impact of decisions and service delivery for people with protected characteristics.

All	Age	Disability	Gender reassignment	Marriage & civil partnership	Pregnancy & maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual orientation	Socio economic
	~	~	~			~	~	✓	~	~

Proposal: Reduce Children's Services Discretionary Spend – Family Reunification

Precis:

The implementation of plans to safely reintroduce Children Looked After back into their family home.

2024-25 budget proposal statement:

'This project is delivering a managed approach to returning children home, for those children and their families who have been identified as being able to be reunified. The Local Authority has developed a framework with support from Barnardo's. By having a framework, we plan to increase the number of children returning to the care of their families and experiencing positive outcomes.'

Considerations:

- Children and young people often leave care to return home of their own accord, this framework offers an alternative option whilst continuing to offer safeguarding support from the LA.
- ➤ Children and Young People could be placed at increased safeguarding risk by returning to unsafe environments.

Recommendation:

➤ Complete a detailed EqIA considering where people with protected characteristics may be more impacted than others (see below). Determine whether people from particular groups are disproportionately more likely to benefit or not from this practice.

✓ ✓ ✓ .
Race Religion Belief Sexual orientati Socio econon

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Dave Wood

Human Resources Proposal: Being Our Best Programme

Precis:

An in-depth staffing structure review to shape services and identify savings led by the HR&OD team alongside an external organisation (Korn Ferry).

2024-25 budget proposal statement:

This programme impacts every element of the council's activity and involves every employee too. We are deeply ambitious for the future and want to ensure that more people benefit from the incredible potential that our region has to offer. We recognise that this can only be done if we address those challenges that hold us back internally, and feedback from staff surveys have helped inform the areas in which we need to improve.

The programme will be managed centrally involving all areas of the business. The Being Our Best Programme has three key strands:

- Great Jobs
- Better Structures, and a
- Culture of Excellence

Considerations:

- ➤ The equality profile of B&NES employees is likely to change and there is a risk of disproportionate impact on certain people or groups with protected characteristics.
- All proposals including timescales are subject to consultation with staff and trades unions so may change.
- ➤ The process will follow the Council's Equality, pay policies and organisational change policies.

- Complete an ongoing detailed Equality Impact Assessment as part of the process of the Being Our Best Programme to demonstrate consideration, and to reduce risks of discrimination, for people with protected characteristics.
- ➤ Consider further ways to enhance the equalities profile of the workforce. A more diverse workforce will have wider benefits including attracting & retaining talent through recruitment processes.
- Implement strategies to improve equalities profile reporting for all.

All	Age	Disability	Gender reassignment	Marriage & civil partnership	Pregnancy & maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual orientation	Socio economic
~										

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Tim Ball

Place Management Proposal: Weekday Recycling Centre Efficiency Savings

Precis:

'Close Bath and Welton recycling centres on alternate days over a fortnightly reference period.'

2024-25 budget proposal statement:

'Closure of Bath/ Welton on alternate days (timetable TBC), reducing required staff time and subsequently reduction in use of agency staff cover throughout service. Both sites operate booking system, so less available slots for residents.'

Considerations:

- Potential challenges for travel and accessibility on certain days for people with protected characteristics
- Conflicts with other projects/services Journey to Net Zero, CAZ & Active Travel as this could increase transport to the only available centre from Somer Valley and Bath to Keynsham.
- Rural vs Urban disadvantages Potential for increase in petrol costs to travel to other sites which could adversely affect poorer communities – e.g., Radstock area of deprivation.

- Complete a detailed Equality Impact Assessment considering where people with protected characteristics may be more impacted than others (see below). Determine whether people from particular groups are disproportionately more likely to benefit or not from this practice.
- Consider the cumulative impact re cost of access to this service to residents particularly to Disabled people.

	All
	Age
~	Disability
	Gender reassignment
	Marriage & civil partnership
	Pregnancy & maternity
	Race
	Religion or belief
	Sex
	Sexual orientation
~	Socio economic

Transport Proposal: Parking Charges and Emissions Based Charging – Emissions based parking charges in Bath car parks, Radstock, MSN, Keynsham and Saltford.

Precis: Increase in emissions-based parking in B&NES car parks

2024-25 budget proposal statement:

'To continue to incentivise behaviour change and improve air quality following the successful introduction of emission-based pay and display charges in B&NES car parks and for residents parking permits.'

Considerations:

- Socio-economic disadvantage, people on lower incomes are more likely to have older cars with higher emissions. Radstock in an area of deprivation.
- Families with larger cars are likely to have higher emissions-based cars (ethnic minority groups, religion/belief, children and young people may all be impacted from accessing the city).
- Foreign cars will be charged at the higher rate due to a lack of access to data on their emissions.
- Women on maternity leave may have reduced income and need to access health services in the area.
- Night-time security risks for those who feel or are more vulnerable including women, LGBTQ+ community, older people.
- Many disabled people do not have a blue badge but need ease of access to facilities, including health services, so could be impacted.
- Wider implications for the economy as people may choose to go elsewhere.
- Consider wider implications such as rurality and public transport availability and mitigations.
- Positive: Improved air quality for all residents.

- Review and update the detailed Equality Impact Assessment considering where people with protected characteristics may be more impacted than others (see below). Determine whether people from particular groups are disproportionately more likely to benefit or not from this practice.
- Consider the cumulative impact re cost of access to this service to residents particularly to the above-mentioned groups of people with protected characteristics.
- > Consider knock-on effects.
- Carry out inclusive consultation.

All	Age	Disability	Gender reassignment	Marriage & civil partnership	Pregnancy & maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual orientation	Socio economic
/										

Proposal: Parking Charges and Emissions Based Charging – Emission-based on street charges

Precis: Introduction of emissions based on street Pay & Display parking in Bath.

2024-25 budget proposal statement:

'To link the emissions of vehicles to the level of parking charges paid at on street pay and display locations in Bath to encourage behaviour change and improve air quality following the successful introduction of emission-based P&D charges in Bath and for residents parking permits.

Considerations:

- Socio-economic disadvantage, people on lower incomes are more likely to have older cars with higher emissions.
- Families with larger cars are likely to have higher emissions-based cars (ethnic minority groups, religion/belief, children and young people may all be impacted from accessing the city).
- Foreign cars will be charged at the higher rate due to a lack of access to data on their emissions.
- Women on maternity leave may have reduced income and need to access health services in the area.
- Many disabled people do not have a blue badge but need ease of access to facilities, including health services, so could be impacted.
- Wider implications for the economy as people may choose to go elsewhere.
- May displace visitors further out into residential areas that are not covered by a resident parking scheme, though this is a low risk as on street parking is typically of short-term duration.
- Positive: Improved air quality for all residents.

- ➤ Complete a detailed Equality Impact Assessment considering where people with protected characteristics may be more impacted than others (see below). Determine whether people from particular groups are disproportionately more likely to benefit or not from this practice.
- Consider the cumulative impact re cost of access for residents particularly to the above-mentioned groups of people with protected characteristics.
- Consider knock-on effects.
- Carry out inclusive consultation.

All	Age	Disability	Gender reassignment	Marriage & civil partnership	Pregnancy & maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual orientation	Socio economic
✓										

Proposal: Parking Charges and Emissions Based Charging – Motorbike permits

Precis: Motorbike users who have historically benefitted from free parking will be required to have a parking permit or will be charged emissions-based parking fees.

2024-25 budget proposal statement:

'Income generated from the requirement of motorbikes to have valid permits in residential parking zones. To ensure that motorbikes parked on street in residential permit parking areas hold a valid permit, charged based on the emission of the vehicle.'

Considerations:

- Socio-economic disadvantage, motorbikes are a cheaper form of transport.
- Blue Badges cannot be displayed.
- Consider the profile of motorbike users who will be disproportionately impacted.
- Wider implications for the economy as people may choose to go elsewhere.
- Consider wider implications such as rurality and public transport availability and mitigations.
- May increase demand for improved parking options in car parks, resulting in cost increase.
- > Is not consistent with national guidance as a more sustainable form of transport.
- Positive: Improved air quality for all residents, more parking spaces for residents.

- Complete a detailed Equality Impact Assessment considering where people with protected characteristics may be more impacted than others (see below). Determine whether people from particular groups are disproportionately more likely to benefit or not from this practice.
- ➤ Consider the cumulative impact re cost of access for residents particularly to the above-mentioned groups of people with protected characteristics.
- Consider knock-on effects.
- Carry out inclusive consultation

	All
~	Age
~	Disability
	Gender reassignment
	Marriage & civil partnership
	Pregnancy & maternity
~	Race
	Religion or belief
~	Sex
_	Sexual orientation
~	Socio economic

Proposal: Parking Services Income Rebasing – Park & Ride fare increase and extended operating hours

Precis:

Increase in fares for all users of the Park and Ride service and later operating times.

2024-25 budget proposal statement:

Increase the Bath Park & Ride fares by 10p across the entire fare structure.

Increase operating hours of the P&R service to open later into the evening through key periods.

Considerations:

- Cumulative impact of increased travel and or parking fees for certain groups of protected characteristics.
- ➤ Although outside the Equality Act legislation, this may have a detrimental impact on people on low incomes/ who are at socio-economic disadvantage meaning inequality in access to culture/heritage/leisure activities) Potential marginalisation of the most vulnerable and people with protected characteristics).
- ➤ There is a risk that FirstBus will increase contract costs and that the saving will be reduced, removed or prompt cost pressure as a result.
- Positive: Improved night-time economy

- Complete a proportionate Equality Impact Assessment to identify where the proposal contributes to any possible cumulative impact re reduction of provision of local services to residents, particularly to those people on low income and with protected characteristics.
- Consider knock-on effects.
- Carry out inclusive consultation

	All
~	Age
~	Disability
	Gender reassignment
	Marriage & civil partnership
~	Pregnancy & maternity
~	Race
	Religion or belief
~	Sex
	Sexual orientation
✓	Socio economic

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Paul Roper

Proposal: City and Town Centre Management Service Redesign – Service Redesign and Fees Increase for Events & Film Office, including Bath Christmas Market

Precis:

To increase fees to events and film office, including charities who currently receive a reduction.

2024-25 budget proposal statement:

'Restructure the events and film office. Increase fees and charges by 15% to 17% for events and film office, including Bath Christmas Market. The 15% increase applies to charities, which may also have an adverse impact on these events being able to operate.'

Considerations:

- ➤ Whilst charities are afforded a 50% discount on the commercial rate for land hire for events, the 15% increase applies also to charities, which may have an adverse impact on these events being able to operate.
- The majority of charities are set up to support people with protected characteristics, consider the impact for people with protected characteristics for example: the following people with protected characteristics may have fewer opportunities to access free or low cost events/activities, children in receipt of free school meals, low income households, larger families (religion/faith, ethnicity), elderly/retired, pregnant or on maternity leave in receipt of only statutory maternity pay, Disabled people, ethnic minorities more likely to be on lower incomes.
- ➤ Risk of unaffordable events exclusion for people living with socio-economic disadvantage.
- May impact on Council's ability to comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- The increase in land hire fees could have a knock-on impact on the costs for event organisations and film production companies, which in turn could stop holding events/films in B&NES; this would have an impact on the income of other services, which events and film productions rely, i.e. highways, parking services, licencing and heritage/corporate estate.

Recommendation:

Complete a detailed Equality Impact Assessment considering where people with protected characteristics may be more impacted than others.

9. Cumulative impacts

- a. Budget proposals have the potential to impact on people across the full range of protected characteristics. In addition, whilst considerations of socio-economic status are not a requirement of the Equality Act public sector duty, the impact of cost of living increases and other financial pressures is an important focus for the Council and its partners.
- b. Financial decisions need to be made with consideration for the unintended effects of budget proposals. The cumulative impact identifies that people may be affected multiple times, by different policies and service changes. i.e., the impact of all the proposals on Disabled people should be viewed together rather than only through the lens of an individual proposal.

10. The socio-economic context

- a. It should be noted that the council aims to ensure that services were protected from reductions as much as possible during this budget setting process. However, with yearon-year savings we must balance the due regard duty and the longer-term effects on frontline services that provide support to vulnerable service users as well as those with protected characteristics, particularly those people who may be less able to cope with service changes.
- b. Services users and residents are facing changes from services other than the council, in Bath & North East Somerset this includes some proposals for significant changes to public transport availability. We are mindful that the council budget setting process forms only one part of the challenges that will face our residents over the coming years relating to the economic and cost of living crisis.
- c. Although socio-economic status is not a protected characteristic, this report notes that even relatively modest cost increases for services can have a substantial impact on the lives of households with low income. These households can often be more reliant on a range of public services; the cumulative impacts of multiple small cuts, increases in charges, travel times or costs can represent a significant barrier to accessing services for those on low incomes. This can impact on some peoples' ability/availability for work, thus keeping them in a cycle of limited opportunity to increase the household income.
- d. Ongoing tightening of eligibility thresholds for example for some health and social care provision, sometimes reducing to statutory provision only may cause unexpected consequences for other services, voluntary and community organisations where capacity is already stretched.

11. Council-wide mitigating action

- a. Bath and North East Somerset Council is committed to addressing any potential negative impacts on people with protected characteristics.
- b. Responsible officers will carry out proportionate equality analysis including equality impact assessment to ensure it has demonstrated due regard to the requirements of the

- Equality Act 2010. Any consultation carried out on these will aim to reach a variety of people including and especially those who are likely to use the service and who may be affected by any changes.
- c. Undertake regular review of equality analysis and will update documentation as new information becomes available. Responsible officers will ensure that monitoring and analysis is carried out during implementation of proposals; this will be used to identify and develop further mitigations for any unexpected consequences of service changes. Individuals and groups who use services will be encouraged to give feedback on the revised services.
- d. Impacts identified throughout the process along with any monitoring information will be available to inform the following year's budget process.

12. Where specific protected characteristics have been highlighted in initial screening:

Religion and Belief

The Equality Act 2010 states you must not be discriminated against because:

- you are (or are not) of a particular religion
- you hold (or do not hold) a particular philosophical belief
- someone thinks you are of a particular religion or hold a particular belief (this is known as discrimination by perception)
- you are connected to someone who has a religion or belief (this is known as discrimination by association) In the Equality Act religion or belief can mean any religion, for example an organised religion like Christianity, Judaism, Islam or Buddhism, or a smaller religion like Rastafarianism or Paganism, as long as it has a clear structure and belief system. The Equality Act also covers non-belief or a lack of religion or belief.

Potential equality impact:

- Highways: Parking Charges and Emissions Based Charging Emissions based parking charges in Bath car parks, Radstock, MSN, Keynsham and Saltford.
- Highways: Parking Charges and Emissions Based Charging Emission-based on street charges

Across the Budget proposals the initial impact assessments have highlighted potential impacts on individuals in relation to religion and belief especially for emissions-based parking charges which may adversely impact larger families and people accessing their chosen place of worship or meeting place.

Age

The Equality Act 2010 states that you must not be discriminated against because:

- you are (or are not) a certain age or in a certain age group
- someone thinks you are (or are not) a specific age or age group, this is known as discrimination by perception
- you are connected to someone of a specific age or age group, this is known as discrimination by association

Potential equality impact:

- Adult Services: Social Care Package Review
- Adult Services: Health and Wellbeing Services
- Adult Services: Community
 Support Contracts (part 1/2) –
 Prevention and Early Intervention in
 Adult Social Care Housing
- Adult Services: Community
 Support Contracts (part 2/2) –
 Prevention and Early Intervention in
 Adult Social Care
- Adult Services: Royal Victoria Park Leisure Facilities
- Children's Services: Specialist
 Commissioning Recommissioning
 Early Help Contract
- Children's Services: Specialist
 Commissioning Integrated
 Commissioning Review
- Children's Services: Reprofiled
 Transformation Savings Increase
 In-House Foster Carers
- Children's Services: Reduce
 Children's Services Discretionary
 Spend Family Reunification

- Council Priorities and Delivery: Being Our Best Programme
- Highways: Parking Charges and Emissions Based Charging – Emissions based parking charges in Bath car parks, Radstock, MSN, Keynsham and Saltford.
- Highways: Parking Charges and Emissions Based Charging – Emission-based on street charges.
- Highways: Parking Charges and Emissions Based Charging –
 Motorbike permits
- Highways: Parking Services Income Rebasing – Park & Ride fare increase and extended operating hours
- ➤ Economic and Cultural
 Sustainable Development: City
 and Town Centre Management
 Service Redesign Service
 Redesign and Fees Increase for
 Events & Film Office, including Bath
 Christmas Market

Many people who rely on access to public services will either be children and young people or elderly who also have low socio-economic status. The cumulative impact of multiple changes to service delivery and increased fares is likely to disadvantage younger and older people.

The individual service EqIAs will address these issues and will develop mitigations as the proposals are developed and will review these during implementation.

Sex

The Equality Act 2010 states you must not be discriminated against because:

•you are (or are not) a particular sex

•someone thinks you are the opposite sex (this is known as discrimination by perception)

•you are connected to someone of a particular sex (this is known as discrimination by association) In the Equality Act, sex can mean either male or female, or a group of people like men or boys, or women or girls.

Potential equality impact:

- ➤ Adult Services: Social Care Package Review
- > Adult Services: Health and Wellbeing Services
- ➤ Adult Services: Community Support Contracts (part 1/2) Prevention and Early Intervention in Adult Social Care Housing
- Adult Services: Community Support Contracts (part 2/2) Prevention and Early Intervention in Adult Social Care
- > Adult Services: Royal Victoria Park Leisure Facilities
- Children's Services: Specialist Commissioning Recommissioning Early Help Contract
- Children's Services: Specialist Commissioning Integrated Commissioning Review
- Children's Services: Reprofiled Transformation Savings Increase In-House Foster Carers
- Children's Services: Reduce Children's Services Discretionary Spend Family Reunification
- > Council Priorities and Delivery: Being Our Best Programme
- ➤ **Highways:** Parking Charges and Emissions Based Charging Emissions based parking charges in Bath car parks, Radstock, MSN, Keynsham and Saltford.
- Highways: Parking Charges and Emissions Based Charging Emission-based on street charges.
- Highways: Parking Charges and Emissions Based Charging Motorbike permits
- ➤ **Highways:** Parking Services Income Rebasing Park & Ride fare increase and extended operating hours

Across the Budget proposals the initial impact assessments have highlighted potential impacts on individuals in relation to sex. Data informs us that boys are more likely to be looked after children.

The increase in parking charges could disadvantage people based on their sex, women may feel vulnerable if they cannot access safe spaces to park.

The individual service EqIAs will address these issues and will develop mitigations as the proposals are developed and will review these during implementation.

Gender Reassignment

The Equality Act 2010 states that you must not be discriminated against because you are transsexual, when your gender identity is different from the gender assigned to you when you were born.

Potential equality impact:

- Adult Services: Health and Wellbeing Services
- ➤ Adult Services: Royal Victoria Park Leisure Facilities
- > Council Priorities and Delivery: Being Our Best Programme
- Highways: Parking Charges and Emissions Based Charging Emissions based parking charges in Bath car parks, Radstock, MSN, Keynsham and Saltford.
- ➤ **Highways:** Parking Charges and Emissions Based Charging Emission-based on street charges.

Across the Budget proposals the initial impact assessments have highlighted potential impacts on individuals in relation to gender reassignment especially for the impact on mental and physical health and wellbeing.

The individual service EqIAs will address these issues and will develop mitigations as the proposals are developed and will review these during implementation.

Marriage/Civil Partnership

The Equality Act states you must not be discriminated against in employment because you are married or in a civil partnership. In the Equality Act marriage and civil partnership means someone who is legally married or in a civil partnership. Marriage can either be between a man and a woman, or between partners of the same sex. Civil partnership is between partners of the same sex or opposite sex. People do not have this characteristic if they are:

- single
- living with someone as a couple neither married nor civil partners
- engaged to be married but not married
- divorced or a person whose civil partnership has been dissolved

Potential equality impact:

Across the Budget proposals the initial impact assessments have not highlighted any negative impacts on individuals in relation to marriage or civil partnership

Pregnancy & Maternity

Pregnancy is the condition of being pregnant or expecting a baby. Maternity refers to the period after the birth and is linked to maternity leave in the employment context. In the non-work context, protection against maternity discrimination is for 26 weeks after giving birth, and this includes treating a woman unfavourably because she is breastfeeding.

Potential equality impact:

- ➤ Adult Services: Community Support Contracts (part 1/2) Prevention and Early Intervention in Adult Social Care Housing
- ➤ Adult Services: Community Support Contracts (part 2/2) Prevention and Early Intervention in Adult Social Care
- ➤ Adult Services: Health and Wellbeing Services
- Children's Services: Specialist Commissioning Recommissioning Early Help Contract
- ➤ Council Priorities and Delivery: Being Our Best Programme
- Highways: Parking Charges and Emissions Based Charging Emissions based parking charges in Bath car parks, Radstock, MSN, Keynsham and Saltford.
- Highways: Parking Charges and Emissions Based Charging Emission-based on street charges.

The individual service EqIAs will address these issues and will develop mitigations as the proposals are developed and will review these during implementation.

Sexual orientation

The Equality Act 2010 states you must not be discriminated against because:

- you are heterosexual, gay, lesbian or bisexual
- someone thinks you have a particular sexual orientation (this is known as discrimination by perception)
- you are connected to someone who has a particular sexual orientation (this is known as discrimination by association) In the Equality Act, sexual orientation includes how you choose to express your sexual orientation, such as through your appearance or the places you visit.

Potential equality impact:

- > Adult Services: Health and Wellbeing Services
- Adult Services: Royal Victoria Park Leisure Facilities
- Children's Services: Reprofiled Transformation Savings Increase In-House Foster Carers

- Children's Services: Reduce Children's Services Discretionary Spend Family Reunification
- ➤ Council Priorities and Delivery: Being Our Best Programme

The individual service EqIAs will address these issues and will develop mitigations as the proposals are developed and will review these during implementation.

Race/Ethnicity

The Equality Act 2010 states you must not be discriminated against because of your race. In the Equality Act, race can mean your colour, or your nationality (including your citizenship). It can also mean your ethnic or national origins, which may not be the same as your current nationality.

Potential equality impact:

- > Adult Services: Social Care Package Review
- ➤ Adult Services: Health and Wellbeing Services
- ➤ Adult Services: Community Support Contracts (part 1/2) Prevention and Early Intervention in Adult Social Care Housing
- ➤ Adult Services: Community Support Contracts (part 2/2) Prevention and Early Intervention in Adult Social Care
- ➤ Adult Services: Royal Victoria Park Leisure Facilities
- Children's Services: Specialist Commissioning Recommissioning Early Help Contract
- Children's Services: Specialist Commissioning Integrated Commissioning Review
- Children's Services: Reprofiled Transformation Savings Increase In-House Foster Carers
- Children's Services: Reduce Children's Services Discretionary Spend –
 Family Reunification
- Council Priorities and Delivery: Being Our Best Programme
- Highways: Parking Charges and Emissions Based Charging Emissions based parking charges in Bath car parks, Radstock, MSN, Keynsham and Saltford.
- Highways: Parking Charges and Emissions Based Charging Emission-based on street charges.

There are risks that people may be disadvantaged due to their ethnicity, in particular with emissions-based parking charges. Ethnic minorities are more likely to be on lower incomes and have larger families so may not have access to compliant cars. Foreign cars will be charged at the highest rate due to a lack of data sharing structures.

Disability

The Equality Act 2010 states that you must not be discriminated against because:

- you have a disability
- someone thinks you have a disability (this is known as discrimination by perception)
- you are connected to someone with a Disabled person (this is known as discrimination by association) It is not unlawful discrimination to treat a disabled person more favourably than a non-disabled person.

In the Equality Act a disability means a physical or a mental condition which has a substantial and long-term impact on your ability to do normal day to day activities. You are covered by the Equality Act if you have a progressive condition like HIV, cancer or multiple sclerosis, even if you are currently able to carry out normal day to day activities. You are protected as soon as you are diagnosed with a progressive condition. You are also covered by the Equality Act if you had a disability in the past.

Potential equality impact:

- Adult Services: Social Care Package Review
- Adult Services: Health and Wellbeing Services
- Adult Services: Community
 Support Contracts (part 1/2) –
 Prevention and Early Intervention in
 Adult Social Care Housing
- Adult Services: Community
 Support Contracts (part 2/2) –
 Prevention and Early Intervention in Adult Social Care
- Adult Services: Royal Victoria Park Leisure Facilities
- Children's Services: Specialist
 Commissioning Recommissioning
 Early Help Contract
- Children's Services: Specialist
 Commissioning Integrated
 Commissioning Review
- Children's Services: Reprofiled
 Transformation Savings Increase
 In-House Foster Carers
- Children's Services: Reduce
 Children's Services Discretionary
 Spend Family Reunification
- Council Priorities and Delivery: Being Our Best Programme

- Highways: Parking Charges and Emissions Based Charging – Emissions based parking charges in Bath car parks, Radstock, MSN, Keynsham and Saltford.
- Highways: Parking Charges and Emissions Based Charging – Emission-based on street charges.
- Highways: Parking Charges and Emissions Based Charging – Motorbike permits
- Highways: Parking Services Income Rebasing – Park & Ride fare increase and extended operating hours
- ➤ Economic and Cultural
 Sustainable Development: City
 and Town Centre Management
 Service Redesign Service
 Redesign and Fees Increase for
 Events & Film Office, including Bath
 Christmas Market

There is a risk that proposals redesigning service delivery may impact on Disabled people including children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. Not all Disabled people are blue badge holders but require ease of access to facilities including parking spaces. Cumulative impact of increased costs may result in disadvantage.

Specific equality analysis for proposals before and during implementation will address and mitigate where possible; ongoing monitoring will inform these mitigations.

13. Recommendations for implementation of accepted budget proposals

a. The following recommendations should be considered (as appropriate), to ensure that equality issues continue to be considered during the implementation stages.

b. Full or proportionate equality impact assessments / equality analysis.

This should be carried out on all proposals where initial reviews have revealed likely impacts upon particular groups of people due to their protected characteristics. EqIAs must be carried out at a formative stage so that the assessment is an integral part of the development of a proposal, not a later justification of a policy that has already been adopted. The assessment should form part of the proposal and should be considered before making the decision.

This enables the Council to demonstrate it has taken due regard to equality issues and has thoroughly considered how to meet the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty. The Council's Equality Impact Assessment template can be found on the Council's EIA web pages, and support is available from the Equality Team in carrying out the assessments. Completed EIAs should be published on this web page.

c. Inclusive consultation.

Where consultation is required, it is vital that a diverse range of people are encouraged to take part. This will help to identify any additional equality impacts that may need to be addressed and mitigated where possible. A variety of methods should be used to access consultees with varying protected characteristics. The Independent Equality Advisory Group can be used as a consultative body, and will provide further guidance on likely impacts, and ways of mitigating these.

d. Clear and transparent communication.

It is important to ensure that the communication and publicity strategies about service changes are accessible to disabled people (for example, people with visual impairment or learning disability) and to those for whom English is an additional language. The Council has a commissioned interpreting and translation service to assist with this.

e. Including equality issues within commissioning specifications.

Where proposals include commissioning or recommissioning external providers, detailed equality requirements in line with public sector equality duty should be built into contract specifications. This will ensure that best practice relating to equality in delivery of services is continued and improved upon when delivered by external partners.

f. Workforce training and development.

A number of the budget proposals are dependent upon the ability of officers to recognise opportunities to advance equality (for example, within commissioning, or by targeting services towards those who are most vulnerable). It is also important that officers are aware of, and sensitive to, the particular needs of different groups of people. Equality training is available as part of the Corporate Training programme, and bespoke training can be arranged by the Council's Equality Team.

g. Ongoing monitoring.

Where services are subject to redesign, equality monitoring should be carried out to help identify if the service is operating as intended, if it is reaching and meeting the needs of our most vulnerable communities, and if there are any unforeseen impacts that need to be addressed. (In this instance the EqIA should be updated). See the Council's sample equality monitoring template for the data categories that should be used.

Appendix 1

1 Briefing note for elected members on equality in financial decision making

- a. The Equality Act 2010 makes it unlawful to discriminate against an individual because of certain personal characteristics ('protected characteristics').
- b. The Act requires that equality issues are considered by public bodies as part of decision making, especially where services are reduced or redesigned.
 - c. The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requires us to have due regard of the need to:
 - > eliminate discrimination,
 - advance equality of opportunity and
 - foster good relations between different people.
- d. The questions below are intended to assist PDS panels to scrutinise the proposals from an equality perspective.

2 For each new draft proposal

- a. Are panel members clear that this proposal has been considered from an equality perspective?
- b. Do we know what the impact will be on the most vulnerable people?
- c. Are there any potential unintended impacts or "knock-on" effects and consequences e.g., on partners, residents or other services?
- d. Have we consulted people and listened to what they have told us about this?
- e. During the implementation of the proposal how will we continue to check for unintended effects on particular groups of people?
- f. Will there be room for discretion if during the implementation we discover that the change of service disproportionately disadvantages some people?
- g. Considering all the proposals together, what will the cumulative impact be, and will adverse impacts fall disproportionately on specific protected groups?
- h. What have we learnt about equality impacts following the implementation of last years' proposals?

3 What course of action does the EqIA suggest? Is it justifiable?

- a. There are four possible outcomes of an EqIA, more than one may apply to a single proposal:
- No major change required: no potential for discrimination or adverse impact and all opportunities to advance equality have been taken.
- > Adjustments to mitigate the issues identified: will the proposed adjustments remove the barriers identified?
- Continue despite having identified some potential for adverse impacts or missed opportunities to advance equality: the justification should be included in the assessment and should be in line with the duty to have 'due regard'. For the most important relevant policies, compelling reasons will be needed. You should consider whether there are sufficient plans to reduce the negative impact and/or plans to monitor the actual impact.
- > Stop and rethink: when an assessment shows actual or potential unlawful discrimination.

Bath and North East Somerset Council – Efficiency Strategy

1. Flexible Use of Capital Receipts

Central Government outlined in December 2015 that local authorities would be able under certain circumstances to utilise capital receipts for revenue expenditure for certain purposes. These include for example:-

- Sharing back-office and administrative services with one or more other council or public sector bodies;
- Investment in service reform feasibility work, e.g. setting up pilot schemes;
- Funding the cost of service reconfiguration, restructuring or rationalisation (staff or non-staff), where this leads to ongoing efficiency savings or service transformation;
- Collaboration between local authorities and central government departments to free up land for economic use;
- Sharing Chief-Executives, management teams or staffing structures;
- Aggregating procurement on common goods and services where possible, either as part of local arrangements or regional procurement hubs;
- Driving a digital approach to the delivery of more efficient public services and how the public interacts with constituent authorities where possible;
- Setting up commercial or alternative delivery models to deliver services more efficiently and bring in revenue (for example, selling services to others).
- Integrating public facing services across two or more public sector bodies to generate savings or to transform service delivery;
- Improving systems and processes to tackle fraud and corruption;

Further guidance was released in March 2016 which outlined a simpler approach to allow authorities to utilise receipts if the spend resulted in an ongoing saving. The guidance is clear however that expenditure should be once-off and the flexibility cannot be utilised for ongoing expenditure.

The Government announced as part of the 2021/22 Finance Settlement that the flexibility would extend to 2024/25 (a further three years).

The requirement states that the strategy should list each project that plans to make use of the capital receipts flexibility and that details of the expected savings/service transformation are provided. All uses of flexible receipts have therefore been linked to the savings plans approved as part of budget setting. The Strategy should report the impact on the local authority's Prudential Indicators for the forthcoming and subsequent years.

The strategy in future years will monitor the performance of projects approved in previous years. The Strategy must be approved by Full Council. A revised strategy may be replaced by another during the year.

2. Savings Projects Which Meet the Criteria

Council agreed in November 2017 to utilise the flexibility to fund the once-off revenue costs such as redundancy and legal costs allowable under the criteria to achieve the Directorate Savings Plans agreed as part of the 2017/18 and future years budgets. The flexibility was linked to budget savings plans for 2017/18 and future years:

A total of £8.25m has been utilised between 2017/18 and 2022/23 mainly to fund redundancy and other one-off costs to realise on-going savings. Further details of spend and savings are shown in the following tables:

		Sp	end	
Category	2017/18 - 2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Restructuring & Severance Costs	7.220	0.155	0.162	7.537
Procurement, Commissioning and other service redesign	0.714	0.000	0.000	0.714
Total	7.934	0.155	0.162	8.251

	(Cumulative Savings							
Category	2017/18 - 2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24					
	£m	£m	£m	£m					
Restructuring & Severance Costs	6.091	6.219	6.387	6.525					
Procurement, Commissioning and other service redesign	6.290	6.290	6.290	6.290					
Total	12.381	12.509	12.677	12.815					

It is estimated that up to £1.25m will be utilised in 2023/24 in one-off costs to deliver savings. This will be reported as part of the outturn report in June/July 2024.

As the flexibility will continue beyond 2023/24 it is recommended that capital receipts will be utilised in 2024/25 to deliver the Being our Best programme and related savings as outlined in Annex 2(i). It is proposed that the remaining balance of £2m from the originally allocated £11.5m in flexible capital receipts is held within the capital programme to meet eligible costs associated with the delivery of 2024/25 efficiency savings.

In summary the estimated overall level of receipts required has remained at the £11.5m reported in the 2023/24 strategy.

3. The Capital Receipts to be Used this Purpose

Capital receipts from the disposal of property, plant, and equipment received in the years in which the flexibility is offered can be used for this purpose. Right to Buy Receipts and receipts from Council owned companies are excluded.

Capital receipts have already been achieved and are held as unapplied on the balance sheet and are available to finance eligible costs in 2024/25.

4. Impact on B&NES' Prudential Indicators

If the Council utilises this flexibility it impacts on the level of capital receipts that can be utilised to fund the capital programme. If it is assumed that

B&NES has and will continue to utilise up to £11.5m of flexible receipts for once-off costs with the impact being factored into the Council's Prudential Indicators (as detailed in the Budget Report) as follows:-

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27								
Prudential Indicator	Actual	Forecast Outturn											
Estim	ate of Capita	al Expenditur	e (£'000s)										
Actual/actimates of capital	74.460	02 002	152.040	00.600	F7 C40								
Actual/estimates of capital expenditure	74,160	83,892	152,949	90,698	57,640								
Net Increase in Council Tax (band D per annum) Figures in £'s (not £'000's)													
The implied estimate of incremental impact of the new capital investment decisions on the Council Tax			£1.07	£2.18	£2.11								
Cumulative totals:			£1.07	£3.25	£5.36								
Capital F	inancing as	% of Net Rev	enue Stream										
Actual/estimates of the ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream			15.18%	16.80%	18.39%								
Memo: estimates of the ratio of financing cost to gross revenue stream			4.82%	5.54%	6.16%								
	Borrowin	ng Limits (£m))										
Operational boundary – borrowing			£413m	£447m	£472m								
Operational boundary – other long-term liabilities			£9m	£9m	£9m								
Operational boundary – total			£422m	£456m	£481m								
Authorised limit – borrowing			£442m	£475m	£499m								
Authorised limit – other long-term liabilities			£9m	£9m	£9m								
Authorised limit – total			£451m	£484m	£508m								
Capital Finan	cing Require	ement (£'000s) (as at 31 M	arch)	1								

Actual/estimate of capital financing	341,039	376,543	441,682	474,682	499,017
requirement					

- 1. This is an indicator of affordability that shows the implied impact of capital investment decisions on Council Tax levels. The incremental impact is the difference between the total revenue budget requirement of the current approved capital programme and the revenue budget requirement arising from the proposed capital programme.
- 2. The figures show borrowing limits but it is important to note that the Council is utilising cash flow efficiency wherever possible.

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Capital Flogramme by Fortiono - 2024/2023												Aillieks
Capital Scheme	Forecast Outturn 2023/24	Actual / Forecast Spend all years to 2022/23	Total Budget 2023/2024	Rephasing from 23/24 into FY	New Budget Request 2024/25	Total Budget 2024/2025	Total Budget 2025/2026	Total Budget 2026/2027	Total Budget 2027/28	Total Budget 2028/29	Total Cost 5 Years	Overall Project Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Full Approval												
Resources												
Commercial Estate Refurbishment Programme	2,110	2,110	8,494	6,354	-1,062	5,292	0	0	0	0	5,292	7,402
Flexible Use of Capital Receipts (Transformation)	1,249	1,249	3,249	2,000	0	2,000	0	0	0	0	2,000	3,249
Orange Grove	295	556	639	344	540	884	0	0	0	0	884	1,440
Preparing for the Future - New Technology	484	3,535	484	0	0	450	0	0	0	0	450	3,985
Property Company Investment - Council (Loan): Developments	1,600	22,649	5,200	3,600	0	10,552	0	0	0	0	10,552	33,200
Subtotal Full Approval - Resources	5,738	30,099	18,066	12,298	-522	19,177	0	0	0	0	19,177	49,276
Provisional Approval												
Resources												
Carrswood Day Centre	0	0	700	700	-700	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Commercial Asset Re-Investment	0	0	0	0	5,000	5,000	2,000	2,000	3,000	3,000	15,000	15,000
Commercial Estate Improvement and Regeneration Fund	0	0	24,145	24,145	-24,145	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Commercial Estate Planned Maintenance Programme	0	0	0	0	500	500	500	500	500	500	2,500	2,500
Commercial Estate Refurbishment Programme	0	0	226	226	1,000	1,726	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	7,726	7,726
IT Asset Refresh	0	0	0	0	0	407	500	500	500	500	2,407	2,407
IT Improvements at Children's Centres	0	0	30	30	-30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Project Inception Fund	0	0	310	260	0	260	0	0	0	0	260	260
Property Disposals Programme - Minor	0	0	900	900	0	900	0	0	0	0	900	900
Revenues & Benefits System: end of life replacement	0	0	100	100	0	100	0	0	0	0	100	100
Subtotal Provisional Approval - Resources	0	0	26,411	26,361	-18,375	8,893	4,500	4,500	5,500	5,500	28,893	28,893

Capital Scheme	Forecast Outturn 2023/24	Actual / Forecast Spend all years to 2022/23	Total Budget 2023/2024	Rephasing from 23/24 into FY	New Budget Request 2024/25	Total Budget 2024/2025	Total Budget 2025/2026	Total Budget 2026/2027	Total Budget 2027/28	Total Budget 2028/29	Total Cost 5 Years	Overall Project Tota
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Full Approval												
Economic & Cultural Sustainable Development												
Bath City Centre Renewal Programme	1,031	1,495	1,049	18	0	325	136	0	0	0	461	1,955
Bath Quays North	785	9,587	15,785	15,000	0	1,000	1,500	8,000	15,846	7,000	33,346	42,933
BWR Phase 2	3,376	23,677	6,633	3,257	0	3,257	0	0	0	0	3,257	26,934
Carrswood Day Centre Roof	44	50	44	0	550	550	0	0	0	0	550	600
Corporate Estate Planned Maintenance	2,630	15,398	5,097	2,467	2,700	5,467	300	0	0	0	5,767	21,165
Corporate Property Acquisition	208	8,108	208	0	0	40	0	0	0	0	40	8,148
Digital B&NES	0	1,433	200	200	0	200	0	0	0	0	200	1,633
Equality Act Works	31	403	80	49	0	49	0	0	0	0	49	452
Grand Parade & Under croft	0	111	117	117	0	0	117	0	0	0	117	228
Healthcare Projects to Increase Clinical Capacity	0	0	0	0	250	250	0	0	0	0	250	250
Heritage Collections Centre	110	221	459	349	0	349	0	0	0	0	349	570
Heritage Services Retail System	0	230	100	100	0	100	0	0	0	0	100	330
High Street Recovery	0	0	0	0	1,239	1,239	0	0	0	0	1,239	1,239
Keynsham High Street Renewal Programme	420	4,207	420	0	30	30	0	0	0	0	30	4,237
arkhall Sports Club Playing Field Surface	0	0	0	0	100	100	0	0	0	0	100	100
ocal Centres Renewal Programme	44	78	44	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	79
Norton Radstock Ecological Improvements	0	2,718	51	51	0	51	0	0	0	0	51	2,769
Midsomer Norton High Street Renewal Programme	723	1,712	1,466	743	0	1,015	15	30	0	0	1,060	2,772
Milsom Quarter Masterplan Delivery	262	262	785	523	0	697	0	0	0	0	697	959
Radstock Regeneration	240	240	340	100	200	425	0	0	0	0	425	665
/ork Street Vaults Phase 2	16	1,115	16	0	0	32	0	0	0	0	32	1,146
Subtotal Full Approval - Economic & Cultural Sustainable Development	9,922	71,045	32,895	22,973	5,070	15,175	2,068	8,030	15,846	7,000	48,119	119,164
Provisional Approval												
Economic & Cultural Sustainable Development												
Bath Quays - Weston Island	0	0	100	100	-100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bath Quays Delivery	0	0	9,127	9,127	0	9,127	0	0	0	0	9,127	9,127
Bath Quays North	0	0	3,000	3,000	0	0	0	0	3,000	0	3,000	3,000
Corporate Estate Planned Maintenance	0	0	0	0	-2,700	0	2,700	3,000	3,000	3,000	11,700	11,700
Fashion Museum Renovation	0	0	0	0	800	800	5,000	5,000	5,500	1,200	17,500	17,500
Heritage Collections Centre	0	0	750	750	0	0	750	0	0	0	750	750
Heritage Infrastructure Development	0	0	379	379	0	729	350	350	350	350	2,129	2,129
Refurb of Roman Baths Shop	0	0	100	100	0	100	0	0	0	0	100	100
Somer Valley Enterprise Zone - Infrastructure	0	0	7,710	7,399	0	553	8,652	5,688	755	0	15,648	15,648
		0	21,166	20,855	-2,000	11,309	17,452	14,038	12,605	4,550	59,954	59,954

Capital Programme by Portfolio - 2024/2025												Annex5
Capital Scheme	Forecast Outturn 2023/24	Actual / Forecast Spend all years to 2022/23	Total Budget 2023/2024	Rephasing from 23/24 into FY	New Budget Request 2024/25	Total Budget 2024/2025	Total Budget 2025/2026	Total Budget 2026/2027	Total Budget 2027/28	Total Budget 2028/29	Total Cost 5 Years	Overall Project Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Provisional Approval												
Leader												
Bath Area Forum - CIL Funded Schemes	0	0	469	206	0	206	0	0	0	0	206	206
Subtotal Provisional Approval - Leader	0	0	469	206	0	206	0	0	0	0	206	206
Full Approval												
Climate Emergency & Sustainable Travel												
Active Travel Prescribing Project	95	95	145	50	0	50	0	0	0	0	50	145
Bath River Line	170	189	1,438	1,268	0	1,268	0	0	0	0	1,268	1,457
Bathscape	18	189	194	176	0	276	16	0	0	0	292	481
Renewable energy in B&NES	67	133	67	0	0	67	0	0	0	0	67	200
Somer Valley Rediscovered	43	43	199	156	0	201	192	0	0	0	393	436
Waterspace Connected	0	720	87	87	0	87	40	32	8	0	167	887
Subtotal Full Approval - Climate Emergency & Sustainable Travel	393	1,369	2,129	1,737	0	1,948	247	32	8	0	2,235	3,605
Provisional Approval												
Climate Emergency & Sustainable Travel												
Bath River Line	0	0	3,685	3,685	0	95	3,685	0	0	0	3,780	3,780
Better Mooring Project	0	0	250	250	0	300	50	50	0	0	400	400
CIL - Green Infrastructure / Recreation	0	0	325	220	20	240	0	0	0	0	240	240
Connections and Carrswood Day Centres Heating Upgrades	0	0	0	0	696	696	0	0	0	0	696	696
CRSTS Cycling and Walking - Bath Quays Links	0	0	1,841	1,841	0	1,187	637	0	0	0	1,824	1,824
CRSTS Cycling and Walking - Scholars Way	0	0	2,603	2,603	-633	2,000	0	0	0	0	2,000	2,000
CRSTS - Midsomer Norton & Westfield, Walking, Wheeling & Cycling Links	0	0	0	0	1,250	1,250	0	0	0	0	1,250	1,250
Entry Hill Ecology Centre	0	0	0	0	350	350	0	0	0	0	350	350
Renewable Energy Development Fund	0	0	812	812	0	1,000	812	500	500	500	3,312	3,312
Renewable energy in B&NES	0	0	112	112	0	200	0	0	0	0	200	200
Tree Planting/Doubling Woodland Cover	0	0	0	0	50	50	50	50	50	50	250	250
Waterspace Connected	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,325	1,860	465	0	4,650	4,650
Subtotal Provisional Approval - Climate Emergency & Sustainable Travel	0	0	9,628	9,523	1,734	7,368	7,559	2,460	1,015	550	18,953	18,953

Capital Programme by Portiono - 2024/2025												Annexo
Capital Scheme	Forecast Outturn 2023/24	Actual / Forecast Spend all years to 2022/23	Total Budget 2023/2024	Rephasing from 23/24 into FY	New Budget Request 2024/25	Total Budget 2024/2025	Total Budget 2025/2026	Total Budget 2026/2027	Total Budget 2027/28	Total Budget 2028/29	Total Cost 5 Years	Overall Project Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Full Approval												
Built Environment & Sustainable Development												
Affordable Housing	398	4,700	801	403	-306	97	0	0	0	0	97	4,797
Housing Delivery Vehicle/ Schemes (Capital Disposals ADL)	120	2,681	579	459	0	459	0	0	0	0	459	3,140
Social Rent Programme	1,966	4,595	2,878	912	0	3,446	4,318	0	0	0	7,764	12,358
Subtotal Full Approval - Built Environment & Sustainable Development	2,484	11,976	4,259	1,775	-306	4,002	4,318	0	0	0	8,320	20,296
Provisional Approval												
Built Environment & Sustainable Development												
Affordable Housing	0	0	2,768	2,568	1,148	4,359	3,978	605	382	0	9,324	9,324
Council House Building Programme	0	0	0	0	5,000	5,000	10,000	0	0	0	15,000	15,000
Supported Housing Scheme	0	0	0	0	5,000	5,000	7,500	7,500	0	0	20,000	20,000
Subtotal Provisional Approval - Built Environment & Sustainable Development	0	0	2,768	2,568	11,148	14,359	21,478	8,105	382	0	44,324	44,324
Full Approval												
Adult Services												
Community Resource Centre Equipment Replacement	25	25	105	80	50	180	0	0	0	0	180	205
Disabled Facilities Grant	2,110	2,110	2,288	178	0	1,620	1,442	1,442	1,442	1,442	7,387	9,497
Subtotal Full Approval - Adult Services	2,135	2,135	2,393	258	50	1,800	1,442	1,442	1,442	1,442	7,567	9,702
Provisional Approval												
Adult Services												
Community Resource Centre Equipment Replacement	0	0	0	0	-50	0	50	50	50	50	200	200
Community Resource Centres - Improvements	0	0	1,321	1,321	0	2,202	0	0	0	0	2,202	2,202
Subtotal Provisional Approval - Adult Services	0	0	1,321	1,321	-50	2,202	50	50	50	50	2,402	2,402

Capital Programme by Portfolio - 2024/2025

Capital Programme by Portfolio - 2024/2025												Annex5
Capital Scheme	Forecast Outturn 2023/24	Actual / Forecast Spend all years to 2022/23	Total Budget 2023/2024	Rephasing from 23/24 into FY	New Budget Request 2024/25	Total Budget 2024/2025	Total Budget 2025/2026	Total Budget 2026/2027	Total Budget 2027/28	Total Budget 2028/29	Total Cost 5 Years	Overall Project Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Full Approval												
Children's Services												
Basic Needs - School Improvement / Expansion	1,430	1,430	5,986	4,556	0	3,296	1,456	0	0	0	4,752	6,182
Schools Capital Maintenance Schemes	1,016	1,016	1,516	500	0	500	0	0	0	0	500	1,516
SEND (Special Education Needs & Disability) Capital Programme	1,271	1,271	1,521	250	0	2,191	315	0	0	0	2,506	3,776
Special Education Needs & Disability (SEND) - Residential at Bath College	225	225	1,025	800	0	2,300	1,500	0	0	0	3,800	4,025
Subtotal Full Approval - Children's Services	3,942	3,942	10,048	6,106	0	8,287	3,271	0	0	0	11,558	15,499
Provisional Approval												
Children's Services												
Basic Needs - School Improvement / Expansion	0	0	9,983	9,983	0	9,204	8,406	0	0	0	17,610	17,610
Schools Capital Maintenance Schemes	0	0	1,859	1,859	179	1,179	500	359	0	0	2,038	2,038
Schools CIL	0	0	492	492	0	492	0	0	0	0	492	492
Small Residential Unit	0	0	0	0	4,000	4,000	0	0	0	0	4,000	4,000
Special Education Needs & Disability (SEND) Education Provision	0	0	4,493	4,393	0	2,925	1,468	0	0	0	4,393	4,393
Subtotal Provisional Approval - Children's Services	0	0	16,827	16,727	4,179	17,800	10,374	359	0	0	28,533	28,533

Capital Scheme	Forecast Outturn 2023/24	Actual / Forecast Spend all years to 2022/23	Total Budget 2023/2024	Rephasing from 23/24 into FY	New Budget Request 2024/25	Total Budget 2024/2025	Total Budget 2025/2026	Total Budget 2026/2027	Total Budget 2027/28	Total Budget 2028/29	Total Cost 5 Years	Overall Project Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Full Approval												
Neighbourhood Services												
Bath Christmas Market	20	54	20	0	0	20	20	20	20	20	100	154
Keynsham Memorial Park	60	88	236	176	0	176	0	0	0	0	176	264
Neighbourhood Services Vehicles	2,385	11,340	3,710	1,325	0	1,325	0	0	0	0	1,325	12,665
Parks S106 Projects	239	1,027	788	549	0	777	206	0	0	0	983	2,010
Pixash Site Redevelopment	21,202	39,506	21,202	0	0	2,300	0	0	0	0	2,300	41,806
Play Area Refurbishment / Equipment	454	1,750	454	0	0	120	0	0	0	0	120	1,870
Waste Depot Relocation	170	7,333	260	90	0	90	0	0	0	0	90	7,423
Waste Infrastructure Modernisation	446	553	733	287	0	287	0	0	0	0	287	840
Waste Container Replacements	26	8,503	31	5	0	36	31	0	0	0	67	8,570
Waste Welfare Facilities	20	148	55	35	0	35	0	0	0	0	35	183
Subtotal Full Approval - Neighbourhood Services	25,022	70,301	27,490	2,468	0	5,167	257	20	20	20	5,484	75,785
Provisional Approval												
Neighbourhood Services												
Air Quality Management Area and AQ Monitors	0	0	232	163	0	163	0	0	0	0	163	163
CCTV Camera Replacement	0	0	56	56	100	100	206	50	0	0	356	356
CIL - Social (Inc Recreation & Leisure	0	0	325	192	-100	92	0	0	0	0	92	92
Electric Vehicle Feasibility Plan	0	0	50	50	0	50	0	0	0	0	50	50
Entry Hill Facilities	0	0	440	440	-385	55	0	0	0	0	55	55
Green Vehicle Replacement	0	0	0	0	0	242	136	0	0	0	378	378
Haycombe Cremator	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,500	0	1,500	1,500
Haycombe Crematorium	0	0	15	15	0	15	0	0	0	0	15	15
Leisure - Commercialisation of Parks	0	0	130	50	0	50	0	0	0	0	50	50
Libraries Open Access	0	0	220	220	-220	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Litter Bin Replacement Programme	0	0	0	0	20	20	20	20	20	20	100	100
Neighbourhood Services Vehicles	0	0	0	0	-2,990	954	4,162	893	6,724	964	13,697	13,697
Odd Down Sports Ground and Other Leisure Feasibility	0	0	600	600	0	600	0	0	0	0	600	600
Parks Equipment Replacement Programme	0	0	146	146	0	167	21	21	21	21	251	251
Parks Foundations	0	0	521	521	-635	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parks S106 Projects	0	0	503	503	335	1,197	381	587	588	0	2,753	2,753
Play Area Refurbishment / Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	378	350	350	350	350	1,778	1,778
Property Improvement – Bath Library	0	0	211	211	0	211	0	0	0	0	211	211
Security Surveillance Hub Plan	0	0	50	50	0	0	50	0	0	0	50	50
Tree Planting	0	0	75	50	88	137	45	53	47	47	330	330
Waste Infrastructure Modernisation	0	0	400	400	0	3,443	2,284	7,633	0	0	13,360	13,360
						-,		,				
Subtotal Provisional Approval - Neighbourhood Services	0	0	3,974	3,667	-3,787	7,875	7,655	9,607	9,250	1,402	35,789	35,789

Capital Scheme	Forecast Outturn 2023/24	Actual / Forecast Spend all years to 2022/23	Total Budget 2023/2024	Rephasing from 23/24 into FY	New Budget Request 2024/25	Total Budget 2024/2025	Total Budget 2025/2026	Total Budget 2026/2027	Total Budget 2027/28	Total Budget 2028/29	Total Cost 5 Years	Overall Project Tota
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Full Approval												
Highways												
City Centre Security - Highways Scheme	3,511	5,880	5,064	1,553	0	1,553	0	0	0	0	1,553	7,433
Clean Air Zone	1,572	15,066	1,679	107	0	107	0	0	0	0	107	15,173
Highways Maintenance Block	8,569	8,569	9,118	550	8,958	9,508	0	0	0	0	9,508	18,076
CRSTS Liveable Neighbourhoods	806	2,531	2,040	1,234	0	1,234	0	0	0	0	1,234	3,765
London Road Modification	0	149	51	51	0	51	0	0	0	0	51	200
CRSTS Manvers Street Remediation	446	451	662	216	0	216	0	0	0	0	216	667
Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) Bid -GULW	27	1,435	386	360	0	360	0	0	0	0	360	1,795
Local Highways Improvement	1,665	1,665	2,107	442	2,887	3,329	0	0	0	0	3,329	4,994
Subtotal Full Approval - Highways	16,595	35,746	21,107	4,512	11,845	16,357	0	0	0	0	16,357	52,103
Provisional Approval												
Highways												
ANPR Enforcement Camera Replacement	0	0	190	190	0	190	0	0	0	0	190	190
CAZ - Clean Air Zone	0	0	250	250	0	250	0	0	0	0	250	250
Sustainable Transport Initiatives CRSTS	0	0	970	721	1,030	1,751	0	0	0	0	1,751	1,751
Highways Maintenance Block - Provisional	0	0	0	0	-7,834	0	7,834	7,834	7,834	7,834	31,336	31,336
Lansdown P&R Extension	0	0	240	240	0	240	0	0	0	0	240	240
CRSTS Liveable Neighbourhoods	0	0	0	0	3,700	3,700	900	0	0	0	4,600	4,600
CRSTS Manvers Street Remediation	0	0	1,020	1,020	0	4,333	0	0	0	0	4,333	4,333
P&R Security	0	0	110	110	0	110	0	0	0	0	110	110
Park & Ride Site Improvements	0	0	400	400	0	400	0	0	0	0	400	400
Parking Body Worn Video Cameras for Civil Enforcement Officers	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	0	40	70	70
Parking Enforcement Hand Held Computer Terminal Replacement	0	0	50	50	0	50	50	0	0	50	150	150
Parking Radio System Replacement	0	0	45	0	0	0	50	0	0	35	85	85
Local Highways Improvement	0	0	1,000	1,000	-2,163	0	1,163	1,163	1,163	1,163	4,652	4,652
Subtotal Provisional Approval - Highways	0	0	4,275	3,981	-5,267	11,024	10,027	8,997	8,997	9,122	48,167	48,167
TOTAL CAPITAL SCHEME BUDGET	66,231	226,613	205,226	137,335	3,717	152,949	90,698	57,640	55,114	29,636	386,037	612,651

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NEW SCHEMES & UPDATES WITHIN THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME

This annex provides description to changes shown as "New Budget Requests" within the Capital programme Annex 5, which also illustrates the delivery of schemes included from previous budget-setting, with due consideration to re-phasing. It is noted that capital proposals funded from Community Infrastructure Levy are described in Annex 5(v) and not duplicated here.

1. RESOURCES

1.1 **Orange Grove** for **Full Approval** of £540k for 2024/25 to be funded by Corporate Supported Borrowing.

To increase the budget for the cost of repairing 1-2 Orange Grove to complete stabilisation of the building and prevent further deterioration of this listed structure which is a prominent historic building in the centre of Bath.

1.2 **IT Asset Refresh** for **Provisional Approval** of £500k for 2028/29 to be funded by Corporate Supported Borrowing.

To extend the programme for a fifth year. For purchase of new laptops, meeting room equipment, IT infrastructure and other technology to facilitate the provision of modern services by the Council.

- 1.3 To remove the carry forward budget for **Commercial Estate Improvement and Regeneration Fund Provisional Approval** of £24.145m funded by Service Supported Borrowing and re-assign to three more focused schemes outlined below.
- 1.4 Commercial Asset Re-investment for Provisional Approval of £5m for 2024/25, £2m in 2025/26, £2m in 2026/27, £3m in 2027/28 and £3m in 2028/29 to be funded by Service Supported Borrowing.

To establish funding for re-investment in assets to ensure their lettings are retained. For prudent asset management, a cash flow needs to be maintained to ensure timely re-investment in significant sites.

1.5 Commercial Estate Planned Maintenance Programme for Provisional Approval of £500k p.a. from 2024/25 to 2028/29 to be funded by Service Supported Borrowing.

To fund a prioritised programme of repairs and to commercial properties based on condition surveys, to ensure health and safety and reduce costs of reactive repairs.

The approved budget amounts for properties may be supplemented from tenant contributions, dilapidations payments and Insurance income as the required.

1.6 Commercial Estate Refurbishment for Provisional Approval of £1m p.a. from 2024/25 to 2028/29 to be funded by Service Supported Borrowing and £500k for 2028/29 to be funded by Corporate Supported Borrowing.

To fund the repairs and improvements necessary to prepare vacated commercial properties for letting to new tenants and to extend the landlord repair programme to five years.

1.7 Scheme Adjustments of Previous Schemes following review:

- Commercial Estate Refurbishment Approved Budget of £1.062m funded by Service Supported Borrowing. To move this existing approved budget for Keynsham Riverside from this programme for delivery in the High Street Recovery programme as detailed in section 2.3 below.
- IT Improvements at Children's Centres Keynsham, St Martins, Radstock and Bath – Provisional Budget of £30k funded by Corporate Supported Borrowing. Following a scheme review this historic budget is not needed and is being removed.

2. ECONOMIC & CULTURAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Corporate Estate Planned Maintenance Programme for Full Approval of £2.7m for 2024/25 and £300k for 2025/26 and Provisional Approval of £3m for 2028/29 funded by Corporate Supported Borrowing.

Capital planned maintenance works will be undertaken on the Council's Corporate Estate. A detailed plan of priority works is shown in Annex 5 (iv). Any amendments for 2024/25 will be confirmed by the Director for Regeneration & Housing in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources.

2.2 **Carrswood Day Centre Roof** for **Full Approval** of £550k in 2024/25 to be funded from Corporate Supported Borrowing of which £325k to be approved from the provisional budget for the project and £225k from new corporate borrowing. The remaining provisional budget of £375k for the project and funded from revenue contribution to be removed.

To deliver a replacement roof covering for Carrswood Day Centre which is required due to problems with corrosion of the existing roof. This was provisional scheme in the Resources Portfolio but has been re-aligned alongside Corporate Estate reporting.

2.3 **High Street Recovery** for **Full Approval** of £1.239m for 2024/25 to be funded by WECA grant of £740k and Service Supported Borrowing of £499k.

To redevelop two long-term vacant units in Keynsham Temple Street/Riverside, to bring these Council owned units back into productive use and to support empty units in the area. This reflects the change in reporting from within Commercial Estate Refurbishment as noted in section 1.7 above and award of Love our Highstreet grant funding to support the revised programme of work.

2.4 Fashion Museum Renovation for Provisional Approval of £800k in 2024/25 to be funded by Service Supported Borrowing, and £16.7m in future years. Total funding of £17.5m is envisaged to be £10m service supported borrowing funded from net admissions Income, £3m Corporate Supported Borrowing representing Council Subsidy and a fund-raising target of £4.5m, which will including future grant applications.

Investment in and conversion of the grade 2 listed, Old Post Office Building in Bath is planned to provide a future Fashion Museum which will form part of the council's Milsom Quarter Masterplan an ambitious vision to transform the Milsom Quarter area of Bath into a fashion destination. The world-class fashion collection will act as a cultural attractor to drive footfall and extend dwell-time in Milsom Quarter, increasing vitality and underpinning investment. It is a strong fundraising proposition, and it should be possible to raise funds to support this project, through a mix of traditional grant funders, individual philanthropy, and corporate sponsorship/partnership to support delivery of this new visitor attraction.

Purchase of the building was made in September 2022 for using WECA grant, which we need to repay £7.9m from capital receipts to be realised.

The current totals present a base-case which will be reviewed as the project develops.

2.5 **Heritage Infrastructure Development** for **Provisional Approval** of £350k for 2028/29 to be funded by Service Supported Borrowing.

A headroom borrowing provision to reflect forthcoming proposals in the Heritage Services Business Plan and will be paid for from additional incomes generated.

2.6. Scheme Adjustment of Previous Schemes following review:

• Bath Quays - Weston Island - Provisional Budget £100k funded by Corporate Borrowing. Funding for a future scheme. To be removed and planned to be re-instated as part of a future budget for appropriate amount in the financial years when it is required.

3. CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

3.1. CRSTS Cycling and Walking Scholars Way restated value of £2.0m for Provisional Approval, all funded by revenue held in the CAZ reinvestment reserve. This follows confirmation that no WECA grant is currently available for scheme delivery.

Scholars Way is a proposed route comprising of an eastern and western section, linking the University of Bath, Combe Down & St Martins School, via Mulberry Park and a potential extension to Odd Down. A programme to deliver the western section is proposed within this £2m and includes road links with pedestrian and cycle crossings, new parallel crossings, new toucan crossings for pedestrian and cycles and new cycleways and shared footpaths. Prioritised delivery of two crossings in the Eastern section is proposed as part of Local Highways Improvement programme in 2024/25.

3.2. CRSTS Cycling and Walking - Bath Quays Links for Provisional Approval of Total £1.824m, £1.187m in 2024/25, now confirmed as funded by WECA grant.

Bath Quays Links consists of the following proposed scheme elements currently under development:

- A367 Green Park Road (Midland Bridge Road to new pedestrian/cycle bridge).
- Segregated bi-directional cycle lane (subject to Bath City Centre project Charles St cycle lane design to be confirmed).
- Redesign of bus stops to accommodate cycle infrastructure.
- New zebra/parallel crossing north of new pedestrian/cycle bridge and relocation of an existing zebra crossing.
- A36 Lower Bristol Road (Westmoreland Road to Oak Street) segregated cycle lanes in both directions.
- Redesign of bus stops to accommodate cycle infrastructure.
- Removal of Oak St eastbound bus stop to provide additional cycle segregation.
- New signalised toucan crossing east of Westmoreland Road/Riverside Road.
- Upgrade developer funded puffin crossing to a toucan for pedestrians and cycles.

3.3. CRSTS Midsomer Norton and Westfield Walking, Wheeling and Cycling Links for Provisional Approval of £1.25m, funded by WECA CRSTS grant and our local B&NES match contribution.

The project aims to provide the following which are derived from routes set out in the West of England region Local Cycling Walking and Investment Plan (LCWIP):

- Improved cycle links between residential areas in both Midsomer Norton and Westfield to the existing Norton-Radstock greenway with a new shared use path for walking, wheeling and cycling route on First Avenue, Second Avenue, Excelsior Terrace, the B3355 and Charlton Road.
- New routes between Chaucer Road and Eagle Drive, Chaucer Road and Kingsley Road, Hazel Terrace and Woodpecker Avenue, plus Longfellow Road and Kingsley Road.
- Improving narrow junction on side roads along the route to assist crossing movements.
- New pedestrian crossings on raised tables, where the road level is raised to the same height as the pavement.
- Priority to cycles on Charlton Road in order to reduce vehicle speeds.
- A section of shared use path between a new housing development in Silver Street to Charlton Road (supported by a S106 contribution).
- 3.4 Renewable Energy Development Fund for Provisional Approval of £500k in in 2028/29 funded by Service Supported Borrowing.

To extend the programme to five years, each proposal will be subject to business case.

3.5. Connections and Carrswood Day Centres Heating Upgrades for Provisional Approval of £696k in 2024/25, to be funded by Government Grant of £401k and Service Supported Borrowing of £295k.

Scheme for the retrofit of air source heat pumps to replace the existing gas heating and reduce carbon emissions. A bid was made for an additional £401k of Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme funding in November 2023, that will utilise the energy to be generated by new solar PV arrays to be fitted at the same time. New LED lighting will also result in energy savings. Installation is programmed for completion by February 2025 to include an overhaul of the plant room.

£180k contribution from Corporate Supported Borrowing will also transfer from the Corporate Estate Planned Maintenance Programme on Full Approval.

3.6 Entry Hill Ecology Centre for Provisional Approval of £250k in 2024/25 funded by Government Grant

A project is at early stages for development of Entry Hill to create an innovative and economically sustainable scheme that will showcase ecological best practice, providing for learning and physical activity to deliver health and nature benefits. It will benefit wider green infrastructure, ecological habitat network and species recovery. The grant funding is supplemented by £100k CIL funding as set out in Annex 5 (v).

4. BUILT ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

4.1. **Affordable Housing** for **Provisional Approval** of £1.148m for 2024/25 onwards and to reduce **Fully Approved** budget by £306k funded by Capital Receipts.

The programme is amended to reflect additional Capital Receipts arising from former Council House sales of £841k and to return £306k from completed schemes from fully approved budget to provisional budget ready to use for new proposals.

4.2. **Supported Housing** for **Provisional Approval** of £5m for 2024/25, £7.5m for 2025/26 and £7.5m for 2026/27 to be funded by Service Supported Borrowing.

To provide future provision for supported housing/temporary accommodation (TA), at the same time aiming to reduce costs of out of area provision. Refurbishment is planned for Milward House and several ex-Curo flats are being progressed to refurbish for TA use.

The Council continues to develop the Adult Supported Living provision at Englishcombe Lane, currently proceeding with detailed design with a proposal for sixteen units of accommodation for residents with learning difficulties and/or autism.

4.3. **Council House Building Programme** for **Provisional Approval** of £5m for 2024/25 and £10m 2025/26 to be funded by £2.5m Corporate Supported Borrowing, £6.25m Service Supported Borrowing and £6.25m Grant Funding.

A new provisional budget to reflect the 2024/25 commitments to develop the general needs affordable homes over future years to include Council owned land led sites at Midland Road alongside other surplus assets. The full programme description is provided in 9.4.1.

5. ADULT SERVICES

5.1. Community Resource Centre Equipment Programme for Full Approval of £50k for 2024/25 and Provisional Approval of £50k for 2028/29 to be funded by Corporate Supported Borrowing.

This is a programme for improvements to the equipment and furniture at the Community Resource Centres and for Extra Care Housing resulting from their return to Council in-house operation.

5.2. **Disabled Facilities Grants** for **Full Approval** of £1.442m for 2028/29 to be funded by Government Grant.

This extends the existing programme to five years. This is a mandatory scheme providing essential disabled adaptions to the homes of eligible residents. This has included Minor Adaptions under the Care and Support (Preventing Needs for Care and Support) Regulations 2014 to assist with nursing at home and daily living. Cost for home repairs or other capital work for people returning home from hospital also been included.

6. CHILDREN'S SERVICES

6.1. **Basic Needs Programme** total held in Provisional Approval is £9.204m in 2024/25 & £8.406m in 2025/26, 2025/26 reflecting new grant allocations. We are also holding a provisional **Schools CIL** budget of £492k in 2024/25 from previous allocation.

The Council receives Basic Need (BN) grant funding from the Department for Education (DfE). The funding is allocated to support the provision of sufficient school places where additional need has been identified as part of the annual DfE School Capacity (SCAP) return.

The Council's School Organisation Plan (SOP) will highlight any areas of basic need where additional school places may be required. Currently primary school provision is expected to be sufficient up to the end of the 2027/28 academic year and secondary provision up to the end of the 2029/30 academic year.

Annual reviews of the pupil projections and updates to the local housing plans, may identify new areas of increasing pupil numbers during the term of the SOP.

Where additional school places are needed in the future, feasibility studies will be required to determine the most suitable and cost-effective way to deliver the additional places. The remaining funding will be used to support expansion schemes at primary and secondary schools or specialist provision locations.

It is noted that BN grant is to meet any potential abnormal costs for the SEND free school that are identified by the DfE set out in para 6.4.

It is proposed that Delegated Authority for approval of individual budgets is given to the Director for Education, subject to consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Communities and Culture.

6.2. **Schools' Capital Maintenance Programme (SCMP),** total held in Provisional Approval is £1.859m to be funded by DfE grant. Funding is profiled, £1m 2024/25, £500k 2025/26 & £359k 2026/27. In additional we received new grant funding in 2023/24 for **Provisional Approval** of £179k profiled to 2024/25. At the time of writing, we are waiting for an announcement of our 2024/25 funding allocation, but it is anticipated to be similar.

The SCMP includes provisional allocations for **Emergency & Minor Works** at £150k each (£300k in total) for **Full Approval** to address ad hoc, unforeseen condition issues as they arise throughout the year. This may include items such as boiler replacement or roof repairs.

The School Condition Surveys are now complete, and a programme of works is currently being assessed to determine future capital spend priorities. Identified projects will be funded from the provisional SCMP budget.

At the time of writing, our condition surveys do not envisage any repair work from historic use of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC).

It is proposed that Delegated Authority for approval of individual budgets is given to the Director for Education, subject to consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Communities and Culture.

- 6.3. **Devolved Schools' Capital** for **Full Approval** an allocation of DfE capital to be allocated directly for spending by schools. We are waiting for an announcement of our 2024/25 funding allocation which we anticipate will be approximately £29k.
- 6.4. **Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) Capital** total held in Provisional Approval of £2.925m in 2024/25 and £1.468m in 2025/26 all funded by High Needs Provision Capital Allocation (HNCPA) grant received.

The number of requests for Educational Health Care Plans (EHCP) has continued to rise, putting pressure on both mainstream and special school provision. To address this, the Authority is developing a future programme to increase local SEND provision.

To deliver additional SEND provision through the opening of resource-based provision attached to mainstream schools at a location or locations to be identified following further discussions with providers.

- The Margaret Coates Centre SEND unit at St Martin's Garden Primary has been supported to provide an interim solution to increase capacity to 29 places for five years, while we look at options to create a permanent solution and the possibility of a secondary pathway.
- Mulberry Park Educate Together Primary a 16 place SEMH resource base currently at feasibility stage.
- Ralph Allen School a 16 place ASD resource base, due to open in September 2025.
- Somervale School a 20 place SEMH resource base, due to open in September 2025.

- St Gregory's Catholic College a 16 place Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) and Hearing Impairment (HI) resource base, due to open in September 2025 once feasibility is established.
- St Mark's School ASD resource base, number of places and opening date to be agreed.

The Authority is also working on plans for a New Alternative Provision SEND school and a SEND Free School for 4–19 age, 120 place special school for children with ASD, Severe Learning Difficulties and/or Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties, via a Free School bid to the DfE. Delivery will be with other Agency partners, but the LA may provide additional funding support. In addition, from the SEND provisional budget, we will develop feasibility studies as needed for full approval.

It is proposed that Delegated Authority for approval of individual budgets is given to the Director for Education, subject to consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Communities and Culture.

Small SEND Residential Unit, for **Provisional Approval** of Safety Value grant funding of £4m, received from DfE in 2023/24 aligned to 2024/25.

The Council successfully bid for an additional sum of £4m HNCPA linked to the Safety Valve Programme and work which includes, as part of the commitment from Bath and North East Somerset, to increase the sufficiency of places for children and young people with an EHCP and reduce the overspend in the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). This additional HNCPA funding is committed to the SEND Small School with Residential Unit.

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

7.1. **Council Fleet Vehicle Replacement** total £13.679m **Provisional Approval** to be funded by Service Supported Borrowing, profiled as £954k 2024/25, £4.162m 2025/26, £893k 2026/27, £6.724m 2027/28 & £964k 2028/29.

Update to programme to reflect anticipated future vehicle replacements.

7.2. Play Area Refurbishment / Equipment for Provisional Approval of £350k for 2028/29 to be funded by Corporate Supported Borrowing.

To extend the programme to five years.

7.3. Parks Equipment Replacement Programme for Provisional Approval of £21k for 2028/29 to be funded by Corporate Supported Borrowing.

To extend the programme to five years.

7.4. **Parks S106 Projects** for **Provisional Approval** of £335k in 2024/25 funded by S106.

The funding to be spent in line with the terms of the S106 agreements on following:

- £295k on Manor Road Woodland Improvements.
- £40k on Deadmill Lane Allotments.
- 7.5. **Tree Replacement** for **Provisional Approval** of £88k in 2024/25, £45k in 2025/26, £53k in 2026/27, £47k in both 2027/28 & 2028/29. These amounts will be funded by £211k Corporate Supported Borrowing and £70k S106.

The funding will be split across three projects:

- Establishment of New Street Trees Funded by corporate supported borrowing, this programme supports a new replacement policy of up to 100 trees per annum rather than simply removing dead trees for safety. Each new tree asset is maintained for 3yr period at which point they should be well established so the programme builds up £28k 2024/25, £36k 2025/26, then £44k annually thereafter.
- Ash Dieback Disease The council need to replace trees that have died due
 to Ash Dieback Disease. There will be a request for grant funding to cover 80%
 of these costs which is not yet confirmed and therefore not included in the
 above figures. This will be supported by 20% in kind match funding from Bath
 and North East Somerset of staff time, plus £14k funded by corporate
 supported borrowing.
- Green Streets The Council are obligated to fulfil tree planting through Section 106 agreements, where trees have been lost due to development. S106 funding has been identified for this purpose and the profile of spend would be: £55k 2024/25, £4k in both 2025/26 & 2026/27 then £3k in both 2027/28 & 2028/29.
- 7.6 **Christmas Market** for **Full Approval** of £20k for 2028/29 to be funded by revenue contribution.

To extend the budget to five years. Works to maintain the condition of chalets, will be reported as capital expenditure and will be funded directly from the expected revenues received.

7.7. **CCTV Camera Replacement** for **Provisional Approval** of £100k in 2024/25, £150k 2025/26 & £50k 2026/27, funded by Corporate Supported Borrowing.

Phases 1 and 2 are currently underway and this funding would enable final Phase 3 of the CCTV replacement programme to be undertaken.

7.8. Litter Bin Replacement Programme for Provisional Approval of £100k, split £20k per year from 2024/25 to 2028/29 funding by Corporate Supported Borrowing

Rather than ad-hoc replacement as funding opportunities arise, we have created provision for annual rolling programme to replace Litter Bins when required. Condition surveys will prioritise bins due for replacement.

7.9. Scheme Adjustment of Previous Schemes following review:

- Parks Foundations Provisional Budget of £521k in 2024/25 and £114k in 2025/26 funded by grant. Grant not forthcoming so this project will no longer be going ahead.
- Entry Hill Facilities Provisional Budget removal of £385k service supported borrowing (SSB). Scheme re-design means there is no longer operator income to repay borrowing. The £55k CIL previously aligned will be redirected to the Odd Down Project for Biodiversity Net Gain.

8. HIGHWAYS

8.1. **Local Highways Improvement (LHI)** (formerly Transport Improvement Programme) for **Full Approval** of £2.887m in 2024/25 to be funded by £1.163m grant and £1.724m Revenue Contribution to Capital (of which, £1m is existing provisional & £724k is new). In addition, **Provisional Approval** for £1.163m for 2028/29 to be funded by Grant to add the 5th year to the programme.

Funding comes from a Section 31 Capital Grant through WECA, provided in the maintenance element of the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement with further supporting investment of £1.7m from the Clean Air Zone Revenue Transport Reinvestment Reserve.

The programme delivers highways improvement works under the general areas of road safety, safer routes to school, pedestrians, congestion, and traffic management schemes.

2024/25 proposals continue to focus on supporting the five objectives identified in the West of England Joint Local Transport Plan:

Reducing carbon emissions

- Supporting economic growth
- Promoting accessibility
- Contributing to better safety, security, and health
- Improving quality of life & a healthy natural environment.

An initial list of schemes, attached at Annex 5 (iii), has been produced following technical assessment and in consultation with Cabinet Member for Transport. Any amendments to the programme will be approved by the Director of Place Management in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways.

8.2. **CRSTS** Liveable Neighbourhoods, for Provisional Approval of 2024/25 £3.7m and 2025/25 £0.9m funded by CRSTS and local contributions (as set out in 9.2.7)

The continued development of the Phase 1 Liveable Neighbourhoods programme will continue to be developed in line with the adopted Council's Liveable Neighbourhoods strategy. Based on the outcome of co-design and public consultation, a prioritisation exercise is now ongoing to confirm the proposed interventions for submission as part of the upcoming Full Business Case to WECA.

8.3. Parking Radio System Replacement for Provisional Approval of £35k service supported borrowing in 2028/29.

The Parking Radio Systems are reviewed on a 3yr basis to evaluate wear and tear. There is £50k in the current provisional budget in 2025/26, this is to add the next 3 yearly tranche to the programme.

8.4. Parking Body Worn Video Cameras for Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) for Provisional Approval of £40k service supported borrowing in 2028/29.

The Parking Body Worn Video Cameras are reviewed on a 3yr basis to evaluate wear and tear. There is £30k in the current provisional budget in 2025/26, this is to add the next 3 yearly tranche to the programme.

8.5. Parking Enforcement Handheld Computer Terminal (HHCT) Replacements for Provisional Approval of £50k service supported borrowing in 2028/29.

The HHCTs are reviewed on a 3yr basis to evaluate wear and tear. There is £50k in the current provisional budget in 2025/26, this is to add the next 3 yearly tranche to the programme.

8.6. **Highways Maintenance Programme** for **Full Approval** of £8.958m in 2024/25 funded by £6.958m Grant (CRSTS Maintenance and DFT Pot Holes) and £2m Corporate Supported Borrowing.

Provisional Approval of £7.834m in 2028/29, funded by £5.834 grant and £2m Corporate Supported Borrowing to extend the programme to five years.

Base funding comes from a Section 31 Capital Grant through the maintenance element of WECA's City Regional Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS). This consolidates all previous Department for Transport (DfT) allocations. It is proposed to supplement this from additional Council allocations.

An Asset Management Plan is being finalised which will enable the rebasing of the investment needed on the maintenance programme. Allocations of £2m per annum, in addition to WECA grant, provide for a programme spending closer to the long-term average replacement spending needed to maintain safe highways conditions.

This programme is a key component in achieving and maintaining our overriding purpose of improving people's lives. Improving the overall condition of the highways network serves to minimise road works with associated traffic disruption and addresses poor & visually unattractive surfaces and end of life assets. Improved street lighting in communities makes people feel safer and happier with where they live. The transport network is crucial in achieving our principle of delivering for residents.

The programme will consist of priority works across all highway asset groups namely carriageways, footways, structures (bridges, retaining walls, embankments & culverts), drainage and electrical infrastructure as identified through on-going inspection, monitoring and evaluation.

A detailed list of schemes is attached at Annex 5 (ii) and has been produced following technical assessment and consultation with Cabinet Members for Transport. Any amendments to the programme will be approved by the Director of Place Management in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Transport.

9. EMERGING CAPITAL SCHEMES

The following schemes are not yet fully developed, and Outline Business Cases have not been produced at this stage, so it is not yet possible to identify an accurate provision for them within the proposed Capital Programme.

These schemes may require significant capital expenditure, some or all of which may be met through external sources or the related service provider. As the specific business cases develop and the capital requirements are more fully understood, these schemes may come forward for Council decision.

The business cases will need to identify suitable capital funding and, if necessary, ongoing revenue funding.

9.1. WECA Funded Schemes General

9.1.1. Somer Valley Enterprise Zone (SVEZ)

Infrastructure to enable site development of a new hub for business and economic development on the north-west edge of Midsomer Norton. Works include land servicing, access and enabling activities, highways network improvements and public transport infrastructure improvements, and walking and cycling connections. Public sector intervention is required to enable the development of the SVEZ, which, at completion, will support approximately 1,300 jobs. More than 70% of Somer Valley residents currently commute out of the area for work (Somer Valley Transport Strategy) and development of the SVEZ aims to address this issue, in part by providing more localised employment.

The Council has identified a number of key workstreams, which include Land Assembly, a Local Development Order (now submitted), delivery of enabling infrastructure and land servicing. Feasibility & development capital funding has been received from WECA. The Outline Business Case is being developed (to include site assembly and infrastructure design) which will identify additional funding requirements in the Full Business Case beyond our current provisional programme.

9.1.2. Milsom Quarter

A vision for the next 20 years to revitalise the area of Bath bounded by George Street to the north, Upper Borough Walls to the south, Queen's Square to the west and the Cattlemarket car park and the river to the east. Focussing upon economic renewal, housing delivery and energy efficiency retrofit, the project will develop the Spatial, Heritage and Delivery Strategy to support future investment. Projects include Walcot Gateway (Cornmarket and Cattle Market), Bath Fashion Museum meanwhile uses

and pre-opening programme support and King Edward's School. Two projects which are progressing well towards delivery are:

- Broad Street Yards This involves the repurposing of a Council owned car park for a variety of commercial working space some at an affordable level.
- Public Realm works This project includes the development of public transport infrastructure including the pedestrianisation of certain roads in the Milsom Quarter area.

9.1.3. Bath Creative Quarter

This project will develop a Creative Maker Quarter for Bath in the Locksbrook and Twerton Area. It will provide a home for the Fashion Museum Collection Centre and through the link with Bath Spa Universities campus at the Herman Miller Building will improve access to education, employment opportunities and cultural programming, skills development and support, particularly for those harder-to-reach groups in adjacent deprived neighbourhoods. It will also support the transition from education to employment for graduates, will encourage the clustering of maker space for local artists to flourish and contribute to the economy and provide the opportunity to share space, resources and knowledge. Dartmouth Avenue/Linear Way sits within the Bath Creative Quarter. The location of Dartmouth Avenue close to neighbourhoods of deprivation in Twerton, Southdown and Whiteway give it potential to act as a base to reach communities. WECA feasibility funding is being used to develop the project and is expected to conclude in summer 2024.

9.1.4. Bath Central Riverside

This project will enhance the economic, environmental and social performance of Bath Central Riverside to the east of Bath city centre along Manvers Street to include Pulteney Bridge and Pulteney Weir. The Central Riverside Spatial Framework envisages two distinct and complementary regeneration areas – the Northern Area focus is around Grand Parade and Parade Gardens and the river frontage to bring forward cultural regeneration and improved public realm; and the Southern Area is running along Manvers Street from the Railway Station gateway which would create a mixed-use quarter including an innovation district and residential development plus enhanced public realm. The project will enhance and utilise existing heritage, cultural and commercial assets, both public and privately owned, and provide new infrastructure and developments.

9.1.5. Green Infrastructure – Bath River Line Central and East

Projects to extend Bath River Line through Bath from Bath Quays to Batheaston. The phases being developed will consider the eastern section from Pulteney Weir to Batheaston and the central section from Bath Quays to Pulteney Weir.

9.1.6. Green Infrastructure – WaterSpace Connected Future Phases

Delivering improvements to the river corridor between Bath and Bristol, this is currently planned to be delivered over five phases, though some of these will be delivered through South Gloucestershire Council and Bristol City Council.

9.1.7 Green Infrastructure - Chew Valley Lake Recreational Trail

The delivery of the southern section would complete the circular multiuse trail around Chew Valley Lake achieving the ambition of enhanced informal recreation, access to nature and biodiversity net gain, centred around the lake. The delivery of the scheme will be project managed by a partnership of the Council and Bristol Water as majority landowners.

9.1.8 North Keynsham

This project will facilitate development of land for housing and employment north of Keynsham. It will facilitate creation of a new sustainable urban neighbourhood with increased access to the river Avon and connecting Keynsham to strategic walking and cycling routes subject to adoption through the new Local Plan.

9.1.9 Bath City Circulation Plan

To deliver on the Council's net-zero commitments, the Circulation Plan will rationalise traffic movements through and around the city of Bath. The Plan will improve the liveability of the city for residents and visitors and preserve the unique natural and built environment of the city's World Heritage Site setting. Priority routes for pedestrians, cyclists, and public transport will be identified, as well as an appropriate hierarchy of routes to carry the city's private vehicle and freight traffic. The funding for the initial piece of work of (£55k) was from the WECA Capacity Building Fund. We had also provisionally identified a smaller amount (£30k) for a piece of additional follow-on work, but this is not yet committed to any study. However, any future phases of study (or any implementation), are currently unfunded and a funding source needs to be identified.

9.1.10 Bath City Centre Renewal Programme

Schemes are proposed for regeneration of Bath. At Kingsmead Square following the success of the access restriction and its popularity with businesses we plan to investigate a capital investment for a permanent bollard system or similar proposal to support pedestrianisation and to reduce ongoing maintenance costs currently associated with temporary gates and associated staffing. Improvements to public realm at Cheap Street/Westgate Street are proposed where the Pattern Book scheme is not yet delivered and detailed design is needed.

9.1.11 Bicycle Hangers

To continue to extend the provision of lockable and secure storage across the region, for residents who don't have access to private cycle parking.

9.1.12 Bath Quays North

The Bath Quays Programme is delivering a new mixed use business district for the city. Bath Quays North is located at the Avon Street Car Park site, and alongside the commercial space will include associated public realm to complement the new office and co-working space at Bath Quays South. The scheme is being developed in two phases. WECA funded Enabling activities, including the partial demolition of Avon Street MSCP have already been delivered. Delivery options are being developed to bring forward the phased scheme and an updated business case. A reserved matters application for plots 6 and 7 for residential development is being progressed as phase 1, whilst viability issues are resolved to allow development of the wider scheme.

9.1.13 Midsomer Norton High Street Renewal

Initial funding is secured to masterplan the Old Brewery Quarter at Midsomer Norton Town Centre in preparation for project development and delivery from 2024/25.

9.1.14 Radstock Regeneration

A Single Member Decision in March 2023 agreed in principle to B&NES acquisition of the Brunel Shed, subject to due diligence. This is not currently being pursued as early work confirmed several legal and planning issues with the site.

9.1.15 Keynsham High Street Renewal

Temple St Phase 2C-D public realm scheme implementation. The scheme has full technical approval and detailed design pack but needs further funding to implement these phases – includes new pedestrian crossing and east side footway public realm improvements adjoining Council owned units.

9.1.16 FWD (formerly IStart and pronounced 'Forward')

A collaboration between Bath Spa University, University of Bath and Bath College, with Bath & North-East Somerset Council and WECA as strategic partners. FWD is a next generation skills, training, research, and innovation programme. It will help businesses, employees, and learners to develop their expertise and be better prepared for the future. It will deliver a series of flexible short courses that provide the latest skills required for today's workplace, as well as Cluster Foundry Business Acceleration Hubs to build upon existing academic and industrial clusters of excellence in the region. Uniquely FWD will provide a deeply integrated approach to skills and curriculum delivery, business incubation-based innovation and research.

9.1.17 Research and Development Investment in University of Bath and Bath Spa University

To support the growth of two regional universities and translation of research and development priorities into local jobs and new business growth, through investment in Bath City Centre sites to enable local start-ups and growth.

9.2 WECA Funded - City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement

The City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) programme represents an unprecedented opportunity to develop high quality transport infrastructure that promotes sustainable, low-carbon travel within the West of England Region.

Led by the WECA, a successful submission for funds as part of the CRSTS programme was made to the region as part of the 2021 Autumn Spending Review. The settlement for the region is £540m.

A minimum 20% contribution of local match-funding is required from the constituent Unitary Authorities. For B&NES, this local contribution is now envisaged to `be £18.27m.

Within the WECA CRSTS programme, the following schemes and their sub-projects are either wholly or partially within the Bath and North East Somerset area.

- A4 Bath to Bristol Sustainable Transport Corridor.
- Bath and North East Somerset Liveable Neighbourhoods (*).
- Somer Valley Links.
- Bath City Centre Sustainable Transport Corridor.
- Bath & Midsomer Norton Walking & Cycling Packages which comprises:
 - Bath Sustainable Walking and Cycling Links.
 - Bath Quays Links (*).
 - Scholars Way (*).
 - MSN & Westfield Walking, Cycling & Wheeling (*).
- Maintenance Challenge Fund:
 - Cleveland Bridge (*).
 - Manvers Street (*).

This is the complete list of our schemes, noting projects marked with asterisk (*) are already within our Fully Approved or Provisional within the Capital Programme. The following descriptions are for schemes are currently emerging, with funding still to be confirmed by WECA, estimates to be refined and delivery to be agreed with Full Business Case completion.

9.2.1 A4 Bath to Bristol Sustainable Transport Corridor

The A4 Bath to Bristol Sustainable Transport Corridor (BBSC) project is aimed at providing the infrastructure necessary to improve the journey times and reliability of buses between Bath and Bristol and other settlements along the corridor, as well as providing improvements to walking, wheeling and cycling infrastructure to deliver both high-quality movements along the corridor and to better connect residents to the corridor.

The section of the project within the B&NES area is currently at the Outline Business Case (OBC) stage. An initial public engagement on Preliminary Designs was undertaken between August and October 2023, with early concept components including:

- The implementation of bus priority measures, including the reallocation of existing highway space for bus lanes and bus priority through junctions.
- New and enhanced walking, wheeling and cycling facilities to provide continuous and direct routes that link communities, adhering to the latest Local Transport Note (LTN) 1/20 guidance.
- Improvements and new routes for walking, wheeling, and cycling to promote access to the strategic bus corridor and strategic cycling routes, improving first/last-mile connectivity.
- Providing improved, high-quality bus stops to a consistent design-language and standard along the route, and enhanced opportunities for interchanging between modes.
- Providing for a new mobility hub and interchange on the A4 at Keynsham to promote better connectivity between the town and express bus services, subject to design and planning considerations.
- Supporting biodiversity net gain through improving green infrastructure in the corridor or supporting other projects in the B&NES area.

9.2.2 Somer Valley Links

The Somer Valley Links project aims to deliver sustainable transport corridors, providing better travel choices and opportunities for movements between the Somer Valley and Bristol or Bath, principally along the corridors of the A37/A362 and the A367/A362.

A Strategic Outline Case was completed early in 2022 which included public engagement and consultation (November 2021 to January 2022) on issues and options along the two corridors. The project is currently at the Outline Business Case (OBC): Preliminary Design proposals were presented to the public as part of an engagement event undertaken between June and August 2023, and it is intended that the OBC is submitted to the West of England Combined Authority Committee for approval in January 2024. The types of interventions being considered by the project, and presented as part of the public engagement in 2023, include:

- The implementation of bus priority measures to relieve key areas of congestion to enable faster and more reliable bus services. Measures could include the provision of new sections of bus lane and bus priority through junctions.
- The upgrade of bus stops in the corridors to improve accessibility and passenger provision, including new and upgraded crossings, and bus stops to a consistent design language and standard.
- The provision of several mobility hubs that would provide opportunities for highquality interchange between modes, including the potential for secure cycle storage, cycle repair stands and, potentially, some car parking.
- Improvements to walking, wheeling, and cycling infrastructure to both improve access to the strategic bus corridors and to enable safe movement by active modes between settlements on the corridor. Such improvements will be designed in accordance with the latest LTN1/20 guidance.

9.2.3 Bath City Centre Sustainable Transport Corridor

The Bath City Centre Sustainable Transport Corridor aims to improve the journey times and reliability of public transport across Bath city centre, particularly ensuring that the benefits of the Bristol to Bath and Somer Valley Links project are fully realised where they meet the city centre. Additionally, the project aims to improve strategic walking, wheeling, and cycling connections across the city.

Phase 1 of the project is working towards a Full Business Case, whilst Phase 2 is at Outline Business Case stage. The identification and development of options through design and appraisal work is ongoing. Being within the city centre, the project provides opportunities to contribute to and enhance other Council priorities. The project aims to:

- Improve walking, wheeling, and cycling infrastructure to LTN 1/20 standard to provide better, more direct and continuous routes and to fill gaps in existing provision (Phase 1).
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport across the city centre by providing infrastructure that contributes to modal shift.
- Prioritise bus movements through the provision of junction priority and the reallocation of highway space where this is possible in the constrained urban environment (Phase 2).

9.2.4 Bath Sustainable Walking and Cycling Links

The Bath Sustainable Walking and Cycling links project aims to deliver clear, safe, and people-focussed routes between Bath city centre and key locations around the city. Infrastructure will be delivered to LTN 1/20 standards to ensure safe and segregated provision where appropriate.

Scheme proposals being developed through the project comprise:

- Bath city centre to Weston options to consider the provision of segregated cycleways, upgraded and new controlled crossings, continuous footways and reduced junction widths.
- Bath city centre to Lower Weston provision of safe walking, wheeling, and cycling routes between Oldfield School and the city centre, with options to consider the provision of segregated cycleways, upgraded and new controlled crossings, continuous footways and reduced junction widths.
- Royal United Hospital (RUH) to National Cycle Network (NCN) Routes 4 and 244 (Locksbrook).

9.2.7 Local Contributions to the CRSTS Programme

As noted above at 9.2, there is a requirement for a minimum 20% match-fund to deliver the CRSTS programme.

The local contribution for B&NES, based on the schemes within the programme, is £18.270m as detailed below)

Funding Source	Local Contribution (£m) (2022/23 – 2026/27)
Clean Air Zone	2.500
Community Infrastructure Levy	2.321
S106 Receipts	0.954
Council Approved Borrowing	2.320
Capital Financing Reserve Contribution	3.000
Development Receipts	7.265
TOTAL	18.270

In the event that specific Local Contribution elements are not realised in line with current projections, an alternative funding source will need to be identified within the Council's Capital Budget and Resourcing Plan.

9.3 Transport Action Plan

In transport, the whole is much greater than the sum of its individual parts, but the multitude of individual measures, different funding streams, and different delivery agents, can create a confused picture in terms of the outcomes that are to be delivered.

Building on the detailed information contained within the Budget, a Transport Action Plan is being developed to bring together all activity that is planned happen over the course of the next three years into one comprehensive and comprehensible document, demonstrating how the elements work in combination and collaboration to deliver against the B&NES Corporate objectives.

9.4. Other Scheme Updates

9.4.1 Council House Building Programme

It is envisaged this will cost circa £90m in total (with £5m as provisional programme in 2024/25 and £10m in 2025/26 as set out in 4.3 above) with Council subsidy of around £15m to be supported by borrowing. The balance to be funded from grants to be applied for and borrowing repayable by rents generated. The Council has secured and is in control of large strategic sites capable of delivering a significant number of homes, including those at Bath Western Riverside and Midland Road to advance options to meet the local housing need.

A business case is in progress to advance options for development of the site plans to meet the local housing need through the provision of open market properties, affordable homes, and homes for social rent. This may include potential development through Aequus Developments Ltd, which will require additional repayable loans from the Council. It is proposed to develop the Midland Road site once vacated by waste services. As the site will be vacated in two stages, it is anticipated to bring forward housing delivery in two phases. Phase one will be approximately 39 affordable homes. Delivery options are being developed through Aequus to bring forward the phased scheme with additional support from grant funding.

9.4.2 Collection Study Centre

The proposed new Collection Study Centre being developed in partnership with Bath Spa University for the Fashion Museum Collection will provide an improved home for it and for the first time inclusively open it for researchers, designers, makers, startups, students and communities, for physical and virtual access.

9.4.3 Corporate Landlord Model

The Council is developing a model to centralise all estate related budgets, decision making and activities within a central team, it will require changes to processes and upgrade to the Property Management Systems which are essential to provide accurate data so we can understand performance of individual assets. An outcome will be rationalisation of assets. Consideration will need to be given to equipment requirements for example the relocation of the CCTV Hub.

9.4.4 Estate Rationalisation

Rationalisation of the B&NES portfolio of assets is expected to result in disposal of poor performing assets to realise capital receipts, make efficiency savings and reduce running costs such as energy consumption. Costs of disposing of assets will be charged to the capital programme, as will costs of improvement works necessary to secure a capital receipt and costs of refurbishments to retained assets for more efficient use.

9.4.4.1 **Radstock Road Depot:** Review of the site for better use and improved security. This will co-ordinate with proposed improvements for the Community Equipment Store within the site.

9.4.4.2 **Culverhay Site – Relocation of Temporary Uses:** The Culverhay site is currently being used for storage of Heritage Services Collections including stonework, archaeological artifacts, and items for Bath Record Offices Collection. While not on display there is a responsibility to hold the collection items in a secure and stable environment and to make them accessible for research and conservation purposes. As part of the future development plans for the site, we will consider re-location to alternative premises which may include a building acquisition or a newly built storage facility.

9.4.5 Agresso Update

As part of the Financial Systems Improvement Programme, we will need to upgrade to Unit4 ERP7 (Agresso) application to the latest version to ensure that B&NES the latest functionality and continued supported by the software provider.

9.4.6 Renewable Energy

Projects aim to develop schemes for renewable energy generation, improved energy efficiency and decarbonisation across the Council estate including additional rooftop and ground solar, geothermal energy, heat networks and energy storage.

9.4.7 Green Infrastructure - Biodiversity Net Gain

Development of Council owned sites to prepare for BNG requirements for new development through the planning system. These nature recovery projects will act as demonstrator sites for BNG delivery.

9.4.8 Green Infrastructure – Limestone Landscape Link

Contribution to a project which aims to create a nature-rich landscape in B&NES, linking the limestone hills of the Mendip Hills AONB with the Cotswolds Scarp surrounding Bath. It also forms part of "Big Chalk" to connect calcareous (chalk and limestone) landscapes across Southern England. Will deliver improved land management, record and monitor wildlife as well as improve quality of, and access to, green and blue space, improve and provide new active travel routes to connect communities, and improve health and wellbeing.

9.4.9 Park and Ride Hubs

Development of the Park and Ride sites which play an important role in reducing car traffic entering Bath. Opportunities now to be explored for the Park and Ride sites to act as a transport interchange where people can connect to wider areas through a variety of transport modes plus meeting objectives of providing waste recycling, solar energy and Nature Recovery.

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2024/25 Highways Maintenance Programme

2024/25 Highways Maintenance Programme	Dudget
Description	Budget £'000
Street Lighting	
Daneacre Road, Hanover Court, Stoneable Road, Tyning Hill, Kilmersdon Road, Springfield Crest, Waterside Road, First Avenue, Second Avenue, Third Avenue, Fourth Avenue, Willow Close, Sunridge Close, Millfield - Radstock, Westfield and Midsomer Norton	112
Frome Road Cul-de-sac, Mendip Gardens, Stirtingale Avenue - Bloomfield, Bath	14
Combe Road, Rock Hall Lane, Sedgemoor Road, Stonehouse Close, The Avenue, The Firs, Westerleigh Road - Combe Down, Bath	38
A4 Bath Road/Bristol Road - Saltford/Coston	19
Ashmans Gate, Carter Road, Hillside Close, Oaklands, Orchard Road, Somerset Way, Tennis Court Road, Valley View - Paulton	36
Castle Gardens, Egerton Road, Hensley Gardens, Hensley Road, Mead Close, Old Frome Road, St Lukes Road - Lyncombe, Bath	32
Burleigh Gardens, Cedric Road, East Lea Road, Foxcombe Road, Kennington Road, Meadow Gardens, Park Road, Station Road, Warwick Road, West Lea Road - Newbridge, Bath	60
Chelsea Close, Gainsborough Road, Lulworth Road, Lytton Grove, Nash Close, Reynolds Close, Rubens Close, Tamworth Road, Turner Close, Unity Road, Winscombe Close - Keynsham	46
Ainslie's Belvedere, Belgrave Road, Chilton Road, Claremont Buildings, Evelyn Terrace, Frankley Buildings, Gays Hill, Georges Road, Gillingham Terrace, Grosvenor Bridge Road, Kensington Gardens, Middle Lane, Seymour Road, Snow Hill, Southbourne Gardens, Upper East Hayes - Walcot, Bath	89
Highfield Close, Innox Road, Inverness Road - Westmoreland, Bath	14
Broadmoor Lane, Eastfield Avenue, Greenacres, Haviland Grove, Heathfield Close, Kinber Close, Leighton Road, Purlewent Drive, The Macies - Weston, Bath	63
Church Lane, Conygre Green, Crocombe Lane, Greenvale Close, Mill Lane, Newmans Lane, The Mead - Timsbury	24
LED Improvement/CMS Management - Bath, Midsomer Norton and Radstock	153
Street Lighting Sub Total	700
Highway Structures	0
North Parade Bridge, Bath - Waterproofing and Bridge Repair Delivery	250
Upper Stanton, Stanton Drew - Bank Stabilisation Delivery	300
A36 Cleveland Bridge- Bath - Ongoing Monitoring	80
Structure Inspection and Remedial Works Programme	75
Structures Special Assessment Programme	75
Highway Structures Sub Total	780
Highway Drainage A368 Main Road, Chelwood - Drainage Improvements to culverted watercourse and highway drainage	0 55
system Fosse Lane, Batheaston - Drainage Improvement works.	35
Church Rd, Belmont Rd, Combe Down, Bath. Drainage Improvement works.	30
Westerleigh Road, Combe Down, Bath. Drainage Improvement works.	30
Charlton Road, Keynsham - Highway Drainage Improvement works	30
High St, Wellow - Drainage Improvement works	20
Longvernal, Midsomer Norton - Drainage Improvement works	25
Brassmill Lane, Bath - Drainage Improvement works	25
Old Mills, Paulton - Drainage Improvement works	25
Highway Drainage Extensive Investigation Works, Various Locations	100
Highway Drainage 24/25 Sub Total	375
Carriageway Resurfacing & Major Re-Construction	0
A3062 Prior Park Road, Widcombe	170
A39 Bath Road including Mollifriend Lane & Old Lane, Farmborough	200
A4 Bath Road, Saltford	300
A4 Bristol Road, Saltford	300
Albany Road, Twerton	15
Ambury, Bath City Centre	75

Description	Budget £'000
Archway Street, Widcombe	25
Bath Hill, Keynsham	60
Bridge Road, Twerton	30
Broad Quay, Bath City Centre	75
Brock Street, Bath City Centre	75
Charlton Road - Phase 1, Keynsham	275
Chilcompton Road, Midsomer Norton	100
Claude Avenue, Twerton	30
Combe Grove, Lower Weston	115
Combe Park, Lower Weston	110
Englishcombe Lane - Phase 2, Southdown	350
Ferry Lane, Widcombe/Bathwick	30
Gloucester Street, Bath City Centre	5
High Street, Upper Weston	50
Lansdown Road - Contribution, Charlcombe	40
Lansdown Road including Lansdown Place East & Caroline Place, Lansdown	125
Loxton Drive, Twerton	15
Manor Road, Upper Weston	25
Moorland Road, Oldfield	15
North Road, Bathwick	190
Ringswell Garden - Part of, Lambridge	75
Rivers Street, Bath City Centre	55
Rodney Road, Saltford	65
Shaftesbury Road, Oldfield	60
Spring Crescent, Widcombe/Bathwick	80
Spring Gardens Road, Widcombe/Bathwick	80
St Ladoc Road including Roundabout, Keynsham	140
Tyning Road, Peasedown St John	35 75
Upper Bloomfield Road - Part of, Odd Down Upper Church Street, Bath City Centre	75 75
West Avenue - Part of, Oldfield	25
West Avenue - Part of, Oldfield West Street, Twerton	30
Carriageway Resurfacing Sub Total	3,595
Carriageway Micro Asphalt	0
Brummel Way, Paulton	21
Cam View, Paulton	2
Downsway, Paulton	30
Greenacres, Midsomer Norton	2
Hantone Hill, Bathampton	56
High Meadows, Midsomer Norton	55
Highmead Gardens, Bishop Sutton	9
High Park, Paulton	7
Hillside Gardens, Bishop Sutton	14
Laurel Drive, Paulton	11
Orchard Avenue, Midsomer Norton	19
Orchard Vale, Midsomer Norton	13
Parkfield Gardens, Bishop Sutton	22
Pinewood Avenue, Midsomer Norton	7
Pinewood Grove, Midsomer Norton	11
Pinewood Road, Midsomer Norton	21
Roman Way, Paulton	5
Rosewarn Close, Whiteway	43
Shaft Road, Combe Down	12
Somer Avenue, Midsomer Norton	18
Somer Road, Midsomer Norton	4
Springhill Close, Paulton	4
St Winifred's Drive, Combe Down	27
Underhill Avenue, Midsomer Norton	10
Underhill Lane, Midsomer Norton	26

Description		Budget £'000
Westview, Paulton		11
Woodhouse Road, Twerton		31
Woodview, Paulton		9
	Carriageway Micro Asphalt Sub Total	500
Footways		0
High Street, Weston		60
Bathwick Hill, Bathwick		200
Milsom Street Phase 1, Bath City Centre		150
Sydney Buildings, Bathwick		90
Asphalt Concrete Programme		600
	Footway Sub Total	1,100
Other Programmes		0
Planned Carriageway Patching Programme		1,508
Planned Road Marking Improvement Programme		225
Spray Injection Patching Programme		175
	Other Programmes Sub Total	1,908
PROGRAMME 2024/25 OVERALL TOTAL		8,958

Details	Budget £'000
Funding Sources	·
CRSTS DfT Maintenance Block Settlement	5,834
DfT Pothole Funding 23/24 & 24/25	1,124
Additional Council CSB Capital Funding	2,000
PROGRAMME 2024/25 OVERALL TOTAL	8,958

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2024/25 Local Highway Improvements Programme

2024/25 Local Highway improvements Programme	Budget
Description	£'000
Local Safety Schemes	
Bathampton safety improvements	200
West Harptree safety improvements	150
Bloomfield Road safety improvements	160
Church Hill and North Road junction safey improvements	35
Redlynch Lane junction with Charlton Road safety improvements	100
Church Hill junction with South Road pedestrian safety improvements	65
Widcombe Hill safety improvements	80
Anti-Skid Surfacing	15
Accident investigation and prevention (AIP)	25
Minor safety improvements	20
Vehicle Activated Signs improvement programme	25
Local Safety Schemes Sub Total	875
Public Transport	
Improvements to bus stops	10
Public Transport Sub Total	10
Managing Congestion	
Area Parking Review	60
Year 2 of 5 programme to replace traffic signal fault monitoring equipment	45
Review of direction signs in Bath	15
HGV Review of Bath including Pennyquick HGV restrictions	15
Managing Congestion Sub Total	135
Cycle Schemes	
Keynsham High Street cycle lane improvements	15
Cycle parking	10
Cycle Schemes Sub Total	25
Pedestrian Schemes Pedestrian island on P2440. The Clabs, Hinten Charterhouse	25
Pedestrian island on B3110, The Glebe, Hinton Charterhouse	35
Crossing, Bathwick St Mary School, Warminster Road	80
Pedestrian crossing improvements, Bristol Road, Chew Stoke	190
Charlton Road/Charlton Park pedestrian safety improvements Crossing, Morford Street junction - feasibility	100
, ,	20
Crossing, St Stephen's church Crossing Monkesdale Road/ Sandpits Park	40
Walcot Street crossing - feasibility	58
	10
Raised zebra crossing, Frome Road, alongside Press Office	75
Copseland crossing	350
Planning Approvals Zebra crossing near Ralph Allen School	20
Crossing near bottom of Old Newbridge Hill	145
Signalised crossing at Manor Farm, Farrington Gurney near to bus stop and school	50
School street Swainswick or pedestrian improvements	40
Pedestrian island on B3115 at Tunley Hill (Camerton) to support footpath crossing	35
Aids to mobility and footway improvements	40
Public Rights of Way	80
Pedestrian signal improvements	140
Pedestrain Schemes Sub Total	1,508

Description	
Traffic Management Schemes	
Upper Oldfield Park, Hayesfield School, traffic calming measures - feasibility	10
Whiteway road, speed reduction measures	50
Manor Road, closure of stretch of road to south of Montague Road	20
Traffic calming Shophouse Road and Long Valley Road - feasibility	10
Measures to deter through traffic in Lambridge	15
Extend 20 mph to towns and villages that want them (see list below of 12 schemes)	120
Bishop Sutton, Compton Martin, Corston, Bristol Road (Whitchurch), Publow Lane, North Road extension at The Hook to Camerton (Timsbury), St. Catherine, Swainswick, Meadow Park (Bathford), Paulteney Road (Bathwick), Bristol Hill (Keynsham North), Paulton New Barrattes Estate (Paulton)	
Residents Permit Change	4
Car Club Parking	5
Traffic Management Schemes Sub Total	234
Miscellaneous	
JLTP Monitoring, Equipment and NHT survey	15
Programme Management	60
Legacy/Remedial works - previous years schemes	25
Miscellaneous Sub Total	100
PROGRAMME 2024/25 OVERALL TOTAL	2.887

Details	Budget £'000
Funding Source	
Grant : CRSTS Maintenance Block Settlement	
Revenue Contribution : CAZ Reserve 2023/24 Allocation	
Revenue Contribution : CAZ Reserve 2024/25 Allocation	724
PROGRAMME 2024/25 OVERALL TOTAL	2,887

2024/25 Corporate Estate Planned Maintenance Programme

Service Area	Business Unit Name (Property)	Nature of PRIORITY Work Required under H&S / Statutory Obligations	Budget £'000
Education	Castle Primary School - Dunster Road	Dunster Road resurfacing works	58
Education	Bath Community Academy (fmr Culverhay School)	Heating modifications	58
Childrens Centre	Keynsham Children's Centre	Various general repairs and maintenance works as list identified by the Children's Centre.	87
Community Resource Centres	Various Properties - capital repairs / upgrades	Repairs, Maintenance & Management - to be managed and prioritised throughout the year as works arise.	58
Community Resource Centres	Care Homes - Individual room heat loss issues	Remedial works to address reported individual room heat loss issues within Care Homes. Phase 1 building insulation works.	58
Community Resource Centres	Connections Day Centre	Installation of replacement LED lighting.	87
Community Resource Centres	Connections Day Centre	Resurface car park	29
Community Resource Centres	Connections Day Centre	Essential maintenance remedial / repair work following condition survey	325
Community Resource Centres	Carrswood Adult Day Centre	Essential maintenance remedial / repair work following condition survey	120
Operational Properties	The Guildhall	Roof domes replacement glazing works.	87
Operational Properties	The Guildhall Market	Roof Repairs	150
Operational Properties	Minor Refurbishments to Generate Efficiencies	Remedial work and H&S works	100
Operational Properties	Keynsham Civic Centre	Improvements to external areas for tree root damage to paving etc. to prevent trip hazards	58
Operational Properties	Roman Baths Colonnades	Stone repairs	26
Housing	Milward House	Repair structural issues	60

Service Area	Business Unit Name (Property)	Nature of PRIORITY Work Required under H&S / Statutory Obligations	Budget £'000
Cemeteries and Closed Burial Grounds	Various properties Closed Burial Grounds, remedials arising from	Boundary walls and fence repairs - for items exceeding revenue expenditure, to be managed and prioritised throughout the year as they arise against any available budget.	87
Car Parks	Car Parks - General	General allowance for remedial works to parking bays, boundaries, fencing etc, to be managed and prioritised throughout the year as they arise against any available budget.	58
Parks and Leisure	Royal Victoria Park	Water proofing or re-sealing repair works to bottom duck pond which is no longer holding water.	58
Parks and Leisure	Royal Victoria Park	Works in connection with re-connecting the water supply to the duck ponds, with a seasonal supply that would result in supplies of fresh water over winter/during periods of heavy rainfall.	58
Parks and Leisure	Royal Victoria Park Bandstand	Refurbishment including shelter coating of stonework	35
Parks and Leisure	Hedgemead Park	Phase 4 repairs to walls including vegetation removal and repair to the walls to the north of Phase 3 works.	23
Parks & Leisure	Keynsham Memorial Park	Silt removal and survey of Keynsham weir structure and sluice gates	35
Parks and Leisure	Royal Victoria Park Office & Nursery	Provision of a new bicycle shelter for staff	15
Parks and Leisure	White City Football Ground Millards Hill, Midsomer Norton	Repairs to changing room facilities building, repairs to boundary fences, walls and facilities.	46
Parks & Leisure	Various Properties Parks	Repair and replacement of play area and park boundary fences and gates.	34
Parks & Leisure	Various Properties allotments	Repair and replacement of failing allotment boundary fences, walls and access tracks.	67
Various Properties	Various Properties - BMS (Building Management System)	BMS repairs and upgrades allowance for works arising throughout the year.	58
Various Properties	Various Properties Historic features -capital repairs / upgrades	Repairs and maintenance to bandstands, urns, obelisks, statues and plaques, fountains, gates etc, to be managed and prioritised throughout the year.	29
Various Properties	Various Properties Energy and Carbon Reduction - capital works arising	Allowance for assessments and development works arising during the year.	29
Various Properties	Various Properties - Energy and Carbon Reduction - capital works arising	12% funding contribution to SALIX decarbonisation bids for 2024-25. (Connections and Carrswood Day Centres)	180
Various Properties	Various Properties - capital repairs / upgrades - lightning conductor systems	Lightning conductor systems, repairs and upgrades.	29

Service Area	Business Unit Name (Property)	Nature of PRIORITY Work Required under H&S / Statutory Obligations	Budget £'000
Various Properties	Various Properties - LED lighting replacements	Allowance for phased LED lighting replacements necessitated by T5 & T8 fluorescent lamps being phased out and no longer being available in the U.K. after February 2024. The new LED lighting should result in energy cost savings.	174
Various Properties	Various Properties servicing - capital costs arising	Statutory and emergency remedial works arising throughout the year.	203
Various Properties	Various Properties - other misc. programmes	Underfloor heating manifold remedials.	29
Various Properties	Various Properties - anomaly structures	Bridges, viaducts and boundaries. Condition surveys / Inspections, Emergency H&S works, making them safe.	116
Various Properties	Various Properties Quinquennial surveys	Quinquennial surveys for buildings, non-highway bridges and remedial works.	203
Various Properties	Various Properties - Salto works	Salto installations and identified remedial works.	29
Various Properties	Various Properties - Community Asset Transfer (CAT) contractual maintenance liabilities	Allowance for various works arising from CAT transfers - provision for contractual maintenance liabilities subject to Community Asset Transfer.	29
Compliance	Various properties - Energy Performance Certificates (EPC)	Allowance for obtaining updated EPC certificates and essential remedial works arising.	29
Compliance	Various Properties - capital repairs / upgrades	Legionella remedial and mitigating works arising from risk assessments	17
Compliance	Various Properties - capital repairs / upgrades	Radon remedial and mitigating works arising from inspections.	58
Compliance	Various Properties - capital repairs / upgrades	UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply) battery replacement and refurbishment.	58
Compliance	Various Properties - capital repairs / upgrades	Fire dampers remedial works / upgrades.	29
Compliance	Various Properties - capital repairs / upgrades	Ductwork remedial works / upgrades.	29
Compliance	Various properties - other misc. programmes	Lifts remedial and mitigating works arising from insurance inspections.	58
Compliance	Various Properties - provision for fire alarm upgrades	Fire alarm phased replacement.	87
Compliance	Various Properties - provision for fire risk assessments	Fire risk assessment remedial works.	58

Service Area	Business Unit Name (Property)	Nature of PRIORITY Work Required under H&S / Statutory Obligations	Budget £'000	
Compliance	Various Properties - fire door inspection programme and remedials	Fire doors remedial works.	29	
Compliance	Various Properties - provision for emergency lighting upgrades	Emergency lighting remedial works arising from inspections.	58	
Compliance	Various Properties - provision for 5 yearly electrical testing programme and remedials	Electrical wiring remedial works arising from 5 yearly testing inspections.	58	
Compliance	Various Properties - provision for public power supplies annual inspections	Public power supplies identified remedial works.	29	
Compliance	Various Properties - provision for tree surveys and resultant works	Tree survey inspections and subsequent works.	87	
Compliance	-	Remedial works arising from bridge inspections, 2 yearly general and 6 yearly principle bridge inspections.	58	
Compliance	Various Properties - photovoltaic arrays - work arising from safety inspections	Work arising from - annual safety and maintenance inspections on photovoltaic arrays	6	
Compliance	Various Properties - industrial roller shutter door - work arising from safety inspections	Industrial roller shutter doors remedial works arising from inspections.	17	
Other	Preliminaries on programme	These annual costs are for the contractors to cover managing the framework, admin, vehicles, equipment etc. They are part of framework agreements.	20	
	Overprogramming		(870)	
	Contingency		100	
PROGRAMME 202	4/25 OVERALL TOTAL	PROGRAMME 2024/25 OVERALL TOTAL		

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) ALLOCATIONS 2024/25

1. INTRODUCTION

Strategic CIL income available for spending in the financial year 2024/25 is forecast to be around £2.3m.

CIL funding will make an important contribution to fulfilling the Core Strategy requirement that new development must be properly aligned with infrastructure. It also makes a significant contribution to the Council's Capital Programme.

In addition, it is anticipated that local communities will receive around £450k of income for local spending through Parishes or the Bath Advisory Board.

2. CIL SPENDING PRINCIPLES

The Council's principles underpinning decisions on spending of CIL funds are:

- CIL regulations require that funding can only be spent on Infrastructure;
- Priority is given to infrastructure in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) which is critical to support planned growth;
- Spend should be aligned with the Council's Capital Programme, where revenue budget is being proposed this is typically for early stage feasibility work;
- Decisions are made annually but based on a longer-term programme of spend to ensure a co-ordinated approach;
- Spend should take account of the location of developments where CIL is generated:
- Strategic and Local CIL spend should be aligned where it is beneficial.

3. CIL SPENDING PRIORITIES FOR 2024/25

Based on the CIL Spend Principles above, the infrastructure projects to be funded by CIL in 2024/25 are summarised in Table 1 below, some of which are additions to ongoing projects. The need to focus on infrastructure which addresses the Climate & Ecological Emergency concerns has been given greater priority across all the categories, so it does not appear as a separate item. Table 2 illustrates changes to previous allocations.

Should further amendments for 2024/25 be required these will then be approved by the Chief Operating Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources.

The Capital Programme has been updated to include CIL funding.

4. PRIOR YEAR RE-ALLOCATIONS

CIL previously allocated has been realigned as part of programme reviews as summarised in Table 2. The Capital Programme has been updated to show these changes.

Table 1: CIL Spend projects 2024/25

Infrastructure Item	Allocation (£)	Commentary
Flood Risk Management	500,000	
Bath Quays Flood Defences	500,000	Council to repay WECA £0.5m p.a. for the next three years, in line with terms of Revolving Infrastructure Fund Agreement for Bath Quays Flood Defence Scheme.
Health and Well Being	250,400	
Healthcare Projects to Increase Clinical Capacity	250,400	A programme of works to increase clinical capacity at Combe Down Surgery, Newbridge Surgery and St Michaels Surgery. Payment to be via a grant agreement. (Approved capital budget)
Green Infrastructure / Recreation	480,000	
Bathscape area Green Infrastructure Improvements	40,000	Contribution to a larger project which entails improving access from the city to countryside and delivering nature recovery network. (Revenue budget)
Somer Valley Rediscovered	35,000	A contribution to the Somer Valley Rediscovered Project which aims to improve biodiversity on 5 key sites located along the Wellow Brook and its tributaries. (Revenue budget)
Bio-diversity Net Gain (BNG) Pathfinders	50,000	Development of Council owned sites to prepare for BNG requirements for new development through the planning system. We will create natural sites and carry out land management. (£30k revenue budget, £20k provisional capital budget)
Entry Hill Ecology Centre	25,000	Development of Entry Hill as an Ecology Centre and site habitat improvements. (Revenue budget)
Bath River Line Green Infrastructure Improvements	50,000	To deliver access and biodiversity improvements from East of Bath to City Centre. (Revenue budget)
Waterspace Green Infrastructure Programme Improvements	35,000	A contribution towards this project, to deliver access and biodiversity improvements 3.4km stretch of river between Keynsham Lock and Hanham Lock. (Revenue

		budget)
Nature Recovery Maintenance	75,000	Ecological Emergency Action Plan identified bringing council owned Sites of Nature Conservation Interest into good ecological status. This also links across to Local Plan. Sites include Roundhill Park, Charlcombe, Springfield Quarry and habitat management work. (Revenue budget)
Tree Planting/Doubling Woodland Cover	95,000	Delivering the commitment to double tree coverage by 2050 in line with the Forest of Avon Plan. (£45k revenue budget, £50k provisional capital budget)
Keynsham Memorial Park Weir Removal	75,000	This is for early stage works with funding for the main project being prepared for 2025/26 budget setting. This is recognised as a priority project by Bristol Avon River Trust, WECA, and contributions from the other parties. B&NES own the weir which has large silt build up and restricts fish movement. (Revenue budget)
Public Realm	150,000	
Keynsham High Street Public Realm Improvements	50,000	This provides match-funding to WECA Investment Fund "Love our High Streets" grant and to consolidate the recent housing growth in the town. (£20k revenue budget and £30k approved capital budget)
Midsomer Norton High Street Public Realm Improvements	100,000	This provides match-funding to WECA Investment Fund "Love our High Streets" grant and helps consolidate recent housing growth in the town. (Approved capital budget)
Strategic Transport Infrastructure	400,000	
Sustainable Transport Initiatives	400,000	This will be used as 20% contribution towards the schemes funded by City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement, currently seeking business case approval. (Provisional capital budget)
Social (Inc Recreation & Leisure)	200,000	
Larkhall Sports Club Sports Field Playing Surface	100,000	The Club has received planning approval to change the playing surface at the ground from a grass to a 3G all-weather surface with improved floodlighting. The

		project will provide a surface which can enable increased activity from a wider group of participants. Payment to be via a grant agreement. (Approved capital budget)
Radstock Community Facility	100,000	Contribution to Radstock Town Council towards the provision of a community facility building in the town centre, the Town Council will manage and maintain this is in future e.g. Trinity Church. The Regeneration Action Plan for Radstock showed a growing demand for affordable community space, low-cost shared workspace and other spaces for young people to engage in arts and culture including after school activities. (Approved capital budget)
TOTAL	1,980,400	

Table 2: CIL Reallocations from previous years

Infrastructure Item	Allocation (£)	Commentary
Midsomer Norton High Street Public Realm Improvements	(100,000)	This project has utilising a WECA grant allocation originally earmarked used for Radstock Community Facility but because of project delay could no longer meet the grant conditions in 2023/24. For overall budget neutrality, the CIL for Midsomer Norton High Street of the same amount, is correspondingly reassigned and will be carried forward. (Approved capital budget).
Radstock Community Facility	100,000	As above. (Approved capital budget)
Entry Hill Emerging Proposals	(100,000)	To confirm the 2022/23 of £100k CIL allocation from this project will be used for the Entry Hill Ecology Centre on the same site. (Provisional capital budget)
Entry Hill Ecology Centre	100,000	As above. (Provisional capital budget).
TOTAL	0	

Bath and North East Somerset Capital and Investment Strategy 2024/25

Introduction

The Government introduced a new requirement in 2019/20 for local authorities to approve a Capital and Investment Strategy. The strategy is the overarching document which sets the policy framework for the development, management and monitoring of capital investments as well as lending to other organisations and commercial investments. The strategy focuses on core principles that underpin, and also outlines the governance framework required for, decision making and delivery.

The capital and investment strategy aligns with the principles set out in the Council's Corporate Strategy of:-

- Preparing for the future;
- Delivering for local residents;
- Focussing on prevention

The strategy is integrated with the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy.

Capital Expenditure

Capital expenditure occurs when the Council spends money on assets, such as land, property or vehicles that have a life of more than one year. In local government this includes spending on assets owned by other bodies, and loans and grants to other bodies to enable them to buy assets. The Council has limited discretion on what can be accounted for as capital expenditure, and this is outlined through its Accounting Policies which are updated and published annually as part of the Statement of Accounts.

The Council's planned capital expenditure over the 5-year period covering 2024/25 to 2028/29 is as follows:

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget
	£'m	£'m	£'m	£'m	£'m
Total	152.949	90.698	57.640	55.113	29.636

Full details of new Capital Schemes over the 5 year period are outlined in Annex 5 of the budget report.

As part of the approval process Directors submit Needs Assessments for consideration to the Capital Strategy Group. These are then prioritised within the available capital financing available. Given the current constraints on local authority

finances the following process and principles are used for the current programme as well as new schemes.

For the 2024/25 budget a gateway has been applied for all new capital programme items that set out the following:

- 1. Scheme name and purpose
- 2. Scheme funding
- 3. Why is the scheme required
- 4. Corporate strategy outcomes achieved

Prioritisation is applied to the programme where borrowing is required to fund the scheme:

Priority 1: The scheme is addressing a structural maintenance issues / legal compliance and health and safety risk to the Council and its residents.

Priority 2: The scheme will improve the affordability and delivery of Council services to its residents.

Priority 3: The scheme will create a new asset that will add to the community and Council aspirations, however not essential to the delivery of its statutory responsibilities.

Bids are reviewed by the Finance team and funding streams such as Service Supported Borrowing, Corporate Supported Borrowing, S106, CIL, WECA, capital receipts, or external grant are assessed. Portfolio Holders review the overall bids to agree priorities and overall affordability. As part of the budget process the bids are linked to the Corporate Strategy Principles and reviewed by the Capital Strategy Group before putting forward for consideration in the budget. The final capital programme is then presented to Council in February each year for approval. The Council's Capital Programme can be found at Annex 5.

Schemes can either be classified as **Fully Approved or Provisionally Approved**. Items gaining **Full Approval** are clear to proceed to full scheme implementation and delivery, subject to appropriate project management and governance.

Items for **Provisional Approval** will require either a further Officer decision and in some cases a formal Cabinet member decision for Full Approval. The budget estimates for schemes shown for Provisional Approval are therefore included on an indicative basis, and as an aid to planning.

The Capital Programme will retain narrative only reference to pipeline projects and grant funding in an early stage of progression. These items will require further decision to incorporate them into the programme once finalised.

Financing the Capital programme

Capital expenditure for the council is financed through a variety of sources, typically:-

- Receipts from the sale of capital assets
- Capital grants
- External contributions such as Section 106 planning obligations or Community Infrastructure Levy
- The use of reserves or from revenue budget contributions

Any capital expenditure not financed by the above means will need to be funded by borrowing. Existing council debt is therefore the consequence of historical capital expenditure. The council can temporarily utilise other resources in lieu of external borrowing to fund capital expenditure. This is referred to as internal borrowing.

In approving the inclusion of schemes and projects within the capital programme, the council ensures all of the capital and investment plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable. In doing so the council will take into account the arrangements for the repayment of debt, through a prudent MRP policy in line with MRP guidance produced by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

The capital financing charges and any additional running costs arising from capital investment decisions are incorporated within the annual budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy. This enables members to consider the consequences of capital investment alongside other competing priorities for revenue funding.

Borrowing costs are allocated as either Service Supported Borrowing where the service can demonstrate that it can fund the costs of borrowing from their individual budgets or Corporate Supported Borrowing where the costs are financed centrally.

Financing of the revised capital programme is shown below:-

Source of	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Finance	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget
	£'m	£'m	£'m	£'m	£'m
Grant	52.856	40.166	15.828	8.812	8.489
Capital Receipts /RTB	11.183	0.994	1.000	0	0
Revenue	3.878	0.02	0.040	0.02	0.020
Borrowing	77.315	46.028	38.583	43.294	20.124
3rd Party (inc S106 & CIL)	7.717	3.490	2.189	2.987	1.003
Total	152.949	90.698	57.640	55.113	29.636

Links to Treasury Management

One of the key aims of Treasury management is to retain sufficient but not excessive cash to meet the Council's spending needs, while managing the risks involved.

The Council is continuing with an agreed strategy of utilising its cash balances rather than incurring the higher cost of long-term borrowing at present. The strategy can be demonstrated through the CFR at the end of 2022/23 which was £341.0m which outlines the Council's underlying need to borrow compared to the current actual long-term borrowing of £216.0m as at 31st December 2023.

Decisions on treasury management investment and borrowing are made daily and are therefore delegated to the Section 151 Officer and his/her team, who must act in line with the Treasury Management Strategy approved by Council. Quarterly reports on treasury management activity are presented to the Cabinet. The Corporate Audit Committee is responsible for scrutinising treasury management decisions.

Loans

The council has discretion to make loans for a number of reasons, primarily for housing, economic development, and renewable energy. Current loans include:-

Loan Detail	Amount Outstanding at 31st March 2021	Amount Outstanding at 31st March 2022	Amount Outstanding at 31st March 2023
	£'m	£'m	£'m
Council's Housing Company	11.167	9.491	5.973
Bath & West Community Energy - Renewable Energy Scheme	0.101	0.094	0.086
Total	11.269	9.585	6.060

These loans are treated as capital expenditure. In making loans the council is exposing itself to the risk that the borrower defaults on repayments. The council, in making these loans, must therefore ensure they are prudent and has fully considered the risk implications, with regard to both the individual loan and that the cumulative exposure of the council is proportionate and prudent.

The council will continue to ensure that a full due diligence exercise is undertaken and adequate security is in place. The business case will balance the benefits and risks. All loans are either agreed by Cabinet or specific delegated authority. All loans will be subject to close, regular monitoring.

Shares

The Council holds nominal shares in its own wholly owned company Aequus Group Holdings Ltd.

Asset Management

The overriding objective of asset management within the council is to achieve a corporate portfolio of property assets that is appropriate, fit for purpose and affordable. The council's property portfolio consists of operational property, investment property and property held for specific community or regeneration purposes. The council has specific reasons for owning and retaining property:-

- Operational purposes e.g. assets that support core business and service delivery e.g. schools, office buildings.
- Non-operational purposes including Investment properties held to provide a financial return to the council that support service provision (the Commercial Estate).
- Parks, playgrounds and open spaces.
- Regeneration, enabling strategic place shaping and economic growth.

During 2023/24 and into 2024/25 the Council is implementing a Corporate Landlord Model for the management of the Council's Corporate Estate alongside a dedicated Commercial Estates function for the running of the investment assets.

The vision statements for the functions are below:

Corporate Landlord Mission

"To excel in the management of a significant portfolio and to be an exemplar landlord by proactively challenging our assets to deliver the best for B&NES and its residents whilst delivering a resilient net income that supports the wider objectives of the Council"

Corporate Estate Team Vision	Commercial Estate Team Vision
"To deliver all Council objectives in a transparent, safe, and compliant manner through the management of an efficient, sustainable, and valuable asset portfolio with centralised governance."	"To support the Council's corporate, and budgetary objectives, through the generation of resilient net income"

Asset management is an important part of the council's internal business management arrangements and is crucial to the delivery of efficient and effective services. The ongoing management and maintenance of capital assets will be considered as part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. The Capital Programme also includes the following for capital works on Council owned properties:

- Corporate Estate planned capital maintenance £5.5m in 2024/25 and £3m per annum in future years.
- Commercial Estate refurbishment programme £7.0m in 2024/25 and £1.5m per annum in future years.
- Commercial Estate Planned Maintenance Programme £0.5m in 2024/25 and £0.5m per annum in future years.
- Commercial Asset Re-investment £5m in 2024/25, £2m 2025/26 & 2026/27 and £3m per annum thereafter.

The property portfolio is continually reviewed for disposal or where appropriate development by the Council's wholly owned companies Aequus Developments Ltd and Aequus Construction Ltd.

Commercial Activities

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) defines investment property as property held solely to earn rentals or for capital appreciation or both. Returns from property ownership can be both income driven (through the receipt of rent) and by way of appreciation of the underlying asset value (capital growth). The previous strategy has considered investment through new commercial asset acquisition. Under changes published by the Treasury's Public Works and Loan Board (PWLB) in November 2020, borrowing will no longer be made available to Council's undertaking debt for yield acquisitions.

In the context of the Capital and Investment Strategy, the Council will need to consider how it makes best use of its current asset base to sustain the existing budget income levels and support the Councils financial recovery from the Covid pandemic. This may require commercial investment to support the repurposing and regeneration of our economy and to diversify and sustain pre-Covid commercial income levels through the asset we hold.

The reasons for taking out borrowing / providing capital for property investments are primarily:-

To sustain existing financial return to fund services to residents

- Market and economic opportunity to repurpose and diversify the Commercial and Corporate Estate.
- Economic development and regeneration within B&NES

Historically, property has provided strong investment returns in terms of capital growth and the generation of stable income, however this is now under significant risk due to Covid and market uncertainty. The retail sector and trends towards internet shopping is a factor but also the office sector with remote working practices firmly embedded in business culture. As with all investments, property as an investment medium, is not without risk: property values can fall as well as rise. Changing economic conditions could cause tenants to leave with properties remaining vacant which not only reduces revenue income but in itself incurs additional holding costs such as maintenance and business rates.

The Council currently has 264 properties held for investment purposes as shown in the table below, the additional new build property of Bath Quays South Offices having reached practical completion in 2022/23. The revenue income supports Council frontline services including Adult and Children's Social Care Services.

Table 2: Property held for investment purposes in £ millions
--

	No of Properties	Value in Accounts	No of Properties	Value in Accounts
Property Type	as at 31/3/22	as at 31/3/22	as at 31/3/23	as at 31/3/23
	No.	£'m	No.	£'m
Retail	189	174.517	189	162.589
Offices	12	21.41	13	37.85
Licenced	20	19.029	20	17.905
Industrial	17	18.693	17	16.751
Other	22	16.121	22	13.928
Leisure	3	7.323	3	7.362
Total	263	257.093	264	256.385

A fair value assessment of the Authority's investment property portfolio is made every twelve months, this is reported in the year end accounts. An investment strategy and asset management plan is prepared that details at an operational level the Council's approach to holding and acquiring assets, however, by necessity such documents have to be reviewed on a frequent basis to take account of such government guidance, prevailing market conditions and other risks and uncertainty. This is particularly relevant in view of the impact of Covid-19 and variants.

For any organisation the underlying value of its assets can provide security against its borrowings. The Authority assesses the risk of loss when considering its property

investments through appropriate due diligence and works closely with external commercial property advisors where appropriate.

Advice has previously been sought on the appropriate level of gearing for the portfolio and how this should be benchmarked. It is believed that staying within an agreed gearing ratio should ensure the Council's portfolio is protected from the risk of fluctuations in the rates of borrowing.

New investment, which is influenced by Government guidance, will continue to be supported by a Business Case detailing how the proposal fits the Council's investment criteria, any associated risks and how these can be mitigated.

The Council will continue to invest prudently within the B&NES area to take advantage of opportunities as they present themselves, supported by a robust governance process.

The Council will consider new investment on the grounds of regeneration of the wider portfolio and the actions required to diversify and sustain existing budget income levels. Any new investment will review the structural and risk implications of developing the existing portfolio.

Proportionality

The Authority dependency on investment activity to deliver services is shown below:-

Table 3: Proportionality of Investments

	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Forecast
	£'m	£'m	£'m	£'m
Net Council Revenue Expenditure	105.462	125.291	131.934	137.341
Gross Income from Investment Properties	11.165	16.965	15.694	16.636
Gross Income from Treasury Investments	0.332	0.311	1.559	1.760
Proportion of Investment Income to Net Revenue Expenditure	10.90%	13.79%	13.08%	13.39%

The proportion is all investment income divided by the gross service expenditure

If budgeted income is lower or budgeted expenditure is higher than expected the Authority holds a Revenue Budget Contingency and Un-Earmarked Reserves to meet any in-year shortfalls. If a shortfall were to continue into the medium to longer term a pressure would be added to the Medium Term Financial Plan that would have to be found from other sources either additional income elsewhere or cuts to services.

Borrowing in Advance of Need

New Government guidance in 2018 outlined that local authorities must not borrow more than or in advance of their needs purely in order to profit from the investment of the extra sums borrowed. The Authority has previously borrowed for this purpose because the acquisitions have enabled the council to vary its portfolio mix to increase diversification from retail.

In line with the Council's financial planning the income continues to be utilised to protect frontline services, including the provision of adult social care; children and environmental services pursuant to the Council's general power of competence under s.1 Localism Act 2011.

The previous acquisitions of the properties were in pursuance of the benefits (and in particular those of an economic nature) that it conferred upon the Council and its area, in accordance with s120 of the Local Government Act 1972. The acquisitions aligned themselves with the Council's Investment Strategy for the Commercial Estate that was in place at that time.

Business cases are assessed using the prevailing long-term PWLB borrowing rate. Changes in interest rates are carefully monitored and managed through Treasury Management. A Capital Financing Reserve is held to manage any in year additional borrowing costs. Income from the commercial estate is monitored monthly and the Council holds a Revenue Budget Contingency and Un-earmarked balances to meet with in-year shortfalls. Ongoing shortfalls would be reflected in the MTFS as well as a review of whether individual properties should be held or sold.

Provision for Risks Capital Bids

Each capital bid is risk assessed and a reasonable contingency sum is allocated within the project budget. In addition to this the Council sets aside a sum each year as a Capital Contingency as part of setting the budget to meet risks that require additional capital financing within the financial year. It also retains a revenue reserve to meet any unforeseen or additional revenue requirements such as additional interest or revenue reversion risks that require additional financing.

Knowledge and Skills

The council has professionally qualified staff across a range of disciplines including finance, legal and property that follow continuous professional development (CPD) and attend courses on an ongoing basis to keep abreast of new developments and skills.

The council establishes project teams from all the professional disciplines from across the council as and when required. External professional advice is taken where required and will always be sought in consideration of any major commercial property investment decision.

Investment Indicators

The Authority has set the following quantitative indicators to allow elected members and the public to assess the Authority's total risk exposure as a result of its investment decisions.

The following indicator shows the Authority's total exposure to potential investment losses. This includes amounts the Authority is contractually committed to lend but have yet to be drawn down and guarantees the Authority has issued over third party loans.

Table 4: Total investment exposure in £millions

Total Investment Exposure	31/3/21 Actual	31/3/22 Actual	31/3/23 Actual
	£'m	£'m	£'m
Treasury Management Investments	67.500	84.200	42.300
Service Investments Loans	11.269	9.585	6.060
Commercial Investments - property	260.915	257.093	256.385
Total Investments	339.684	350.878	304.745
Contractual Commitments to Lend	0	0	0
Guarantees Issued on Loans	0	0	0
Total Exposure	339.684	350.878	304.745

Current Government guidance is that these indicators should include how investments are funded. Since the Authority does not normally associate particular assets with particular liabilities, this guidance is difficult to comply with. However, commercial investment properties acquisitions shown in table 4 can be linked to the borrowing shown in the following table 5. The remainder of the Authority's investments are funded by usable reserves and income received in advance of expenditure through Treasury Management:

Table 5: Investments funded by borrowing in £millions

Investments Funded by Borrowing	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	
	£'m	£'m	£'m	
Commercial Investments – Property	93.258	93.274	93.341	

[•] Includes Bath Quays South Offices which became operational in 2022/23.

The following indicator shows the investment income received less the associated costs, including the cost of borrowing where appropriate, as a proportion of the sum initially invested. Note that due to the complex local government accounting framework, not all recorded gains and losses affect the revenue account in the year they are incurred:

Table 6: Investment rate of return (net of all costs)

Investments net rate of return	2021/22 Actual or Average Value/ Investment	2021/22 Actual Return	Rate of Return	2022/23 Actual or Average Value/ Investment	2022/23 Actual Return	Rate of Return
	£'m	£'m	%	£'m	£'m	%
Treasury Management Investments (weighted average balance)	86.167	0.311	0.36	74.600	1.559	2.09
Service Investments: Loans (weighted average balance)	10.093	0.297	2.94	7.134	0.156	2.19
Commercial Investments: Returns on Property Compared to Income	257.093	15.388	5.99	256.385	14.003	5.46

Other investment indicators

	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Forecast
	%	%	%	%
Debt Interest Payments to net	7.43	5.96	5.52	6.34
revenue expenditure				
Debt Financing Costs	13.97	12.63	12.47	13.76
(Interest & MRP) to net				
revenue expenditure				
Commercial Investments debt	35.74	36.28	36.41	35.99
compared to asset value				
Net commercial income	9.69	12.28	10.61	11.03
compared to net Council				
expenditure				

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Council MRP Policy – (2024/25 Policy)

When the Authority finances capital expenditure by borrowing it creates debt, and must put aside resources to repay that debt in later years. The amount charged to the revenue budget for the repayment of debt is known as Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), although there has been no statutory minimum since 2008. The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Authority to have regard to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision (the MHCLG Guidance) most recently issued in 2018.

The broad aim of the MHCLG Guidance is to ensure that debt is repaid over a period that is either reasonably commensurate with that over which the capital expenditure provides benefits, or, in the case of borrowing supported by Government Revenue Support Grant, reasonably commensurate with the period implicit in the determination of that grant.

The MHCLG Guidance requires the Authority to approve an Annual MRP Statement each year, and recommends a number of options for calculating a prudent amount of MRP. The following statement incorporates options recommended in the Guidance as well as locally determined prudent methods.

- For capital expenditure incurred before 1st April 2008 MRP will be determined as the principal repayment on a 50 year annuity with an annual interest rate equal to 2% which will fully finance this element of the CFR within 50 years, incorporating an "Adjustment A" of £38.8m.
- For unsupported capital expenditure incurred after 31st March 2008, MRP will be determined by charging the expenditure over the expected useful life of the relevant asset as the principal repayment on an annuity with an annual interest rate equal to the average relevant PWLB rate for the year of expenditure, starting in the year after the asset becomes operational. MRP on purchases of freehold land will be charged over 50 years. MRP on expenditure not related to fixed assets but which has been capitalised by regulation or direction will be charged over 20 years.
- For assets acquired by finance leases or the Private Finance Initiative [and for the transferred debt from Avon County Council], MRP will be determined as being equal to the element of the rent or charge that goes to write down the balance sheet liability.
- Where former operating leases have been brought onto the balance sheet due to the adoption of the IFRS 16 Leases accounting standard, and the asset values have been adjusted for accruals, prepayments, premiums and/or incentives, then the annual MRP charges will be adjusted so that the total charge to revenue remains unaffected by the new standard.

• For capital expenditure loans to third parties that are repaid in annual or more frequent instalments of principal, the Council will make nil MRP unless (a) the loan is an investment for commercial purposes and no repayment was received in year or (b) an expected credit loss was recognised or increased in-year, but will instead apply the capital receipts arising from principal repayments to reduce the capital financing requirement instead. In years where there is no principal repayment, MRP will be charged in accordance with the MRP policy for the assets funded by the loan, including where appropriate, delaying MRP until the year after the assets become operational. Sufficient MRP will be charged to ensure that the outstanding capital financing requirement (CFR) on the loan is no higher than the principal amount outstanding less the expected credit loss. This option was proposed by the government in its recent MRP consultation and in the Authority's view is consistent with the current regulations.

Capital expenditure incurred during each financial year will not be subject to a MRP charge until the following financial year or until the year after the asset becomes operational.

Annex 8 - Bath and North East Somerset Council Pay and Reward Policy 2024/2025

Introduction

- This document sets out the Pay and Reward Policy for Bath & North East Somerset Council (B&NES) for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. It provides a clear and transparent policy to the public demonstrating accountability and value for money with regards to decisions on pay and reward for council staff.
- 2. The council's pay arrangements reflect the need to attract, retain and motivate skilled employees to ensure high levels of performance. The policy recognises flexibility which is essential in delivering a diverse range of services and is underpinned by principles of fairness and equality.
- 3. In accordance with the requirements of Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011 and of the Revised Guidance and the associated statutory guidance set out in the Openness and Accountability in Local Pay: Guidance and Supplementary Guidance under section 40 of the Localism Act (February 2012 & 2013), together with the Local Government Transparency Code 2015 from the Department for Communities and Local Government, B&NES Council is required to publish a Pay Policy Statement for each financial year detailing:
 - a) The council's definition of senior posts
 - b) The council's definition of lowest paid employees
 - c) Reasons for adopting these definitions
 - d) The relationship between the remuneration of senior posts and that of the lowest paid employees
- 4. In accordance with provisions of the Localism Act, the requirement to publish a Pay Policy Statement does not extend to schools and therefore this policy does not include school based employees.

Definitions

- 5. The council's senior posts are defined as:
- Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service*)
- Executive Director Operations/Chief Operating Officer
- Director of Public Health*
- Executive Director Resources (S151 Officer*)
- Head of Legal & Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer*)
- Director of Children and Education (DCS*)
- Director of Adult Social Care (DASS*)
- Director of People & Change
- Executive Director Sustainable Communities
- Director One West & Avon Pension Fund

- Director of Place Management
- Director of Capital Delivery & Housing
- Director of External Affairs
- Director of Education, Inclusion and Children's Safeguarding
- 6. The Council's deputies to statutory officers are defined as:
- Head of Financial Management
- Director of Education, Inclusion and Children's Safeguarding
- Deputy Monitoring Officer
- 7. The term 'lowest paid employee' refers to those employees in substantive full time employment at the lowest scale point of the Council's published pay scale.

Principles

- 8. Bath & North East Somerset Council values all its employees and aims to apply a consistent and fair approach to pay and benefits in line with the following principles:
- To work within financial constraints and use those limited funds in the most effective way to support the Council in the provision of quality cost effective services and its workforce needs
- To aim for consistency and fairness in the processes used to manage pay and benefits, as appropriate to service delivery and in line with its commitment to remaining within the framework of the relevant national pay and conditions agreements
- To promote an equal pay agenda by ensuring that pay and job evaluation systems and processes meet legislative requirements and to actively work towards reducing any unjustified pay gaps on the grounds of gender or ethnicity
- To ensure that pay and benefits processes and policies are transparent and accessible to all employees
- To be clear about the recognition and reward of performance, whether at whole organisation, service, team or individual level
- To support a flexible approach to the acceptance of changes to tasks, duties and responsibilities by employees and allow for flexibility between posts.
- To enable the council to attract and retain its employees and in order to do so, respond to situations where market forces dictate the necessity to apply supplements to established salaries.
- To retain a core set of benefits for all employees.

Responsibility for pay and reward decisions

9. The Council's Pay and Reward Policy incorporates the statutory provisions of the Localism Act (2011) in relation to pay policy statements. Approval of this statement and of any amendments to it is therefore a matter for full Council and cannot be delegated to any sub-committee.

- 10. All policy matters relating to the Council's role as an employer including pay under section 112 of the Local Government Act, 1972 are delegated to the Employment Committee. The Restructuring Implementation Committee recommends appointments to the posts of Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service), Section 151 Officer, and Monitoring Officer to the Council who determine the decision. The Head of Paid Service has delegated authority to make appointments to Director posts subject to there being no objection to the appointment being lodged by a cabinet member.
- 11. Managers should be aware of their delegated levels of authority. Delegations for decisions on pay cannot be further delegated below these levels:

Decision	Delegated level of authority
Starting salary for Chief Executive (Head of Paid Services), Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer	Full Council
Starting salary for Executive Directors and Directors	Head of Paid Service
Performance related pay increases for Chief Executive	Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council in consultation with the Director of People & Change
Performance related pay/progression increases for Executive Directors and Directors	Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Director of People & Change
Market supplements for any post of Head of Service and below	Corporate Management Team
Recruitment and retention payments for any post below Director level where it is not possible to recruit and retain categories of staff	Corporate Management Team
Honorarium payments for any post	Director in consultation with Human Resources
Individual grading including regrading	Head of Service in consultation with Human Resources
Planned overtime payments	Head of Service in consultation with Human Resources

12. The Director of People & Change is responsible for ensuring that the Council's Job Evaluation Scheme and pay processes have been applied. Human Resources is responsible for overseeing any decision on pay to ensure that they are made in accordance with the delegated authority levels and are compliant with the terms of the Pay and Reward Policy.

Basic pay

- 13. The job role and its accountability in the overall context of the council's services and responsibilities is evaluated using the HAY job evaluation scheme which is based on objective criteria and free from discriminatory bias.
- 14. All job roles are evaluated using this scheme including senior management appointments as well as Chief Officers and their Deputies.
- 15. Job roles are paid according to the terms of the relevant national agreements on pay and conditions of service.

Pay on appointment

- 16. Staff are normally appointed at the bottom scale point of the grade at which the post has been evaluated.
- 17. Managers have discretion to appoint at a higher scale point within the grade band if the appointee can demonstrate that they are currently earning more than the minimum salary for the grade or there are other extenuating circumstances such as difficulties in attracting suitable applicants.

Pay review dates

18. Grade progression (i.e. movement from a lower to a higher salary scale point (scp) within a grade where applicable) takes place on 1st April of each year until the highest scp in the grade is reached. Grade progression is subject to satisfactory performance (and may be withheld if performance is unsatisfactory) and a minimum of 6 months' service in the grade.

Re-employment of former local government employees

- 19. The Council retains sufficient flexibility in its response to the re-employment of former local government employees to enable it to respond appropriately to the particular circumstances. It ensures that an open and fair selection process takes place before any appointment is confirmed. 'Merit' is the sole criteria for engagement.
- 20. The Council does not normally re-engage any B&NES employee that has taken voluntary redundancy for a period of 2 years after the date of redundancy.

Use of consultants, contractors and temporary 'agency' workers

21. Ordinarily staff will be engaged directly by the Council as employees but on an exceptional basis, where particular circumstances deem it necessary, people may be engaged under 'contracts for services' as consultants or contractors or on an 'agency basis'. When this situation arises, the council will give detailed prior consideration to the benefit of doing so and that the overriding need to ensure value for money is achieved, including the need to ensure no one is inappropriately enabled to achieve a more favourable position in respect of their tax liabilities ('tax avoidance') than might otherwise apply. The Council will therefore have proper regard to this principle in applying the HMRC test for tax status under the Off Payroll Working

provisions for any interim 'off-payroll' engagements.

Equal pay

- 22. The Council is committed to the principle of equal pay for all posts of the same size and value and has implemented the national 'single status' agreement. In order to put its commitment to equal pay into practice, the Council:
- regularly reviews its pay grade and salaries for all current staff and starting pay for new staff in line with the Equality Act 2010, Equality and Human Rights Commission guidance and the council's Equality Policy.
- informs employees of how these practices work and how their own pay is determined.
- provides training and guidance for managers and supervisory staff involved in decisions about pay and benefits.
- regularly monitors pay and grading data and statistics
- publishes pay equality data as statutorily required
- 23. The Council published its <u>2022 Gender and Ethnicity Pay Gap</u> report in 2023. The report sets out the overall difference between men and women's pay in the Council. This is known as the gender pay gap and is a measure of any difference in pay between the mean average and median earnings of men and women. This is then expressed as a percentage of male earnings. The Council employs proportionately more women (60.7%) than men (39.3%) and with a greater number working part-time and/or in administrative roles, there is a median gender pay gap across the organisation of -6.1% as at March 2022.
- 24. This was the first year that the Council has produced an Ethnicity Pay Gap report. The report sets out the overall difference between the average earnings of employees who self-identify as white and the average earnings of employees who self-identify as any other ethnicity group. The median average hourly rate of pay of employees self identifying as white is £14.25 per hour with employees self identifying as ethnic minority as £14.62, a gap of -2.5% as at March 2022.

Senior pay

- 25. The remuneration of the Chief Executive and senior officer appointments in the Council (see Annex 1) is set across five pay bands. Levels of pay are periodically benchmarked against similar posts in a wide range of public and not for profit sector organisations.
- 26. Any increases in pay rates will normally be in line with those negotiated nationally by Joint Negotiating Committees (JNCs) for Chief Executives and Chief Officers respectively. The pay policy, whilst agreed in advance of the financial year to which it relates, can be amended during the course of the year to incorporate a pay award negotiated nationally or for other reasons.

- 27. Where a pay band consists of a number of different salary points, any progression to the next incremental point is subject to satisfactorily meeting performance criteria agreed in advance with the Chief Executive and Executive Directors, as appropriate (in consultation with the Director of People & Change). Any increase is paid from 1 April subject to 12 months' service in that pay band and the maximum not being exceeded.
- 28. This is no provision for the Council to pay any bonuses, charges, fees or allowances, benefits in kind to senior employees or any other employees other than relocation allowances and expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties. This provision is kept under review.
- 29. The Council has agreed that the Chief Executive undertakes the role of Returning Officer in respect of all elections. The Returning Officer is an officer of the Council who is appointed under the Representation of the People Act 1983. Whilst appointed by the Council, the role of the Returning Officer is one which involves and incurs personal responsibility and accountability and is statutorily separate from their duties as an employee of the Council. As Returning Officer, they are paid a separate allowance for each election for which they are responsible.

Pay ratios within the Council

- 30. The relationship between the rate of pay for the lowest paid Council employee and that of the Council's Chief Officers is determined by the processes used for determining pay and grading structures as set out in this Pay and Reward Policy.
- 31. The 'lowest paid' persons employed under a contract of employment with the Council are employed at spinal point 3 of the NJC payscale which is £22,737 and £11.79 per hour as at 1 April 2023¹. The relationship between the rate of pay for the "lowest paid" employees and the council's Chief Officers is regulated by the processes used for determining pay and grading structures as set out in this Pay and Reward Policy. The salary utilised for the Chief Officer calculations of all the pay multiple data is £109,932 and for the Chief Executive it is £165,000.
- 32. The Council employs apprentices who are not included within the definition of 'lowest paid employees' as they are not employed under contracts of employment.
- 33. As part of its commitment to pay transparency, and following the recommendations of the Hutton "Review of Fair Pay in the Public Sector" (2011), the Council publishes information on pay ratios on an annual basis. The information for 2024-2025 is as follows:

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¹ Local government pay negotiations for 2024 are on-going nationally and the final pay award is unknown at the time of writing

Multiple of salary	Ratio
 the multiple between the annual salary of the lowest paid Council employee and the Chief Executive (full- time equivalent basis) as a ratio 	1:7
 the multiple between the annual salary of the lowest paid Council employee and the average Chief Officer (full-time equivalent basis) as a ratio 	1:5
 the multiple between median earning of Council employees and the Chief Executive (full-time equivalent basis) as a ratio 	1:5
 the multiple between median earning of Council employees and the average Chief Officer (full-time equivalent basis) as a ratio 	1:3

35. Bath & North East Somerset Council does not currently have a policy of maintaining or reaching a specific ratio of pay multiple between the Chief Executive and that of the median earner.

Employee Benefits

- 36. In addition to an employee's salary, the Council offers a comprehensive range of benefits designed to enhance the work life balance of our employees. The current benefits include:
- the Local Government / Teachers'/NHS Pension Schemes as applicable
- generous annual leave entitlements in addition to bank holiday entitlement
- the option to purchase additional annual leave and/or take unpaid leave
- a wide range of learning and development opportunities
- flexible working arrangements
- employee wellbeing schemes, including access to Occupational Health and an Employee Assistance Programme through Health Assured
- childcare vouchers
- cycle-to-work scheme
- car benefit scheme
- discounted gym and leisure membership
- use of the Vectis card scheme to provide retail discounts
- staff social club
- MOT testing with reduced rates for staff

Termination payments

37. Proposed voluntary redundancy packages in excess of £90,000 (this threshold includes [but is not limited to] any proposals in respect of salary to be paid in lieu, redundancy compensation, pension benefits and holiday pay as appropriate) and any special severance packages in excess of £20,000 are referred to the Restructuring Implementation Committee for consideration.

38. Senior staff are not differentiated from other members of staff in terms of remuneration on resignation or termination. The Council's general arrangements for severance and scheme for discretionary payments apply to all employees.

Working with Trade Unions

39. The Council will endeavour to maintain a joint working approach with its recognised Trade Unions and will work closely with them on pay related matters. There has been consultation with representatives of the recognised Trade Unions during the development of this Pay and Reward Policy. Collective bargaining processes will be followed as appropriate for any proposed changes to pay and/or allowances.

Publication

- 40. The Council's approach to the publication of and access to information on the remuneration of Chief Officers is to include it on its public website as part of its requirements within the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 and in accordance with the Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency. A copy of the Pay Policy Statement is published on the Council's website: www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/jobs/
- 41. For further information on the Council's pay policy please contact the Council's Human Resource Service email: HR Payroll@bathnes.gov.uk Tel: 01225 395146

Annex 1 – Senior Officer remuneration

For the purposes of this statement, senior officer means 'chief officers' as defined within S38 of the Localism Act. The posts falling within the statutory definition are set out below together with salaries effective from 1 April 2024²:

Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service)

The salary for the post is £165,000 per annum. Additional payments will be made for Returning Officer duties in respect of the 2024 elections. The Returning Officer fees are determined by Statutory Instrument and paid by the Cabinet Office for all National and European elections, rather than by the Council. The duties of the Returning Officer are detailed in paragraph 7 above.

Executive Director Operations

The salary for the Executive Director Operations/Chief Operating Officer is £128,055 per annum. The salary is a fixed point.

Executive Director Resources

The salary for the Executive Director Resources is £120,169 per annum. The salary is a fixed-point.

Directors and deputies to statutory officers

Pay Band	Roles	Number
Band 4 (JNC):	Adult Social Care	6
£109,329-£115,648	Children & Education	
,	Place Management	
	Sustainable Communities	
	People & Change	
	One West & Avon Pension Fund	
Band 5 (JNC):	Education, Inclusion and Children's Safeguarding	4
£96,704 - £103,014	Public Health & Prevention	
,	Capital Delivery & Housing	
	External Affairs (0.6 FTE)	
Grade 14 (NJC):	Head of Financial Management	2
£86,672 - £93,181	Head of Legal & Democratic Services	
Grade 13 (NJC):	Legal Services Manager	1
£60,205 - £65,858		

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² Local government pay negotiations for 2024/2025 are still on-going and the final pay award is unknown at the time of writing

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1 INTRODUCTION

This appendix sets out in some detail Members' individual responsibilities to set a legal budget and how Members should approach the task. It also reminds Members about the rules concerning pecuniary and other interests

2 LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Section 31A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires budget calculations to be made before 11th March, but they are not invalid merely because they are made on or after 11th March. Nevertheless, delay in setting the Council Tax would have significant legal and financial consequences.

3. PROCESS FOR AGREEING THE BUDGET & CONSIDERING ALTERNATIVE BUDGET

The Cabinet has the responsibility to prepare and propose a draft Budget to Council for its approval.

The Cabinet have formulated a budget proposal and Council Tax recommendation for the Council meeting on 20 February 2024. Such budget proposal may either take the form of a composite proposal or may include agreed core proposals and options for allocating parts of the budget.

The Council has two options available to it at the budget setting meeting. It can object to specific parts of the proposals and if it does so, must require the Leader on behalf of Cabinet to reconsider its proposals. The Council is required to give the Cabinet reason(s) why it considers those proposal(s) should be changed and it is then for the Cabinet to consider those proposed changes and the reasons put forward. Alternatively, it is open to the Council to accept the budget in its proposed form at the meeting, in which case no further action is necessary.

Council may then determine the budget on the basis of the Cabinet's recommendations, plus any insignificant changes adopted as amendments at the Council meeting.

ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS

If alternative proposals to those contained in this report are moved at the budget setting meeting, the Chief Finance Officer will need to consider if the estimates or proposed financial reserves contained in this report are affected and whether a further report (which may be oral) is required under section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003.

If the Chief Finance Officer is unable to report on the estimates or the reserves because of the lateness of the alternative proposals, then he will **not** be able to comply with this statutory requirement.

The Constitution provides that the meeting itself (on advice from the Chief Executive) will decide whether any amendment to the budget proposals is of such significance as to amount to an "objection" to the budget to require reconsideration by the Cabinet.

If a significant proposal is accepted on a vote at Council (from those proposals notified at the Cabinet meeting), this stands as a formal objection within the terms of the law and will be referred to the Leader to secure consideration by the Cabinet and report back to the Council meeting on 29 February 2024.

When the Cabinet has considered the objections, it is required to put its proposals (which may or may not be revised) back to the Council Meeting. If the Cabinet does not agree with Council's views on a proposed change, it is required to state why and the Council can then take those reasons into account, along with its original thoughts as to why the change was desirable. At the meeting, it is open to Council to take such decision as it sees fit on any variation from the budget as originally proposed that has been the subject of consideration under the process outlined above.

4. FAILURE TO AGREE A BUDGET

This renders the Council vulnerable to judicial review proceedings because legislation requires the Council to set the Council Tax.

It also renders Councillors individually liable for failure to fulfil fiduciary duties. The obligation to make a lawful budget each year is shared equally by each individual Member. In discharging that obligation, Members owe a fiduciary duty to the Council Taxpayer.

5. FIDUCIARY DUTY

The budget must not include expenditure on items which would fall outside the Council's powers. Expenditure on lawful items must be prudent, and any forecasts or assumptions such as rates of interest or inflation must themselves be rational.

Power to spend money must be exercised in good faith for the purpose for which they are conferred, and any ulterior motives risk a finding of illegality.

In determining the Council's overall budget requirement, Members are bound to have regard to the level of Council Tax necessary to sustain it. The interests of the Council Taxpayer must be balanced against those of the various service recipients.

Setting a budget is not the same as deciding what expenditure will in fact be incurred. To budget for expenditure is to estimate likely expenditure and/or make financial provision for such expenditure. In setting the budget, commitments are being entered which will have an impact on future years. Some commitments may change in future years, such as staff numbers which are capable of upward or downward adjustment at any time. Other commitments impose upon the Council future obligations which are binding and cannot be adjusted, such as loan charges to pay for capital schemes. For some specific proposals within the overall Budgetary framework, Cabinet decisions have already been made. For some other proposals, subject to relevant consultation where necessary, decisions by the Cabinet will need to be made, especially where the making of such a decision would result or would be likely to result in the permanent closure of a facility used

by the public or a permanent and significant reduction in the level of services or facilities provided to the public other than where such closure or reduction in service is considered necessary by the relevant strategic director for reasons of health and safety.

Only relevant and lawful factors may be considered, and irrelevant factors must be ignored.

A Member who votes in accordance with the decision of his or her political group but who does so after considering the relevant factors and professional advice will be acting within the law. Party loyalty and party policy are capable of being relevant considerations for the individual member provided they properly exercise discretion and do not blindly follow the party line without considering the relevant factors and professional advice.

6. CODE OF CONDUCT CONSIDERATIONS

Finally, under the Bath & North East Somerset Council Member Code of Conduct, members are required when reaching decisions to have regard to relevant advice from the Chief Finance Officer and the Monitoring Officer (the Chief Legal Officer). If the Council should fail to set a budget at all or fail to set a lawful budget, contrary to the advice of these two officers there may be a breach of the Code by individual members if it can be demonstrated that they have not had proper regard to the advice given.

DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Members are reminded to consider whether they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) or, Other Registerable Interest (ORI) or, Non-Registerable Interest (NRI) in the setting of the council's budget. If a member has a relevant interest they must disclose the interest at the meeting, subject to the provisions in the Code in respect of sensitive interests. If the interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest as set out in the Bath & North East Somerset Council Members Code of Conduct) the member may not participate in the discussions or vote on the matter, although if the interest is an Other Registerable Interest (ORI) or Non

Registerable Interest (NRI), the member may remain for the purposes of making representations or asking questions as a member of the public could but must not vote or take part in the debate.

Members should seek early advice to avoid any confusion on the night of the meeting if they consider they have a relevant interest.

Dispensations

The Council's Monitoring Officer may, on written request from a Member, grant a dispensation to relieve the applicant from the restrictions on participation and voting.

Dispensation may be granted if: -

- Without the dispensation the number of persons prohibited from participating would be so great a proportion to impede the effectiveness of the meeting.
- The representation of different political groups would be affected and likely to alter the likely outcome of any voting at the meeting.
- Granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the area.
- Every Member of the Council's Cabinet would be precluded from participating in the meeting; -
- It is appropriate to grant a dispensation.

A dispensation will mean that the Member to whom it is granted can speak and vote on a matter in which they have a relevant interest.

Michael Hewitt, Head of Legal & Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer)

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ANNEX 10: Budget 2024-25 Consultation Report

1. Background

This report sets out the process and outcomes of Bath & North East Somerset Council's consultation on its budget plans for 2024-25. The consultation took place from 15 December 2023 to 15 January 2024.

Our thanks go to all those who participated in the consultation.

2. Consultation on draft detailed budget proposals

On 15 December 2023 the council opened an <u>online consultation</u> on its draft spending plans for the next financial year, 2024 to 2025. This was made available on the council's website and ran until 5pm on 15 January 2024. A <u>press release</u> encouraged residents to complete the consultation and the public were also given the flexibility to submit a hard copy by post.

This consultation provided an opportunity to comment on the overall budget proposals as well as individual income/savings areas.

Respondees were also able to state whether they supported, partially supported, or objected to the general Council Tax and Social Care precept proposals in preference to further budget restrictions. The proposals were for a 2.99% increase in general Council Tax and a 2% increase in the ring-fenced Social Care Precept.

Consultation Results

The council received 440 submissions on these detailed budget proposals.

389 of the responses were submitted via the online portal. 49 responses were sent directly to budget@bathnes.gov.uk and 2 by post.

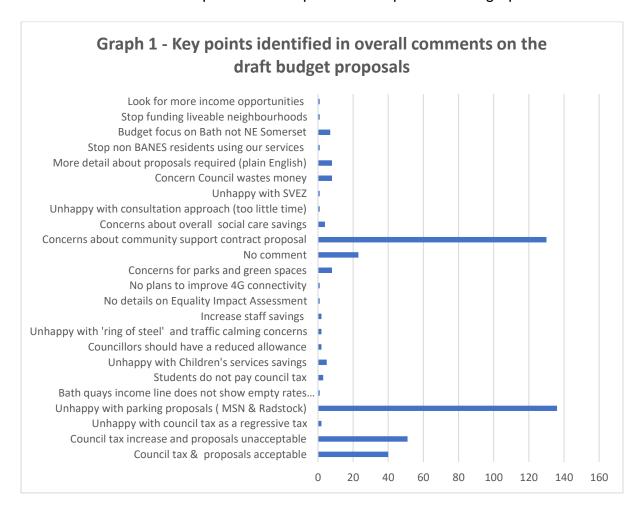
Formal responses were submitted via email by the following:

- Saltford Parish Council
- Radstock Town Council
- Motorcycle Action Group Western Region
- Brighter Places
- Home Group (including service user surveys and service implications)
- Julian House (including video snips, service user surveys and individual service implications)
- Keynsham Town Council
- Cllr Shaun Hughes

3. General response to the draft budget proposals for 2024 to 2025

Respondees were given an opportunity to provide an overall comment on the draft budget proposals.

The breakdown of the response to this question is represented in graph 1 below:



The proposed parking charge increases and implementation of new emissions-based parking charges generated the most general responses to this question, with 136 (31%) of all submissions highlighting their dissatisfaction with this proposal. Predominantly the responses focused on the potential impacts on Midsomer Norton and Radstock.

A flavour of the responses are captured below:

"MSN high street is struggling as it is. Implementing parking charges will only make this situation worse."

"Implementing parking charges in Radstock and Midsomer Norton will only reduce the use of businesses in those areas, reducing business profit and resulting in business closure and empty units. This would create a larger loss through reduced rent income than any projected gain by implementing the charges"

Saltford – "this could increase visitor parking on the nearby narrow highway where permitted which is already heavily in demand"

The second area to generate the most responses related to the Adult services proposal to review and recommission community support contracts. 130 responses (30%) were received. Concern was raised about the scale of this saving compared to other budget lines, the impact it would have on the most vulnerable and the risk that this approach would lead to the council inheriting greater long-term costs that outweighed the saving proposal.

"The proposed cuts to funding for organisations such as Julian House will have a detrimental impact on some of the most vulnerable in our community.

"The budget cuts will drastically affect charities that have been commissioned to run services. They are already stretched and operating at crisis. Further cuts will cause irreparable damage to necessary services."

"These contracts deliver essential accommodation and support services to individuals who would otherwise face the very real prospect of homelessness on the streets of Bath and North East Somerset."

51 (12%) responses felt the general proposals around council tax and savings/income proposals were unacceptable. Conversely, 40 respondees (9%) felt the proposals were acceptable.

"4.99% is too much of an increase given current cost of living crisis."

23 respondees (5%) provided no comment and 8 (2%) respondees felt the detail presented made it difficult to respond.

Other comments included frustrations that the large local student population do not contribute to Council Tax and there was concern from 8 residents (2%) that the changes to the parks delivery model would impact negatively on our parks and green spaces.

"Charge students Council tax"

"Parks - Parks provide a sense of community, people chatting about their dogs, children, the weather, the beauty surrounding them"

4. Responses by portfolio

The consultation then provided the opportunity to comment on the draft budget proposals individually, grouped by portfolio. The results are set out below.

Adult Services

i) Social care package review (£270,000 saving) – comments centred on the need for people to contribute to their own care, the challenge of finding local providers and the impact on staff and carers:

'Wealthy elderly people should ... pay more themselves to find ... care.'

"I have concerns about finding alternative care providers"

"If services are reduced, there will be increase pressure and demand on Adult social care teams as there will no longer be other services to take on some of the support/reviews/case management."

"The reliance upon unpaid carers is already immense and reducing care to save money will add to carer stress"

ii) Community Resource Centres- (CRCs) (£300,000 saving) – respondees felt that it was important that service users were not negatively impacted by this saving and concern was raised that the older people population number is increasing placing greater demand on CRCs:

"any changes do not negatively impact users of these services"

"A proposed saving of £300,000 surely means a reduction in service that provides support for the most vulnerable people, how are needs going to be met when the population is growing?"

iii) Commissioning (£280,000 saving) – the importance of commissioners and their role in the quality-of-service provision was highlighted. The council's commitment to commission local services to match users was well received:

"You need to retain the commissioners you have to keep good local knowledge and experience. In doing so, you will be able to robustly manage the quality and performance of the services."

"Local provision is better, people don't want to be forced out of area, local communities and connections are so important for positive outcomes"

iv) Review of the Better Care Fund (£200,000 saving) —comments argued that funding should be directed to social care and that it was important for there not to be a reduction in overall availability of key services as a result of this proposal:

"Money should go into social care"

"It's important, however, to ensure that this review does not lead to a decrease in the overall availability of crucial social care services"

v) Commissioning review (£250,000 saving) – the proposal to review the commissioning model generated responses on the potential impacts on staff and service provision.

"What will this mean for staff""

"You need to retain the commissioners you have to keep good local knowledge and experience. In doing so, you will be able to robustly manage the quality and performance of the services"

vi) Community Support Contracts (£802,000 saving) – the scale of this saving and the impact on the 3rd sector/vulnerable people was questioned, as were the cost implications when reducing funding on prevention. Approximately a third of all responses sited this proposal as their main area of concern.

"Why is this area having to save so much?"

"Need to protect service for rough sleepers and domestic abuse otherwise risk even more acute and expensive services later"

"What will be the impact on the charitable sector"

"£802,000 proposed cut equates to a 21.4% reduction in current funding, while the average saving being asked across other departments is 4.9% in comparison. This is unacceptable."

"Is it possible to ameliorate the cuts to ... fund through the introduction of a tourist tax"

"We cannot ignore the potential rise in deaths on the streets and/or drugrelated deaths caused by a lack of access to necessary, timely interventions and support" vii) Royal Victoria Park leisure facilities (£10,000 income) – this proposal was positively received, and further income opportunities were encouraged to be sought by the council:

"Good plan"

"Make greater use to bring in more of an income e.g. park concerts"

viii) Health and Wellbeing services (£200,000 saving) – concern was raised about the potential impact on service users from this proposal, and the importance of investing in preventative services:

"you are actively pushing people to either go private or spiral and get sick as there will be no provision left"

"Any cuts in this area only causes costs further down the line and should be resisted"

Council response to key issues raised in this portfolio

In relation to the community services savings item, these specific contracts have not been looked at for some time and given the financial pressures the council needs to focus spend on the greatest need and prioritise the statutory provision laid down by central government.

The council is aware of the risk that a decrease in funding for preventative services may create a budget pressure for statutory services in the future. We greatly value our third sector partners and will work with them to make sure that contracts which are cost effective in preventing pressure on statutory services are maintained.

We have listened carefully and will take this feedback into account when determining the budget and during its subsequent delivery.

Children's services

i) Early Help contract redesign (£50,000 saving) – In response to the proposal to recommission Early Help contracts, concern was raised that this would have longer term implications around need and subsequent costs, the importance at looking at the redesign implications on the wider family was raised:

"The investment in children's services is critical to tackle future costs that arise from e.g. complex upbringings. The funding used here is an investment that ultimately saves money in the future."

"The redesign of the Early Help contracts, while aimed at improving service delivery, should also consider the interconnectedness between children, young people, parents, and grandparents"

Specialist commissioning (£500,000 saving) – The importance of commissioners in managing the quality and performance of services was once more raised as was the importance in specialist commissioning ensuring key needs are met:

"You need to retain the commissioners you have to keep good local knowledge and experience. In doing so, you will be able to robustly manage the quality and performance of the services."

"The process of specialist commissioning, which involves rebasing contracts as part of the commissioning review, can be a critical step in ensuring that specific, often complex, needs are met effectively."

iii) Reprofiled transformation savings (£460,000 saving) – more detail was requested to be able to respond to the proposal and it was emphasised that this work should not lead to a reduction in service:

"I would need to see the detail of this to be able to comment to see if its fair"

"this transformation must be managed carefully to avoid any negative impact on service quality and accessibility"

iv) Reduce discretionary spending in areas including family support – concern was raised about the impact this would have on families already facing challenges:

"This will impact families many of whom have nowhere else to turn and are already under huge pressure"

"...concerned that this proposal will put additional pressure on families who are already struggling due to the cost of living crisis."

"again we will see an increase in families going into crisis and needing higher level support impacting on over stretched social care statutory services"

Council response to key issues raised in this portfolio

The council continues to develop services in line with its strategic aims and changing population to ensure improved experiences and outcomes for families.

Across the portfolio the council has experienced significant contract inflation. Reviews of contract spend will be commissioned to ensure best value, whilst continuing to prioritise the needs of children, young people and their families.

The council will look to increase the number of fostering households to reduce reliance on independent fostering agency placements, whilst also increasing the number of children returning to the care of their families and experiencing positive outcomes.

Climate emergency and sustainable travel

i) Corporate Strategy priority projects (£150,000 income) – the responses for this proposal focused on the role of central government in tackling climate change, the value of the portfolio and the need for the council to actively respond to its declared climate emergency:

"Spend less on tackling the climate emergency. You will not make a big difference with these small measures. Let national government deal with it."

"There is no analysis of the cost effectiveness of this portfolio, and as a result, arbitrary changes to savings and income cannot be readily assessed."

'A climate emergency has been declared and every effort should be made to ensure that these projects are delivered'

Council response to key issues raised in this portfolio

Overall funding for the council's Green Transformation Team is to be maintained over the next three years reflecting the council's key policy of responding to the climate and ecological emergencies.

Council priorities and delivery

i) Being Our Best Programme (£2,500,000 saving) – the feedback emphasised the need for the council to main its competitiveness within the job market and the potential to be more ambitious in this area in order to reduce savings requirements within other budget areas:

"Benefits must outweigh costs. Council jobs still need to be competitive in terms of salary."

"a modest additional saving in this program could help reduce the necessity for cuts in services crucial for those most in need in our community."

Council response to key issues raised in this portfolio

The Being our Best (BoB) programme will review all council roles to ensure the structure of the council is fit for purpose. The programme is focused on three strands:

Great Jobs – making sure the responsibilities and rewards are set at the right levels.

Smarter Structure's – reducing duplication, increase integrations between departments, and simplifying structures

Culture of Excellence – making sure staff can maximise their potential through a readiness for change, seeking to improve services and engaging with residents.

Programme savings will be delivered over the next two financial years; 2024-25 and 2025-26.

Economic and cultural sustainable development -

i) Business and Skills: recharge officer time to projects – comments received suggested that the council could be more ambitious on this saving line to help reduce pressures on community services:

"considering the wider context of budget constraints, a slight increase in savings from this area might be beneficial. Such an approach could help reduce the need for more significant cuts in essential community services, particularly those serving the most vulnerable."

ii) Heritage services additional income – the feedback challenged the lost income relating to the Fashion Museum and the length of time it will take to restore this revenue source. Further responses questioned the income

target for this proposal and the importance that local residents are not penalised from accessing the service:

"Why have you not opened the income generating Fashion Museum? It should not take years to do this - you have known about the Assembly Rooms being taken back by NT for years and yet you have not planned for this move."

"Is this realistic taking into consideration cost of living pressures which will mean residents and visitors may reduce leisure spend."

"any measures taken to increase income do not restrict public access or affordability, particularly for local residents"

iii) Corporate landlord: centralisation of facilities management – the feedback called for greater transparency around this proposal. Ensuring public facilities were not adversely impacted was also flagged:

"Greater transparency and review of what's working and what's not working"

"it's important to ensure that this restructuring does not adversely affect the availability and quality of public facilities"

iv) Bath Quays South lettings – the benefits of the proposal were challenged when considering current occupancy levels. Any successes linked to increased lettings it was felt should be used to contribute to the wider budget/community:

"I doubt the anticipated rental income when majority vacant. Net income when reflect non recoverable running costs such as empty rates"

"The success of Bath Quays South lettings should contribute to the broader community's wellbeing and align with the city's overall development goals."

v) City and Town Centre Management Service redesign – the feedback received called for greater consultation on this proposal:

"Public consultation needed"

Council response to key issues raised in this portfolio

The council has robust income generating proposals for this portfolio, including the items listed above.

Highways

i) Parking services: income rebasing – this proposal generated a significant number of responses. Comments received focused on the potential impact on local businesses and visitor numbers, the perception that this would penalise people who can only afford older cars, the impact this will have on parking on side roads, the lack of an alternative sustainable method to travel, the approach adopted in Bath not necessarily transferrable to North East Somerset towns and the impact on local workers and business rates:

"Implementing parking charges in Radstock and Midsomer Norton will only reduce the use of businesses in those areas, reducing business profit and resulting in business closure and empty units. This would create a larger loss through reduced rent income than any projected gain by implementing the charges"

"Shameless exploitation of people who need cars, as most of us do. Even worse the punishment of those with less money and older cars, though most now are very clean anyway"

"There will be more cars parked on the side of the roads where it's free and that's dangerous"

"MSN is NOT Bath and what works there is not necessarily good here."

"Bath parking has become so unaffordable that I now only travel in to the city less than a handful of time each year"

based parking charges – this proposal generated both positive and negative responses. Respondees felt that it was unfair for large diesel vehicles to be charged the same as smaller more efficient alternatives. The negative comments were similar to those seen under the income rebasing proposal, with residents raising concern about the impact on the high street, the air quality in North East Somerset not necessitating this measure and the lack of clarity on how this will impact residents parking on their own driveways:

"Totally agree. Charge based on emissions - why should a small car be charged same as a huge SUV pumping out double exhausts of diesel fumes!!"

"All it will result in is people spending less money locally and more online shopping"

"Wrapping up the parking charges in Midsomer Norton and Radstock as improving air quality seems a convenient way of justifying a way of making money from residents. It is likely to damage the existing traders in the town's and people will be more likely to travel to Bath or Bristol to shop"

"Not clear whether we will have to pay on all cars even when parked in our drives?"

"There should be a two hour limit for free parking so retailers are not impacted by charges and also would stop on street parking which is a safety risk from children running from in between cars."

iii) Motorbike permits – comments on this proposal questioned the revenue receipt for this proposal against the impact it will have on motorcycle users which it was felt had reduced impact on the highway in comparison to cars:

"This policy is discouraging those residents who are doing the right thing and who cause little damage to roads and take up only a small amount of space."

"This seems petty and unnecessary, and almost certainly unlikely to yield material income of any worth."

"Seems unfair as motorcycles take up limited space, especially smaller capacity bikes, where a lot of owners are young and are on low salaries."

Council response to key issues raised in this portfolio

The council understands the concerns put forward on the impact on Midsomer Norton and Radstock however, given the financial pressures a consistent approach to charging for parking across BANES is appropriate. We will seek to ensure any charges introduced protect and enhance the vibrancy of the high street. Any associated Traffic Orders will be subject to the statutory consultation processes and will provide opportunity for ongoing public input into the final parking model.

Neighbourhood services

- i) Income from new fees and charges for businesses no comments
- ii) Operational & contract efficiencies it was felt that contract efficiencies should be built into current practice within the council:

"These should be part of every check and balance regardless"

Weekday Recycling Centre efficiency savings – positive responses felt that this proposal was sensible because the public will have continued access, with the online booking system working well. Concerns included the potential impact on fly-tipping, the lack of detail in terms of the new opening hours and that access would be limited over weekends:

"A well-thought out proposal which maintains access at the level of the overall council area"

"The on line booking of slots for recycling centres works well."

"we would see an even bigger increase to fly tipping and dumping of litter/waste in our streets"

"The consultation does not state what the changes proposed would be"

"I think it needs to be open all day Friday - Sunday. Those are the peak days and need to be manned"

Customer experience programme – it was felt that customer interactions should be at the centre of everything the council does and as such should not require additional investment.

"I believe this is a non issue as customer interface should be at the heart of all businesses as an intrinsic part of it's operation. The right people for the right jobs is a management and recruiting issue, get it right in the day to day operation this shouldn't require any investment."

v) Park service redesign – concern was raised that this proposal would impact on the public's enjoyment of its green and open spaces:

"Parks and green spaces are important so this should not impact residents enjoyment of spaces"

"All evidence points to parks and open spaces providing improved health and lifestyle for users, and that more people should be encouraged to use them."

Council response to key issues raised in this portfolio

The park service redesign proposal is very limited in scope and will not reduce access to parks or the maintenance of them.

Resources

i) Therma Spa income – some respondees felt that local people should pay less to access the Spa whereas visitors should meet increased revenue targets:

"Tourists to pay more than locals"

"Increase costs to tourists but encourage local users by offering lower rates with discovery card"

ii) Capital programme borrowing review – the comments suggested the council should look at asset disposal to generate receipts. Concern was raised that this saving should not result in community projects being scaled back.

"Sell off existing unused properties to reduce borrowing"

"it's essential to ensure that this review does not lead to delays or scaling back of essential capital projects that could benefit the community, particularly in the context of creating an Age Friendly Community"

Consolidation of IT systems – the proposal to rationalise IT systems to consolidate core systems was questioned around cost, it was also suggested the council works with peer authorities to share experiences:

"It's supposed to save money when, in fact, it usually costs more and the old systems were better in the first place"

"Review, efficiently and swiftly, how other authorities use their systems and compare with those in current use."

iv) Review transport expenditure – the main comment requested the council to support rural bus services:

"Prioritise subsidised rural buses over Bath ones. Having 4 university buses an hour vs. 2 a day in Timsbury,."

- v) Corporate overhead rebasing no comments
- vi) Contract management comments again centred on the importance of good commissioners and the need to closely monitor contracts following award:

"You need to retain the commissioners you have to keep good local knowledge and experience. In doing so, you will be able to robustly manage the quality and performance of the services."

"Closely monitor contracts given out."

"it's important that this focus on improved contract management also considers the impact on service delivery, particularly for essential community services"

vii) Contract savings – to deliver this proposal it was suggested that the council should encourage economies of scale and take lessons from other councils:

"Encourage some providers to come together and collaborate"

"Look at how other councils are making savings and learn from them"

Council response to key issues raised in this portfolio

B&NES residents that are discovery holders are eligible for a discount to the Bath Thermae Spa.

The council looks to minimise its capital borrowing by disposing of buildings it no longer requires which generate funds for the authority.

In regards IT consolidation and contract savings the council works closely with neighbouring authorities to share best practice and explore opportunities.

5. Responses to the proposed changes in Council Tax

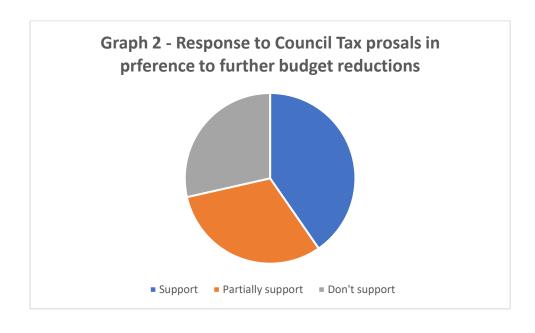
389 submissions provided a response to the question of whether the increase to Council Tax by 4.99 % was supported in preference to further budget reductions.

When considering this question 71% of respondees support or partially support the increase as opposed to 29% who do not support the changes.

The breakdown of which is as follows:

<u>Table: Response to proposed changes in general Council Tax and Social Care Precept in preference to further budget reductions</u>

Response	No of responses	Percentage of responses
Support	157	40%
Partially support	121	31%
Don't support	111	29%
Total	389	



Support

When considering those who supported the proposal, there was a recognition that the council is facing a challenging budget situation, exacerbated by inflation:

"Without an increase of this sort the council will effectively go bust"

"It's reasonable in light of inflation"

"Given the unsatisfactory budget settlement from central government, an increase to council tax is crucial in order to raise the funds needed to protect the most vulnerable people in B&NES, whilst maintaining other public services."

Partial support

The respondents who partially supported the proposal felt that the council should avoid reducing services and focus on eliminating waste:

"I partially support it to minimize the need for negative cuts in services and increases in other charges like parking. However I do believe that more should be done to cut waste in council services before cutting the services themselves!."

"I understand that the council needs to increase its revenue. However being a resident of BANES I feel costs are rising and services are falling. A double whammy for us."

Don't support

It was felt that the additional charge was particularly difficult when considering the current cost of living. Students and tourists were viewed as adding to service demand but not contributing to local Council Tax. Concern was raised that the council is too focused on Bath and that some current projects had not offered value for local people:

"It's too much to pay, whilst people are struggling to get by"

"Students and tourists use a large amount of council resources and more of the costs should fall to them and not local people."

"The waste of money in Bath is astronomical on the ring of steel etc etc. . Why should we pay for the mistakes made by BANES ."

"Only worried about bath improvement, outer rural services are stripped without thought or impact to those it concern"

Council response

The Council recognises the challenges faced by residents by the cost-of-living crisis and provides support schemes for those on the lowest incomes who are struggling with their council tax bills. However, the council is also affected by the same very significant inflationary pressures that affect residents.

The proposed changes to general Council Tax and Social Care Precept are essential to maintain service levels in the face of acute inflationary pressures. Without this proposal there would be a significant risk that some services would have to be significantly reduced or stopped altogether.

Bath & North East Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

Fees and Charges



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Ashes - Gardens

Interment Fee

Including Replacement, Repainting, Cleaning

Englishcombe & Valley View Gardens - New Plot	Charge
Englishcombe/Valley View Garden*	£1,670.00
Interment Fee	£256.00
Pergola Garden - New Plot Charge	;
Pergola Garden*	£1,348.00
Interment Fee	£256.00
Sanctum Vaults - New Vault	Charge
Sanctum 2000 Vault* Above ground vault for up to 2 ashes placements	£1,814.00
Sanctum Family Vault* Above ground vault for up to 4 ashes placements	£3,628.00
Placement Fee (first placement fee included)	£93.00
Circle Gardens - New Plot	Charge
Circle Garden*	£1,348.00
Interment Fee	£256.00
Added Inscription/Interment with Repaint - All Gardens (except where indicated)	Charge
Added Inscription (per Character)*	£5.50
"Repainting of an Englishcombe/Valley View/Alpine/Pergola/New Conifer Conifer/Heather Garden Stone* (in addition to an added inscription only)"	r/Old £168.00

Please note: Some areas of Bereavement Services involve third party providers and therefore prices are subject to change.

£256.00

Replacement Memorial/Interment - All Gardens	Charge
Replacement Memorial * (including up to 60 characters)	£1,205.00
Added Inscription (per Character)*	£5.50
Interment Fee	£256.00
Administration Fee for processing Garden buy-back	£50.00

Optional Extras	Charge
Extra letters over 60 characters (each)* (Applicable to all new & replacement memorials)	£5.50
"Repainting of an Englishcombe/Valley View/Alpine/Pergola/New Conifer/Old Conifer/Heather Garden Stone* (in addition to an added inscription only)"	£168.00
Photo plaque*	£280.00
Simple rose or cross design on stone (same colour as lettering)*	£159.00
Complex design on stone - ie Service Badges/colour motifs*	£225.00
Rose tile*	£159.00
Saturday Supplement (subject to staff availability)	£180.00

Repaint Only - All Gardens (except where indicated)	Charge
Repaint only of a Englishcombe/Valley View/Alpine/Pergola/New Conifer/Old Conifer/Heather Garden Stone* (no added inscription)	£264.00

Cleaning of a Peace Garden Stone	Charge
Clean only*	£282.00

^{*} denotes VAT included

Burials

Burial Including Transfers, Searches, Grave Maintenance

Exclusive Right of Interment	Babies up to and including 23 weeks gestation	Children from 24 weeks gestation up to and including 17 years	18+ years Deceased or Owner is Resident of BANES	18+ years Deceased or Owner is Non Resident of BANES
Standard Grave 30 years	N/A	£1,120.00 (zero charge to family. To be claimed via Child Funeral Fund)	£1,120.00	£2,240.00
Standard Grave 50 years	N/A	£1,861.00	£1,861.00	£3,723.00
Standard Grave 75 years	N/A	£2,339.00	£2,339.00	£4,570.00
Standard Grave 99 years	N/A	£2,695.00	£2,695.00	£5,391.00
Vault Grave (inc interment fee) 50 years	N/A	£3,631.00	£3,631.00	£7,262.00
Vault Grave (inc interment fee) 75 years	N/A	£5,213.00	£5,213.00	£10,426.00
Vault Grave (inc interment fee) 99 years	N/A	£5,570.00	£5,570.00	£11,141.00
New baby grave in designated area	£0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A

Graves for children up to and including age 16 years will be in a designated area unless the family wish to purchase the Exclusive Right of Interment in a private grave.

ι xclusive Right of Interment in 2	Babies up to and including 23 weeks gestation	Children from 24 weeks gestation up to and including 17 years	18+ years Deceased or Owner is Resident or Non Resident of BANES
terment fee for single depth £	£0.00	£383.00 (zero charge to family. To be claimed via Child Funeral Fund)	£854.00
terment fee for double depth here achievable)	N/A	£477.00 (zero charge to family. To be claimed via Child Funeral Fund)	£1,052.00
terment fee for double depth		charge to family. To be claimed via Child Funeral Fund) £477.00 (zero charge to family. To be claimed via Child	

Burial Extras	Charge
Use of Hilltop Chapel per ½ hour slot	£316.00
Celebrancy provided by our in-house celebrant	£209.00
Late arrival and over run of time slot penalty	£94.00
Tree and plaque for green burial grave*	£398.00
Cancellation fee once digging of any grave has commenced	£397.00
Full Exhumation (based on individual assessments of the grave)	£3,577.00
Ashes Exhumation (based on individual assessments of the grave)	£262.00

Prepurchase Exclusive Right of Interment in Full Burial Graves	Purchaser is Resident of BANES	"Purchaser is Non Resident of BANES"
Prepurchase Standard Grave 30 years	£1,673.00	£3,346.00
Prepurchase Standard Grave 50 years	£2,786.00	£5,571.00
Prepurchase Standard Grave 75 years	£3,264.00	£6,526.00
Prepurchase Standard Grave 99 years	£3,621.00	£7241.00
Prepurchase Vault Grave inc interment fee 50 years	£5,468.00	£10,935.00
Prepurchase Vault Grave inc interment fee 75 years	£5,803.00	£11,605.00
Prepurchase Vault Grave inc interment fee 99 years	£6,040.00	£12,081.00
Administration Fee for processing Grave buy-back	£100.00	£100.00

Transfer of Ownership of Right of Interment	Charge
Simple probate to executors - paperwork to be drawn up within 2 weeks	£67.00
Other - paperwork to be drawn up within 2 weeks	£85.00
Urgent - paperwork to be drawn up within 3 days	£122.00

Searches	Charge
Tracing fees (per name)*	£50.00
Marking a traced grave in any cemetery*	£50.00

^{*} denotes VAT included

Cremations

Cremation & Media

Cremation

Direct Cremations - Orchard Entrance	Charge
Unattended Direct Cremation (the deceased to be brought into our care through The Orchard entrance without anyone attending other than the funeral director). 0830hrs - 1600hrs at half hourly intervals	£390.00
Attended Direct Cremation - to witness - maximum of 6 mourners (the deceased to be brought into our care through The Orchard entrance). 0830hrs - 1600hrs at half hourly intervals - maximum of 10 minutes	£450.00

Valley & Hilltop Chapel	Babies up to and including 23 weeks gestation	Children from 24 weeks gestation up to and including 17 years	18+ years
15 minute service duration with our in-house celebrant from: 9.00am, 9.30am	N/A	N/A	£775.00
20 minute service duration from: 10.00am	£0.00	£441.00 (Zero charge to family. To be claimed via Child Funeral Fund)	£927.00
30 minute service duration from: 10.45am, 11.30am, 12.15pm, 1.00pm, 1.45pm, 2.30pm, 3.15pm, 4.00pm.	£0.00	£531.00 (Zero charge to family. To be claimed via Child Funeral Fund)	£1,114.00

The cremation fee includes:-

- a. Medical referees fee.
- b. Certificate of cremation.
- c. Provision of organ (not organist)
- d. Provision of Obitus System
- e. Burial of remains in a communal shrubbery or scattering on communal area unwitnessed (Note: a charge will apply to FD's returning ashes after 1 year See extras below).
- f. Recycling of metals through a national scheme with profits going to charity.
- g. Abatement and re-cycling of mercury from emissions.
- h. Facility to accept large coffins.
- i. Provision of biodegradable container as required.

Cremation Extras	Charge
Use of the Valley Chapel (following a service in the Hilltop Chapel)	£490.00
Extended use of Valley Chapel per time slot (per 30 mins subject to availability)	£220.00
Celebrancy provided by our in-house celebrant	£209.00
Saturday Supplement (subject to staff availability)	£220.00
Bringing the deceased into our care prior to a cremation	£22.00
Storage of remains (six months free of charge - remains held longer than this period will incur a monthly charge)	£56.00
Postage of remains to address in UK*	from £79.00
Ashes being returned by Funeral Directors after 1 year to inter/scatter in a communal area unwitnessed	each £12.00
Late arrival and over run of time slot penalty	£94.00
Duplicate Cremation Certificate	£12.00

Media Charges

Cremation Extras	Charge
Live Web Cast + 28 day Downloadable	£67.00
Keepsake Copy of Webcast (DVD/Blu-ray/USB stick/CD)(First copy £67 thereafter £27 per copy)	£67.00
Single Photo Tribute (additional photos £13)	£0.00
Basic slideshow (up to 25 photos shown on loop with simple transitions. This does not include music)	£65.00
Music slideshow (up to 25 photos set to music with fade transitions)	£82.00
Additional 25 Photos for any Slideshow or Pro Tribute)	£27.00
Keepsake Copy Recording of a Pro Tribute	£27.00
Downloadable Copy Recording of a Pro Visual Tribute	£13.00
Family-Made Video Checking (checking and preparation of video supplied by family or third party (played once at a time)	£27.00
Obitus Extra Work - for either adding video to a Pro Tribute, revisions, or major departure from a standard product	£27.00

Other packages available.

Misc	Charge
Medical Referee (Price changes in April)	£30.00

^{*} denotes VAT included

Ashes

Cremated Remains

Including Crem Plots for 4, Scatterings, Green Ashes Burial, Caskets & Urns

Exclusive Right of Interment - Cremated Remains Plots	Deceased or Owner is Resident of BANES	Deceased or Owner is Non resident of BANES
Cremation Plot for 4 (for 30 years)	£574.00	£1,146.00
Cremation Plot for 4 (for 50 years)	£932.00	£1,863.00
Cremation Plot for 4 (for 75 years)	£1,171.00	£2,340.00
Cremation Plot for 4 (for 99 years)	£1,348.00	£2,696.00

Interment Options - Cremated Remains	Charge
Witnessed interment in a shrubbery or scattering in The Grassland (to be arranged and paid by applicant of cremation)	£93.00
Interment of remains in a shrubbery following cremation elsewhere (to be arranged and paid by applicant of cremation)	£165.00
Scattering of remains on The Grassland following cremation elsewhere (to be arranged and paid by applicant of cremation)	£165.00
Cremated remains interment (Private Grave/Garden plot)	£256.00
Cremated remains interment at full burial depth	£512.00
Additional cremated remains to be interred or scattered simultaneously in the same plot	£54.00
Administration fee for returned cremated remains to be interred or scattered at our convenience	£54.00
Saturday Supplement (subject to staff availability)	£153.00

Pre Purchase Exclusive Right of Interment in Cremated Remains Plots	Deceased or Owner is Resident of BANES	Deceased or Owner is Non resident of BANES
Prepurchase Cremation Plot for 4 (for 30 years)	£851.00	£1,701.00
Prepurchase Cremation Plot for 4 (for 50 years)	£1,458.00	£2,917.00
Prepurchase Cremation Plot for 4 (for 75 years)	£1,697.00	£3,394.00
Prepurchase Cremation Plot for 4 (for 99 years)	£1,876.00	£3,751.00

Cremated Remains - Scatterings	Charge
The Meadow or Glade scattering	£165.00
The Meadow or Glade plaque* (on 10 year lease)	£275.00
Choice of motif on The Meadow or The Glade plaque*	£85.00
The Glade Mushroom Plaque	£275.00

Cremated Remains - Green Burial	Charge
Coppice, Locksbrook and Haycombe Other* (plus interment)	£1,076.00
Additional Plaque*	£256.00

Caskets/Urns (Third party provider prices subject to change)	Charge
Light & Dark Oak Caskets	£104.00
Scatter Tube - full size	£35.00
Scatter Tube - keep sake	£9.00
Brass Urns* - full size	£232.00
Brass Urns* - keep sake	£50.00
3" Hand Held Heart*	£56.00
5" Keep Sake Heart*	£96.00
Ashes Into Glass	Charge
Jewellery & Paperweights	(As per brochure)
Yarwood Memorial Products	Charge
Urns, Keepsakes & Jewellery	(As per brochure)

^{*} denotes VAT included

Memorials

Memorials Only

Babies	Charge
Old Babies Section - White Marble Shrubbery Memorial* (including up to 20 characters)	£425.00
Old Babies Section - Extra letters over 20 characters* (each)	£4.00
Butterfly Section Tower plaques*	£220.00
Forest Friends Frieze – Memorial butterfly incl wording	£98.00

Benches	Charge
Eco Bench of Remembrance (25 year lease period) - including a bronze plaque*	£1,468.00
Extra plaque for Eco Bench of Remembrance until end of lease period*	£270.00
One off clean of Wooden Bench of Remembrance*	£161.00
Granite Backed Bench of Remembrance (25 year lease period) - including a granite plaque*	£1,672.00
Granite Backless Bench of Remembrance (25 year lease period) - including a granite plaque*	£1,396.00
Motif on granite bench plaque	£161.00
Photo plaque on granite bench plaque	£154.00
Extra plaque for Granite Backed & Backless Bench of Remembrance until end of lease period*	£220.00

Book of Remembrance Memory Tree	Charge
Leaf on Book of Remembrance Memory Tree (10 year lease)	£146.00
Additional 10 year lease on Leaf on Book of Remembrance Memory Tree	£73.00

Willow Memory Tree	Charge
Granite Leaf on Willow Memory Tree (10 year lease)	£146.00
Additional 10 year lease on Leaf on Willow Memory Tree Page 209	£73.00

Memorial Wall Plaque	Charge
Memorial Wall Plaques*	£324.00
Extra letters over 60 characters on inscription*	£5.50

Saddlestone	Charge
Additional Inscription (per letter)*	£5.50
Repainting of a Saddlestone* (in addition to an added inscription only)	£169.00
Repaint only of a Saddlestone* (no added inscription)	£284.00

Shrubberies	Charge
Shrubbery Plaques 1 to 28*	£250.00
Shrubbery 31 - 32 Kerb Plaques (25 year lease)	£365.00
Photo Plaque for Kerb Plaque	£122.00
Motif on Kerb Plaque	£100.00
Replacement Shrubbery Memorial Stone* (includes up to 60 characters)	£1,205.00
Extra letters over 60 characters on Shrubbery Stone inscription* (each)	£5.50
Additional Inscription (per letter)* (each)	£5.50
Repainting of a Shrubbery Stone* (in addition to an added inscription only)	£169.00
Repaint only of a Shrubbery Stone* (no added inscription)	£264.00

Tree of Remembrance	Charge
Tree of Remembrance for a 25 year period*	£755.00
Tree of Remembrance - additional plaque until end of lease*	£256.00

Miscellaneous	Charge
Photo plaque on Shrubbery Stone*	£281.00
Simple rose or cross design on Shrubbery Stone (same colour as lettering)*	£161.00
Complex design on Shrubbery Stone - ie Service Badges/colour motifs*	£227.00
Rose tile for Shrubbery Stone or Saddlestone*	£161.00
Aluminium flower container (gold or silver topped)*	£13.00
Aluminium flower container Lid only for Kerb Block*	£5.00

* denotes VAT included

Memorial Permits

Memorial Fees	Charge
New Memorial - Lawn, Traditional, Vault & Cremated Remains Sections	£270.00
New Memorial - Babies Sections (for children aged from 24 weeks gestation and up to and including 17 years old this can be claimed via the Child Funeral Fund if within 6 months of funeral)	£140.00
New Memorial - Pets Section*	£140.00
Added Inscription	£140.00
Added Memorial	£140.00
Replacement Memorial	£140.00
All Other Work (i.e cleaning/renovation etc.)	£49.00
Duplicate Permit (to replace lost original)	£25.00

^{*} denotes VAT included

Book of Remembrance & Memorial Cards

Book of Remembrance & Memorial Cards	Charges
2 line entry*	£140.00
5 line entry*	£177.00
8 line entry*	£232.00
Simple designs i.e. flowers*	£67.00
Complex design ie service badges/heraldic designs*	£117.00

^{*} denotes VAT included

Pets (inc Pet Book of Remembrance)

Pet Burials and Ashes	Charges
1st Interment inc Exclusive Right of Burial (for 30 years)*	£452.00
2nd Interment* (for older plots only - check previous burial record)	£232.00
Pet coffin - small*	£178.00
Pet coffin - medium*	£202.00
Pet coffin - large*	£248.00
Cremated remains including plaque*	£209.00
Re-opening for ashes*	£99.00
Prepurchase of Right of Interment for 30 years*	£699.00
Renewal of Exclusive Right of Interment (per unit of 10 years)*	£148.00

Pet Book of Remembrance	Charges
2 line entry*	£140.00
5 line entry*	£177.00
Simple designs ie flowers*	£67.00
Complex design ie animal*	£117.00

^{*} denotes VAT included

Memorial Permits

Memorial Fees	Charges
New Memorial - Lawn, Traditional, Vault & Cremated Remains Sections	£270.00
New Memorial - Babies Sections (for children aged from 24 weeks gestation and up to and including 17 years old this can be claimed via the Child Funeral Fund if within 6 months of funeral)	£140.00
New Memorial - Pets Section*	£140.00
Added Inscription	£140.00
Added Memorial	£140.00
Replacement Memorial	£140.00
All Other Work (i.e cleaning/renovation etc.)	£49.00
Duplicate Permit (to replace lost original)	£25.00

* denotes VAT included

New Memorial or Gardens development	Charges
New Memorial	£POA
New Garden	£POA



Building Control Charges

Domestic Works

Type of Work	Cost 24/25	Notes
1 dwelling	£900.00	inc vat
2 dwellings	£1200.00	inc vat
3 dwellings	£1,500.00	inc vat
4 dwellings	£1,800.00	inc vat
5 dwellings	£2,160.00	inc vat
Garages and car ports up to 40m ²	£240.00	inc vat
Garages and car ports over 40m² up to 60m²	£408.00	inc vat
Extensions up to 10m ²	£480.00	inc vat
Extensions over 10m² up to 40m²	£600.00	inc vat
Extensions over 40m² up to 60m²	£756.00	inc vat
Extensions over 60m² up to 80m²	£828.00	inc vat
Loft Conversions up 40m²	£540.00	inc vat
Loft Conversion over 40m²	Please contact Building Control for specific quote	
Conversion of garage into living accommodation	£336.00	inc vat
Renovation of a thermal element	£186.00	inc vat
Replacement windows	£186.00	inc vat
Installation of wood burner	£252.00	inc vat
Electrical work - (non-Competent Persons Scheme)	£540.00	inc vat
Insertion of one supporting beam	£210.00	inc vat
Insertion of two supporting beams	£288.00	inc vat
Insertion of three supporting beams Page	£360.00 e 215	inc vat

Total estimated cost of works

Cost of Works	Cost 24/25	Notes
0 -1000	£210.00	inc vat
1,001-2,000	£288.00	inc vat
2,001-5,000	£360.00	inc vat
5,001-10,000	£432.00	inc vat
10,001-15,000	£486.00	inc vat
15,001-20,000	£558.00	inc vat
20,001-30,000	£648.00	inc vat
30,001-40,000	£732.00	inc vat
40,001-50,000	£840.00	inc vat

All other charges are worked out on a cost recovery basis.

Land Charges fees

Service	Cost 24/25	Notes
Standard Official Residential Search (LLC1 and CON29)	£141.00	partial vat inc
Official Certificate of Residential Search (LLC1 only)	£41.00	no vat
CON29 enquiries Residential	£100.00	inc vat
Standard Official Commercial Search (LLC1 and CON29)	£178.00	partial vat inc
Official Certificate of Commercial Search (LLC1 only)	£53.00	no vat
CON29 enquiries Commercial	£125.00	inc vat

Dog Warden

Service	Cost 24/25	Notes
Stray dogs (VAT exempt)	£150.00	per recovery

Environmental Protection fees

Service	Cost 24/25	Notes
Contaminated land advice	£91.00	per hour, inc vat

Food Safety Fees

Training Courses

Service	Cost 24/25	Notes
RSPH Level 2 Award in Identifying and Controlling Allergy risks	£89.00	Includes VAT
Exam re-sit fee	£47.00	Includes VAT
Allergen training	£89.00	Includes VAT
Allergen Essentials training course	£53.00	Includes VAT

Food Hygiene

Service	Cost 24/25	Notes
Safer Food Better Business Pack	£20.00	VAT exempt
Safer Food Better Business - additional Diary Sheets	£12.00	VAT exempt
Production of health / export certificates	£91.00	Per hour .VAT exempt

Food & Trading Standards Business Support

Business Advice and Support

Service	Cost 24/25	Notes
Food Business Support Package - for 3 hours food safety advice or consultation	£285	Includes vat
Additional advice and consultancy - hourly rate	£108.00	Includes vat
Bite Size - half an hour advice	£54.00	Includes vat
FHRS Rescore -business request visit	£194.00	vat exempt
FHRS Fast- track - Event catering	£194.00	vat exempt

Primary Authority

Option 1 - An agreement using standard contract terms with a fixed set up fee and annual renewable fee. Advice is then charged at an hourly rate

Service	Cost 24/25	Notes
Initial set up fee and 3 hours advice	£640	vat exempt
Annual Renewal fee including 3 hours advice	£255	vat exempt
Advice and Consultancy- Hourly rate	£91	vat exempt

Option 2 - An agreement using standard contract terms and a fixed minimum amount of hourly advice, set up fee and an annual renewal fee

Service	Cost 24/25	Notes
Initial Set-up fee and 17 hours of advice or consultation - valid for 12 months	£1,800.00	vat exempt
Annual Renewal Fee - including 17 hours of advice and consultation - valid for 12 months	£1,445.00	vat exempt
Additional advice and consultancy - hourly rate	£91.00	vat exempt

Travelling to premises outside of B&NES

Service	Cost 24/25	Notes
Either - hourly rate + mileage charge or public transport costs and accommodation - with prior agreement as appropriate	£91.00+0.45/mile	vat exempt
Verification Sampling Costs - by Public Analyst and provision of test certificates	charged at cost	

Local Air Pollution & Prevention Control Charges (Set By DEFRA)

Initial Application

Service	Cost 24/25	Notes
Standard Process	£1,650.00. Where an application is for a combined Part B and waste application, add an extra £310.	ex vat
Additional Fee for Operating without a Permit	£1,188.00. Where an application is for a combined Part B and waste application, add an extra £310.	ex vat.
Reduced fee activities - Dry Cleaners & PVR I	£155.00. Where an application is for a combined Part B and waste application, add an extra £310.	ex vat
PVR I & II (Combined)	£257.00. Where an application is for a combined Part B and waste application, add an extra £310.	ex vat
Vehicle Refinishers (VR's) and other reduced fee activities	£362.00. Where an application is for a combined Part B and waste application, add an extra £310.	ex vat
Reduced Fee Activities - Additional Fee for Operating without a Permit	£71.00. Where an application is for a combined Part B and waste application, add an extra £310.	ex vat
Mobile Crushing Plant - for 1st and 2nd permit	£1,650.00. Where an application is for a combined Part B and waste application, add an extra £310.	ex vat
Mobile Crushing Plant - for 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th permit	£985.00. Where an application is for a combined Part B and waste application, add an extra £310.	ex vat

Service	Cost 24/25	Notes
Mobile Crushing Plant - for 8th and each subsequent permit	£498.00. Where an application is for a combined Part B and waste application, add an extra £310.	ex vat
Annual Subsistence	773 (+104)*	ex vat
Standard Process - Low	1162 (+156)*	ex vat
Standard Process - Medium	1748 (+207)*	ex vat
Standard Process - High	£79.00	ex vat
Reduced fee activities - Low	£158.00	ex vat
Reduced fee activities - Medium	£237.00	ex vat
Reduced fee activities - High	£113.00	ex vat
PVR I & II - Low	£226.00	ex vat
PVR I & II - Medium	£341.00	ex vat
PVR I & II - High	£228.00	ex vat
Vehicle Refinishers - Low	£365.00	ex vat
Vehicle Refinishers - Medium	£548.00	ex vat
Vehicle Refinishers - High	£626.00	ex vat
Mobile Crushing Plant - Low 1st and 2nd permit	£1,034.00	ex vat
Mobile Crushing Plant - Medium 1st and 2nd permit	£1,551.00	ex vat
Mobile Crushing Plant - High 1st and 2nd permit	£385.00	ex vat
Mobile Crushing Plant - Low 3rd to 7th permit	£617.00	ex vat
Mobile Crushing Plant - Medium 3rd to 7th permit	£924.00	ex vat
Mobile Crushing Plant - High 3rd to 7th permit	£198.00	ex vat
Mobile Crushing Plant - Low 8th and subsequent permit	£314.00	ex vat
Mobile Crushing Plant - Medium 8th and subsequent permit Page	£473.00	ex vat

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Service	Cost 24/25	Notes
Mobile Crushing Plant - High 8th and subsequent permit	£52.00	ex vat
Late Payment Fee**	£38.00	ex vat

Payment in installments

*The additional amounts in brackets must be charged where a permit is for a combined Part B and waste installation. **this applies when an invoice is unpaid for 8 weeks from the date of issue

Transfer and Surrender

Service	Cost 24/25	Notes
Transfer	£169.00	ex vat
Partial transfer	£497.00	ex vat
Surrender: all Part B activities	£0.00	ex vat
Transfer - Reduced fee	£0.00	ex vat
Partial Transfer - reduced fee	£47.00	ex vat
Temporary transfer for mobiles - first transfer	£53.00	ex vat
Temporary transfer for mobiles - repeat transfer	£0.00	ex vat
Temporary transfer for mobiles - following enforcement	£53.00	ex vat

Substantial Changes	Cost 24/25	Notes
Standard Process	£1,050.00	ex vat
Reduced fee activities - Service Stations, Dry Cleaners, Vehicle Resprayers & WOB	£102.00	ex vat
Standard process where the substantial change results in a new PPC activity.	£1,650.00	ex vat

Copy of Register

Service	Cost 24/25	Notes
Basic	£10.00	ex vat
Detailed	£100.00	ex vat

Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999 – LA-IPPC

Service	Cost 24/25	Notes
Initial Application	£3,363.00	ex vat
Additional fee for operating without a permit	£1,188.00	ex vat
Annual Subsistence - Low	£1,343.00	ex vat
Annual Subsistence - Medium	£1,507.00	ex vat
Annual Subsistence - High	£2,230.00	ex vat
Late Payment Fee	£52.00	ex vat
Variation	£1,368.00	ex vat
Substantial Variation	£3,363.00	ex vat
Transfer	£235.00	ex vat
Partial transfer	£698.00	ex vat
Surrender ** excludes Environment Agency fee	£698.00	ex vat
Air Quality Information - Enquiries- cost per hour or part thereof	£91.00	ex vat

Private Water Supply Charges

Service	Cost 24/25	Notes
Risk Assessment	£91 per hour in time in addition to the actual sampling costs	
Sampling (each visit)	£91 per hour in time in addition to the actual sampling costs	
Investigation (each investigation)	£91 per hour in time in addition to the actual sampling costs	
Granting an authorisation (each authorisation)	£91 per hour in time in addition to the actual sampling costs	
Analysing a sample	£91 per hour in time in addition to the actual sampling costs	
Taken under regulation 10	£91 per hour in time in addition to the actual sampling costs	
Taken during check monitoring	£91 per hour in time in addition to the actual sampling costs	
Taken during audit monitoring	£91 per hour in time in addition to the actual sampling costs	
Officer time per hour and then part thereof	£91 per hour in time in addition to the actual sampling costs	

Commercial Pest

Service	Cost 24/25	Notes
Rats	£399	inc vat
Mice	£399	inc vat
Additional visit for rodents	£144	inc vat
Wasps/Hornets' nest	£155	inc vat
additional wasp nest (at time of treatment)	£62.00	inc vat
Bedbugs, Fleas and Carpet Moths 1-2 rooms (Initial assessment and 1 treatment)	£360	inc vat
Bedbugs, Fleas and Carpet Moths 3-4 rooms (Initial assessment and 1 treatment)	£504	inc vat
Bedbugs, Fleas and Carpet Moths 5 rooms (Initial assessment and 1 treatment)	£648	inc vat
Bedbugs, Fleas and Carpet Moths 6-10 rooms (Initial assessment and 1 treatment)	£1224	inc vat
Additional visit Bedbugs, Fleas and Carpet Moths 1-2 rooms (normal business hours)	£288	inc vat
Additional visit Bedbugs, Fleas and Carpet Moths 3-4 rooms (normal business hours)	£432	inc vat
Additional visit Bedbugs, Fleas and Carpet Moths 5 rooms (normal business hours)	£576	inc vat
Additional visit Bedbugs, Fleas and Carpet Moths 6-10 rooms (normal business hours)	£1152	inc vat
Ants (2 visits within 4 weeks of the initial visit)	£216	inc vat
Cockroaches (initial Assessment & 2 visits)	£216	inc vat
Cockroaches (additional site visits)	£100	inc vat
Cluster Flies - (per attic)	£150	inc vat
Commercial Contract prices	£72	inc vat

Domestic Pest

Service	Cost 24/25	Notes
Rats (up to 3 visits)	£195/£98	Inc vat. Lower figure is for households on means tested benefit
Mice (up to 3 visits)	£195/98	Inc vat. Lower figure is for households on means tested benefit
Wasps/Hornet nest (1 visit)	£120/£75	Inc vat. Lower figure is for households on means tested benefit
Additional nest (at time of treatment)	£36/£36	Inc vat. Lower figure is for households on means tested benefit
Cockroaches (up to 3 visits)	£216/£108	Inc vat. Lower figure is for households on means tested benefit
Cluster Flies	£144/£72	Inc vat. Lower figure is for households on means tested benefit
Bedbugs, Fleas and Carpet Moths 1-2 rooms (Initial assessment and 1 treatment)	£216/£108	Inc vat. Lower figure is for households on means tested benefit
Bedbugs, Fleas and Carpet Moths 3-4 rooms (Initial assessment and 1 treatment)	£360/£180	Inc vat. Lower figure is for households on means tested benefit
Bedbugs, Fleas and Carpet Moths 5 rooms (Initial assessment and 1 treatment)	£504/£252	Inc vat. Lower figure is for households on means tested benefit
Bedbugs, Fleas and Carpet Moths 6-10 rooms (Initial assessment and 1 treatment)	£648/£324	Inc vat. Lower figure is for households on means tested benefit
Additional visit Bedbugs, Fleas and Carpet Moths 1-2 rooms (normal business hours)	£144/£72	Inc vat. Lower figure is for households on means tested benefit
Additional visit Bedbugs, Fleas and Carpet Moths 3-4 rooms (normal business hours)	£288/£144	Inc vat. Lower figure is for households on means tested benefit
Additional visit Bedbugs, Fleas and Carpet Moths 5 rooms (normal business hours)	£432/£216	Inc vat. Lower figure is for households on means tested benefit
Pa	ige 225	

Service	Cost 24/25	Notes
Additional visit Bedbugs, Fleas and Carpet Moths 6-10 rooms (normal business hours)	£576/288	Inc vat. Lower figure is for households on means tested benefit
Call out fee if no treatment takes place	£72/£72	Inc vat.
Missed appointment	£72/72	Inc vat.
Out of hours charge (per hour per officer)	£100/£100	Inc vat.
Administration charge for late cancellation	£72/£72	Inc vat.
Administration charge for cancellation	£36/£36	Inc vat.

Trading Standards Fees

Metrology

PLEASE NOTE THAT SOME CHARGES MAY REQUIRE THE ADDITION OF VAT. CHECK WITH OFFICERS PRIOR TO WORK BEING UNDERTAKEN Charges for BATH & NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL Trading Standards

Licence or Service	Guide Time (hrs)	Charge
Weighbridge Operators Certificate		£69
Petrol Pump Verification		£171.40 (+VAT) per officer per hour

Explosives

New Application

Storage between 0 and 250kg	Set by statutory instrument
1 year	£113
2 years	£147
3 years	£181
4 years	£215
5 years	£248

Renewal

Storage between 0 and 250kg	Set by statutory instrument
1 year	£56.
2 years	£90
3 years	£125
4 years	£158
5 years	£193

New Application

Storage between 250kg up to 2000kg	Set by statutory instrument
1 year	£189.00
2 years	£248.00
3 years	£311.00
4 years	£382.00
5 years	£432.00

Renewal

Storage between 250kg up to 2000kg	Set by statutory instrument
1 year	£88.00
2 years	£150.00
3 years	£211.00
4 years	£272.00
5 years	£333.00

Miscellaneous fees

	Set by statutory instrument
Vary Name & Address	£37.00
Transfer Licence	£37.00
Replacement Licence	£37.00
Other variation	£55.00 per officer per hour

Petroleum Storage:

Petroleum Storage Licence	Charge
Storage up to 2,500 litres	£46.00
Storage between 2,500 and 50,000 litres	£62.00
Storage over 50,000litres	£128.00
Supply of information on Petroleum storage sites.	£140.00 per officer per hour

Trading Standards Buy with Confidence fees

Buy with Confidence membership - Existing Members pre April 2016 * all prices excluding VAT

Buy with Confidence Membership (existing memebers)	Charge
Sole trader - No employees	£150
1-5 employees	£250
6-15 employees	£300
16+ employees	£380

Buy with Confidence Membership - National Scheme - New Members from 01/04/2016

Buy with Confidence categories	Charge
Initial Application Fee	FREE
Sole trader - No employees	£150
1-5 employees	£285
6-20 employees	£430
21-50 employees	£570
50+ employees	POA

Buy with Confidence + Care membership* all prices excluding VAT

Buy with Confidence plus care membership categories	Charge
Initial Application Fee	FREE
Sole trader - No employees	£150
1-5 employees	£285
6-20 employees	£430
21-50 employees	£570
50+ employees	POA
Additional premises: £85 each / Additional profiles: £30 each	

Licensing Charges

Animals

Licence Activity	Statutory fee	24/25 fee
New	No	£673.00
Renewal	No	£436.00
Maintenance (Annual Fee)	No	£162.00
Variation	No	£136.00
DWA - New	No	£449.00
DWA - Maintenance (Annual Fee)	No	£168.00
Zoo - New	No	£1,570.00
Zoo - Renewal	No	£1,289.00
Zoo - Maintenance	No	£673.00
All - Replacement Licence	No	£10.50
All - Pre-Application Advice	No	£150 + VAT
All - Checking Service	No	£37 + VAT

Gambling

Licence Activity	Statutory fee	24/25 fee
Club Machines - New	Yes	£200.00
Club Machines - Variation	Yes	£100.00
Club Machines - Transfer	Yes	£25.00
Club Machines - Change of Name	Yes	£25.00
Club Machines - Copy of Permit	Yes	£15.00
Club Machines - Maintenance	Yes	£50.00
Lottery - Applications	Yes	£40.00
Lottery - Maintenance (Annual Fee)	Yes	£20.00
Premises - New	No	£336.00
Premises - Variation	No	£336.00
Premises - Transfer	No	£206.00
Premises - Maintenance (Annual Fee)	No	£93.00
Pub Machines – New (Permit)	Yes	£150.00
Pub Machines – New (Notification)	Yes	£50.00
Pub Machines - Variation	Yes	£100.00
Pub Machines - Transfer	Yes	£25.00
Pub Machines - Change of Name	Yes	£25.00
Pub Machines - Copy of Permit	Yes	£15.00
Pub Machines - Maintenance-Permits	Yes	£50.00
Occasional Use Licence	Yes	£0.00

Licence Activity	Statutory fee	24/25 fee
Temporary Use Licence	Yes	£112.00
All - Pre-Application Advice	No	£150.00 + VAT
All - Checking Service	No	£37.00 + VAT

Liquor

Licence Activity	Statutory fee	24/25 fee
Premises - New	Yes	banded on size - please request charge
Premises - Variation	Yes	banded on size - please request charge
Premises - Transfer	Yes	£23.00
Premises - DPS Variation	Yes	£23.00
Premises - DPS Removal	Yes	£23.00
Premises - Minor Variation	Yes	£89.00
Premises - Change of Details	Yes	£10.50
Premises - Replacement Licence	Yes	£10.50
Premises - Provisional Statement	Yes	£315.00
Premises - Notification of Interest	Yes	£21.00
Premises - Interim Authority Notice	Yes	£23.00
Premises - Maintenance (Annual Fee)	Yes	banded on size - please request charge
Premises - Pre-Application Advice	No	£150.00 + VAT
Premises - Checking Service	No	£37.00 + VAT
Club - New	Yes	banded on size - please request charge
Club - Variation	Yes	banded on size - please request charge

Licence Activity	Satutory fee	24/25 fee
Club - Change of Details	Yes	£10.50
Club - Replacement Certificate	Yes	£10.50
Club - Notification of Interest	Yes	£21.00
Club - Interim Authority Notice	Yes	£23.00
Club - Maintenance (Annual Fee)	Yes	banded on size - please request charge
Club - Pre-Application Advice	No	£150.00 + VAT
Club - Checking Service	No	£37.00 + VAT
Personal - New	Yes	£37.00
Personal - Change of Details	Yes	£10.50
Personal - Replacement Licence	Yes	£10.50
Personal - Pre-Application Advice	No	£150.00 + VAT
Personal - Checking Service	No	£37.00 + VAT
Temporary Event Notice (TEN) - New	Yes	£21.00
TEN - Replacement	Yes	£10.50
TEN - Pre-Application Advice	No	£150.00 + VAT
TEN - Checking Service	No	£37.00 + VAT

Pavement Licence

Licence Activity	Statutory fee	24/25 fee
Application	Yes	£100.00
Replacement Licence	No	£10.50
Pre-Application Advice	No	£150.00 + VAT
Checking Service	No	£37.00 + VAT

Street Trading

Licence Activity	Statutory fee	24/25 fee
Individual Trader - New (including consultation)	No	£449.00
Individual Trader - Renewal	No	£37.00
Individual Trader - Maintenance	No	£3,284.00
Individual Trader - Variation	No	£75.00
Individual Trader - Consultation	No	£150.00
Market Organiser - New	No	£449.00
Market Organiser - Renewal	No	£37.00
Market Organiser - Maintenance	No	£3,433.00
Market Organiser - Variation	No	£75.00
Market Organiser - Consultation	No	£150.00
Christmas Market - New	No	£449.00
Christmas Market - Renewal	No	£37.00
Christmas Market - Maintenance	No	£7,142.00
Christmas Market - Variation	No	£75.00

Licence Activity	Statutory fee	24/25 fee
Christmas Market - Consultation	No	£150.00
Busker - New	No	£75.00
Busker - Renewal	No	£37.00
Mobile Artist - New	No	£75.00
Mobile Artist - Renewal	No	£37.00
All - Badge Fee	No	£12.50
All - Replacement Licence	No	£10.50
All - Pre-Application Advice	No	£150.00 + VAT
All - Checking Service	No	£37.00 + VAT

Tables and Chairs

Licence Activity	Statutory fee	24/25 fee
Application	No	£181.00
Maintenance	No	£87.00
Transfer	No	£50.00
Replacement Licence	No	£10.50
Pre-Application Advice	No	£150.00 + VAT
Checking Service	No	£37.00 + VAT

Taxi Drivers

Licence Activity	Statutory fee	24/25 fee
New	No	£582.00
Renewal	No	£444.00
Knowledge Retest	No	£75.00
Paper DBS	No	£101.00
Replacement Licence	No	£10.50
Pre-Application Advice	No	£150.00 + VAT
Checking Service	No	£37.00 + VAT

Taxi Vehicles (inc. Operators)

Licence Activity	Statutory fee	24/25 fee
HC - New (Zone 1)	No	£89.00
HC - New (Zone 2)	No	£61.00
HC - Renewal (Zone 1)	No	£151.00
HC - Renewal (Zone 2)	No	£124.00
HC - Change of Vehicle	No	£61.00
HC - Proprietorship Transfer	No	£31.00

Licence Activity	Statutory fee	24/25 fee
HC - Roof Sign	No	£129.00
HC - Replacement Licence	No	£10.50
HC - Pre-Application Advice	No	£150.00 + VAT
HC - Checking Service	No	£37.00 + VAT
PH - New	No	£61.00
PH - Renewal	No	£124.00
PH - Change of Vehicle	No	£61.00
PH - Proprietorship Transfer	No	£31.00
PH - Roof Sign	No	£76.00
PH - Replacement Licence	No	£10.50
PH - Pre-Application Advice	No	£150.00 + VAT
PH - Checking Service	No	£37.00 + VAT
Operator - New	No	£424.00
Operator - Renewal	No	£237.00
Operator - Replacement Licence	No	£10.50
Operator - Pre-Application Advice	No	£150.00 + VAT
Operator - Checking Service	No	£37.00 + VAT

Other Licences

Licence Activity	Statutory fee	24/25 fee
Charity - House to House	Yes	£0.00
Charity - Street Collections	Yes	£0.00
Hypnotism - Applications	No	£75.00
Hypnotism - Maintenance	No	£37.00
Film Classification - Applications	No	£75 per hour or part thereof
Fireworks (Set Periods) - New	Yes	banded on size (please see Trading Standards Explosives fees)
Fireworks (Set Periods) - Renewal	Yes	banded on size (please see Trading Standards Explosives fees)
Fireworks (All Year) - New	No	£377.00
Fireworks (All Year) - Renewal	No	£37.00
Fireworks (All Year) - Maintenance	No	£6.00
Petroleum Storage Certificate - Applications	Yes	banded on size (please see Trading Standards Petroleum Storage fees)
Piercing (Personal) - Applications	No	£99.00
Piercing (Personal) – Maintenance	No	£62.00
Piercing (Premises) - Applications	No	£426.00
Piercing (Premises) – Maintenance	No	£62.00
Promotional Pitches	No	£80.00

Licence Activity	Statutory fee	24/25 fee
Scrap Metal - New	No	£187.00
Scrap Metal - Renewal	No	£187.00
Scrap Metal - Variation	No	£187.00
Scrap Metal - Change of Details	No	£37.00
Scrap Metal - Maintenance	No	£262.00
Sex - New	No	£1,495.00
Sex - Renewal	No	£112.00
Sex - Maintenance	No	£224.00
All - Replacement Licence	No	£10.50
All - Pre-Application Advice	No	£150.00 + VAT
All - Checking Service	No	£37.00 + VAT

Other Fees

Licence Activity	Statutory fee	24/25 fee
Business Advice and Support (Pre-App)	No	£150.00 + VAT
Checking Service	No	£37.00 + VAT
Replacement Licence	No	£10.50
Office Administration Fee for late payments etc.	No	£75.00



Bin Costs

Business Waste Prices (No VAT)

Recycling materials: Paper & cardboard (mixed or separated)

Container	Cost 2024/25
240 litre wheeled bin	£5.70
360 litre wheeled bin	£6.00
660 litre wheeled bin	£7.40
1100 litre wheeled bin	£10.50
Sack (minimum order 20)	£2.35
Stickers for cardboard bundles (minimum order 20)	£2.35

Recycling Materials: Cans & Plastics (mixed or separated)

Container	Cost 2024/25
240 litre wheeled bin	£5.70
360 litre wheeled bin	£6.00
660 litre wheeled bin	£7.40
1100 litre wheeled bin	£10.50
Sack (minimum order 20)	£2.35

Recycling Materials: Glass bottles & Jars

Container	Cost 2024/25
240 litre wheeled bin	£5.70
360 litre wheeled bin	£6.00

Recycling Materials: Food

Container	Cost 2024/25
140 litre wheeled bin	£10.20

Rubbish/General Waste

Container	Cost 2024/25
240 litre wheeled bin	£8.75
360 litre wheeled bin	£10.25
660 litre wheeled bin	£17.70
1100 litre wheeled bin	£23.80
Sack (minimum order 50)	£3.35

Waste



Garden Waste Collection Service

Description of Service	Fees 2024/25
Garden waste bin annual charge	£56.95
Garden waste bin delivery	£3.65
Garden waste sack (each)	£3.65

Large Item Collection Service

Description of Service	Fees 2024/25
Collection of 1-3 items	£36.65
Collection of 4-6 items	£64.09
Collection of 7-10 items	£79.93

A 50% discount is given on the above prices for those residents in receipt of receive Council Tax Benefit, Housing Benefit, Disability Living Allowance, or you are a student.

Replacement black wheeled bin

Description of Service	Fees 2024/25
Replacement of lost, stolen, vandalised or misused black wheeled bins	£22.40

Business Waste Clinical Waste Sacks

Historical Service no longer available to new customers

Description of Service	Fees 2024/25
Clinical waste sack	£2.75

Rubble & Soil above free limits

Description of Service	Fees 2024/25
Charge to residents for depositing rubble/soil at the transfer station above the permitted recycling centre free limit per tonne (No minimum charge)	£53.00

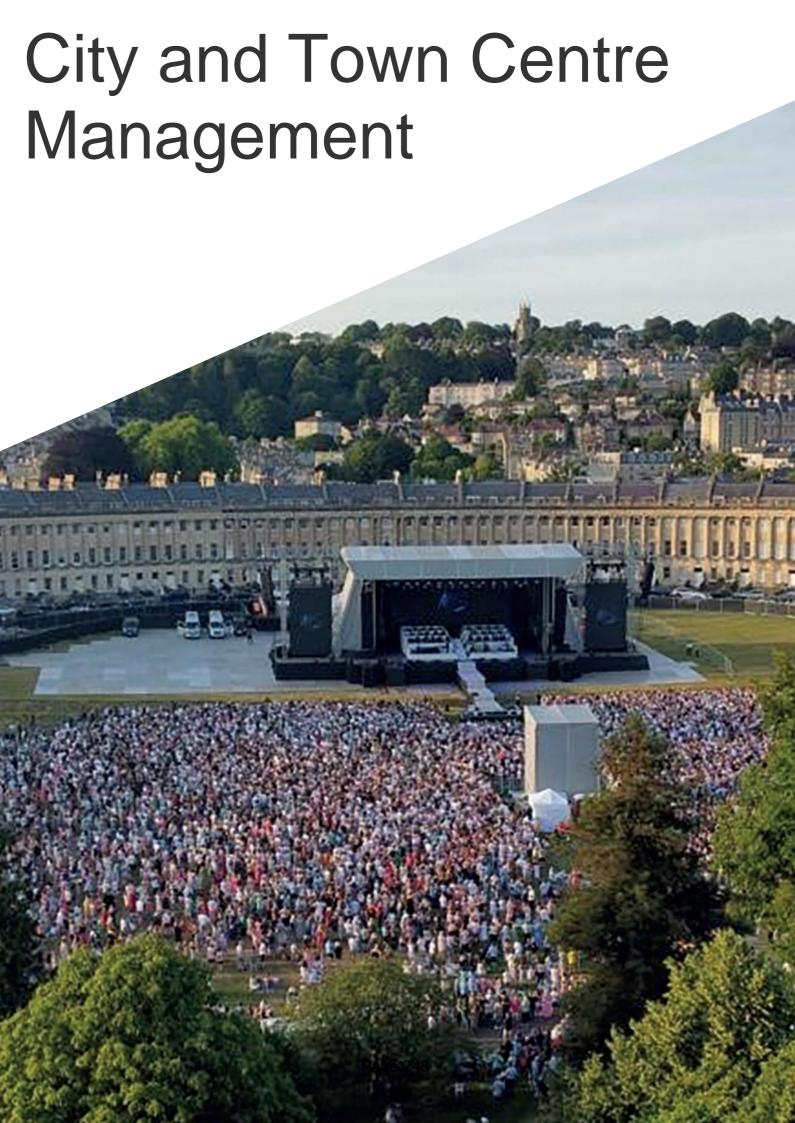
Public Weighbridge Facility

Description of Service	Fees 2024/25
All Vehicles	£12.35

Business Waste Transfer Station Charges

Description of Service	Fees 2024/25
Unsorted waste at weighbridge per tonne	£204.91
Unsorted waste minimum charge 0.5 tonnes	£102.46
Sorted recycling including wood at weighbridge per tonne	£110.56
Sorted recycling including wood at weighbridge minimum charge 0.5 tonnes	£55.28
Sorted recycling (with no wood) at weighbridge per tonne	£85.60
Sorted recycling (with no wood) at weighbridge minimum charge 0.5 tonnes	£42.80
Loads containing upholstered domestic seating per tonne	£328.80
Loads containing upholstered domestic seating minimum charge 0.05 tonnes	£16.44
Mattress Single	£24.55
Mattress Double	£27.36
New business waste recycling streams	£POA

The transfer station charges may need to change during the financial year due to external market conditions.



Events on Council Owned Land

Landhire – Heritage, Prime Location and other parks

Service	Cost 24/25	Cost 25/26
Royal Crescent Lower Lawn	£5,093.00	£5,857.00
PEAK Commercial (Heritage Parks and prime city centre location) Royal Victoria Park, Parade Gardens, Sydney Gardens, Queen Square	£1,757.00	£2,021.00
OFF-PEAK Commercial (Heritage Parks and prime city centre location) Royal Victoria Park, Parade Gardens, Sydney Gardens, Queen Square	£1,318.00	£1,516.00
PEAK Charity (Heritage Parks and prime city centre location) 50% of the new commercial hire rate	£879.00	£1,010.00
OFF-PEAK Charity (Heritage Parks and prime city centre location) 50% of the new commercial hire rate	£659.00	£758.00
Commercial (All other parks and open spaces in B&NES, eg Henrietta Park, Alexandra Park, Beazers Maze, Firs Field, Brickfields Park, Green Park, Kensington Meadows, Lansdown, Keynsham Memorial Park)	£639.00	£735.00
Charity (All other parks and open spaces in B&NES)	£320.00	£368.00
Pigeon Park (Flat Rate per day)	£314.00	£361.00

Other costs

Service	Cost 24/25	Cost 25/26
Boules bookings per terrain (Queen Square, Sydney Gardens)	£30.00	£34.00
Fitness Trainer Fees, unlimited use - 12 months	£690.00	£794.00
Fitness Trainer Fees, unlimited use - 6 months	£518.00	£595.00
Fitness Trainer Fees, unlimited use - 3 months	£345.00	£397.00
Fitness Trainer Fees, Administration Fee per renewal	£95.00	£110.00

Service	Cost 24/25	Cost 25/26
Forest Schools	£31.00 admin plus £7.00 per session or £116 pa	£36.00 admin plus £8.00 per session or £134 pa
Power (utilities electricity/gas) per day	£28.00	£32.00
Water (per day if not meter read)	£28.00	£32.00
Damage Deposit Bond	£500-£5,000	£500-£5,000
Council Officer requiring to attend an Event	£102 per hour	£118 per hour
Event Administration Fee – Standard Event	£95.00	£110.00
Event Administration Fee for Major Event	£190.00	£218.00
Event Administration Fee - Multiple Standard Events within one financial year	£190.00	£218.00

Filming on Council Owned Land

Admin fee for filming on the highway

Service	Cost 24/25
1 to 10	£75.00
11 to 19	£138.00
20+	POA

Admin fee for filming in a park or open space

Service	Cost 24/25
1 to 10	£115.00
11+	POA
Admin fee for arranging drone filming	£115.00

Other Fees

Service	Cost 24/25
Recces	£118.00
Officer in attendance	£118.00

Filming - Suspension of parking spaces

Service	Cost 24/25
First by coning charge	£POA
Subsequent bays	£POA
Administration Fee for Parking	£POA

Suspension of Parking spaces	Restrictions	Cost per day/bay
Single or first space	All zones and areas	£POA
Each additional space and/or day	Central zone and Zone 1	£POA
Each additional space and/or day	All other zones and areas	£POA

Location Fees

Area	Cost 24/25
Unit Base - Lansdown Playing Fields North - Car Park only	£460.00
Unit Base - Lansdown Playing Fields North - Car Park plus field	£690.00
Roman Baths and Guildhall	POA
Culverhay School	POA

Emergency Planning/CCTV

Service	Cost 24/25
CCTV Requests From Insurance Companies	£90
Emergency Planning/Event Multi-Agency Control Room	£1000
Emergency Planning/Event Exercise Planning/Delivery	POA

Bath Christmas Market

Catering & Bar Fees:

Description of Service	Cost 2024/2025	
Milsom Street:		
Large Catering Chalet	£9,215.00 18 days + VAT	
Small Catering Pitch	£1,475.00 18 days + VAT	
Mobile Catering Pitch	£1,475.00 18 days + VAT	
Stall Street:		
Bar Vehicle Pitch	POA	
Union Street:		
Small Catering Pitch	£2,212.00 18 days + VAT	
Bath Street:		
Large Catering Chalet	£19,656.00 18 days + VAT	
Mobile Catering Pitch	£1,475.00 18 days + VAT	
Abbeygate Street:		
Mobile Catering Pitch	£1,475.00 18 days + VAT	
Kingston Parade:		
Large Catering Chalet	£25,798.00 18 days + VAT	
Medium Catering Chalet	£9,215.00 18 days + VAT	
Small Catering Chalet	£6,435.00 18 days + VAT	
Medium Mobile Catering Pitch	£1,755.00 18 days + VAT	
Mobile Catering Pitch	£1,475.00 18 days + VAT	
Abbey Green:		
Medium Catering Chalet	£9,215.00 18 days + VAT	

All areas Additional Temporary Power (for catering):

Service	Cost 2024/2025
16amp single phase supply	£180 plus VAT for 18 days
32amp single phase supply	£200 plus VAT for 18 days
32amp three phase supply	£280 plus VAT for 18 days

Retail Chalets and on-site services:

Description of Service	Cost 2024/2025
All areas PAT testing	£7 per item plus VAT
All areas heater hire	£90.00 for 18 days + VAT (£5 per day)
All areas storage space (x1 palette)	£150 + VAT
Fridge space hire (free x1 palette for catering units)	£150 + VAT

Stallholder Pitch Request Fee:

Description of Service	Cost 2024/2025
Zone 1	£250 plus VAT
Zone 2	£200 plus VAT
Zone 3	£150 plus VAT

Stallholder Fees (Please note: Stall holders selling alcohol will incur an additional 10% fee)

Description of Service	Cost 2024/2025
Zone 1: Corner Chalet	£4,600.00 + VAT for 18 days
Zone 1: Countertop Chalet	£3,738.00 + VAT for 18 days
Zone 1: Barn Door Chalet	£3,738.00 + VAT for 18 days
Zone 2: Corner Chalet	£4,238.00 + VAT for 18 days
Zone 2: Countertop Chalet	£3,369.00 + VAT for 18 days
Zone 2: Barn Door Chalet	£3,369.00 + VAT for 18 days
Zone 3: Barn Door Chalet	£2,174.00 + VAT for 18 days
Short Term Let Barn Door Chalet 7 days	£1,454.00 + VAT for 7 days
Short Term Lets Barn Door Chalet 11 days	£2,284.00 +VAT for 11 days
Small business carts all zones: Monday to Thursday	£145 + VAT for 4 days
Small business carts all zones: Friday to Sunday	£180 + VAT for 3 days

Managed coach drop off/pick up and parking	Service	Cost
Monday	Cost per seat	£1.20
Tuesday	Cost per seat	£1.20
Wednesday	Cost per seat	£1.50
Thursday	Cost per seat	£1.50
Friday	Cost per seat	£1.50
Saturday	Cost per seat	£1.70
Sunday	Cost per seat	£1.70

Service	Cost 24/25
Rides and Attractions	£2,530.00

Service	Cost 24/25
Sponsorship and funding contributions	POA

Service	Cost 24/25
Online advertising and web sales	POA

Clean Air Zone



Clean Air Zone

Service	Cost 24/25
PHGV	£100.00
Trucks and Lorries (N2 & N3)	£100.00
Taxis (M1 & M2)	£9.00
Buses and coaches (M3)	£100.00
Minibuses (M2)	£9.00
Van, light goods vehicle, pick-ups and some campervans and four-by-fours (N1)	£9.00

Only applicable to non-compliant vehicles. Motorists can check and confirm if charges apply here: https://vehiclecheck.drive-clean-air-zone.service.gov.uk/vehicle_checkers/enter_details



Highways Commuted Sums

Feature	Units	2024/25
High Friction or Coloured Surfacing	Square Metre	£107
Knee rail fencing	Linear Metre	£33.47
SuDS Each Site specific quotation	Each	Site specific quotation
Soakaways	Each	£6,694.56
Petrol & Oil interceptors	Each	£6,694.56
Combined kerb drainage systems	Linear Metre	£20.08
Trees	Each	£401.68
Structures	Each	Site specific quotation (120 years)
Illuminated street furniture	Each	£522.17
Signalised 3 arm junction connected to Fibre	Each	£138,736.97
Signalised 3 arm junction connected to 4G	Each	£132,987.69
Signalised Junction with more than 3 arms	Each	Priced individually
Signalised crossing connected to Fibre	Each	£62,956.55
Signalised crossing connected to 4G	Each	£67,104.42
Zebra Crossing	Each	£35,346.00
Zebra Crossing with Anti Skid	Each	£51,386.00
Street Light	Each	£2,813.00
ANPR and CCTV systems	Each	Site specific quotation (120 years)
Bollards	Each	Site specific quotation (120 years)

Highways Delivery



Permanent Traffic Regulation Orders

Service	Cost 24/25
Permanent Traffic Regulation Orders for developers	£5114.60
H markings	£301.40
H markings - additional cost for use of different road marking in winter months	Add 25% to fee above

Street Works Permit Fees

Service	Cost 24/25
Major (Provisional Advance Authorisation) - category 0, 1 & 2 & all traffic sensitive streets	£95.00
Major (Provisional Advance Authorisation) - category 3 & 4 & all non-traffic sensitive streets	£62.00
Major - category 0, 1 & 2 & all traffic sensitive streets	£193.00
Major - category 3 & 4 & all non-traffic sensitive streets	£101.00
Standard - category 0, 1 & 2 & all traffic sensitive streets	£117.00
Standard - category 3 & 4 & all non-traffic sensitive streets	£58.00
Minor - category 0, 1 & 2 & all traffic sensitive streets	£59.00
Minor - category 3 & 4 & all non-traffic sensitive streets	£30.00
Immediate - category 0, 1 & 2 & all traffic sensitive streets	£54.00
Immediate - category 3 & 4 & all non-traffic sensitive streets	£26.00
Permit variation - category 0, 1 & 2 & all traffic sensitive streets	£45.00
Permit variation - category 3 & 4 & all non-traffic sensitive streets	£35.00

Temporary Traffic Regulation Notices

Service	Cost 24/25
Section 14 Road Closure Notice (planned works) - fees & adverts	£1,590.02
Section 14 Road Closure Notice (planned works) - late submission fee	£306.02
Section 14 Road Closure Notice (planned works) - amendment fee	£121.98
Section 16a Street Closures1 to 6 roads - fee & advert charge	£125.19 plus advert charge
Section 16 a Street Closure more than 6 roads - fee & advert charge	£372.36 plus advert charge
Community Street Party	£0
Playing Out Scheme	£0
Emergency Notice	£282.48
Town Police Clauses Act Street Closures (processions, crowds etc.)	£192.60 non charity £139 charity

Traffic signals

Service	Cost 24/25
Permanent Traffic Signal switch on/off charge	£430.10
Permanent Traffic Signals switch on/off cahnge - out of hours additional charge (if switch-off at weekends or 18.00 - 08.00 weekdays)	20% additional charge
Permanent Traffic Signal switch on/off additional admin fee	£35.31
Permanent Traffic Signal switch on/off Safety Inspection	£58.85
Permanent Traffic Signal switch on/off - late notice application (< 10 working days)	£548.90
Traffic Information on one VMS sign per day	£57.78
Temporary multi way traffic signals application - utility companies	£0
Temporary multi way traffic signals application - non-utility company applicant	£187.25
Temporary multi way signals - design advice (all applicants)	£56.71

Road Safety

Service	Cost 24/25
Supply of accident data to third parties	£219.35
Road safety audits for external clients	£902.01

Streetworks and Events

Suspension of Parking spaces	Restrictions	Cost per day/bay
Single or first space	All zones and areas	£54
Each additional space and/or day	Central zone and Zone 1	£32
Each additional space and/or day	All other zones and areas	£11

Service	Cost 24/25
NRSWA sample inspections	£50
NRSWA Section 50 licences (new apparatus in the highway)	£519
NRSWA Section 50 licences (new apparatus in the highway)- retrospective licence	£133
NRSWA Section 50 licences (maintenance apparatus in the highway)	£377
NRSWA Section 171 licences (excavation in the highway)	£233
NRSWA Section 74 over-run charges	variable
NRSWA Oversail licences	£194
NRSWA Oversail licences - (under 5 days notice) New (non refundable)	£230
NRSWA Oversail licences - Retrospective - (non refundable)	£289
NRSWA Oversail Licence Emergency Fee	£60
NRSWA Raising Statutory Notices Page 264	N/A

Service	Cost 24/25
Pre 3 rd April 2023 NRSWA Section 72 Defects	£47.50
From 3 April 2023 NRSWA Section 72 Defects	£120.00
NRSWA fixed penalty notice	£120.00
NRSWA fixed penalty notice (discount fee if paid early)	£80.00
NRSWA Fixed Penalty Charge for incorrect Notices	£120.00
NRSWA Fixed Penalty Charge for incorrect Notices if a discount applies	£80.00
Temporary signals application	£46
Street Works Co-ordination Notice (cost per road affected by a commercial event's road closure or diversion route)	N/A
Temporary direction sign approval fee up to 5 signs	£50
Temporary direction sign approval fee up to 10 signs	£75
Temporary direction sign approval fee 11 plus signs	£100
Temporary direction sign removal per sign	£10

Service	Cost 24/25
Traffic Management Plans	Actual Costs
A bus stop closure or pair with 5 plus working days notice plus £10 per additional stop	£83.46
A bus stop closure or pair with less than 5 working days notice plus £10 per additional stop	£160.50
Bus stop closure amendment fee	£16.05

Road Safety

Service	Cost 24/25
Supply of accident data to third parties	£219.35
Road safety audits for external clients	£902.01

Highway Maintenance

Service	Cost 24/25
Skip Licence (over 5 days notice)- New (non refundable)	£83.46
Skip Licence (under 5 days notice - New (non refundable)	£118.77
Skip Licence - Renewal (non refundable)	£68.48
Skip Licence - Retrospective (non refundable)	£141.24
Scaffold / Hoarding Licence (over 5 days notice)- New (non refundable)	£85.60
Scaffold / Hoarding Licence (under 5 days notice) - New (non refundable)	£121.98
Scaffold/Hoarding Emergency Fee	£59.92
Scaffold / Hoarding Licence - Renewal (non refundable)	£52,43
Scaffold / Hoarding Licence - Retrospective (non refundable)	£171.20
Cherry Picker/Mobile Crane Licence (over 5 days notice)-(non refundable)	£71.69
Cherry Picker/Mobile Crane Licence (under 5 days notice) - (non refundable)	£107.00
Cherry Picker/Mobile Crane Licence - Retrospective (non refundable)	£141.24
Building Materials and Container on Highway Licence (over 5 days notice) - (non refundable)	£71.69
Building Materials and Container on Highway Licence (under 5 days notice)- (non refundable)	£107.00
Building Materials/Container on Highway Licence - Renewal (non refundable)	£52.43
Building Materials/Container on Highway Licence - Retrospective (non refundable)	£141.24
Chase Fee	£12.84 per reminder
Safety Inspections	£58.85 per inspection
Banner on Highway Licence - New (non refundable)	£71.69
Footway Crossing Licence - New (non refundable)	£186.18
Footway Crossing Licence - Retrospective (non refundable)	£186.18
Duplicate Letter confirming Approval of Footway Crossing Page 266	£29.96

Service	Cost 24/25
Traffic Survey Equipment on the Highway (non refundable)	£83.46
Additional Site Inspection by Highway Inspector	£40.66
s116 Highways Stopping Up	£3,451.82
Landowner Deposits - primary land	£251.45
Landowner Deposits - additional land	£32.10
Public Path Orders (Highway Act)	£4,348.48
Public Path Orders (Town & Country Planning Act)	£5,862.53
Local Search	£44.94
PROW Maps	£12.84
Section 14 PROW Closure Order (planned works) - fees & adverts	£1,590.02
Section 14 PROW Closure Order (planned works) - late submission fee	£306.02
Section 14 PROW Closure Order (planned works) - amendment fee	£120.91
Section 14 TTRO Closure by order - SofS extension	£1,590.02
Section 14 PROW Closure Notice (emergency works) – fees	£282.48

Land Drainage Consent for work on Ordinary Watercourses

Service	Cost 24/25
Temporary and Permanent works	£53.50

Street Lighting

Service	Cost 24/25
Permanent Relocation	£1,244.41
Temporary relocate and reinstall	£2,186.01
Trenching per metre	£119.84
Shield to Street light	£100.58

Transport Planning

Service	Cost 24/25
Temporary Automactic Traffic Counts (ATC)	£333.84
Hand Held Radar Speed Survey 1hour	£75.97

Manual Traffic Counts *(2x2hrs peaks)

Service	Cost 24/25
1 Enumerator	£322.07
Extra cost per Enumerator	£84.53

Manual Traffic Counts *(12hr 07:00-19:00)

Service	Cost 24/25
1 Enumerator	£425.86
Extra cost per Enumerator	£208.95
*Subject to 50% uplift for Out of Hours work (between 19:00 and 07:00 or weekends)	

Ad hoc surveys

Service	Cost 24/25
07:00-19:00	£14.38 per hour plus mileage and expenses
19:00-07:00	£ 21.69 per hour plus mileage and expenses

Miovision Video Camera Surveys

Service		Cost 24/25
Copied onto USB stick and provided to requestor for 1 week's viewing		£33.17
Erect 1 camera		£357.38
External Costs for Processing	Page 268	Cost plus 10%

Supply of Existing Data Manual Classified Counts

Service	Cost 24/25
One peak period	£117.70
Two peak period	£156.22
12 Hour Classified	£221.49

Traffic Modelling

Service	Cost 24/25
Use of existing traffic models	Cost plus 10%

Fees for New Developments under section 38 and 278 highways Act

Estimated Construction costs	Fee %
up to £30,000	15.00%
£31,000 to £75,000	13.00%
£76,000 to £130,000	11.00%
£131,000 to £325,000	9.00%
£326,000 to £650,000	8.00%
Over 651,000	7.00%
Structures Technical Approval	5.00%

Parks



Grounds Maintenance	2024/25
Grounds maintenance (range of grass cutting, strimming, weed control, shrubbery maintenance, leafing, sports pitch maintenance, marking) - price as specified	POA
Japanese knotweed/ Giant Hogweed and other invasive plant treatments - price as specified	POA

Arboricultural services	2024/25
Arboricultural services - tree surgery work i.e felling and tree maintenance - price as specified	POA
Arboricultural consultation services - tree condition and BS5837 inspections and reports - price as specified	POA
School Tree inspections - senior	£288.75
School Tree inspections - primary/infant	£136.50

Play Team	2024/25
External play area inspections, installations, and repairs	£380.00
Play consultancy	POA
Parish Council Annual Play area inspection, installations, and repairs	£120.00
Parish Council Operational Play area inspection (recommended at least once per year)	£94.50

		2024/25
Allotment charges		202 1120
Allotment annual charge per 25 sqm		£16.79
Allotment annual water charge per plot	Allotment annual water charge per plot	
Allotment key deposit		£10.00
Sport and Parks hire rates		2024/25
Western Region combined fee		£551.25
Individual		£93.00
Commercial Balloons up to (and including) a 105 (launch basis	000ft3, on a pay per	£35.50
Commercial Balloons over a 105 000ft3, on a pay	per launch basis	£43.00
Small Hot air balloon launch fee - commercial per people)	launch (up to 5	£36.00
Parks Concessions	2024/2025	2025/2026
7 day Pitch licence (per calendar month)	£300.00	£315.00
Where available power & electrics	recharged	recharged
3 day Pitch licence (per calendar month)	£150.00	£158.00
Individual Trader - New (including consultation)	£449.00	
Individual Trader – Renewal	£37.00	
Individual Trader – Variation	£75.00	
Individual Trader – Consultation No £150.00		
Parade Gardens		2024/25
Parade gardens entry non-resident		£2.50
Parade gardens entry concessions		£1.25
Parade gardens entry weddings and groups per person		£2.00

Sponsorships	2024/25
Bench sponsorship (10 years)	£1,989.00
NEW - Bench renewal (renewal existing bench no installation)	£945.00
3D Bed	POA
Flowerbeds	POA
Tree sponsorship	£380.00
Roundabout sponsorship	POA

Horticultural Excellence	2024/25
Hanging basket 18 inch with our watering service	£145.00
Hanging basket 18 inch without watering service	£74.00
Window Box 90cm with our watering Service	£141.00
Window Box 90cm without our watering Service	£74.00
Window Box 120 cm with our watering service	£188.00
Window Box 120 cm without watering service	£86.00
Sydney Gardens Community Pavilion	2024/25
Commercial (price per hour)	£21.00
Concession (price per hour)	£POA

Other	2024/25
Land access licence arrangement	£50.00
Land use charge (contractor use of space/hire charge per day)	£POA

Transport



Description of Service	Fees 2024/25	Notes
Taxi Inspections	£58.85	No VAT
Taxi Meter Test	£23.54	No VAT
Inspection /MOT and Meter Test	£112.00	Including VAT
Diagnostic Testing	£80.50	Plus VAT
Air Conditioning Refresh	£65.00	Plus VAT
MOT Class 1	£29.65	No VAT
MOT Class 2	£29.65	No VAT
MOT Class 4	£54.85	No VAT
MOT Class 5	£59.55	No VAT
MOT Class 7	£58.60	No VAT
Labour Charge per hour Light Vehicle up to 3.5 tonnes	£70.00	Plus VAT
Labour Charge per hour HGV	£90.00	Plus VAT
Rolling road brake test per axle	£13.00	Plus VAT
Tachograph calibration with battery	£94.50	Plus VAT
DVSA HGV Test – 2 Axle	£91.00	No VAT
DVSA HGV Test – 3 Axle	£113.00	No VAT
DVSA HGV Test – 4 Axle	£137.00	No VAT
DVSA HGV Test – Trailer 1 Axle	£41.00	No VAT
DVSA HGV Test – Trailer 2 Axle	£54.00	No VAT
DVSA HGV Test – Trailer 3 Axle	£64.00	No VAT
DVSA HGV Test – Trailer 4 Axle	£64.00	No VAT
DVSA HGV Test – Trailer 5 Axle	£64.00	No VAT
DVSA HGV Lane Fee	£55.00	Including VAT

Description of Service	Fees 2024/25	Notes
DVSA Trailer Lane Fee	£40.00	Including VAT
DVSA PCV Lane Fee	£70.00	Including VAT
DVSA PCV test up to 22 passengers	£103.00	No VAT
DVSA PCV test 23 or more passengers	£128.00	No VAT
Top Wash Small vehicle	£15.00	Including VAT
Top Wash Medium up to 3.5 tonnes	£20.00	Including VAT
Top wash Large vehicle	£25.00	Including VAT
Underbody wash	£20.00	Including VAT

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING:	Council	
MEETING DATE:	20 th February 2024	
TITLE:	Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2024/25	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		

List of attachments to this report:

Appendix 1 - Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25

Appendix 2 – Authorised Lending List

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 Treasury risk management at the Authority is conducted within the framework of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2021 Edition (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Authority to approve a treasury management strategy before the start of each financial year. This report fulfils the Authority's legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to the CIPFA Code.
- 1.2 Treasury management is the management of the Authority's cash flows, borrowing and investments, and the associated risks. The Authority has borrowed and invested substantial sums of money and is therefore exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of financial risk are therefore central to the Authority's prudent financial management.
- 1.3 Investments held for service or commercial purposes are considered in the Capital and Investment Strategy within the Budget Report which is also included on the agenda for Cabinet & Council for February.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council agrees to:

- 2.1 Approve the actions proposed within the Treasury Management Strategy Statement (**Appendix 1**).
- 2.2 Note the Treasury Management Indicators detailed in Appendix 1.

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3 THE REPORT

Background

- 3.1 The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Council to 'have regard to' the Prudential Code and to set Treasury Indicators for the next three years to ensure that the Council's capital investment plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable.
- 3.2 The Act therefore requires the Council to set out its treasury strategy for borrowing and to prepare a Treasury Management Strategy; this sets out the Council's policies for managing its investments and for giving priority to the security and liquidity of those investments.
- 3.3 The suggested strategy for 2024/25 in respect of the following aspects of the treasury management function is based on the Treasury Officers' views on interest rates, supplemented with leading market forecasts provided by the Council's treasury advisor, Arlingclose.

The strategy covers:

•	Treasury limits in force which will limit the treasury risk and activities of the Council;
•	Treasury Management Indicators;
•	The current treasury position;
•	The borrowing requirement;
•	Prospects for interest rates;
•	The borrowing strategy;
•	The investment strategy.

3.4 Treasury risk management at the Authority is conducted within the framework of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2021 Edition (the CIPFA Code). This requires the Treasury Management Strategy and policies to be scrutinised by an individual / group of individuals or committee, and the Corporate Audit Committee have been nominated by Council to carry out this function. The proposed 2024/25 Treasury Management Strategy was scrutinised by the Corporate Audit Committee at the 7th February 2024 meeting.

2024/25 Treasury Management Strategy Statement

- 3.5 The Strategy Statement for 2023/24 set the Treasury Indicators for 2023/24 2025/26, which included a forecast for the total borrowing requirement at the end of 2023/24 of £462.1m. At the end of December 2023, actual external borrowing was at £216.99 million, with further borrowing potentially required prior to year-end to maintain cashflow. The level of borrowing is in line with the policy of utilising internal cash to reduce net borrowing costs and investment counterparty risk.
- 3.6 The proposed Treasury Management Strategy is attached as **Appendix 1** and includes the Treasury Management Indicators required by the Treasury Management Code.

- 3.7 Although the indicators provide for a maximum level of total borrowing, this should by no means be taken as a recommended level of borrowing, as each year affordability needs to be taken into account together with other changes in circumstances, for example revenue pressures, levels and timing of capital receipts, changes to capital projects spend profiles, and levels of internal cash balances.
- 3.8 The Revenue & Capital Budget Report 2024/25, which is also the agenda, includes appropriate provision for the revenue costs of the capital programme in accordance with this Treasury Management Strategy.
- 3.9 **Appendix 1** also details the Council's current portfolio position as at 31st December 2023, which shows after the netting off of the £39.10 million investments, the Council's net debt position was £177.89 million.
- 3.10 The Treasury Investment Strategy section of Appendix 1 sets 'outer limits' for treasury management operations. While the strategy uses credit ratings in a "mechanistic" way to rule out counterparties, in operating within the policy, officers complement this with the use of other financial information when making investment decisions, for example Credit Default Swap (CDS) prices, Individual Ratings, and the financial press. This has been the case in previous years, which has protected the Council against losses of investment, for example in Icelandic banks.
- 3.11 The Counterparty listing in **Appendix 2** includes credit ratings from three agencies, as well as a sovereign rating for each country. Counterparties who now meet the minimum criteria as recommended in **Appendix 1** as at 31st December 2023 are included in the listing in **Appendix 2**.
- 3.12 The Council has met the conditions to opt up to MiFID II professional status and intends for this to continue in 2024/25 in order to continue to have access to products including money market funds, pooled funds, treasury bills, bonds, shares and to continue to receive the same level of support from our treasury management advisors.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 This report fulfils the Authority's legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to the CIPFA Code.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

5.1 The resource implications are included in the report and appendices.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision-making risk management guidance.
- 6.2 The Council's lending & borrowing list is regularly reviewed during the financial year and credit ratings are monitored throughout the year. All lending/borrowing transactions are within approved limits and with approved institutions. Investment & Borrowing advice is provided by our Treasury Management consultants Arlingclose.

- 6.3 The 2021 edition of the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice requires the Council nominate a committee to be responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of the Treasury Management Strategy and policies. The Corporate Audit Committee carries out this scrutiny.
- 6.4 In addition, the Council maintain a risk register for Treasury Management activities, which is regularly reviewed and updated where applicable during the year.

7 CLIMATE CHANGE

7.1 The 2024/25 Treasury Management Strategy includes options for ESG (Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance) focussed investments.

8 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 The Chief Financial Officer, having consulted the Cabinet Member for Resources, believes that the above strategy represents an appropriate balance between risk management and cost effectiveness. Some alternative strategies, with their financial and risk management implications, are the table below.

Alternative	Impact on income and expenditure	Impact on risk management
Invest in a narrower range of counterparties and/or for shorter times.	Interest income will be lower.	Lower chance of losses from credit related defaults, but any such losses may be greater.
Invest in a wider range of counterparties and/or for longer times.	Interest income will be higher.	Increased risk of losses from credit related defaults, but any such losses may be smaller.
Borrow additional sums at long-term fixed interest rates.	Debt interest costs will rise; this is unlikely to be offset by higher investment income.	Higher investment balance leading to a higher impact in the event of a default; however longterm interest costs may be more certain.
Borrow short-term or variable loans instead of long-term fixed rates.	Debt interest costs will initially be lower.	Increases in debt interest costs will be broadly offset by rising investment income in the medium term, but long-term costs may be less certain.
Reduce level of borrowing.	Saving on debt interest is likely to exceed lost investment income.	Reduced investment balance leading to a lower impact in the event of a default; however longterm interest costs may be less certain.

9 CONSULTATION

9.1 Consultation has been carried out with the Cabinet Member for Resources, Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer.

Contact person	Jamie Whittard - 01225 477213; Claire Read - 01225 477019 Jamie Whittard@bathnes.gov.uk; Claire Read@bathnes.gov.uk		
Background papers	2023/24 Treasury Management & Investment Strategy		
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format			

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Appendix 1

Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2024/25

1. Introduction

1.1 Treasury management overview

Treasury management is the management of the Authority's cash flows, borrowing and investments, and the associated risks. The Authority has borrowed and invested substantial sums of money and is therefore exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of financial risk are therefore central to the Authority's prudent financial management.

Treasury risk management at the Authority is conducted within the framework of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's *Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2021 Edition* (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Authority to approve a treasury management strategy before the start of each financial year. This report fulfils the Authority's legal obligation under the *Local Government Act 2003* to have regard to the CIPFA Code.

Investments held for service or commercial purposes are considered in the Capital & Investment Strategy document which is included as an appendix to the Authority's 2024/25 Revenue & Capital Budget Report.

1.2 External Context (data/commentary as at January 2024)

1.2.1 Economic background:

The impact on the UK from higher interest rates and inflation, a weakening economic outlook, an uncertain political climate due to an upcoming general election, together with war in Ukraine and the Middle East, will be major influences on the Authority's treasury management strategy for 2024/25.

The Bank of England (BoE) increased Bank Rate to 5.25% in August 2023, before maintaining this level for the rest of 2023. In December 2023, members of the BoE's Monetary Policy Committee voted 6-3 in favour of keeping Bank Rate at 5.25%. The three dissenters wanted to increase rates by another 0.25%.

The November quarterly Monetary Policy Report (MPR) forecast a prolonged period of weak Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth with the potential for a mild contraction due to ongoing weak economic activity. The outlook for CPI inflation was deemed to be highly uncertain, with upside risks to CPI falling to the 2% target coming from potential energy price increases, strong domestic wage growth and persistence in price-setting.

Office for National Statistics (ONS) figures showed CPI inflation was 3.9% in November 2023, down from a 4.6% rate in the previous month and, in line with the recent trend, lower than expected. The core CPI inflation rate declined to 5.1% from the previous month's 5.7%, again lower than predictions. Looking ahead, using the interest rate path implied by financial markets the BoE expects CPI inflation to continue falling slowly, but taking until early 2025 to reach the 2% target before dropping below target during the second half 2025 and into 2026.

ONS figures showed the UK economy contracted by 0.1% between July and September 2023. The BoE forecasts GDP will likely stagnate through 2024. The BoE forecasts that higher interest rates will constrain GDP growth, which will remain weak over the entire forecast horizon.

The labour market appears to be loosening, but only very slowly. The unemployment rate rose slightly to 4.2% between June and August 2023, from 4.0% in the previous 3-month period, but the lack of consistency in the data between the two periods made comparisons difficult. Earnings growth has remained strong but has showed some signs of easing; regular pay (excluding bonuses) was up 7.3% over the period and total pay (including bonuses) up 7.2%. Adjusted for inflation, regular pay was 1.4% and total pay 1.3%. Looking forward, the MPR showed the unemployment rate is expected to be around 4.25% in the second half of calendar 2023, but then rising steadily over the forecast horizon to around 5% in late 2025/early 2026.

Having increased its key interest rate to a target range of 5.25-5.50% in August 2023, the US Federal Reserve appears now to have concluded the hiking cycle. It is likely this level represents the peak in US rates following a more dovish meeting outcome in December 2023. US GDP grew at an annualised rate of 4.9% between July and September 2023, ahead of expectations for a 4.3% expansion and the 2.1% reading for Q2. But the impact from higher rates has started to feed into economic activity and growth will weaken in 2024. Annual CPI inflation was 3.1% in November.

Eurozone inflation has declined steadily since the start of 2023, falling to an annual rate of 2.4% in November 2023. Economic growth has been weak and GDP contracted by 0.1% in the three months to September 2023. In line with other central banks, the European Central Bank has increased rates, taking its deposit facility, fixed rate tender, and marginal lending rates to 3.75%, 4.25% and 4.50% respectively.

1.2.2 Credit outlook:

Credit Default Swap (CDS) prices were volatile during 2023, spiking in March on the back of banking sector contagion concerns following the major events of Silicon Valley Bank becoming insolvent and the takeover of Credit Suisse by UBS. After then falling back in Q2 of the 2023 calendar year, in the second half of the year, higher interest rates and

inflation, the ongoing war in Ukraine, and now the Middle East, have led to CDS prices increasing steadily.

On an annual basis, CDS price volatility has so far been lower in 2023 compared to 2022, but this year has seen more of a divergence in prices between ringfenced (retail) and non-ringfenced (investment) banking entities once again.

Moody's revised its outlook on the UK sovereign to stable from negative to reflect its view of restored political predictability following the volatility after the 2022 mini-budget. Moody's also affirmed the Aa3 rating in recognition of the UK's economic resilience and strong institutional framework.

Following its rating action on the UK sovereign, Moody's revised the outlook on five UK banks to stable from negative and then followed this by the same action on five rated local authorities. However, within the same update the long-term ratings of those five local authorities were downgraded.

There remain competing tensions in the banking sector, on one side from higher interest rates boosting net income and profitability against another of a weakening economic outlook and likely recessions that increase the possibility of a deterioration in the quality of banks' assets.

However, the institutions on our adviser Arlingclose's counterparty list remain well-capitalised and their counterparty advice on both recommended institutions and maximum duration remain under constant review and will continue to reflect economic conditions and the credit outlook.

1.2.3 Interest rate forecast (December 2023):

Although UK inflation and wage growth remain elevated, the Authority's treasury management adviser Arlingclose forecasts that Bank Rate has peaked at 5.25%. The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee will start reducing rates in 2024 to stimulate the UK economy but will be reluctant to do so until it is sure there will be no lingering second-round effects. Arlingclose sees rate cuts from Q3 2024 to a low of around 3% by early-mid 2026.

Arlingclose expects long-term gilt yields to be broadly stable at current levels (amid continued volatility), following the decline in yields towards the end of 2023, which reflects the expected lower medium-term path for Bank Rate. Yields will remain relatively higher than in the past, due to quantitative tightening and significant bond supply. As ever, there will undoubtedly be short-term volatility due to economic and political uncertainty and events.

A more detailed economic and interest rate forecast provided by Arlingclose is in Appendix A.

For the purpose of setting the budget, it has been assumed that short term treasury investments will be made at an average rate of 4.75% and long-term strategic investments will yield an average rate of 4.25%. It is forecast that new long-term loans will be borrowed at an average rate of 4.75% during 2024/25.

1.3 Local Context

1.3.1 Council's position as at 31st December 2023: The Council held £216.99m of borrowing and £39.1m of treasury investments. This is set out in further detail in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Balance sheet summary

	31/12/2023	31/12/2023
	Actual portfolio	Average rate
	£m	%
External borrowing:		
Public Works Loan Board	196.99	3.11%
Local authorities	10.00	4.45%
LOBO loans from banks	10.00	4.50%
Other loans	0.00	0.00%
Total external borrowing	216.99	3.24%
Treasury investments:		
The UK Government	0.00	0.00%
Local authorities	5.00	5.45%
Banks (unsecured)	0.00	0.00%
Building societies (unsecured)	0.00	0.00%
Money market funds	24.10	5.33%
Strategic pooled funds	10.00	4.47%
Other investments	0.00	0.00%
Total treasury investments	39.10	5.13%
Net debt	177.89	

1.3.2 Capital Financing Requirement:

The underlying need to borrow for capital purposes is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), while usable reserves and working capital are the underlying resources available for investment. The Council's current strategy is to maintain borrowing and investments below their underlying levels, sometimes known as internal borrowing.

The Authorities Capital Financing Requirement (CFR, or underlying need to borrow) excluding lease financing as at 31st March 2024 is expected to be £376.5m and is forecast to rise to £441.7m by March 2025 as capital expenditure is incurred.

CIPFA's *Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities* recommends that the Council's total debt should be lower than its highest forecast CFR over the next three years. The Council expects to comply with this recommendation during 2024/25.

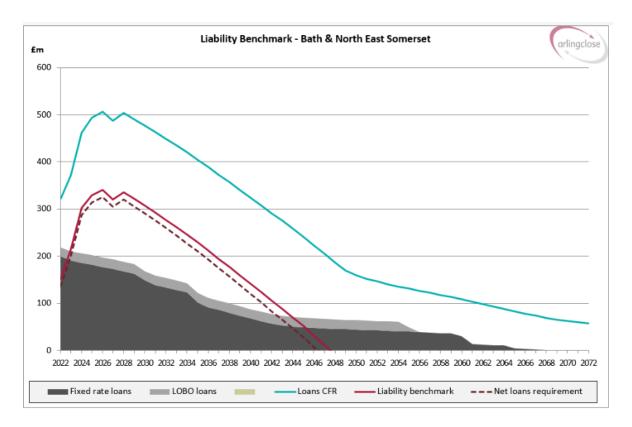
Liability Benchmark

The liability benchmark is an important tool to help establish whether the Council is likely to be a long-term borrower or long-term investor in the future, and so shape its strategic focus and decision making. The liability benchmark itself represents an estimate of the cumulative amount of external borrowing the Council must hold to fund its current capital and revenue plans while keeping treasury investments at the minimum level required to manage day-to-day cash flow.

Table 2: Prudential Indicator: Liability benchmark

	31.3.23	31.3.24	31.3.25	31.3.26	31.3.27
	Actual	Estimate	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Loans CFR	341.0	376.5	441.7	474.7	499.0
Less: Balance sheet	(165.3)	(160.6)	(157.4)	(155.4)	(155.2)
resources	(100.0)	(100.0)	(137.4)	(155.4)	(133.2)
Net loans requirement	175.7	215.9	284.3	319.3	343.8
Plus: Liquidity allowance	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0
Liability benchmark	190.7	230.9	299.3	334.3	358.8

Following on from the medium-term forecasts in table 2 above, the long-term liability benchmark assumes capital expenditure funded by borrowing of around £68m for 2024/25, minimum revenue provision on new capital expenditure based on a 25 year asset life and income, and expenditure increasing by inflation of 2.5% a year. This is shown in the chart below together with the maturity profile of the Council's existing borrowing:



When we compare actual borrowing (the grey slopes) to the Liability Benchmark (solid red line) the model anticipates that the Council will be in a under borrowed position between 2024 and 2045. When the Council is considering new long term borrowing, this funding gap can be used, as a useful guide to the optimal amount and length of borrowing required in order to minimise interest rate and credit risk.

2. Borrowing Strategy

2.1 Current borrowing

The Council currently holds £216.99 million of loans, an increase £6.73 million on the previous year. The Council has taken out £20m in new borrowing between 1st April – 31st December 2023, this is comprised of two new £5m loans to replace the £10m LOBO loan which was called and repaid in October and a new £10m short term loan to cover the pension prepayment and allow the Council to maintain its £15m liquidity indicator. This was netted off by £3.27m in PWLB annuity loan repayments during 2023.

2.2 Objectives

The Council's chief objective when borrowing money is to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving certainty of those costs over the period for which funds are required. The flexibility to renegotiate loans should the Authority's long-term plans change is a secondary objective.

2.3 Strategy

Given the significant cuts to public expenditure and in particular to local government funding, the Council's borrowing strategy continues to address the key issue of affordability without compromising the longer-term stability of the debt portfolio.

Short-term interest rates are currently at a 15-year high but are expected to fall in the coming years, Therefore, we will continue to assess the maturity profile of any new borrowing taking into account both current and predicted future rates. Where more cost effective over the medium term we will continue to make use of internal resources or consider a proportion of short-term borrowing instead.

The benefits of internal / short-term borrowing will be monitored regularly against the potential for incurring additional costs by deferring borrowing into future years. Arlingclose may assist the Council with this 'cost of carry' and breakeven analysis. Its output may determine whether the Council borrows additional sums at long-term fixed rates in 2024/25 with a view to keeping future interest costs low, even if this causes additional cost in the short-term.

The Council has previously raised the majority of its long-term borrowing from the PWLB but will consider long-term loans from other sources including banks, pensions and local authorities, and it may consider investigating the possibility of issuing bonds and similar instruments, in order to lower interest costs and reduce over-reliance on one source of funding in line with the CIPFA Code. PWLB loans are no longer available to local authorities planning to buy investment assets primarily for yield; the Authority intends to avoid this activity in order to retain its access to PWLB loans.

Alternatively, the Council may arrange forward starting loans, where the interest rate is fixed in advance, but the cash is received in later years. This would enable certainty of cost to be achieved without suffering a cost of carry in the intervening period.

In addition, the Council may borrow further short-term loans to cover unplanned cash flow shortages.

2.4 Sources of borrowing

The Approved sources of long-term and short-term borrowing are:

- HM Treasury's PWLB lending facility (formerly the Public Works Loan Board)
- UK Infrastructure Bank Ltd
- any institution approved for investments (see below)
- any other bank or building society authorised to operate in the UK
- any other UK public sector body
- UK public and private sector pension funds (except the Avon Pension Fund)
- capital market bond investors

 UK Municipal Bonds Agency plc and other special purpose companies created to enable local authority bond issues

Other sources of debt finance: In addition, capital finance may be raised by the following methods that are not borrowing, but may be classed as other debt liabilities:

- leasing
- hire purchase
- Private Finance Initiative
- sale and leaseback

In 2024/25 the accounting treatment of leases changes and as a result more leases will be brought on to the balance sheet, increasing the Council's Other Long-Term Liabilities. The expected impact of this is to increase the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) by an estimated £9m.

- **2.4.1 Municipal Bonds Agency:** UK Municipal Bonds Agency plc was established in 2014 by the Local Government Association as an alternative to the PWLB. It issues bonds on the capital markets and lends the proceeds to local authorities. This is a more complicated source of finance than the PWLB for two reasons: borrowing authorities will be required to provide bond investors with a guarantee to refund their investment in the event that the agency is unable to for any reason; and there will be a lead time of several months between committing to borrow and knowing the interest rate payable. Any decision to borrow from the Agency will therefore be the subject to specific approval in accordance with the Council's appropriate delegation.
- **2.4.2 LOBOs:** The Council has £10m of LOBO (Lender's Option Borrower's Option) loans where the lender has the option to propose an increase in the interest rate at set dates, following which the Council has the option to either accept the new rate or to repay the loan at no additional cost. These LOBOs have options due up in 2024/25 and it is possible that lenders will exercise their options. If they do, the Authority will take the option to repay LOBO loans to reduce refinancing risk in later years. Total borrowing via LOBO loans will be limited to the current £10m.
- **2.4.3 Short-term and variable rate loans**: These loans leave the Council exposed to the risk of short-term interest rate rises and are therefore subject to the interest rate exposure limits in the treasury management indicators below. Financial derivatives may be used to manage this interest rate risk (see section below).
- **2.4.4 Debt rescheduling:** The PWLB allows authorities to repay loans before maturity and either pay a premium or receive a discount according to a set formula based on current interest rates. Other lenders may also be prepared to negotiate premature redemption terms. The Council may take advantage of this and replace some loans with new loans, or repay loans without replacement, where this is expected to lead to an

overall cost saving or a reduction in risk. The recent rise in interest rates means that more favourable debt rescheduling opportunities should arise than in previous years.

3. Treasury Investment Strategy

3.1 Current investments

The Council holds significant invested funds, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves held. In the past 12 months, the Authority's treasury investment balance has ranged between £27.4m and £72.7m.

3.2 Objectives

The CIPFA Code requires the Council to invest its treasury funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its investments before seeking the highest rate of return, or yield. The Council's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income. The Council aims to be a responsible investor and will consider environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues when investing.

3.3 Strategy

As demonstrated by the liability benchmark above, the Council expects to be a long-term borrower and new treasury investments will therefore be made primarily to manage day-to-day cash flows using short-term low risk instruments in line with advice from Arlingclose. The Council will continue to hold the £5m long term strategic investment balance in the CCLA LA Property fund as well as the £5m invested into two ESG funds; FP Foresight UK Infrastructure Income fund (£3m) & VT Gravis Clean Energy Income Fund (£2m), further details of this are provided in section 3.8.

The Council has opted up to Professional status for MiFID II purposes which allows it to place its treasury assets in a greater range of financial products which has been of significant importance over the last few years. To be categorised as Professional the Council must hold at least a £10m investment balance, the Council's three pooled investments mentioned above, which are medium – long term investments, guarantee that this balance will always be held. By placing this required £10m balance in these three pooled funds the Council aims to achieve a total return that is equal or higher than the long-term average rate of inflation thus preserving the spending power of this £10m balance.

The CIPFA Code does not permit local authorities to both borrow and invest long-term for cash flow management. But the Council may make long-term investments for treasury risk management purposes, including to manage interest rate risk by investing sums borrowed in advance for the capital programme for up to three years; to manage inflation

risk by investing usable reserves in instruments whose value rises with inflation; and to manage price risk by adding diversification to the strategic pooled fund portfolio.

The total amount borrowed will not exceed the 2024/25 authorised borrowing limit of £451m. The maximum period between borrowing and expenditure is expected to be three years, although loans are linked with its budgeted programme, individual items within that programme are not linked to the loans at a granular level.

Under the new IFRS 9 standard, the accounting for certain investments depends on the Council's "business model" for managing them. The Council aims to achieve value from its treasury investments by a business model of collecting the contractual cash flows and therefore, where other criteria are also met, these investments will continue to be accounted for at amortised cost.

3.4 Approved counterparties

The Council may invest its surplus funds with any of the counterparty types in Table 3 below, subject to the limits shown.

Table 3: Treasury investment counterparties and limits

Sector	Minimum credit rating*	Time limit	Counterparty limit	Sector limit
The UK Government	NA	5 years	Unlimited	Unlimited
Local authorities & other government entities	NA	5 years	£10m	Unlimited
Secured investments	A-	5 years	£10m	Unlimited
Banks (unsecured)	A-	13 months	£10m	Unlimited
Building societies (unsecured)	A-	13 months	£10m	£15m
Registered providers (unsecured)	A-	5 years	£5m	£5m
Money market funds	A-	n/a	£10m	£60m
Strategic pooled funds	NA	n/a	£5m	£10m
Foreign countries per country	AA+	13 months	£10m	£10m
ESG focussed short term deposits	A-	13 months	£5m	£5m
Other investments	A-	5 years	£5m	£5m

This table must be read in conjunction with the notes below

* **Minimum credit rating:** Where available, the credit rating relevant to the specific investment or class of investment is used, otherwise the counterparty credit rating is used. However, investment decisions are never made solely based on credit ratings, and all other relevant factors including external advice will be taken into account.

For entities without published credit ratings, investments may be made where external advice indicates the entity to be of similar credit quality.

- **3.4.1 Government:** Loans to, and bonds and bills issued or guaranteed by, national governments, regional and local authorities and multilateral development banks. These investments are not subject to bail-in, and there is generally a lower risk of insolvency, although they are not zero risk. Investments with the UK Government are deemed to be zero credit risk due to its ability to create additional currency and therefore may be made in unlimited amounts for up to 5 years.
- **3.4.2 Secured investments:** Investments secured on the borrower's assets, which limits the potential losses in the event of insolvency. The amount and quality of the security will be a key factor in the investment decision. Covered bonds and reverse repurchase agreements with banks and building societies are exempt from bail-in. Where there is no investment specific credit rating, but the collateral upon which the investment is secured has a credit rating, the higher of the collateral credit rating and the counterparty credit rating will be used. The combined secured and unsecured investments with any one counterparty will not exceed the cash limit for secured investments.
- **3.4.3 Banks and building societies (unsecured):** Accounts, deposits, certificates of deposit and senior unsecured bonds with banks and building societies, other than multilateral development banks. These investments are subject to the risk of credit loss via a bail-in should the regulator determine that the bank is failing or likely to fail. See below for arrangements relating to operational bank accounts.
- **3.4.4 Registered providers (unsecured):** Loans to, and bonds issued or guaranteed by, registered providers of social housing or registered social landlords, formerly known as housing associations. These bodies are regulated by the Regulator of Social Housing (in England), the Scottish Housing Regulator, the Welsh Government and the Department for Communities (in Northern Ireland). As providers of public services, they retain the likelihood of receiving government support if needed.
- **3.4.5 Money market funds:** Pooled funds that offer same-day or short notice liquidity and very low or no price volatility by investing in short-term money markets. They have the advantage over bank accounts of providing wide diversification of investment risks, coupled with the services of a professional fund manager in return for a small fee. The Council will take care to diversify its liquid investments over a variety of providers to ensure access to cash at all times.

- **3.4.6 Strategic pooled funds:** Bond, equity and property funds that offer enhanced returns over the longer term but are more volatile in the short term. These allow the Council to diversify into asset classes other than cash without the need to own and manage the underlying investments. Because these funds have no defined maturity date, but are available for withdrawal after a notice period, their performance and continued suitability in meeting the Council's investment objectives will be monitored regularly. Note that this classification covers the Council's two ESG investments and the investment in the CCLA property fund.
- **3.4.7 Foreign countries:** This category covers investment with both the governments of foreign countries and banks based in foreign countries. Where a bank is domiciled in a foreign country, the bank must meet the minimum credit criteria set out in Table 3 of Afor 'Banks (unsecured)' and be domiciled in a country which meets the minimum credit rating criteria set of AA+.
- **3.4.8 Other investments:** This category covers treasury investments not listed above, for example unsecured corporate bonds and company loans. Non-bank companies cannot be bailed-in but can become insolvent placing the Council's investment at risk. Any investment under this category will only be made following a favourable external credit assessment and on the specific advice of the Council's treasury management adviser.

Note: Investments in pooled funds and multilateral development banks do not count against the limit for any single foreign country, since the risk is diversified over many countries.

3.4.9 Operational bank accounts: The Council may incur operational exposures, for example through current accounts, collection accounts and merchant acquiring services, to any UK bank with credit ratings no lower than BBB- and with assets greater than £25 billion. These are not classed as investments but are still subject to the risk of a bank bailin. The Bank of England has stated that in the event of failure, banks with assets greater than £25 billion are more likely to be bailed-in than made insolvent, increasing the chance of the Authority maintaining operational continuity.

3.5 Risk assessment and credit ratings

Credit ratings are obtained and monitored by the Council's treasury advisers, who will notify changes in ratings as they occur. The credit rating agencies in current use are listed in the Treasury Management Practices document. Where an entity has its credit rating downgraded so that it fails to meet the approved investment criteria then:

- no new investments will be made,
- · any existing investments that can be recalled or sold at no cost will be, and
- full consideration will be given to the recall or sale of all other existing investments with the affected counterparty.

Where a credit rating agency announces that a credit rating is on review for possible downgrade (also known as "negative watch") so that it may fall below the approved rating criteria, then only investments that can be withdrawn on the next working day will be made with that organisation until the outcome of the review is announced. This policy will not apply to negative outlooks, which indicate a long-term direction of travel rather than an imminent change of rating.

3.5.1 Other information on the security of investments: The Council understands that credit ratings are good, but not perfect, predictors of investment default. Full regard will therefore be given to other available information on the credit quality of the organisations in which it invests, including credit default swap prices, financial statements, information on potential government support, reports in the quality financial press and analysis and advice from the Council's treasury management adviser. No investments will be made with an organisation if there are substantive doubts about its credit quality, even though it may otherwise meet the above criteria.

The Council is aware that investing with certain counterparties, while considered secure from a purely financial perspective, may leave it open to criticism, valid or otherwise, that may affect its public reputation, and this risk will therefore be taken into account when making investment decisions.

When deteriorating financial market conditions affect the creditworthiness of all organisations, as happened in 2008, 2020 and 2022, this is not generally reflected in credit ratings, but can be seen in other market measures. In these circumstances, the Council will restrict its investments to those organisations of higher credit quality and reduce the maximum duration of its investments to maintain the required level of security. The extent of these restrictions will be in line with prevailing financial market conditions. If these restrictions mean that insufficient commercial organisations of high credit quality are available to invest the Council's cash balances, then the surplus will be deposited with the UK Government, or with other local authorities. This will cause investment returns to fall but will protect the principal sum invested.

3.6 Investment limits

The Council's revenue reserves (including earmarked reserves) available to cover investment losses was £76 million as at 31st March 2023. To limit risk from any a single default, the maximum that will be lent to any one organisation (other than the UK Government) will be £10 million which represents 13.09% of reserves. A group of banks under the same ownership will be treated as a single organisation for limit purposes. Investments in pooled funds and multilateral development banks do not count against the limit for any single foreign country, since the risk is diversified over many countries.

3.7 Liquidity management

The Council uses forward looking forecasting based on prior year cashflows combined with knowledge of upcoming income/spending to determine the maximum period for which funds may prudently be committed. The forecast is compiled on a prudent basis to minimise the risk of the Council being forced to borrow on unfavourable terms to meet its financial commitments. Limits on long-term investments are set by reference to the Council's medium-term financial plan and cash flow forecast.

The Council will spread its liquid cash over at least four providers (e.g. bank accounts and money market funds) to ensure that access to cash is maintained in the event of operational difficulties at any one provider.

3.8 Environment Social and Governance investment approach

3.8.1 The Climate Emergency: In 2019 Bath and North East Somerset Council declared a Climate emergency reflecting the concern that the Council has over climate change, and the commitment of the Council to address the issue with regards to evaluating the climate change impact of all our decisions.

3.8.2 Background: The CIPFA Treasury Management Code and DLUHC Investment Guidance state that the main principles in investing are Security, Liquidity and Yield in that order. However, as part of the 2021 Code, CIPFA now requires local authorities to have some consideration of ESG factors when investing.

3.8.3 Long term ESG investments:

In the 2021/22 Treasury Management Strategy the Authority adopted an ESG investment approach as part of its 2021/22 Investment Strategy. Resulting in a long-term investment of £5m investment split across the following two ESG focused funds;

- £3m into FP Foresight UK Infrastructure fund; &
- £2m into VT Gravis Clean energy income fund.

3.8.4 Short term ESG investments:

When investing in banks and funds, the Council will prioritise banks that are signatories to the UN Principles for Responsible Banking and funds operated by managers that are signatories to the UN Principles for Responsible Investment, the Net Zero Asset Managers Alliance and/or the UK Stewardship Code.

The Authority may also consider options for investment in short-term funds with institutions who ring fence the use of such funds for ESG related matters. The criteria for credit rating of security of such deposits will need to remain in line with the wider Authority policy, however where appropriate and at the Authorities discretion, some flexibility will be provided to allow for slightly longer durations of investment and potentially lower

returns in order to support the ESG focus. Where such flexibility is used, the investment will be subject to agreement of the S151 Officer taking these factors into consideration.

Direct involvement and financing of Green energy projects is treated as capital expenditure, and as such is not covered within the remit of treasury management.

3.9 Other matters

Avon Pension Fund Investments: The Council's Treasury Management team also manage the Avon Pension Fund's internally held cash on behalf of the Fund. The cash balance held internally is a working balance to cover pension payments at any point in time and it is estimated will be an average of £43 million, being around 0.5% of the overall assets of the Fund. The regulations require that this cash is accounted for separately and invested separately from the Council's cash.

Investments held will operate within the framework of this Investment Strategy, but the maximum counterparty limit and investment term with any counterparty are set annually by the Avon Pension Fund Committee. These limits are in addition to the Council's limits for counterparties as set out in Appendix 2.

The Pension Fund's investment managers are responsible for the investment of cash held within their portfolios, and this policy does not relate to their cash investments. The Brunel Pension Partnership does not have any direct impact on the Authorities treasury management activities.

4. Treasury Management Prudential Indicators

The Council measures and manages its exposures to treasury management risks using the following indicators.

4.1 Treasury Borrowing Limits for 2024/25 to 2026/27

It is a statutory duty under s.3 of the Local Government Act 2003, and supporting regulations, for the Council to determine and keep under review how much it can afford to borrow. This amount is termed the 'Affordable Borrowing Limit'.

The Council must have regard to the Prudential Code when setting the Affordable Borrowing Limit. The Code requires a Council to ensure that its total capital investment remains within sustainable limits and, in particular, that the impact upon its future Council tax levels is 'acceptable'.

The Affordable Borrowing Limit must include all planned capital investment to be financed by external borrowing and any other forms of liability, such as credit arrangements. The Affordable Borrowing Limit is to be set on a rolling basis for the forthcoming year and two successive financial years.

The Authorised limits for external debt include current commitments and proposals in the budget report for capital expenditure, plus additional headroom over and above the operational limit for unusual cash movements.

The Operational boundary for external debt is based on the same estimates as the authorised limit but without the additional headroom for unusual cash movements. This level also factors in the proposed approach to use internal cash-flow and future capital receipts as the preferred financing method for the capital programme.

Table 4: Operational and authorised borrowing limits

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Operational Boundary – Borrowing	£413m	£447m	£472m
Operational Boundary – Other Long-Term Liabilities	£9m	£9m	£9m
Operational boundary – TOTAL	£422m	£456m	£481m
Authorised Limit- Borrowing	£442m	£475m	£499m
Authorised Limit – Other Long-Term Liabilities	£9m	£9m	£9m
Authorised limit – TOTAL	£451m	£484m	£508m

4.2 Security

The Council has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to credit risk by monitoring the value-weighted average credit rating of its investment portfolio. This is calculated by applying a score to each investment (AAA=1, AA+=2, etc.) and taking the arithmetic average, weighted by the size of each investment. Unrated investments are assigned a score based on their perceived risk.

Table 5: Portfolio average credit rating criteria

Credit risk indicator	Target
Portfolio average credit rating	A-

4.3 Liquidity

The Council has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to liquidity risk by monitoring the amount of cash available to meet unexpected payments within a rolling three-month period, without additional borrowing.

Table 6: Minimum 3 month liquidity limit

Liquidity risk indicator	Target				
Total cash available within 3 months	£15m				

4.4 Interest rate exposures

This indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to interest rate risk. The upper limits on the one-year revenue impact of a 1% rise or fall in interest rates will be:

Interest rate risk indicator	Limit
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% rise in interest rates	
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% fall in interest rates	+/- £0.8m

The impact of this limit is that the Council should never be holding a maturity adjusted net debt/investment position of more than £80m subject to variable interest rates.

The impact of a change in interest rates is calculated on the assumption that maturing loans and investments will be replaced at new market rates, this includes amounts which are maturing each year in PWLB annuity loans.

4.5 Maturity structure of borrowing

This indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to refinancing risk. The upper and lower limits on the maturity structure of borrowing will be:

Table 8: Borrowing maturity limits

Refinancing rate risk indicator	Upper limit	Lower limit		
Under 12 months	50%	0%		
12 months and within 24 months	50%	0%		
24 months and within 5 years	75%	0%		
5 years and within 10 years	75%	0%		
10 years and within 25 years	100%	25%		
Over 25 years	100%			

Time periods start on the first day of each financial year. The maturity date of borrowing is the earliest date on which the lender can demand repayment. For LOBO's this will now be shown as the date of their maturity.

4.6 Long-term treasury management investments

The purpose of this indicator is to control the Council's exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of its investments. The limits on the long-term principal sum invested to final maturities beyond the period end will be:

Table 9: Investment maturity limits

Price risk indicator	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	No fixed Date
Limit on principal invested beyond year end	£40m	£20m	£10m	£10m

Long-term investments with no fixed maturity date include strategic pooled funds and real estate investment trusts but exclude money market funds and bank accounts with no fixed maturity date as these are considered short-term.

5. Related Matters

The CIPFA Code requires the Authority to include some of the following in its treasury management strategy.

5.1 Treasury management advisers

The Council has appointed Arlingclose Limited as treasury management advisers and receives specific advice on investment, debt and capital finance issues, although responsibility for final decision making remains with the Council and its officers. The services received include:

- advice and guidance on relevant policies, strategies and reports,
- advice on investment decisions,
- notification of credit ratings and changes,
- other information on credit quality,
- · advice on debt management decisions,
- accounting advice,
- · reports on treasury performance,
- · forecasts of interest rates, and
- training courses.

The quality of this service is monitored by officers on a regular basis, focusing on supply of relevant, accurate and timely information across the headings above.

5.2 Financial derivatives

Local authorities have previously made use of financial derivatives embedded into loans and investments both to reduce interest rate risk (e.g. interest rate collars and forward deals) and to reduce costs or increase income at the expense of greater risk (e.g. LOBO loans and callable deposits). The general power of competence in section 1 of the *Localism Act 2011* removes much of the uncertainty over local authorities' use of standalone financial derivatives (i.e. those that are not embedded into a loan or investment).

The Council will only use standalone financial derivatives (such as swaps, forwards, futures and options) where they can be clearly demonstrated to reduce the overall level of the financial risks that the Council is exposed to. Additional risks presented, such as credit exposure to derivative counterparties, will be taken into account when determining the overall level of risk. Embedded derivatives, including those present in pooled funds and forward starting transactions, will not be subject to this policy, although the risks they present will be managed in line with the overall treasury risk management strategy.

Financial derivative transactions may be arranged with any organisation that meets the approved investment criteria, assessed using the appropriate credit rating for derivative exposures.

In line with the CIPFA Code, the Council will seek external advice and will consider that advice before entering into financial derivatives to ensure that it fully understands the implications.

5.3 External Funds

Where schools have not opted to have their own bank account, the Council manages their investment balances as part of its own. The Council treats the schools' balances in its accounts as part of the Council's investment portfolio but assigns a return at a rate of base rate less 0.25% (capped to a minimum of zero where base rate drops below 0.25%) to schools for their respective balances.

5.4 Markets in Financial Instruments Directive

The Council has opted up to professional client status with its providers of financial services, including advisers, banks, brokers and fund managers, allowing it access to a greater range of services but without the greater regulatory protections afforded to individuals and small companies. Given the size and range of the Council's treasury management activities, the Chief Financial Officer believes this to be the most appropriate status.

5.5 Staff and Councillor training

The needs of the Council's treasury management staff for training in investment management are assessed every year as part of the staff performance development review process, and additionally when the responsibilities of individual members of staff change.

Staff regularly attend training courses, seminars and conferences provided by Arlingclose and CIPFA. Relevant staff are also encouraged to study professional qualifications from CIPFA, the Association of Corporate Treasurers and other appropriate organisations.

Training in treasury management is also provided to Members of the Corporate Audit Committee by the Council's treasury advisors, Arlingclose.

5.6 Financial Implications

The budget for treasury management investment income in 2024/25 is £1.5m, based on an average investment portfolio of £33 million at an average interest rate of 4.42%. The budget for debt interest paid in 2024/25 is £9.1m, based on an average debt portfolio of £258m at an average interest rate of 3.55%. If actual levels of investments and borrowing, or actual interest rates, differ from those forecasts, performance against budget will be correspondingly different.

Where investment income from strategic pooled funds exceeds budget, then 50% of the revenue savings may be transferred to the Capital Financing Reserve to mitigate the risk of capital losses in future years should valuation losses on fair value treasury assets require recognition, or where capital losses were crystalised on the sale of treasury assets.

5.7 Other Options Considered

The CIPFA Code does not prescribe any particular treasury management strategy for local authorities to adopt. The Chief Financial Officer, having consulted the Cabinet Member for Resources, believes that the above strategy represents an appropriate balance between risk management and cost effectiveness. Some alternative strategies, with their financial and risk management implications, are listed below.

Table 10: Alternative treasury strategy options considered

Alternative	Impact on income and expenditure	Impact on risk management
Invest in a narrower range of counterparties and/or for shorter times	Interest income will be lower	Lower chance of losses from credit related defaults, but any such losses may be greater
Invest in a wider range of counterparties and/or for longer times	Interest income will be higher	Increased risk of losses from credit related defaults, but any such losses may be smaller

Alternative	Impact on income and	Impact on risk						
	expenditure	management						
Borrow additional sums at	Debt interest costs will	Higher investment balance						
long-term fixed interest	rise; this is unlikely to be	leading to a higher impact						
rates	offset by higher	in the event of a default;						
	investment income	however long-term interest						
		costs may be more certain						
Borrow short-term or	Debt interest costs will	Increases in debt interest						
variable loans instead of	initially be lower	costs will be broadly offset						
long-term fixed rates		by rising investment						
		income in the medium						
		term, but long-term costs						
		may be less certain						
Reduce level of borrowing	Saving on debt interest is	Reduced investment						
	likely to exceed lost	balance leading to a lower						
	investment income	impact in the event of a						
		default; however long-term						
		interest costs may be less						
		certain						

<u>Appendix A – Arlingclose Economic & Interest Rate Forecast – December 2023</u>

Underlying assumptions:

- UK inflation and wage growth remain elevated but have eased over the past two
 months fuelling rate cuts expectations. Near-term rate cuts remain unlikely, although
 downside risks will increase as the UK economy likely slides into recession.
- The MPC's message remains unchanged as the Committee seeks to maintain tighter financial conditions. Monetary policy will remain tight as inflation is expected to moderate to target slowly, although some wage and inflation measures are below the Bank's last forecasts.
- Despite some deterioration in activity data, the UK economy remains resilient in the face of tighter monetary policy. Recent data has been soft but mixed; the more timely PMI figures suggest that the services sector is recovering from a weak Q3. Tighter policy will however bear down on domestic and external activity as interest rates bite.
- Employment demand is easing. Anecdotal evidence suggests slowing recruitment and pay growth, and we expect unemployment to rise further. As unemployment rises and interest rates remain high, consumer sentiment will deteriorate. Household and business spending will therefore be weak.
- Inflation will fall over the next 12 months. The path to the target will not be smooth, with higher energy prices and base effects interrupting the downtrend at times. The MPC's attention will remain on underlying inflation measures and wage data. We believe policy rates will remain at the peak for another 10 months, or until the MPC is comfortable the risk of further 'second-round' effects has diminished.
- Maintaining monetary policy in restrictive territory for so long, when the economy is already struggling, will require significant loosening in the future to boost activity.
- Global bond yields will remain volatile. Markets are currently running with expectations
 of near-term US rate cuts, fuelled somewhat unexpectedly by US policymakers
 themselves. Term premia and bond yields have experienced a marked decline. It
 would not be a surprise to see a reversal if data points do not support the narrative,
 but the current 10-year yield appears broadly reflective of a lower medium- term level
 for Bank Rate.
- There is a heightened risk of fiscal policy and/or geo-political events causing substantial volatility in yields.

Forecast:

- The MPC held Bank Rate at 5.25% in December. We believe this is the peak for Bank Rate.
- The MPC will cut rates in the medium term to stimulate the UK economy but will be reluctant to do so until it is sure there will be no lingering second-round effects. We see rate cuts from Q3 2024 to a low of around 3% by early-mid 2026.

- The immediate risks around Bank Rate have become more balanced, due to the weakening UK economy and dampening effects on inflation. This shifts to the downside in the short term as the economy weakens.
- Long-term gilt yields are now substantially lower. Arlingclose expects yields to be flat from here over the short-term reflecting medium term Bank Rate forecasts. Periodic volatility is likely.

	Current	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26
Official Bank Rate													
Upside risk	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.25	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00
Central Case	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.00	4.75	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50	3.25	3.00	3.00
Downside risk	0.00	0.00	-0.25	-0.50	-0.75	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00
3-month money ma	rket rate												
Upside risk	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.25	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00
Central Case	5.40	5.40	5.40	5.30	5.15	4.80	4.30	4.10	3.80	3.50	3.25	3.05	3.05
Downside risk	0.00	0.00	-0.25	-0.50	-0.75	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00
5yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.25	0.75	0.85	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Central Case	3.77	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.70	3.60	3.50	3.50	3.40	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.35
Downside risk	0.00	-0.25	-0.75	-0.85	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00
10yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.25	0.75	0.85	0.85	0.90	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Central Case	3.72	3.75	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.75	3.65	3.60	3.65	3.70
Downside risk	0.00	-0.25	-0.75	-0.85	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00
20yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.25	0.75	0.85	0.85	0.90	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Central Case	4.16	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.25
Downside risk	0.00	-0.25	-0.75	-0.85	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00
50yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.25	0.75	0.85	0.85	0.90	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Central Case	3.76	3.80	3.85	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.95	3.95	3.95
Downside risk	0.00	-0.25	-0.75	-0.85	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00

PWLB Standard Rate = Gilt yield + 1.00% PWLB Certainty Rate = Gilt yield + 0.80% PWLB HRA Rate = Gilt yield + 0.40%

UK Infrastructure Bank Rate = Gilt yield + 0.40%

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		ARLINGCLOSE RECOMMENDS Maximum Repo &								MOODY'S	Baseline			RD & POOR'S	RATINGS			
Counterparty	Country of Domicile	Deposit/CD Duration	Covered Bonds	Short- term	Long-term	Viability	Support	Outlook	Short- term	Long-term	Credit Assess	Outlook	Short- term	Long-term	Outlook	Banking Group	Accepts Deposits	Notes
UNITED KINGDOM: BANKS																		
BANK OF SCOTLAND PLC	GB	35 days	Yes	F1	A+	a		STABLE	P-1	A1	a3	STABLE	A-1	A+	STABLE	Lloyds Banking	Yes	Ringfenced bank
LLOYDS BANK PLC	GB	35 days	Yes	F1	Α+	a		STABLE	P-1	A1	a3	STABLE	A-1	Α+	STABLE	Group	Yes	Ringfenced bank
BARCLAYS BANK PLC	GB	35 days	Yes	F1	A+	a		STABLE	P-1	A1	baa2	STABLE	A-1	A+	STABLE	Barclays Group	Yes	Non-ringfenced bank
BARCLAYS BANK UK PLC HANDELSBANKEN PLC	GB GB	35 days 35 days	Yes	F1 F1+	A+ AA	a		STABLE STABLE	P-1	A1	a3	STABLE	A-1 A-1+	A+ AA-	STABLE STABLE	Svenska HB	Yes Yes	Ringfenced bank
		-														JVEIISKA I ID		
HSBC BANK PLC	GB	35 days	Yes	F1+	AA-	a		STABLE	P-1	A1	baa3	STABLE	A-1	A+	STABLE	HSBC Group	Yes	Non-ringfenced bank
HSBC UK BANK PLC	GB	35 days	Yes	F1+	AA-	a		STABLE	P-1	A1	a3	STABLE	A-1	A+	STABLE		Yes	Ringfenced bank
NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK NATWEST MARKETS PLC	GB GB	35 days	Yes	F1 F1	A+ A+	a		STABLE STABLE	P-1 P-1	A1 A1	a3	STABLE STABLE	A-1	A+	STABLE STABLE	NatWork Group	Yes	Ringfenced bank
ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND PLC/T	GB	35 days 35 days	Yes Yes	F1	A+ A+	a		STABLE	(P)P-1	A1	baa3 a3	STABLE	A-1 A-1	A A+	STABLE	NatWest Group	Yes Yes	Non-ringfenced bank Ringfenced bank
SANTANDER UK PLC	GB	35 days	Yes	F1	A+	a		STABLE	(F)F-1	A1	baa1	STABLE	A-1	A	STABLE	Santander	Yes	Ringfenced bank
STANDARD CHARTERED BANK	GB	35 days	Yes	F1	A+	a		STABLE	P-1	A1	baa2	STABLE	A-1	A+	STABLE	Jantander	Yes	Kingreneed bank
UK: BUILDING SOCIETIES	-	or any				<u> </u>												
NATIONWIDE BUILDING SOCIETY	GB	35 days	Yes	F1	A+	a		STABLE	P-1	A1	a3	STABLE	A-1	A+	STABLE		Yes	
UK: LOCAL AUTHORITIES																		
ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL	GB	2 years +	-							A2	baa1	STABLE						
CORNWALL COUNCIL	GB	2 years +	-							A1	a3	STABLE						
GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY	GB	2 years +	-							10	h- 2	CTABLE	A-1+	AA	STABLE			
LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL	GB	2 years +	-							A2	baa2	STABLE						
NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY SUTTON LONDON BOROUGH OF	GB EN	2 years +	-							A1 A1	a3 a3	STABLE STABLE						
TRANSPORT FOR LONDON	GB	2 years + 1 year	-	F1+	AA-			NEG	P-2	A3	baa2	POS	A-1	A+	POS	 		
UK: OTHER INSTITUTIONS	GB	i yeui		1111	700			INEO	1 2	A5	Duuz	103	A 1	A.	103			
LCR FINANCE PLC	EN	10 years	-		AA-			NEG		Aa3		STABLE		AA				
NETWORK RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE	GB	10 years	-		AA-			NEG	P-1	Aa3		STABLE						
UNITED KINGDOM	GB	50 years	-	F1+u	AA-u			NEG		Aa3		STABLE	A-1+u	AAu	STABLE		Yes	
UNITED KINGDOM	GB	50 years	-	F1+u	AA-u			NEG		Aa3		STABLE	A-1+u	AAu	STABLE		Yes	
WELLCOME TRUST FINANCE PLC	GB	15 years	-							Aaa		STABLE		AAA	STABLE			
LUCKE				-				CT 1 D 1 T				CT 1 D 1 T			CT 1 D 1 T			
AUST AND NZ BANKING GROUP	AU AU	2E days	-	F1+u	AAAu A+			STABLE STABLE	D 1	Aaa Aa3	22	STABLE STABLE	A-1+u A-1+	AAAu	STABLE STABLE		Ves	
		35 days		 		a+			P-1		a2			AA-		 	Yes	
COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRAL NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK LTD	AU AU	35 days	Yes	F1 F1	A+ A+	a+ a+		STABLE STABLE	P-1 P-1	Aa3	a2	STABLE STABLE	A-1+	AA-	STABLE		Yes	
WESTPAC BANKING CORP	AU	35 days 35 days	Yes	F1	A+ A+	a+ a+		STABLE	P-1	Aa3 Aa3	a2 a2	STABLE	A-1+ A-1+	AA- AA-	STABLE STABLE	 	Yes Yes	
ALISTRIA BANKING COKF	AC	33 days		F1+u	AA+u	ат		NEG	D-1	Aa1	az	STABLE	A-1+	AA+	STABLE		Tes	
OESTERREICHISCHE KONTROLLBAN	AS	10 years	-	11.0	AA. u			ILLO	P-1	Aa1		STABLE	A-1+	AA+	STABLE		Yes	"OKB"
CANADA	CA	10 years	-	F1+u	AA+u			STABLE	P-1	Aaa		STABLE	A-1+	AAA	STABLE		103	OND
BANK OF MONTREAL	CA	35 days	Yes	F1+	AA	aa-		STABLE	P-1	Aa2	a3	STABLE	A-1	A+	STABLE		Yes	
BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA	CA	35 days	Yes	F1+	AA	aa-		STABLE	P-1	Aa2	a3	STABLE	A-1	A+	STABLE		Yes	
CAN IMPERIAL BK OF COMMERCE	CA	35 days	Yes	F1+	AA	aa-		STABLE	P-1	Aa2	a3	STABLE	A-1	Α+	STABLE		Yes	
EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CANADA	CA	10 years	-						P-1	Aaa		STABLE	A-1+	AAA	STABLE		Yes	
NATIONAL BANK OF CANADA	CA	35 days	-	F1+	AA-	a+		STABLE	P-1	Aa3	baa1	POS	A-1	A	STABLE		Yes	
ROYAL BANK OF CANADA	CA	35 days	Yes	F1+	AA	aa-		STABLE	P-1	Aa1	a2	STABLE	A-1+	AA-	STABLE		Yes	
TORONTO-DOMINION BANK	CA	35 days	Yes	F1+u	AAu	aa-u		STABLE	P-1	Aa1	a1	STABLE	A-1+	AA-	STABLE		Yes	
DENMARK	DE		-	F1+	AAA			STABLE	P-1	Aaa		STABLE	A-1+u	AAAu	STABLE			
KOMMUNEKREDIT	DE	10 years	-					CTABLE	P-1	Aaa		STABLE	A-1+	AAA	STABLE			
MUNICIPALITY FINANCE PLC	FI FI	10 years	-	F1+	AA+			STABLE	P-1	Aa1 Aa1		STABLE STABLE	A-1+ A-1+	AA+ AA+	STABLE		Ver	
NORDEA BANK ABP	FI	10 years 35 days	- :	E1.	AA	aa-		STABLE	D 1	Aa3	a3	STABLE		AA+	STABLE		Yes Yes	
OP CORPORATE BANK PLC	FI	35 days	-	F1+	AA	aa-		JIADLL	P-1 P-1	Aa3	baa2	STABLE	A-1+ A-1+	AA-	STABLE	 	Yes	
GERMANY	GE	JJ days	-	F1+u	AAAu			STABLE	1.71	Aaau.	Duaz	STABLE	A-1+µ	AAAu	STABLE		163	
BAYERISCHE LANDESBANK	GE	35 days	-	F1	A	bbb+		STABLE	P-1	Aa3	baa2	POS	NR	NR			Yes	"BayernLB"
DZ BANK AG DEUTSCHE ZENTRAL-	GE	35 days	-	F1+	AA			STABLE	P-1	Aa2	baa2	STABLE	A-1	A+	STABLE		Yes	
FMS WERTMANAGEMENT	GE	25 years	-						P-1	Aaa		STABLE	A-1+	AAA	STABLE		Yes	
KREDITANSTALT FUER WIEDERAUFBRAU (KF	GE	25 years	-	F1+u	AAAu			STABLE	P-1			STABLE	A-1+	AAA	STABLE			"KfW"
LANDESBANK BADEN-WUERTTEMBER	GE	35 days	-	F1	Α	bbb+		STABLE	P-1	Aa3	baa2	STABLE	NR	NR				"LBBW"
LANDESBANK HESSEN-THURINGEN	GE	35 days	-	F1+	AA-			STABLE	P-1	Aa3	baa2	STABLE	NR	NR			Yes	"Helaba"
LANDESKRED BADEN-WUERTT FOER	GE GE	25 years 25 years	-	F1+u F1+	AAAu AAA			STABLE STABLE	P-1 P-1	Aaa Aaa		STABLE STABLE	A-1+ A-1+	AA+ AAA	POS STABLE		Yes Yes	"L-Bank" "Rentenbank"
LANDWIRTSCHAFTLICHE RENTENBA																		

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		ARLINGO RECOMA Maximum		FITCH RATINGS				MOODY'S RATINGS Baseline					RD & POOR'S	RATINGS				
		Deposit/CD	Covered	Short-				0 11 1	Short-		Credit	0 11 1	Short-		0.11		Accepts	
Counterparty	Country of Domicile	Duration	Bonds	term		Viability	Support	Outlook	term	Long-term	Assess	Outlook	term			Banking Group	Deposits	Notes
NETHERLANDS	NE NE		-	F1+u	AAAu			STABLE	P-1u	Aaa	<u> </u>	STABLE	A-1+u	AAAu	STABLE			
BNG BANK NV	NE	5 years	-	F1+	AAA			STABLE	P-1	Aaa	a1	STABLE	A-1+	AAA	STABLE		Yes	
COOPERATIEVE RABOBANK UA	NE	35 days	-	F1+	AA-	a+		STABLE	P-1	Aa2	a3	STABLE	A-1	A+	STABLE		Yes	"Rabobank"
NEDERLANDSE WATERSCHAPSBANK	NE	5 years	-						P-1	Aaa	a1	STABLE	A-1+	AAA	STABLE		Yes	
NORWAY	NO		-	F1+u	AAAu			STABLE		Aaa		STABLE	A-1+u	AAAu	STABLE			
KOMMUNALBANKEN AS	NO	5 years	-						P-1	Aaa	a1	STABLE	A-1+	AAA	STABLE		Yes	
SINGAPORE	SI		-	F1+u	AAAu			STABLE		Aaa		STABLE	A-1+u	AAAu	STABLE			
DBS BANK LTD	SI	35 days	Yes	F1+	AA-	aa-		STABLE	P-1	Aa1	a1	STABLE	A-1+	AA-	STABLE		Yes	
OVERSEA-CHINESE BANKING CORP	SI	35 days	Yes	F1+	AA-	aa-		STABLE	P-1	Aa1	a1	STABLE	A-1+	AA-	STABLE		Yes	
UNITED OVERSEAS BANK LTD	SI	35 days	Yes	F1+	AA-	aa-		STABLE	P-1	Aa1	a1	STABLE	A-1+	AA-	STABLE		Yes	
SWEDEN	SW		-	F1+u	AAAu			STABLE	P-1	Aaa		STABLE	A-1+u	AAAu	STABLE			
SVENSKA HANDELSBANKEN-A SHS	SW	35 days	-	F1+	AA+	aa		STABLE	P-1	Aa2	a2	NEG	A-1+	AA-	STABLE	Svenska HB		
SVENSK EXPORTKREDIT AB	SW	5 years	-						P-1	Aa1	a2	STABLE	A-1+	AA+	STABLE			
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	US		-	F1+u	AA+u			STABLE		Aaa		NEG	A-1+u	AA+u	STABLE			
NORTHERN TRUST CO	US	35 days	-	F1+	AA	aa-		STABLE	P-1	Aa1	a1	STABLE	A-1+	AA-	STABLE			
SUPRANATIONAL																		
COUNCIL OF EUROPE DEVELOPMENT BANK				F1+					P-1				A-1+					
(CEDB)	FR	15 years	-	F1+	AAA			STABLE	P-1	Aaa		STABLE	A-1+	AAA	STABLE			
EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION				F1+					P-1				A-1+					
AND DEVELOPMENT (EBRD)	GB	25 years	-		AAA			STABLE		Aaa		STABLE		AAA	STABLE			
EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK (EIB)	LX	25 years	-	F1+	AAA			STABLE	P-1	Aaa		STABLE	A-1+	AAA	STABLE			
INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK				F1+u					(P)P-1				A-1+					
(IADB)	US	25 years	-	rı+u	AAAu			STABLE	(P)P-1	Aaa		STABLE	A-1+	AAA	STABLE			
INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR																		
RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT (THE				F1+u					P-1				A-1+			World Bank		
WORLD BANK)	US	25 years	-		AAAu			STABLE		Aaa		STABLE		AAA	STABLE	Group		"World Bank"
INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORP	US	25 years	-						(P)P-1	(P)Aaa		STABLE	A-1+	AAA	STABLE	1 '		
NORDIC INVESTMENT BANK (NIB)	FI	25 years	-						P-1	Aaa		STABLE	A-1+	AAA	STABLE			