

Council

Date: Tuesday 25th February 2025

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 25th February 2025** in the **Council Chamber - Guildhall, Bath.**

The agenda is set out overleaf.

Yours sincerely



Jo Morrison
Democratic Services Manager
for Chief Executive

Jo Morrison

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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 25th February 2025

at 6.30 pm in the Council Chamber - Guildhall, Bath

A G E N D A

1. EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

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

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. 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 - 21ST NOVEMBER 2024 (Pages 5 - 20)

Main meeting and Special meeting.

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 2025/26 AND FINANCIAL OUTLOOK (Pages 21 - 268)

9. TREASURY MANAGEMENT & INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2025/26 (Pages 269 - 300)

10. PROPORTIONALITY REVIEW (Pages 301 - 306)

11. 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 21st November 2024

Present:- **Councillors** Tim Ball, Alex Beaumont, David Biddleston, Colin Blackburn, Alison Born, Anna Box, Deborah Collins, Paul Crossley, Chris Dando, Jess David, Sarah Evans, Fiona Gourley, Kevin Guy, Alan Hale, Ian Halsall, David Harding, Liz Hardman, Gavin Heathcote, Steve Hedges, Saskia Heijltjes, Oli Henman, Joel Hirst, Lucy Hodge, Duncan Hounsell, Shaun Hughes, Dr Eleanor Jackson, Grant Johnson, George Leach, John Leach, Ruth Malloy, Lesley Mansell, Matt McCabe, Paul May, Sarah Moore, Ann Morgan, Robin Moss, Bharat Pankhania, June Player, Manda Rigby, Dine Romero, Paul Roper, Onkar Saini, Toby Simon, George Tomlin, Malcolm Treby, Karen Walker, Tim Warren CBE, Andy Wait, David Wood and Joanna Wright

Apologies for absence: **Councillors** Michael Auton, Mark Elliott, Samantha Kelly, Hal MacFie, Michelle O'Doherty, Sam Ross, Shaun Stephenson-McGall, Alison Streatfeild-James and Sarah Warren

37 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chair drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure.

38 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair announced that the Monitoring Officer had issued a dispensation for all Councillors with regard to agenda Item 13 "Report of the Independent Remuneration panel" to enable members with potential disclosable pecuniary interests in relation to allowances in their role as Councillors, to take part in the debate and vote. Failure to grant a dispensation would impede the transaction of the business of the meeting.

Declarations were made by the following Councillors;

Minute 29 – Statements from the Public

- Cllr Matt McCabe, Community Director and Shareholder of Komedica, in relation to a statement being made.
-

Minute 37 – Green group motion on Tackling the Housing crisis

- Cllr Tim Warren – landlord
- Cllr David Biddleston – landlord
- Cllr Matt McCabe – landlord
- Cllr June Player – landlord
- Cllr Shaun Hughes – landlord
- Cllr Ruth Malloy – landlord
- Cllr Oli Henman – landlord
- Cllr Lucy Hodge – landlord

Minute 38 - Liberal Democrat group motion on Bus Services

- Cllr Dave Biddleston as Keynsham Town Council has applied for and received BSIP funding from WECA for West Local bus services.
- Cllr Alex Beaumont as Keynsham Town Council has applied for and received BSIP funding from WECA for West Local bus services.
- Cllr Grant Johnson as Paulton Parish Council has applied for and received BSIP funding from WECA for West Local bus services.
- Cllr Liz Hardman as Paulton Parish Council has applied for and received BSIP funding from WECA for West Local bus services.
- Cllr Dave Harding as a member of a local community group receiving funding from WECA for West Local bus services.

39 MINUTES - 19TH SEPTEMBER 2024

On a motion from Councillor Grant Johnson, seconded by Councillor Matt McCabe, it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of 19th September 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

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

The Chair referred to the presentation Councillors had received from the Somerset Lieutenancy and reminded Councillors of the nomination process for King's Awards and National Honours.

The Chair made the usual housekeeping announcements about phones and microphones.

The Chair asked Councillors to stand for a minute's silence as a mark of respect following the recent death of former Councillor Rob Appleyard.

41 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

The Chair informed the meeting of an item of urgent business which she had accepted – "Appointment of Interim Executive Director (Section 151 Officer)" – which would be taken as the first substantive item after the Items from the Public. The report had been circulated to all Councillors.

42 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Statements were made by the following members of the public;

Tim Spratt made a statement about the Winifred Lane Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO), a copy of which has been added to the Minute book and online record. Tim outlined the problems with the ETRO and called upon the Council to listen to concerns and find a solution that is safe and works for local people. Councillor Colin Blackburn asked whether WECA might be liable for approving

ineligible funding, and B&NES forced to repay the CRSTS if it's not complying with Department for Transport guidelines. Tim replied that could be the case. Councillor Joanna Wright asked what data the Council had from before and after the ETRO, to which Tim replied that he did not know. Councillor Tim Warren asked for clarification that Tim had said that the ETRO was illegal, to which he replied that it was.

Susan Charles made a statement about accessible homes, a copy of which has been added to the Minute book and online record. She added to the comments she had made at the last meeting, calling for 5 changes to Planning regulations that could make a huge difference to accessible housing. Councillor Kevin Guy asked if Susan would be happy to meet with the Cabinet Member for Housing to discuss these issues, to which Susan replied that she would. Councillor Saskia Heijltjes asked what the 5 changes are, which Susan explained were; level access, wider doorways, moveable bathroom walls, good lighting in stairways and joists and rafters placed so that lifts were possible.

Joanne Laishley made a statement about the commitments the Council made in the Peace motion at its meeting on 18th July 2024. She expressed frustration about her perception of lack of progress and suggested further dates on which it would be appropriate to fly the UN flag.

Marie Duffy made a statement about the situation in Gaza and its effect on B&NES residents, a copy of which has been added to the Minute book and online record. She asked what steps were being taken to communicate the Council's support set out in the July Peace motion. The admirable support that had been shown to Ukrainian refugees did not appear to be being offered to Palestinian members of the community. Councillor Kevin Guy asked Marie if she would be interested to meet the Council's Refugees Officer, to which she said she definitely would.

Polly Campbell-Preston made a statement about the Council commitments made in the Peace motion in July and in particular those in resolution 7 which called on Government to ensure safe routes, a copy of which has been added to the Minute book and online record. She asked how this request had been communicated and what response had been received.

Benazir Jatoi also made a statement about the Council commitments made in the Peace motion in July, a copy of which has been added to the Minute book and online record. Whilst acknowledging this was a step in the right direction, he stated that it was not forceful enough. He asked why a permanent ceasefire was not being called for. Councillor Joanna Wright asked Benazir if he was aware of the Green group's efforts to push for firmer actions, which had not been successful. He replied that he was aware and found this bemusing.

Jane Samson made a statement about the Council commitments made in the Peace motion in July, a copy of which has been added to the Minute book and online record. She questioned whether any actions were being taken arising from the Peace motion and said that people were losing trust in the Council. Councillor Kevin Guy asked Jane if she would like to meet with the Council's Refugees Officer, to which she replied that she would. Councillor Joanna Wright asked Jane if she had been aware before this meeting that the Council had a Refugees Officer, and she replied that she had not.

Candice Streeter, a Bathampton resident, made a statement about the Liveable Neighbourhoods programme, a copy of which has been added to the Minute book and online record. She outlined the negative impact of road closures, increasing pollution and hindering residents and added that the programme was damaging trust in the Council.

Hakan Aysan on behalf of the Ensleigh Residents Association made a statement on the Park & Ride Service and highlighting the lack of bus provision. He asked if the operating hours could be extended to enable easier access to the night time economy and referred to a petition currently at 165 signatures calling for this. Councillor Kevin Guy asked if Hakan would like to meet with the Cabinet Member for Transport to discuss options, to which he replied that he would. Councillor Saskia Heijltjes asked Hakan if he was aware that the Green group had been requesting an extension of the Park & Ride service, to which he replied that he had not been aware.

Gennie Widick, a pupil at the Royal High school, also spoke in support of extension of the Park & Ride hours. A copy of Gennie's statement has been added to the Minute book and online record. Gennie outlined how this would benefit all the community, but particularly the safety of women and elderly and disabled people.

Richard Daws made a statement about the Komedia entertainment venue, a copy of which had been circulated to Councillors and has been added to the Minute book and online record. Richard set out a number of ways the Council could assist regarding access to the venue and business rates discounts. Councillor Kevin Guy asked if Richard would like to meet with the Finance Cabinet Member and the relevant officer to discuss this, to which Richard replied that he would. Councillor Robin Moss asked if the business rates relief applied to sporting venues too, to which Richard replied that he understood it did. Councillor Shaun Hughes asked for clarification about the access issues and Richard explained that they were asking that coaches be treated the same as transit vans. Councillor Joanna Wright asked what benefits this would bring and Richard explained that standard rates were about £45k so it would be 80% of that. Councillor Tim Warren asked if this was just about access, to which Richard replied that it was becoming a reputational problem if word spreads that it's difficult to come to Bath.

The Chair thanked all the speakers for their statements which will be referred to the relevant Cabinet Members.

43 URGENT ITEM - APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RESOURCES (\$151 OFFICER)

The Chair had agreed to take this urgent report regarding the appointment of an Interim Executive Director for Resources, following a recommendation from the Restructuring Implementation Committee.

On a motion from Councillor Kevin Guy, seconded by Councillor Robin Moss, it was unanimously

RESOLVED

1. To approve the appointment of Interim Executive Director Resources and Section 151 Officer, Mr Christopher Kinsella, from 4 January 2025 to 31 March 2025, 3 days per week, in the first instance.

44 USING COUNCIL LAND FOR BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN: DELEGATION OF PLANNING ENFORCEMENT FUNCTION TO SECURE A LEGAL AGREEMENT

The Council was asked to agree arrangements arising from Biodiversity Net Gain legislation.

On a motion from Councillor Matt McCabe, seconded by Councillor Oli Henman, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that

1. Subject to resolution 3, to endorse the arrangement for delegating the planning enforcement function to neighbouring authorities (Bristol City Council, North Somerset, Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Wiltshire) solely for the purposes of entering into a S106 legal agreement for use of specific council owned land as a biodiversity net gain habitat bank.
2. Subject to resolution 3, to endorse the arrangement for accepting a delegation of planning enforcement function from neighbouring authorities (Bristol City Council, North Somerset, Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Wiltshire) for the purposes of entering into a S106 legal agreement for use of their land as a biodiversity net gain habitat bank.
3. To note that no delegation of the enforcement function or acceptance of such a delegation from/to another Council shall take effect until that other Council has made a reciprocal Council decision and shall end as between B&NES and the reciprocating Council as from the date either council revokes its delegation of function save that any delegation or acceptance of the enforcement function entered into before the date of revocation of the enforcement function shall remain valid.
4. To note that a site specific S106 agreement will need to be agreed by officers for each habitat bank and the Council is under no obligation to enter into a legal agreement following the endorsement of the proposed arrangement by Council.

45 AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

The Council considered the annual report of the Corporate Audit Committee, noting that it was to be re-named as the Audit Committee.

On a motion from Councillor David Biddleston, seconded by George Leach, it was

RESOLVED unanimously that

1. The Annual Report of the Corporate Audit Committee is noted, and Council confirm that it has received 'assurance' that the Committee are fulfilling the responsibilities as stated in the Committee's Terms of Reference.
2. The Local Code of Corporate Governance is noted following the endorsement of the revised Code at the Corporate Audit Committee's meeting on the 1st May 2024; and
3. The revised Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee at Appendix 2 of the report (including the Committee's change of name) be approved and updated in the Council's Constitution.

46 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AVON PENSION FUND COMMITTEE

The Council considered the annual report of the Avon Pension Fund committee.

On a motion from Councillor Paul Crossley, seconded by Councillor Toby Simon, it was unanimously

RESOLVED

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

47 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MONITORING REPORT TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2024

The Council considered a report giving details of performance against the Council's Treasury Management Strategy for the first six months of 2024/25.

On a motion from Councillor Lucy Hodge, seconded by Councillor Toby Simon, it was

RESOLVED unanimously

1. to note the Treasury Management Report to 30th September 2024, prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Code of Practice; and
2. to note the Treasury Management Indicators to 30th September 2024.

48 CONSTITUTION; MINOR UPDATES

The Constitution Working Group (CWG) had made some recommendations to Council. The report also brought to Members' attention some minor textual amendments that had been made by the Monitoring Officer.

On a motion from Councillor Dave Wood and seconded by Councillor Shaun Hughes, it was unanimously

RESOLVED to

1. Agree the amendments in Appendix 1 considered and proposed by the Constitution Working Group;
2. Note the changes made by the Monitoring Officer; and
3. Note the timetable for Constitution Working Group items.

49 REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL ON MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

The Council considered the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Members' Allowances, following their recent review of the scheme.

In moving the report, Councillor Kevin Guy placed on record his thanks to the Panel for their work, and emphasised the independence.

On a motion from Councillor Kevin Guy, seconded by Councillor Robin Moss, it was

RESOLVED to

1. Note the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) on Members' Allowances and agree with their recommendations;
2. Agree that any changes be implemented from the start of the next financial year, aside from the changes to the Council Chair and Vice-Chair which would take effect from May 2025 Council AGM;
3. Appoint the IRP with effect from May 2027 to review the Basic Allowance in accordance with recommendations 1,2 & 3 of their report; and
4. Formally thank the Panel for their work.

[Notes;

1. *The above resolution was carried with 45 Councillors voting in favour and 3 Councillors voting against.]*

50 MOTION FROM THE GREEN GROUP - TACKLING THE HOUSING CRISIS

The Council considered a motion from the Green group moved by Councillor Joanna Wright and seconded by Councillor Saskia Heijltjes. Following a vote, this motion was

NOT CARRIED

Council Notes:

- Bath's status as a UNESCO World Heritage city attracts tourists, generating nearly half a billion pounds annually. However, the rise in short-term rentals,

such as over 1,000 Airbnb listings, has reduced housing availability and pushed up rents by 5.2% from February 2023 to 2024.

- House prices in Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES) have surged by over 72% in the last decade, making it increasingly difficult for residents to buy or rent affordable homes.
- The Right to Buy scheme has diminished social housing stock nationally by 165,000 homes over the past decade, further reducing affordable options in B&NES.
- The government has proposed new rules for property owners to register short-term lets and require planning permission for rentals exceeding 90 days per year.

Council Believes:

- Housing costs are forcing residents out of the area.
- Government regulations on short-term lets are essential to freeing up homes for long-term renters.
- Tackling the housing crisis in B&NES requires more social housing investment and rent controls.

Council Resolves to:

1. Request the Cabinet Member for Built Environment and Sustainable Development to write to the government, asking for local authorities to have the power to introduce rent controls in B&NES.
2. Develop local measures to limit the impact of short-term holiday lets, including:
 - Consulting on capping the number of short-term rentals in high-demand areas.
 - Strengthening planning permission requirements for properties rented over 90 days a year, aligning with government proposals.
3. Request the Leader of the Council to write to the government calling to:
 - End the Right to Buy scheme to protect social housing.
 - Allow councils to borrow and build more social housing.
4. Improve policies on empty homes by:
 - Exploring incentives for refurbishing and renting long-term empty properties.
5. Requests Cabinet to
 - Monitor and expand the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) pilot scheme to reclaim under-utilised homes in B&NES.

[Notes;

1. *The above motion was lost with 4 Councillors voting in favour, 40 Councillors voting against and 4 abstentions.]*

51 MOTION FROM THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP - BUS SERVICES

Council considered a motion from the Liberal Democrat group.

On a motion from Councillor Fiona Gourley, seconded by Councillor Jess David, it was

RESOLVED that

Council notes that:

1. The £2 bus fare cap scheme was introduced in January 2023 to encourage people to use buses and to help tackle the cost-of-living crisis.
2. The government has recognised the need to continue capping bus fares but has decided to increase the cap to £3 in 2025.
3. This 50% increase in single adult fares is likely to disproportionately affect the least well-off, particularly in rural, isolated and disadvantaged communities.
4. The increase is likely to suppress bus patronage, lead more people to choose to drive, and put 'uneconomic' routes at risk of being cancelled.
5. The West of England Combined Authority's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) includes specific funding streams dedicated to making bus fares more affordable. These BSIP-funded initiatives currently support local bus fare subsidies in the region and are already set to continue until March 2025. Additionally, the Mayor's "Birthday Bus" scheme, also funded through BSIP, will run until the end of 2025.

Council believes that:

6. Affordable bus services are essential to enable residents to get to work or access services, shops and schools.
7. Making bus travel the first choice for more residents is essential to reducing congestion, improving air quality, and tackling the climate crisis.
8. The government budget showed skewed priorities with only £151m allocated to the bus fare cap compared to £3bn support for cheaper motoring.

Council therefore:

9. Asks the Leader of Council to write to Government ministers, sharing Council's views and calling for the £2 bus fare cap to be restored.
10. Calls on the West of England Combined Authority Mayor to allocate Bus Service Improvement Plan funds towards maintaining the £2 fare cap across the West of England.
11. Calls on the West of England Combined Authority Mayor to urgently progress work towards bus service franchising in the region, as the only long-term solution to securing essential bus routes, achieving greater fare structure control, and providing more stable, predictable service levels for residents across the network.

[Notes;

1. *The above successful resolution was carried with 37 Councillors voting in favour, 7 Councillors voting against and 2 abstentions.]*

52 MOTION FROM THE INDEPENDENT GROUP - PARKING CHARGES FOR MIDSOMER NORTON & RADSTOCK

The Council considered a report from the Independent Group, moved by Councillor Shaun Hughes and seconded by Councillor Tim Warren. Following a vote, this motion was

NOT CARRIED

Background:

1. The introduction of parking charges in both Midsomer Norton and Radstock was first proposed at the February budget meeting with the objective of raising £195,000 for the Council.
2. Following a public consultation the decision is to introduce emission-based charges in January 2025.
3. The decision made is now 2 hours free car parking with a reduced hourly rate.
4. Justification is now to improve air quality.

To Note:

1. **PARKING SURVEYS** - No parking surveys have been undertaken within the towns to understand demand and usage patterns, equally no figures have been produced for the implementation, management, maintenance and enforcement costs therefore profit or loss to the local taxpayers cannot be established.
2. **FINANCIAL VIABILITY** - No financial viability reports are available and no financial benefits to BANES Council, Midsomer Norton businesses or residents can be identified. With the amendment to 2 hours free parking the budget target of £195k cannot be achieved and could result in the scheme losing money.
3. **IMPACT ASSESSEMENT** - No impact assessment has been undertaken to understand the harm to local businesses, sustainability, footfall and effect on the local workforce. No analysis has been undertaken to understand the potential negative impact created by vehicle displacement to air quality and residential developments close to the high street.
4. **EFFECT ON LOW INCOME FAMILIES** - The charges unfairly discriminate against low-income families and residents on minimum wage. Many currently employed within retail and hospitality sectors, emission-based charges further penalise those on low incomes that are car dependent but cannot afford the latest fuel efficient or electric vehicles.
5. **PUBLIC TRANSPORT** – As we are all very aware our public transport in North East Somerset is abysmal, lacking funding and investment. Without a car many residents would be stranded and without access to council offices, libraries, banks, pharmacies or professional services, facilities that residents in Bath can take for granted.
6. **AIR QUALITY** - No Air Quality studies have been undertaken to establish current levels in relation to government standards, therefore it is not possible

to set targets for air quality improvements as current levels are unknown. There is no evidence of any issues with current Air Quality levels within our towns. Claims made of 77% support through the public consultation are flawed due to the multiple-choice question pre-determining the response.

7. PUBLIC CONSULTATION - There is evidence to indicate that the public consultation multiple choice questionnaire was designed to provide a pre-determined outcome in favour of the parking proposal. The objections received from 4000 residents through the public consultation have not been given sufficient weight contrary to the core policy "giving people a bigger say".
8. HIGH STREET REGENERATION – Midsomer Norton High Street is struggling for survival through years of neglect and lack of investment and our businesses are in genuine fear of losing their livelihoods, this decision completely undermines all of the regeneration projects and shop local initiatives.
9. OLD BREWERY MASTERPLAN – South Road car park is currently part of the WECA funded review of Midsomer Norton town centre, this includes South Road car park and is reviewing the regeneration options for Midsomer Norton.
10. SUMMARY – All council decisions must be evidence based however no evidence has been produced to demonstrate any benefits whatsoever in Council income or Air Quality. It fails to provide any improvements for businesses or residents and creates an irreversible risk to a fragile local economy and a potential Council income net loss at a time when the Council is making £8.41 millions of savings in the budget.

Council therefore requests the Cabinet to:

1. Suspend the introduction of parking charges in Midsomer Norton and Radstock until an informed decision can be evidenced and implement only if a positive outcome for residents and businesses can be justified.

[Notes;

1. *The above motion was lost, with 16 Councillors voting in favour and 29 Councillors voting against.]*

53 MOTION FROM THE LABOUR GROUP - FREE SCHOOL MEALS AUTO-ENROLMENT

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

RESOLVED unanimously that

Council notes:

1. It's hard to concentrate, learn or interact when hungry – especially as a child.

2. Food insecurity impairs the growth of body and mind, as well as relationships. Such disadvantages can have lifelong impact.

Council welcomes the work of, amongst many others,

3. BNES' Director of Public Health, whose Annual Report (Sep '24) estimates 5% of our population, over 8,000 residents, sometimes or often don't have enough to eat;
4. The Trussell Trust, who say over 3,000 local children were supported by emergency food parcels last year;
5. St John's Foundation, who are funding free school meals for 700 children in six local primary schools until July 2025, and B&NES Fair Food Alliance (BFFA), made up of over 60 organisations, who developed the 'B&NES food equity action plan 2022-25'.

Council acknowledges that:

6. Free school meals (FSM) are government-funded, and administered by councils.
7. To qualify for FSM, **families must receive certain income-related benefits, or if they receive Universal Credit their annual household income must be below £7,400 after tax.**
8. Estimates say FSM can save a hard-pressed family £1,400 a year.
9. For each FSM-registered child, a school gets pupil premium funding for wider support: £1,455 in primary schools; £1,035 in secondaries.

Council is concerned that:

10. The numbers of eligible children in BNES leapt by 27% between May '20-May '23.
11. This January, 17% of children in B&NES state schools (4,715) were eligible – nearly 2,500 were at primary school.
12. Too many eligible families aren't claiming FSM because of administration, language, literacy issues and stigma.

Council is alarmed that:

13. Across all age groups, the gap between the attainment of children on FSM and not in BNES is consistently larger than the gap across the rest of the country.
14. For 7-11 year-olds (key stage 2), the gap is the worst in the country
15. For 0-5 year-olds, (early years foundation) BNES is the third worst in the country.

Council notes that

16. A large number of local authorities have introduced FSM auto-enrolment for eligible families – Sheffield, Lambeth, Wandsworth, Lewisham, Bedford, York, Coventry, to name a few.

17. Reported benefits include better health, concentration and achievement, and reductions in stigma, absence, and under-achievement. School funding increases and everyone gains from the benefits throughout the child's lifetime.
18. **In implementing auto-enrolment, officers will look to capture data from several systems and ensure we do not contravene any legal access rights. We will also provide opportunities to families to opt out of the process should they wish to do so for personal reasons.**
19. **The Household Support Fund has been used to provide vouchers for children who receive income-related free school meals during school holiday periods, but this is dependent on parents claiming free school meals for their children. Some low-income households could be missing out on this additional support during school holiday periods.**

And therefore resolves to:

20. Request Cabinet **and council services continue** to **investigate** and implement auto-enrolment to tackle the lack of take-up by eligible families across BNES before September 2025, learning from the work done by York University, FixOurFood, The Food Foundation and experienced local authorities.
21. Subject to Cabinet implementing FSM auto-enrolment then Council requests the **Children, Adults**, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel receives and scrutinise progress updates from the auto-enrolment project in 2025.
22. **Ask the Leader to write to the government and our local MPs to request a national rule change so that all families on the relevant benefits can be auto-enrolled, rather than councils seeking to implement this project individually.**

[Notes:

1. *The above successful resolution contains sections in bold proposed by Councillor Paul May and accepted into the motion by the mover and seconder.]*

54 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

The Chair noted that statements had been registered from Councillors Bharat Pankhania and Joanna Wright and, when provided, have been accepted into the Minute book.

The meeting ended at 9.35 pm

Chair

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday 21st November 2024

Present:- **Councillors** Tim Ball, Alex Beaumont, David Biddleston, Colin Blackburn, Alison Born, Deborah Collins, Paul Crossley, Chris Dando, Jess David, Sarah Evans, Fiona Gourley, Kevin Guy, Alan Hale, Ian Halsall, David Harding, Liz Hardman, Gavin Heathcote, Saskia Heijltjes, Oli Henman, Joel Hirst, Lucy Hodge, Duncan Hounsell, Shaun Hughes, Dr Eleanor Jackson, Grant Johnson, George Leach, John Leach, Ruth Malloy, Lesley Mansell, Matt McCabe, Paul May, Ann Morgan, Robin Moss, Bharat Pankhania, Manda Rigby, Dine Romero, Toby Simon, George Tomlin, Malcolm Treby, Karen Walker, Tim Warren CBE, Andy Wait, David Wood and Joanna Wright

Apologies for absence: **Councillors** Michael Auton, Anna Box, Mark Elliott, Steve Hedges, Samantha Kelly, Hal MacFie, Sarah Moore, Michelle O'Doherty, June Player, Paul Roper, Sam Ross, Onkar Saini, Shaun Stephenson-McGall, Alison Streatfeild-James and Sarah Warren

1 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

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

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

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

The Chair informed Councillors that the vote on the substantive item needed to be a two thirds majority of the Members present and voting. The Democratic Services Manager announced that the two thirds majority number was 31.

4 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

There were no items of urgent business.

5 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no items from the public.

6 CHANGE OF ELECTORAL WARD NAME FROM 'TWERTON' TO 'TWERTON & WHITEWAY'

The Council considered a report concerning a name change for the Twerton ward which had arisen during the consultation for the latest polling district review. Some

residents within the Twerton ward proposed a change of name for that ward from 'Twerton' to 'Twerton & Whiteway'.

On a motion from Councillor Dave Wood, and seconded by Councillor Tim Ball, it was

RESOLVED by more than a two thirds majority to change the name of the electoral area of 'Twerton' to 'Twerton & Whiteway'.

7 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

There were no items from Councillors.

The meeting ended at 9.40 pm

Chair

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services

-- Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING:	Council	
MEETING DATE:	25 th February 2025	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E3590
TITLE:	Budget and Council Tax 2025/26 and Financial Outlook	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report		
Annex 1: Revenue Budget 2025/26 – individual service cash limits		
Annex 2: (i) 2025/26 to 2027/28 Budget Savings and Income proposals & (ii) 2025/26 to 2027/28 Funding Requirements.		
Annex 3: Draft Equalities Impact Assessment of 2025/26 Budget Proposals		
Annex 3: (i) Equality Impact Introduction & Legal Background		
Annex 4: Efficiency Strategy		
Annex 5: Draft Capital Programme 2025/26 to 2029/30		
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 2025/26		
Annex 9: Advice of Monitoring Officer on the Budget Setting Process		
Annex 10: Budget 2025/26 Consultation Report		
Annex 11: Fees & Charges Brochure 2025/26		
Annex 12: PDS Panel Budget Scrutiny Feedback		
Annex 13: 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 2025/26.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Council approves-

- The General Fund net revenue budget for 2025/26 of **£151.71m** and the individual service cash limits for 2025/26 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 2025/26 (an increase of £51.92 per Band D property or £1 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 £34.72 on a Band D property (67p per week).
- The movement in reserves outlined in section 5.6 and the adequacy of Un-earmarked Reserves at £12.58m within a risk assessed range requirement of £11.8m - £13.0m.
- To note the Children's Services management plan update set out in section 5.2.6 of the report.
- The Efficiency Strategy attached at Annex 4.
- The Capital Programme for 2025/26 of £76.41m including new and emerging capital bids outlined in Annex 5(i), planned sources of funding in 5.8.3, and notes the programme for 2026/27 to 2029/30 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 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 2025/26 shown in the following link: <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-01/Bath%20%26%20NE%20Someset%20S13A%20202526%20FINAL%20.pdf> and referred to in 5.3.5
- The Fees and Charges schedule for 2025/26 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 13.
- 2.3 That the Cabinet 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 Cabinet note the budget consultation responses in Annex 10, and the PDS Panel feedback in Annex 12.

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 2025/26 Budget Summary

The Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) was approved in September 2024 and outlined how the budget would be delivered over the medium to long-term. This considers the current economic outlook of constrained national public finances due to continued low economic growth together with Council services being impacted by sustained inflation and National Insurance increases impacting the Council's running costs as well as the supply chain for external provision. In addition, the Council continues to see demand and activity rise for essential Social Care services, which is compounded by high market costs and a reliance on out of area provision.

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 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. In recognition of the significant budget risks from changes in cost as a result of the government National Insurance changes, demand on statutory services rising above modelled levels, alongside savings delivery risk, the following contingencies and provisions have been included in the budget:

- Corporate Contingency of £3m for savings delivery risk and slippage
- Contract Inflation Provision of £2.6m for the impacts of Employer National Insurance on supplies and services and contract spend across services.
- High Risk Service Demand & Cost Increase Provision of £4.2m

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 2025/26 budget is a funding gap of £14.01m. The proposed budget meets this funding gap in two ways:

- 1) Income generation plans of £6.70m.
- 2) Cost reduction plans of £7.31m.

The ongoing impact of sustained inflation and high demand for Social Care has created an imbalance in how the Council funds its services. Income from Council tax and Business rates alone do not fully fund the Council's services. To balance the budget the Council needs to reduce its running costs and grow its commercial and fees and charges income. The Council revenue support grant has reduced from £31m in 2013/14 to £1.3m per annum in 2025/26 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 £27.62m 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 2025/26 (an increase of £51.92 per Band D property) and the Adult Social Care Precept is increased by 2% (an increase of £34.72 per Band D property). This results in a total proposed Band D Council Tax for Bath and North East Somerset Council next year of £1,823.06 (£1,736.42 in 2024/25) an overall increase of 4.99% or £86.64 per Band D (£1.67 per week).

The proposed net revenue budget for Bath and North East Somerset for 2025/26 is £151.71m.

5.1.1 Corporate Strategy and the Councils' Priorities

Bath & North East Somerset Council has one overriding purpose – to improve people's lives. Our [Corporate Strategy](#) provides a clear and ambitious framework for delivery. It sets out our two core policies of tackling the climate and ecological emergency and giving people a bigger say as well as our three principles for how we will deliver- preparing for the future, delivering for local residents and focusing on prevention. It also sets out how shared outcomes will be delivered through key partnerships that the council works with such as our Future Ambition Board and Health and Wellbeing Board.

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

In the report to cabinet in September 2024 on the [Medium-Term Financial Strategy](#) (MTFS), it was highlighted that work was underway to identify key scenarios, particularly in the light of central government fiscal policy and approach to local government funding. This work has been reflected in the budget papers and process. The MTFS report also identified that the council is introducing [a new operating model](#) which delivers the council's purpose through innovation in our ways of working. A report to cabinet in November 2024 approved the council's operating model and directorate functions for use in service planning and redesign work, within the context of the Being Our Best programme with its workstreams of 'Great Jobs', 'Smarter Structures' and 'Culture of Excellence'.

Given this, the budget proposal set out in this report aims to establish a longer-term approach to budget planning, built around the council's priorities, operating model and partnerships and investing in prevention to address budget pressures and reduce costs. This includes

- Focusing on securing financial sustainability in children's services, recognising the increased demand and complexity of caseloads.
- Ensuring the full benefits to service users of adult social care redesign following bringing of services in-house from April 2024
- Making sure that the council's property holdings best serve the needs of service delivery
- New ways to interact and receive council information and services, using improved digital channels and AI.

The council will also continue to work closely with the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority to maximise the benefits to our area and communities from our membership. We will also work closely with the MCA and with the Future Ambition Board to deliver our ambitious [Economic Strategy](#) for Bath and North East Somerset, prioritising green growth, good jobs and affordable housing, and work with our health partners through the Health and Wellbeing Board to deliver our [Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#).

5.2 The Revenue Budget 2025/26

5.2.1 2024/25 Current Budget Position

The Council is currently forecasting an over budget position at Quarter 3 of £0.97m at the 2024/25 year end. Cost pressures have arisen due to the continued impact of demand for Council services, most significantly in Children's Services (£5.5m) where demand led placement package costs and Home to School Transport costs continue to escalate.

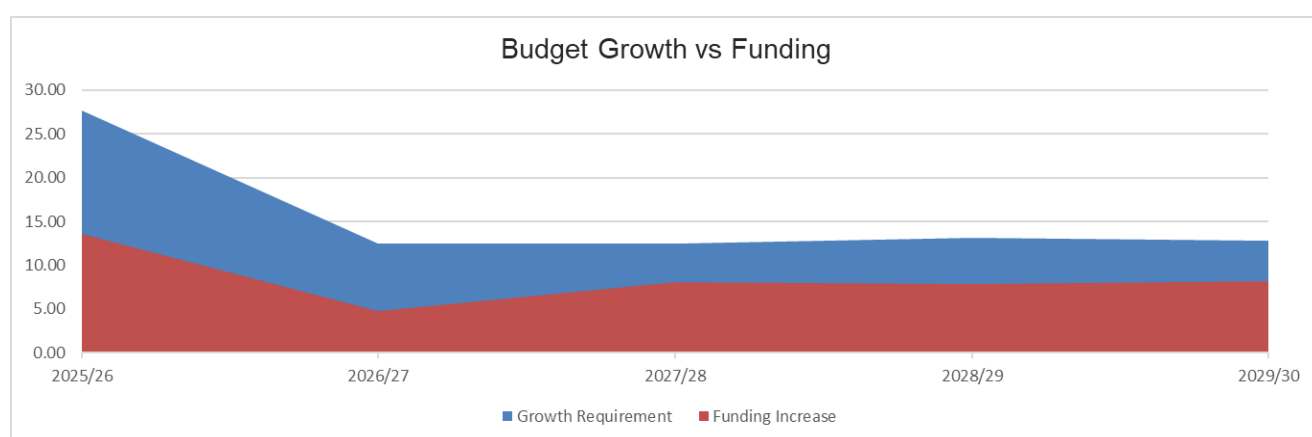
In mitigation, increased interest receivable on cash balances, lower capital financing costs due to capital programme re-profiling, and a strong performance in Parking are all positive. These, taken together with the delivery of the £4.12m of mitigation plans put in place at Quarter 2 (including the release of £2m of corporately held contingencies for budget risk) have mostly mitigated the aforementioned pressures. Financial recovery and cost containment actions continue to be pursued in order to further contain the over budget position.

Recurrent service pressures that cannot be mitigated have been incorporated into the proposed funding requirement for 2025/26.

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:

Budget Planning	Future years assumptions £m					Total
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	
Growth Requirement	27.62	12.53	12.52	13.19	12.81	78.66
Funding Increase	13.61	4.80	8.13	7.88	8.13	42.55
Annual Funding gap	14.01	7.73	4.39	5.31	4.67	36.11
Savings Proposals	14.01	2.34	0.85	0.10	0.10	17.41
Remaining Funding Gap	0.00	5.39	3.54	5.21	4.57	18.71



This illustrates a balanced budget for 2025/26 with a forecast budget gap of £18.71m from 2026/27 to 2029/30.

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

Budget Planning	Future years assumptions £m				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
Budget Requirement (Previous Year)	135.85	151.71	156.50	164.63	172.51
Budget Adjustments	6.24	(0.29)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pay & Pension	8.40	3.37	3.31	3.39	3.48
Demographic Growth	5.78	3.56	3.69	3.81	3.87
Contract Inflation	5.15	2.82	2.78	2.82	2.86
New Homes Bonus Grant	(0.59)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Capital Financing	2.16	1.81	1.97	2.02	1.21
Settlement grant funding	(5.63)	0.70	0.00	0.00	0.00
Budget pressure / rebasing	6.11	0.55	0.76	1.14	1.40
Funding Requirement Sub Total	27.62	12.53	12.52	13.19	12.81
Draft Budget Before Savings	163.48	164.23	169.02	177.82	185.32
Proposed Savings Plans	(14.01)	(2.34)	(0.85)	(0.10)	(0.10)
Estimated Savings Required	(0.00)	(5.39)	(3.54)	(5.21)	(4.57)
Savings Requirement Sub Total	(14.01)	(7.73)	(4.39)	(5.31)	(4.67)
Budget Requirement	149.46	156.50	164.63	172.51	180.64
Business Rate Relief Adjustment*	2.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Revised Budget Requirement	151.71	156.50	164.63	172.51	180.64
Funding of Budget Requirement					
Council Tax	130.05	135.90	142.73	149.91	157.34
Business rates retention*	29.17	21.21	21.90	22.60	23.31
Reserve transfers From	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Reserve transfers (To)	(7.51)	(0.60)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Funding of Budget Requirement Total	151.71	156.50	164.63	172.51	180.64

* Budget adjustment realigns s31 grant income for 2025/26 from government funded business rate relief compensation.

The forecast includes the following cost pressures and assumptions:

- **Pay Inflation** – Estimated 4.00% in 2025/26 and 3% thereafter.
- **Council tax** – General assumed at 2.99% in 2025/26 and 1.99% in future years and Adult Social Care precept 2% in 2025/26 and future years.
- **Pension Costs** – Have been revised in line with the current revaluation no increase up to 2026/27.
- **Demographic Growth** – Additional demand from new placement and market pressures in Adult & Children Social Care.
- **Interest Rates** - Interest rate reductions to follow movement in Bank of England base rate currently 4.50% for treasury management cash investments.
- **Inflation** – CPI projections modelled on current rates of 2%, with up to 5% provision for Social Care.
- **Budget Pressures / Rebasing** – 2025/26 budget rebasing takes into account current pressures identified in Quarter 2 monitoring where emerging pressures cannot be directly mitigated.

- **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.
- **Reserves** – The Council's earmarked reserves have been reviewed with new allocations made for the implementation of the Being our Best programme and transformation and system improvement projects.

5.2.3 The Government Settlement

The Final Settlement was received on the 3rd February 2025 and this report reflects the final figures.

The settlement together with the finalisation of the Council Tax Base gave the council an additional £1.1m of funding for 2025/26 over the amount originally anticipated, of which £0.7m is one-off. The £1.1m has been allocated to specific investment items included in Annex 2ii.

- **Revenue Support Grant (RSG)**

As a result of the continued delay in the Fairer Funding and Business Rate Retention Review which is now planned for 2026/27, the Council will continue to receive the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) in 2025/26 of £1.256m (2024/25 £0.831m). The increase of £0.425m reflects the transfer into RSG of £0.411m in respect of the specific grants listed below, based on 2024/25 grant amounts, and an inflationary uplift of £0.014m on the core RSG:

- Extended Rights for Home to School Transport Grant - £0.379m
- Electoral Integrity Grant - £0.017m
- Transparency Code Grant - £0.013m
- Tenant Satisfaction Measures Grant - £0.002m

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 removed from 2025/26 with the funding repurposed into the Recovery Grant (see below). This represents a loss of £0.165m of grant in 2025/26 from this change.

- **Recovery Grant**

The government has introduced a new, one-off Recovery Grant, worth £600m which is targeted at places the government assesses as having greater need and demand for services (using deprivation as a proxy for this) and less ability to raise income locally from Council Tax. Based on this allocation methodology the Council doesn't receive any funding through this grant.

- **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 Settlement has outlined that the New Homes Bonus will continue in its current format for a final year in 2025/26. This results in a 2025/26 New Homes Bonus grant payment of £0.913m for new housing growth over the past year, an increase of £0.586m from 2024/25. The settlement confirmed that the grant would only be paid for one year and that the national housing growth baseline adjustment would remain at 0.4% for 2025/26.

- **Social Care Grant**

The settlement has confirmed an increase of £2.205m in the Social Care grant funding taking the total grant for 2025/26 to £15.455m. The grant increase has been allocated to fund Adults and Children's Social Care demand and inflation pressures. This funding is assumed as recurrent in the base budget.

- **Adult Social Care Market Sustainability & Improvement Fund Grant**

The settlement included grant funding for 2025/26 of £3.193m through the Market Sustainability & Improvement Fund Grant. This is the same level of grant as received in 2024/25. This funding is assumed as recurrent in the base budget.

- **Adult Social Care Discharge Fund Grant**

The settlement announced the transfer of this funding fixed at the 2024/25 level of £1.146m into the newly named "Local Authority Better Care Fund".

- **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. Greater integration is seen as a potential way to use resources more efficiently by enabling people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer and to provide the right care in the right place at the right time.

The Council & B&NES ICB Better Care fund for 2025/26 is anticipated to be £27m with the Council contribution of £9m and ICB contribution of £18m. The ICB contribution is expected to rise in line with planned NHS uplifts once confirmed. For 2024/25 this increase was 5.66%.

The Council budget assumes that the funding transfer of £15.7m NHS mandated minimum contribution will remain consistent with prior years; with £11.3m of this funding transferred in 2024/25 for Council commissioned schemes under the S75 pooled budget arrangements.

The December 2024 settlement has confirmed that the existing Better Care Fund social care grant will be renamed the Local Authority Better Care Grant and will be maintained at the same value as 2024/25 at £4.903m, with the funding from the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund rolled into the grant for 2025/26 at the same level as received in 2024/25 (£1.146m). For B&NES the total funding from these two grants is £6.049m.

- **Children's Social Care Prevention Grant**

The final settlement announced a new Children's Social Care Prevention grant with total funding of £270m. The grant is to fund the national rollout of "Family Help" a whole family preventative service. Conditions placed on the grant were published in the final settlement. The Council's share of the grant for 2025/26 is £0.401m and it is assumed that this will be ring-fenced to cover the costs of implementing the Family Help service.

- **Children's & Families Grant**

The government has announced proposals to consolidate 6 children's social care programmes into a new Children's & Families Grant. The programmes are as follows:

- Supporting Families
- Supported Accommodation Reforms - New Burdens to LAs
- Staying Put
- Virtual School Heads Extension for previously looked after children
- Leaving Care Allowance uplift
- Personal Advisors

Funding for each component will maintain 2024/25 funding levels and the Council's total of the consolidated funding is £0.982m. Conditions placed on the Children's & Families Grant will be published as part of the final settlement.

- **Public Health Grant**

The 2025/26 Public Health Grant allocations were announced on the 7th February. The Council's grant for 2025/26 is £10.901m, an increase of £0.627m over the 2024/25 grant. The grant is ring-fenced to public health activity.

- **Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging Funding**

2025/26 will be the first year of the Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging (pEPR) scheme. The extra funding announced at the Autumn Budget includes a guarantee that local authorities in England will receive at least £1.1 billion in total in 2025/26 from the new Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging (pEPR) scheme, with each local authority guaranteed at least the level of income indicated in provisional local payment figures for the first year. The payment for the Council in 2025/26 is £2.7m, which has been incorporated into the budget reflecting the cost pressures and investment made into waste services in this and previous years budgets. Future years funding will be based on data submitted by the Council to the

scheme administrators, and this will be reviewed as part of the 2026/27 budget process.

- **Employers National Insurance Increase**

The government has announced that £515 million of new funding will be provided to support councils and mayoral combined authorities with the costs associated with the increase in employer National Insurance Contributions (NICs). Individual allocations are based on 2023/24 Revenue Outturn data and were published at the final settlement. Our original assumption was that the cost pressure from this change would be fully funded by government. The final grant allocation creates a £1.3m shortfall in funding of the Council's direct staffing cost increase of £2.6m from the Employers National Insurance increases in 2025/26. The underfunding also appears to have impacted other neighbouring authorities.

- **Business Rates**

It has been confirmed that the 100% Business Rate Retention Pilot will continue into 2025/26. 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.

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 2025/26:

- 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 (1.7%), increasing the multiplier from 54.6p to 55.5p
- the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure (RHL) scheme will be extended for a sixth year into 2025/26, but with a reduction in the level of relief from 75% to 40% whilst maintaining the cap on the relief at £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.

2024/25 Business Rate Collection Fund Surplus

The forecast for the Business Rate element of the collection fund in 2024/25 is for a surplus of £6.661m. The Council's share of the estimated surplus, after allowing for

amounts due to the Avon Fire Authority and the West of England Combined Authority, is £6.261m. This includes £5.34m from the final 2023/24 business rates collection fund outturn position which, in line with the MTFS proposal, will be transferred to earmarked reserves to provide £3m cover for the one-off costs of implementing the “Being Our Best Programme” with a revised pay offer and new structures and £2.34m allocated to the transformation reserve for costs associated with service redesign and systems improvement projects that deliver service efficiencies and savings.

- **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 94% of B&NES schools will have converted to academies by April 2025 and at least one other plans to convert in the coming years. This would leave only four primary schools maintained by the Local Authority.

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 in DfE and Treasury guidance 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 was submitted in May 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 DfE will respond to the resubmission in early 2025.

The deficit recovery plan shows our proposals to review our processes to encourage schools to develop early support for pupils with SEND thus limiting the need for Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). We are also creating more localised provision to limit expenditure on expensive non maintained special school places. The Education Capital Programme has been utilised to direct resources to provide additional SEND places in mainstream schools and extend special school provision.

We have also successfully bid for a new Special School, to be built under the free school programme. We have also bid for a new Alternative Provision school under

the same programme which has also been successful. However, we are still waiting for the DFE to confirm when construction will commence.

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 £22.3m in 2023/24 and that balance was carried forward to 2024/25. The estimated forecast in 2024/25 (including the carry forward from 2023/24) is £33.9m.

The DFE have published information on additional resources for SEND. In the 2025/26 financial year an additional £1bn has been allocated nationally. B&NES has been allocated £2.557m additional allocation equating to a 6.79% increase. However, there are significant pressures on the SEND services, in particular the numbers of EHCP's have increased by over 10% in the past year. The increase in funding has been built into the High Needs Budget planning and has been included in the resubmitted safety valve plan.

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 2025/26 savings and income generation plans total £14.01m. The Council has a good track record of delivering proposed savings. In relation to the 2024/25 approved savings of £16.42m, 77% (£12.66m) are forecast to be delivered in full. Of the £3.76m not currently achieved, £2.77m are being mitigated through savings, contingency or income elsewhere in the respective service, while £0.99m of savings are being delayed until 2025/26 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 £27.62m 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 are listed below, this illustrates some of the economic and financial challenges the Council is facing.

- Adult Services budget growth £6.5m
- Children's Services budget growth £9.2m
- Neighbourhood Services budget growth £3.2m

5.2.6 Children's Services Management Plan

Children's services underwent several external audits in 2024/25 by various regulatory bodies. The quality-of-service provision remains high, with inspectors highlighting elements of outstanding practice. However, pressures on children's social care continue to pose challenges. The service has a strong track record of delivering savings, with senior managers and practitioners balancing the best interests of the child with the need to reduce costs. Over the past 12 months, costs have been driven by:

- An increase in the number of looked-after children
- Complexity of needs
- Unfavourable external market conditions in residential care and more children (than budgeted) in residential care
- Support costs for children and families with disabled children
- Home-to-school transport costs, with high levels of children transported out of the area for special education needs and high use of taxis compared to other local authorities, both due to a sufficiency of local provision
- The use of agency staff to fulfil safeguarding duties, with costs being higher than budgeted vacant posts

The council has focused on the following areas to reduce costs and deliver the best outcomes for children, young people, and their family networks. This work will continue into 2025/26 and includes:

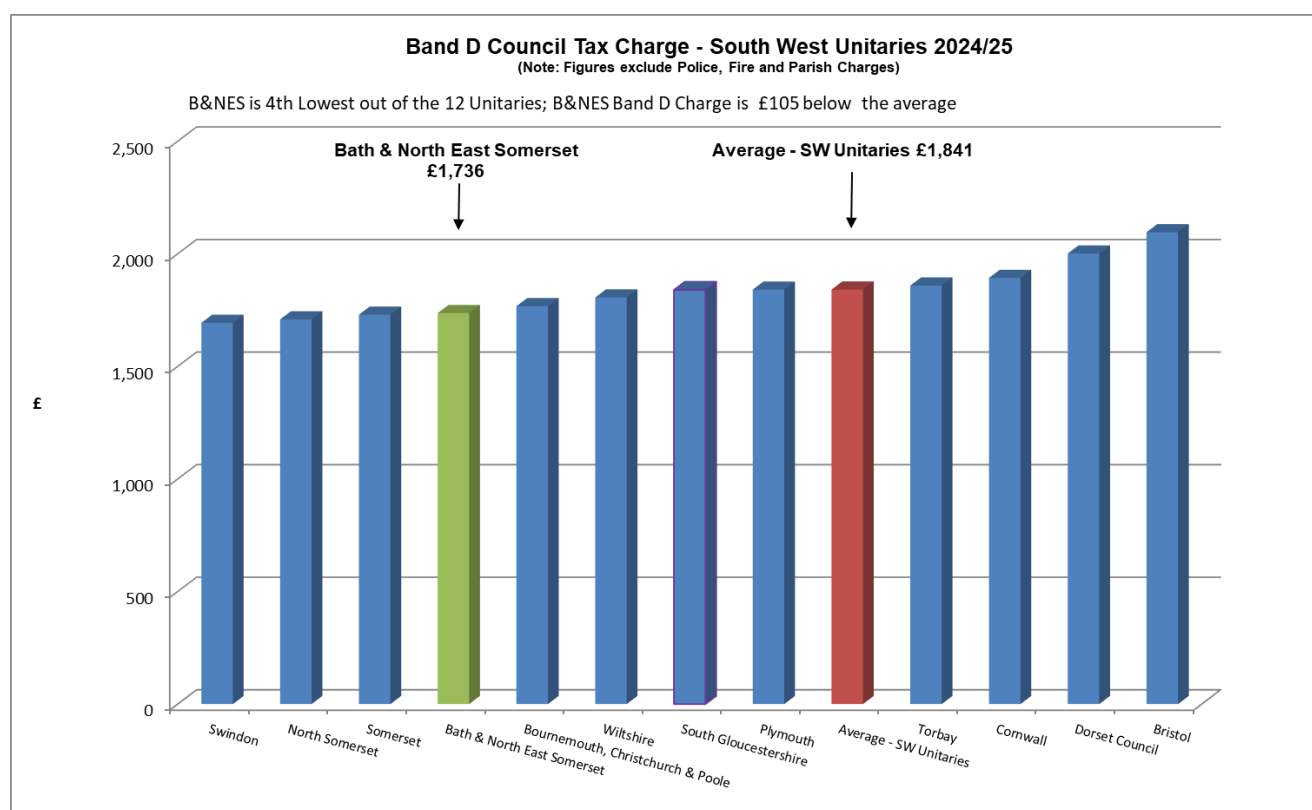
- Support for children and young people (CYP) and families on the edge of care/early help
- Reunification of CYP with family and the use of kinship arrangements
- Regular practice reviews of high-cost placements, ensuring health costs are funded
- Provision of local residential accommodation and education arrangements
- Establishment of a new transitions team across adult social care, children's social care, and SEND, to support young people as they move from children's to adult services
- Establishment of a new SEND early help service
- A review of disabled children's services and costs
- Implementation of a home-to-school action plan, including bringing some transport provision back in-house
- An external review of Home to School Transport, commissioned in 2024/25, with findings due to be reported in January/February 2025

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 2025/26. The proposal therefore within this report is to increase general Council Tax by 2.99% in 2025/26. This will increase a Band D by £51.92 for 2025/26 to £1,536.06. 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 £1,823.06 (£1,736.42 in 2024/25) an increase of 4.99% and £86.64 per Band D (£1.67 per week). The tax base for 2025/26 is 70,973.86, an increase of 1,717.98 (+2.48%) from 2024/25 and factors in the additional income from the increased premium charged on second homes as agreed by Council in November 2023.

The diagram below shows that B&NES had the fourth lowest Council Tax of the South West Unitary Authorities in 2024/25:



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 25th February 2025.

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 for 2025/26. The Council's plans include this for 2025/26 (this would increase the Adult Social Care Precept to £20.37m an increase of £2.90m from 2024/25) and future years.

The funding requirement for Adult Social Care before savings and grant funding is £6.5m (Annex 2ii) which will be part funded from the Adult Social Care Precept increase.

5.3.3 2024/25 Council Tax Collection Fund Surplus

The forecast for the Council Tax element of the collection fund in 2024/25 is for a surplus of £0.800m. The Council's share of the estimated deficit, after allowing for amounts due to Avon Fire Authority and Avon & Somerset Police, is £0.664m. The Council's share of the surplus consists of the Collection Fund position carried forward from 2023/24 of £0.372m and the forecast in year surplus of £0.292m.

5.3.4 Estimates for Future Years Band D Council Tax

The current Medium Term Financial Plan has factored in an annual increase of 1.99% for 2026/27 and future years for general Council Tax together with 2% Adult Social Care precept increases. Projections will be adjusted accordingly in line with any future referendum limits set by the new Government after the next spending review.

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 2025.

The Government have announced that from April 2025, most working age Welfare Benefits rates, including Universal Credit, will be increased by 1.7%. We are proposing to set the lowest income band in line with the standard allowance for Universal Credit for 2025 and for subsequent years. This will allow the poorest households to keep more of their benefit income and receive more support towards their council tax.

The 2025/26 Scheme is available at the following link:

<https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-01/Bath%20%26%20NE%20Somerset%20S13A%20202526%20FINAL%20.pdf>

The proposed new income band values would take effect from April 2025.

5.4 West of England Mayoral Combined Authority (WECA)

The West of England Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) was formed in 2017. Since its formation, the Mayoral Combined Authority has secured over £1.8bn in new funding, laying strong foundations for transformative projects that positively impact the lives of people throughout the West of England.

The MCA plays a vital role in regional infrastructure, focusing on strategic planning and effective investment to deliver the Mayor's priorities. It collaborates with unitary authorities, local partners, businesses, communities, and investors to bring this vision to life.

The MCA is a partnership organisation that collaborates with unitary authorities to strategically plan and deliver initiatives that benefit the region.

The West of England Strategic Framework sets out our plan to deliver a brighter future for local people and communities: "By 2040, the West of England will have a world-renowned green economy that is creating new jobs for residents; the region will be more equal – with all residents having access to good homes, opportunities, and services; and the region will be more prosperous with a healthier and happier population who are driving the region's success."

To deliver this vision, our priorities for delivery are:

- Creating a better-connected region, working towards a world-class transport system.
- Delivering net zero and nature recovery.
- Creating the jobs and training our region needs now and in the future.
- Supporting sustainable communities that people are proud to call home.
- Putting the West of England on the map for national and global success.

Operating the MCA incurs no additional costs to our constituent councils, as it is fully funded through government grants and a portion of regional business rates retention growth, which would not exist without the Mayoral Combined Authority.

The Combined Authority's budget will be set on 31 January 2025 by the West of England Combined Authority Committee. The assumptions outlined below are based on current budget proposals and are subject to the meeting's outcome. The following elements of the West of 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 2025/26 is £5.309m. Unitary Authority levies are pooled by the Mayoral Combined Authority's Transport Integration Team and managed on a regional basis. The increasing costs and demand for transport services will need to be carefully managed if current levels of service provision are to remain affordable and viable within the funding available in 2025/26 and beyond.

Within the City Region Sustainable Transport Programme, the Mayoral Combined Authority will allocate £25m per annum of capital funding to the Unitary Authorities to provide Highways Maintenance and Transport Improvement Grants. The Council's share is £8.881m per annum. This includes the recently announced Pot Holes funding of £1.884m.

The published West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Revenue & Capital Budget will continue to support several projects and initiatives for our Unitary Authority including the following schemes with approved funding for 2025/26:

- CRSTS – Bath Sustainable Walking & Cycling Links - £2.6m
- CRSTS – Bath City Centre - £3.3m
- Bath Quays Bridge Cycle / Pedestrian Links - £1.5m
- Maintenance Challenge Fund – Manvers Street Remediation - £1.9m
- B&NES Liveable Neighbourhoods - £2.7m
- Midsomer Norton & Westfield Walking, Wheeling and Cycling Links - £1.4m
- Somer Valley Links - £5.6m

Further bids for infrastructure funding may be made in line with the Mayoral 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.

In addition to specific projects, the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority will continue advancing key long-term strategic initiatives, including regional transport development, strategic rail investments, and spatial planning to support sustainable, clean growth.

The Mayoral 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 Mayoral 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 reached £44,202.12 as of 9 December 2024. There have been around 500

individual donations received. Most people donate between £10 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 a number of individuals donating more than once. Nationally UK charities have reported a decline in public donations.

Grants awarded

So far, £41,235 has been allocated to local causes.

In 2021-22, 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 total of £25,235 was awarded.

In 2022-23, 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. A total of £6,000 was awarded.

In 2023-24, a further 20 grants of £500 were awarded in support of low cost/free food projects, including those at registered Warm Spaces. A total of £10,000.

Full details of recipients is available on the [Council's website](#).

It is intended to open the fund to grants again when we have reached a total of £5,000.

Subject to further donations received, it is recommended that the scheme continues into 2025/26.

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 2025/26 and future years.

	Estimated Balance 1/4/25 £'m	Estimated Balance 31/3/26 £'m	Estimated Balance 31/3/27 £'m	Estimated Balance 31/3/28 £'m
Revenue Budget Contingency	3.1	3.1	3.7	3.7
Financial Planning and Smoothing Reserve	5.5	4.2	4.0	4.0

Transformation Investment Reserve	3.9	2.9	1.9	1.9
Job Evaluation & Pay Structure Reserve	3.0	2.0	1.0	0
Restructuring & Severance Reserve	4.3	1.8	1.8	1.8

5.6.1 Revenue Budget Contingency £3.1m

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 2024 forecast a £0.97m 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 includes transfers to replenish the reserve balance 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 £5.5m

The Financial Planning Reserve will be used to smooth the delivery of organisational change.

5.6.3 Transformation Investment Reserve £3.9m

The reserve facilitates delivery of future service efficiencies and savings through service redesign including the one-off costs of providing additional short-term capacity, specialist advice and systems improvements. The reserve is planned to be increased by £3.5m in 2025/26 to enable the development and delivery of future year savings plans.

5.6.4 Job Evaluation & Pay Structure Reserve £3.0m

The 2025/26 budget includes a transfer of £3.0m to create the reserve to cover the one-off costs of implementing the "Being Our Best Programme" with a revised pay offer and new structures.

5.6.5 Restructuring and Severance Reserve £4.3m

An allowance is made in 2025/26 for a one-off allocation of £2.5m following the implementation of the Being our Best Programme, this will result in changes to structures across the Council contributing to the recurrent savings requirement in 2025/26.

5.6.6 Reserves and Flexible Capital Receipts

Flexible Capital Receipts can be used for revenue spend which results in ongoing revenue savings. Estimated usage for 2024/25 is expected to be up to £1.15m with the remaining £0.62m carried forward for use in 2025/26 as outlined in the Efficiency Strategy attached at Annex 4. Currently £4.87m of unapplied capital receipts through estate assets, land holdings etc are held as at the end of December 2024 with a further £3.8m forecast in 2025/26 to meet requirements for flexible capital receipts and to finance the capital programme in those years.

	Actual Usage 2017/18 – 2023/24 £'m	Estimated Usage 2024/25 £'m	Available Balance 2025/26 £'m	Est. Total Usage £'m
Flexible Capital Receipts	9.73	1.15	0.62	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 September 2024 estimated that Un-earmarked reserves would total £12.58m by 31st March 2025.

The budget risk assessment has set a range of between £11.8m and £13.0m 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 2025/26 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 Christopher Kinsella (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 2025/26 budget to inform the advice.

5.7.2 Robustness of Estimates

The Council's September 2024 Medium Term Financial Strategy considered the national economic outlook that has informed the 2025/26 budget assumptions that are in section 5.2.2. of the report.

Cost and income estimates have been informed by the 2024/25 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 was modelled taking into account best and worst case scenario's using budget growth estimates covering the government settlement, rebasing of in-year budget pressures and savings delivery totalling with worst case estimate a budget gap at that time of c£16.9m.

The budget savings requirement for 2025/26 is £14.01m, 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 2(i).

In recognition of the significant budget risks from changes in cost as a result of the government National Insurance changes, demand on statutory services rising above modelled levels, alongside savings delivery risk, the following contingencies and provisions have been included in the budget:

- Corporate Contingency of £3m for savings delivery risk and slippage
- Contract Inflation Provision of £2.6m for the impacts of Employer National Insurance on supplies and services and contract spend across services.
- High Risk Service Demand & Cost Increase Provision of £4.2m

CIPFA has published its 2023/24 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 2023/24) B&NES to be medium to low risk within the CIPFA family group of Unitary Authorities.

The Councils reserve sustainability which compares the level of usable reserves to net revenue expenditure remains in the lower risk band, demonstrating the Council's financial sustainability.

The resilience index has identified that the cost of delivering Social Care in comparison to net revenue budget has increased by a further 1% from 2022/23 to 78%. There have been continuing increases in the cost of Children's Social Care, this has been recognised in the 2025/26 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 2025/26 the savings requirement is £14.01m 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 2025/26 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 as well as provision for contract inflation (£2.6m) and high risk service demand & cost increases (£4.2m).

5.7.4 Consequences of Failing to Deliver a Budget

If the Council is unable to produce a balanced budget 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 budget risks, the revenue budget has provided a £3m budget contingency to mitigate slippage on savings delivery as well as provision for contract inflation (£2.6m) and high risk service demand & cost increases (£4.2m).

The budget has recognised the current and future years funding requirement with £27.62m allocated to portfolios in 2025/26 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 2024/25.

The Council in 2024/25 is forecasting a deficit balance on the Dedicated Schools Grant of £33.9m 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 2025/26 planned level of General Fund Un-earmarked reserve at £12.58m (is within the required range of £11.8m to £13.0m).

The conclusion of the CFO is that the estimates for 2025/26 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 2025/26 to 2029/30

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.

5.8.3 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 2025/2026 – 2029/2030 is shown below

Capital Schemes for Approval

Cabinet Portfolio: Capital Schemes	Budget 2025/2026 £'m	Budget 2026/2027 £'m	Budget 2027/2028 £'m	Budget 2028/2029 £'m	Budget 2029/2030 £'m	Total £'m
Resources	17.701	9.767	0	0	0	27.468
Economic & Cultural Sustainable Development	11.932	16.786	14.557	1.792	0.050	45.117

Leader	0	0	0	0	0	0
Climate Emergency & Sustainable Travel	5.395	0.032	0.008	0	0	5.435
Built Environment & Sustainable Development	5.314	1.500	0	0	0	6.814
Adult Services	2.270	1.909	1.789	1.839	1.789	9.597
Children's Services	12.631	1.351	0	0	0	13.982
Neighbourhood Services	4.054	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	4.254
Highways	17.116	2.901	0	0	0	20.017
Total	76.413	34.296	16.404	3.681	1.889	132.683

Capital Schemes for Provisional Approval (Subject to)

Cabinet Portfolio: Capital Schemes	Budget 2025/2026 £'m	Budget 2026/2027 £'m	Budget 2027/2028 £'m	Budget 2028/2029 £'m	Budget 2029/2030 £'m	Total £'m
Resources	7.650	9.889	41.500	28.500	9.500	97.038
Economic & Cultural Development	14.589	11.776	6.677	26.802	8.835	68.679
Leader	0.214	0	0	0	0	0.214
Climate Emergency & Sustainable Travel	18.905	18.196	1.065	0.600	0.550	39.316
Built Environment & Sustainable Development	7.191	9.387	21.230	3.635	3.635	45.077
Adult Services	1.317	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.050	1.607
Children's Services	15.071	5.914	0	0	0	20.985
Neighbourhood Services	10.900	11.672	12.311	1.919	3.465	40.267
Highways	8.708	24.789	9.012	9.762	8.997	61.268
Total	84.545	91.703	91.875	71.298	35.032	374.453

Funded By

Financing	Budget 2025/2026 £'m	Budget 2026/2027 £'m	Budget 2027/2028 £'m	Budget 2028/2029 £'m	Budget 2029/2030 £'m	Total £'m
Grant	73.309	42.809	14.500	8.836	8.786	148.241
Capital Receipts/RTB	2.745	8.400	0.635	0.635	0.202	12.617
Revenue	2.292	3.570	0.050	0.050	0.050	6.012
Borrowing	73.705	66.400	92.315	65.456	27.883	325.759
3rd Party (inc S106 & CIL)	8.907	4.820	0.778	0.003	0	14.508
Total	160.957	125.999	108.279	74.980	36.921	507.136

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, which covers the period to 2029/30, allows 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 lever in funding the one-off costs to deliver savings plans. An updated Strategy is attached at Annex 4 to earmark the forecast remaining £0.62m of capital receipts held under this scheme to fund costs associated with proposed savings plans in 2025/26. 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 £3.8m;
- 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 and is unchanged from the 2024/25 policy.

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	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Forecast Outturn	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Estimate of Capital Expenditure (£'000s)					
Actual/estimates of capital expenditure	63,502	76,020	160,957	125,999	108,279
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			£3.22	£7.25	£5.53
Cumulative totals:			£3.22	£10.47	£16.00
Capital Financing as % of Net Revenue Stream					
Actual/estimates of the ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream			15.06%	17.10%	18.59%
<i>Memo: estimates of the ratio of financing cost to gross revenue stream</i>			4.87%	5.65%	6.35%
Borrowing Limits (£m)					
Operational boundary – borrowing			£414m	£466m	£544m
Operational boundary – other long-term liabilities			£9m	£9m	£9m
Operational boundary – total			£423m	£475m	£553m
Authorised limit – borrowing			£442m	£492m	£570m
Authorised limit – other long-term liabilities			£9m	£9m	£9m
Authorised limit – total			£451m	£501m	£579m
Capital Financing Requirement (£'000s) (as at 31 March)					
Actual/estimate of capital financing requirement	367,612	382,660	441,814	492,385	570,255

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 2025/26

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

The key risks to the budget are currently assessed as:

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Management Update
Operational budget pressures due to rising demand	Likely	High	There is the risk of unplanned and unbudgeted growth in demand on Council services, particularly in Adult & Children's Social Care. A High Risk Service Demand & Cost Increase Provision of £4.2m has been included in the budget in 2025/26 to reflect this risk.
Contract inflationary pressure	Likely	High	With increase in wage, energy and fuel costs, and the Employers National Insurance increase, 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 contract inflation risk provision for

			potential 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.
Volatility and uncertainty around business rates	Likely	High	<p>The impacts of the current economic challenges will increase the volatility and uncertainty around business rate income. In 2025/26 this risk has been partly offset by the extension of the business rate relief scheme for Retail, Leisure and Hospitality businesses, although the level of relief has reduced.</p> <p>We continue to monitor arrears, CVAs, and liquidations with a specific reserve held to manage in-year volatility.</p>
Changes to Government Policy that affects future funding	Likely	High	New government policy and funding reforms that are planned for implementation from 2026/27 are likely to have an impact on resourcing of Council services and priorities. This will be assessed once more details are announced as the governments planned changes develop.
Viability risk on the Councils Commercial Estate assets held for income generation.	Possible	High	Current asset reviews have identified that due to the age and complexity of the Councils Commercial Estate, some assets operating costs and capital investment needs may exceed annual rental income values. This will be managed through a detailed asset review that informs a programme of prioritisation for investment in the estate.
Reinstated government restrictions in the event of a new pandemic.	Possible	High	This is certainly a material risk, whilst not one the Council has direct control over, every step would be put in place to follow government guidance following the recommendations of our Director of Public Health.
Impact on Reserves	Possible	High	Without additional government grant funding in recognition of unfunded pressures there is the risk that Council reserve levels are not enough to

			manage in-year and future years risk.
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 de-risk projects wherever possible.
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. The latest forecast from our treasury management advisors is that longer term borrowing rates will remain volatile as the market reviews economic data on both the UK and US.
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 2025/26, 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 12th 2024 until 20 January 20th 2025

In addition, scrutiny of the savings proposals, priorities, one-offs, pressures and capital bids took place at the 28th January 2025 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. The panels feedback is included in Annex 12.

Contact person	Christopher Kinsella, Executive Director of Resources (S151 Officer), 01225 477103 Gary Adams, Head of Financial Management, 01225 477107
Background papers	January Corporate PDS Panel September Cabinet - Medium Term Financial Strategy https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=122&MId=6419&Ver=4
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

Annex 1 - Portfolio Cash Limits 2025/26 - Proposed Revenue Budget

CABINET PORTFOLIO	Service	Nov'24 Revised Cash Limits	Removal of One-offs (including one-off virements in 2024/25) + Add Feb'25 on-going technical virements	2024/25 Base Budget	MTFS Funding Requirements	MTFS Savings	Business Rates Relief, Grant and Funding Adjustments	Total 2025/26 Budget Changes	2025/26 Proposed Budget
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Leader	Housing Delivery Vehicle	(1,000)		(1,000)					(1,000)
	Emergency Planning	698	27	725	13			13	738
	PORTFOLIO SUB TOTAL	(302)	27	(275)	13			13	(262)
Climate Emergency & Sustainable Travel	Environmental Monitoring (Air Pollution)	202	6	208	5			5	213
	Transport Strategy	449	17	466	199			199	665
	Green Transformation	669	(34)	635	59			59	694
	PORTFOLIO SUB TOTAL	1,320	(11)	1,309	263			263	1,572
Council Priorities & Delivery	Human Resources & Organisational Development	887	103	990	62	(2,000)		(1,938)	(948)
	Business Change	760	29	789	14			14	803
	Corporate Office	1,999	(18)	1,981	82			82	2,063
	PORTFOLIO SUB TOTAL	3,646	113	3,759	158	(2,000)		(1,842)	1,917
Resources	Council Solicitor & Democratic Services	2,790	279	3,069	223			223	3,292
	Finance	2,498	154	2,652	372			372	3,024
	Revenues & Benefits	2,049	100	2,148	63	(50)		13	2,161
	Risk & Assurance Services	1,519	87	1,605	67			67	1,672
	Procurement & Commissioning	322	16	338	10			10	348
	Information Technology	7,448	211	7,660	608			608	8,268
	Commercial Estate	(12,717)	71	(12,646)	5	(200)		(195)	(12,841)
	Hsg / Council Tax Benefits Subsidy	405		405					405
	Capital Financing / Interest	4,906		4,906	570			570	5,476
	Unfunded Pensions	1,388		1,388					1,388
	Corporate Budgets incl. Capital, Audit & Bank Charges	(631)	(4,413)	(5,044)	12,736	(1,000)	2,243	13,979	8,935
	New Homes Bonus Grant	(327)		(327)	(586)			(586)	(913)
	Magistrates	12		12					12
	Coroners	550		550	25			25	575
	Environment Agency	262		262	6			6	268
	West of England Combined Authority Levy	5,194		5,194	115			115	5,309
	PORTFOLIO SUB TOTAL	15,667	(3,496)	12,171	14,214	(1,250)	2,243	15,208	27,379
Economic & Cultural Sustainable Development	Corporate Estate Including R&M	5,566	(103)	5,464	81	(275)		(194)	5,270
	Regeneration	(679)	172	(508)	16	(200)		(184)	(692)
	Business & Skills	388	11	400	(11)	(6)		(17)	383
	Heritage Services	(12,227)	(15)	(12,242)	197	(2,148)		(1,951)	(14,193)
	World Heritage	122	2	123	1			1	124
	Visit Bath	76		76		(75)		(75)	1
	Events & Active Lifestyles	378	14	392	47			47	439
	PORTFOLIO SUB TOTAL	(6,376)	81	(6,295)	331	(2,704)		(2,373)	(8,668)
Adult Services	Adult Services	59,458	1,469	60,927	4,071	(2,327)		1,744	62,671
	Public Health								
	Adult Substance Misuse (Drug Action Team)	70	3	73	2			2	75
	Leisure	289	4	293	14	(15)		(1)	292
	PORTFOLIO SUB TOTAL	59,817	1,476	61,293	4,087	(2,342)		1,745	63,038

Page 5

CABINET PORTFOLIO	Service	Nov'24 Revised Cash Limits	Removal of One-offs (including one-off virements in 2024/25) + Add Feb'25 on-going technical virements	2024/25 Base Budget	MTFS Funding Requirements	MTFS Savings	Business Rates Relief, Grant and Funding Adjustments	Total 2025/26 Budget Changes	2025/26 Proposed Budget
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Children's Services	Children, Young People & Families	18,822	250	19,072	4,544	(2,323)		2,221	21,293
	Integrated Commissioning - CYP	2,461	(493)	1,967	98	(150)		(52)	1,915
	Safeguarding - CYP	90	5	96	3			3	99
	Inclusion & Prevention	2,449	(54)	2,395	66			66	2,461
	Education Transformation	4,441	98	4,538	336			336	4,874
	Home to School Transport	9,322	81	9,403	2,535	(600)		1,935	11,338
	Schools' Budget	(1,501)	(46)	(1,547)	333			333	(1,214)
	PORTFOLIO SUB TOTAL	36,084	(159)	35,925	7,915	(3,073)		4,842	40,767
Highways	Transport & Parking Services - Parking	(8,875)	110	(8,765)	354	(1,276)		(922)	(9,687)
	Park & Ride	(473)		(473)	127	(200)		(73)	(546)
	Network & Traffic Management	680	62	742	81	(11)		70	812
	Highway Maintenance	6,864	47	6,911	177	(2)		175	7,086
	Clean Air Zone								
	PORTFOLIO SUB TOTAL	(1,804)	218	(1,586)	739	(1,489)		(750)	(2,336)
Neighbourhood Services	Neighbourhoods & Environment - Waste & Fleet Services	19,867	587	20,454	(538)	(925)		(1,463)	18,991
	Neighbourhoods & Environment - Parks & Bereavement Services	1,923	152	2,075	91	(14)		77	2,152
	Customer Services (including Libraries)	2,716	103	2,819	66			66	2,885
	Public Protection	1,220	31	1,251	38			38	1,289
	Community Safety	213	(20)	193	2			2	195
	Registrars Service	(118)	22	(96)	17	(45)		(28)	(124)
	PORTFOLIO SUB TOTAL	25,821	875	26,697	(324)	(984)		(1,308)	25,389
Built Environment & Sustainable Development	Building Control	(119)	29	(90)	141	(20)		121	31
	Development Management	1,306	97	1,403	59			59	1,462
	Housing	1,498	43	1,541	27	(150)		(123)	1,418
	PORTFOLIO SUB TOTAL	2,685	169	2,854	227	(170)		57	2,911
	NET BUDGET	136,561	(707)	135,854	27,623	(14,012)	2,243	15,855	151,708

Sources of Funding

Council Tax	120,257		120,257				9,132	129,390
Retained Business Rates	19,403		19,403				3,502	22,905
Collection Fund Deficit (-) or Surplus (+)	(306)		(306)				7,231	6,925
Transfers (to) / from Reserves	(2,793)	(707)	(3,500)				(4,011)	(7,511)
TOTAL FUNDING	136,561	(707)	135,854				15,855	151,708

Council Tax - Calculation

Council Tax Debit £'000	120,257			129,390
Taxbase (No. of Band D equivalent properties)	69255.88			70973.86
Band D Charge £	£1,736.42			£1,823.06
% increase				4.99%

Annex 2(i): 2025/26 - 2027/28 Budget Savings and Income Generation Proposals

2025/26 - 2027/28 Savings and Income Generation Proposals								
Savings Proposal Title	Description	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	Impacts to Service Delivery	Portfolio Holder / Director	Current Net Exp Budget / (Income Budget) £000	Category
Portfolio: Council Priorities and Delivery								
Being Our Best Programme	Targeted staffing savings from Being Our Best Programme through the planned review and rationalisation of the council's management and operating structures.	(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.	Clr Dave Wood / Cherry Bennett	124,803	Existing Budget Proposal
Council Priorities and Delivery Total		(2,000)	0	0				
Portfolio: Resources								
Household Support Fund Grant	Recover admin costs from Household Support Fund grant	(50)			No impact to service delivery	Clr Mark Elliot / Jeff Wring	2,163	New Budget Proposal
City Region Deal Business Rates Pool - Tier 3 income	Increased income from the City Region Deal Business Rates Pool	(1,000)			None - additional net income only.	Clr Mark Elliot / Chris Kinsella	(800)	New Budget Proposal
Commercial Estate - Increased Income	Deliver additional income by refurbishing empty commercial properties more quickly so they can be let.	(200)			Fewer empty properties.	Clr Mark Elliot / Chris Kinsella	(12,717)	New Budget Proposal
Resources Total		(1,250)	0	0				
Portfolio: Economic and Cultural Sustainable Development								
Heritage Business Plan	Update to projected surplus to reflect visitor projections, updated income forecasts and service efficiencies	(2,148)	(22)	(253)	None - additional net income only.	Clr Paul Roper / Sophie Broadfield	(12,227)	Revised Budget Proposal
Corporate Estate & Development – Corporate Landlord	Reducing Corporate Estate size and holdings and reduce energy costs through investment in renewables and retrofit.	(275)	(220)		The rationalisation of the Corporate Estate will reduce revenue expenditure on underutilised assets, requiring some co-location or relocation of services, working with Capital Delivery, Legal and Sustainable Economy on a decarbonisation programme.	Clr Paul Roper / Simon Martin	5,566	Existing Budget Proposal
Bath Quays South Lettings	New lettings secured for Bath Quays South offices over and above previous financial projections.	(150)	(100)	(100)	No impact to service delivery	Clr Paul Roper / Simon Martin	(600)	Revised Budget Proposal
Visit West	WECA funding has now replaced Unitary Authority contributions and no commitment is required at a Council level from 25/26 onwards.	(75)			None - change of funding source.	Clr Paul Roper / Sophie Broadfield	(75)	New Budget Proposal
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)			No impact to service delivery	Clr Paul Roper / Simon Martin	(673)	Existing Budget Proposal
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.	(6)	(6)		Flexibility to add additional services and support for local businesses will reduce and focus will be on external grant funded activity only	Clr Paul Roper / Simon Martin	400	Existing Budget Proposal
Economic and Cultural Sustainable Development Total		(2,704)	(348)	(353)				
Portfolio: Adult Services								
Adult Social Care Commissioning	This proposal will be achieved through maximizing the use of the Better Care Fund and Improved Better Care Fund to protect social care expenditure.	(750)			This will make best use of the Better Care Fund and Improved Better Care Fund to support better independence and support for people.	Clr Alison Born / Suzanne Westhead	4,900	Revised Budget Proposal
Adult Social Care Commissioning	This proposal will be achieved through efficient management of contracts for services and optimisation of commissioning resources.	(125)	(100)		This will make best use of the Better Care Fund and Improved Better Care Fund to support better independence and support for people.	Clr Alison Born / Suzanne Westhead	63,721	Revised Budget Proposal
Review of Care Packages	The approach to social care reviews under the Care Act will ensure people's needs are being met, their outcomes are being achieved and that support when needed is provided in the most cost effective way. Savings have been identified through matching levels of care to people's needs.	(900)			None	Clr Alison Born / Suzanne Westhead	63,721	Revised Budget Proposal
Technology Enabled Care	This proposal will be achieved by using technology enabled care to reduce social care resource requirements. Technology enabled care products such as personal alarms and pendants, bed and chair sensors, pills dispensers and door sensors support people to undertake daily living tasks and enable independence.	(50)	(75)		This will make best use of social care resources to support better independence and support for people.	Clr Alison Born / Suzanne Westhead	63,721	Revised Budget Proposal
Provider Services Income Opportunities	As a provider of Learning Disabilities Day Services, Community Resource Centres - Residential Care Homes and an Extra Care Service the council has always offered a service to self-funders. This proposal seeks to increase the level of income generated from self-funders, placements commissioned by other local authorities and Integrated Care Board (ICB) by charging the actual cost of delivering care.	(100)	(100)	(50)	None	Clr Alison Born / Suzanne Westhead	63,721	Revised Budget Proposal
Prevention and Early Intervention in Adult Social Care	Deliver savings through efficiencies from services, recommissioning services within existing budget and maximising alternative funding sources for housing related support.	(402)			This will support better independence and support for residents needing support.	Clr Alison Born / Suzanne Westhead	63,721	Revised Budget Proposal
RVP Leisure Facilities	New contract in place for the operation of the leisure facilities in RVP including tennis courts, adventure golf, events spaces and café.	(15)	(20)		The new contract encourage investment in facilities, better health and wellbeing outcomes for residents and tackling health inequalities, along with additional income generation from the site linked to a 20-year business plan and lease.	Clr Alison Born / Rebecca Reynolds	289	Revised Budget Proposal
Adult Services Total		(2,342)	(295)	(50)				

Annex 2(i): 2025/26 - 2027/28 Budget Savings and Income Generation Proposals

2025/26 - 2027/28 Savings and Income Generation Proposals								
Savings Proposal Title	Description	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	Impacts to Service Delivery	Portfolio Holder / Director	Current Net Exp Budget / (Income Budget) £000	Category
Portfolio: Children's Services								
Reunifications	The savings will be delivered by an increase in family reunifications and step downs from residential placements.	(1,400)	(390)		All children within residential placements will be considered for reunification or step down. Any suitability criteria will be based on the availability of suitable placements or family reunification. The team monitors outcomes to address disparities, supports providers to promote equality and inclusion, and is working towards a co production model with parent carers.	Clr Paul May / Mary Kearney- Knowles	19,340	Revised Budget Proposal
Specialist Commissioning Saving	These savings will reduce reliance on high-cost placements, particularly out-of-area or unregulated provisions, promoting stability and better outcomes for children. However, achieving these savings requires a careful balance to ensure cost reductions do not compromise the quality, safety, or suitability of placements, which are essential for meeting the complex needs of Children Looked After.	(923)			By focusing on value-driven commissioning and stronger collaboration with providers, these savings could enhance service efficiency while maintaining high standards of care.	Clr Paul May / Mary Kearney- Knowles	19,340	Revised Budget Proposal
Home to School Transport Savings	Reduced costs as a result of investment in internal provision.	(600)			Some services will be delivered internally, reducing reliance on external providers.	Clr Paul May / Chris Major	9,322	Revised Budget Proposal
Early Help	Early help in B&NES aims to provide children, young people and families with the right support at the right time by the right service as soon as needs are identified to prevent them getting worse.	(150)	(150)		Our Early Help services are delivered through a mixture of internal Council teams and external organisations who are commissioned and have a contract with the Council. We are reviewing these services against population needs to consider future service provision and the impact in light of the budget reduction needed to meet the savings targets.	Clr Paul May / Mary Kearney- Knowles	889	Revised Budget Proposal
New Specialist Residential Provision	New Specialist Residential Units.		(1,383)	(450)	This will enhance local provision for some of our most vulnerable children and keep them closer to family and extended networks	Clr Paul May / Mary Kearney- Knowles	19,340	Revised Budget Proposal
Children's Services Total		(3,073)	(1,923)	(450)				
Portfolio: Highways								
Parking Services - Income Rebasing	Increased income rebasing across Highways and Parking Services	(560)			Minor impacts to manage changes to prices and deal with feedback from customers	Clr Manda Rigby / Chris Major	(15,469)	Revised Budget Proposal
Parking Charges Review	Income generated from the implementation of a parking review and emissions-based pay and display	(334)	(140)		Consultations were undertaken during 2024/25 and amended schemes have been included within operational traffic regulation orders (TROs). This was previously included as a £374k additional income, and has reduced to £334k as a result of the amendments.	Clr Manda Rigby / Chris Major	(8,875)	Revised Budget Proposal
Parking Permit Charges Review	Income generated from a review of the baseline charge for on street parking permits, including emissions-based resident parking permits	(172)			Charge is set within the Council's on street Traffic Regulation Orders; therefore, a public consultation will be undertaken. Outcome of consultations may impact upon the nature and the number of the proposal to be implemented.	Clr Manda Rigby / Chris Major	(8,875)	New Budget Proposal
Parking Reinvestment Fund	Budget saving by not spending the Reinvestment Fund in Parking Services (one-off 2025/26 only).	(210)	210		No significant impact; however, non-essential maintenance and improvements of Parking assets, such as car parks, as well as developments which improve operational efficiency or customer experience may take longer to be identified, developed and implemented, subject to resource availability.	Clr Manda Rigby / Chris Major	210	New Budget Proposal
Park and Ride	Updated income forecast for the Park and Ride	(200)	100	100	None - additional net income only.	Clr Manda Rigby / Sophie Broadfield	(473)	New Budget Proposal
Fees and Charges	Inflationary increases in discretionary fees across the portfolio.	(13)	(14)	(14)	None - additional net income only.	Clr Manda Rigby / Various	N/A	Revised Budget Proposal
Highways Total		(1,489)	156	86				
Portfolio: Neighbourhood Services								
Recycling Income	Income growth projected for 25-26 due to market prices and optical sorting at new facility.	(450)			Maintain advantageous contract prices, and use optical sorting at new facility to maximise materials value and help offset depot service operating costs.	Clr Tim Ball / Chris Major	19,867	New Budget Proposal
Green Waste Fees and Charges Uplift	Increase garden waste fees from £57 to £70 per year to cover the increasing collection costs of running the service, so that subscribers contribute more to the cost of the service.	(350)			Delivered by annual billing process for subscriber service.	Clr Tim Ball / Chris Major	19,867	New Budget Proposal
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.	(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	Clr Tim Ball / Chris Major	19,867	Existing Budget Proposal
Registrars	Increased income forecast for the service	(45)			None - additional net income only.	Clr Tim Ball / Chris Kinsella	(883)	Existing Budget Proposal
Fees and Charges	Inflationary increases in discretionary fees across the portfolio.	(62)	(64)	(65)	None - additional net income only.	Clr Tim Ball / Various	N/A	Revised Budget Proposal
Neighbourhood Services Total		(984)	(64)	(65)				
Portfolio: Built Environment and Sustainable Development								
Housing	Housing - reprofile work on Housing delivery - (25/26 one off saving)	(75)	75		Reprofiled timeline for delivery	Clr Matt McCabe / Simon Martin	1,541	New Budget Proposal
Housing	Budget for capital delivery of housing programme to match pipeline (25/26 one-off saving)	(75)	75		Reprofiled timeline for delivery	Clr Matt McCabe / Simon Martin	1,541	New Budget Proposal
Fees and Charges	Inflationary increases in charges for Building Control and some other small areas of discretionary charges	(20)	(20)	(20)	None - additional net income only.	Clr Matt McCabe / Various	N/A	Revised Budget Proposal
Built Environment and Sustainable Development Total		(170)	130	(20)				

2025/26 - 2027/28 Savings and Income Generation Proposals								
Savings Proposal Title	Description	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	Impacts to Service Delivery	Portfolio Holder / Director	Current Net Exp Budget / (Income Budget) £000	Category
OVERALL SAVINGS AND INCOME GENERATION PROPOSALS		(14,012)	(2,344)	(852)				

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Annex 2(ii): 2025/26 - 2027/28 Funding Requirements

2025/26 - 2027/28 Funding Proposals						
Funding Title	Description of Funding Requirement	Portfolio Holder / Director	2025/26 Funding £000	2026/27 Funding £000	2027/28 Funding £000	Category
Portfolio: Leader of the Council						
Pay Inflation	Salary inflation estimated at 4% in 25/26, 3% in 26/27, 3% in 27/28, and allowing for annual staff pay increments.	Cllr Kevin Guy / Various	23	18	18	Revised Budget Proposal
Employer's National Insurance	Increases to Employer's National Insurance costs from April 2025	Cllr Kevin Guy / Various	13			New Budget Proposal
Leader of the Council Total			36	18	18	
Portfolio: Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel						
Revenue budget for Renewable Energy Post (previously recharged to capital projects)	This post supports development of renewable energy projects. This work has previously been recharged to individual capital projects. The nature of forward project pipeline, in Feasibility & Development stage, means that current work cannot be fully capitalised and revenue funding is required to sustain this programme of work.	Cllr Sarah Warren / Sophie Broadfield	45			New Budget Proposal
Extra Support for Subsidised Bus Services	Extra funding for supported bus services where Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) funding is not available.	Cllr Sarah Warren / Sophie Broadfield	50	(50)		New Budget Proposal
Car Club Delivery	Extension to car club scheme to North East Somerset - implementation already planned for Bath	Cllr Sarah Warren / Sophie Broadfield	50	(50)		New Budget Proposal
School Streets	Increase funding to existing planned programme to deliver three School Streets in 2025/26	Cllr Sarah Warren / Sophie Broadfield	87	(87)		New Budget Proposal
Contractual Inflation	Annual increases in contract costs within the portfolio.	Cllr Sarah Warren / Various	1	1	1	Revised Budget Proposal
Pay Inflation	Salary inflation estimated at 4% in 25/26, 3% in 26/27, 3% in 27/28, and allowing for annual staff pay increments.	Cllr Sarah Warren / Various	39	29	29	Revised Budget Proposal
Employer's National Insurance	Increases to Employer's National Insurance costs from April 2025	Cllr Sarah Warren / Various	30			New Budget Proposal
Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel Total			302	(157)	30	
Portfolio: Council Priorities and Delivery						
Community Engagement and Communications	Trialling new approaches to communication and engagement with residents	Cllr Dave Wood / Chris Kinsella	50	(50)		New Budget Proposal
Pay Inflation	Salary inflation estimated at 4% in 25/26, 3% in 26/27, 3% in 27/28, and allowing for annual staff pay increments.	Cllr Dave Wood / Various	165	125	123	Revised Budget Proposal
Employer's National Insurance	Increases to Employer's National Insurance costs from April 2025	Cllr Dave Wood / Various	108			New Budget Proposal
Council Priorities and Delivery Total			323	75	123	
Portfolio: Resources						
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 / Chris Kinsella	85			Existing Budget Proposal
Cyber Improvements	Provide recurrent funding to maintain 24/7, 365 days per year cyber security monitoring and response contract	Cllr Mark Elliot / Chris Kinsella	90			Revised Budget Proposal
Artificial Intelligence (AI) Investment	Introducing AI capabilities to improve resident facing services.	Cllr Mark Elliot / Chris Kinsella	65	5		New Budget Proposal
Improved Customer Contact Technology	Replacement telephony and contact centre system with modern cloud based technology.	Cllr Mark Elliot / Chris Kinsella	251	50		New Budget Proposal
Corporate Supported Borrowing	Increase in borrowing requirement linked to new schemes added to capital programme.	Cllr Mark Elliot / Chris Kinsella	228	520	400	New Budget Proposal
Savings Rebasing	Previous staffing savings targets that have been incorporated into the Being Our Best Programme savings.	Cllr Mark Elliot / Various	425			Revised Budget Proposal
Corporate Budget Adjustments	Corporate Base Budget Adjustments including Contingency allocation, Capital Financing, New Homes Bonus & Settlement Grants	Cllr Mark Elliot / Chris Kinsella	9,027	3,762	4,648	Revised Budget Proposal
WECA Transport Levy	Increase in WECA transport Levy for 2025/26	Cllr Mark Elliot / Chris Kinsella	115			New Budget Proposal
Business Rate Revaluation and Inflation Increases	Business Rate Revaluation and Inflation Increase on Corporate Properties.	Cllr Mark Elliot / Various	1			Existing Budget Proposal
Contractual Inflation	Annual increases in contract costs within the portfolio.	Cllr Mark Elliot / Various	210	371	384	Revised Budget Proposal
Pay Inflation	Salary inflation estimated at 4% in 25/26, 3% in 26/27, 3% in 27/28, and allowing for annual staff pay increments.	Cllr Mark Elliot / Various	557	428	419	Revised Budget Proposal
Employer's National Insurance	Increases to Employer's National Insurance costs from April 2025	Cllr Mark Elliot / Various	538			New Budget Proposal
Cloud IT Systems Migration	Reversal of previous year's growth - Migration of all IT Systems to Microsoft Azure Cloud Infrastructure.	Cllr Mark Elliot / Chris Kinsella	(50)	(85)	(85)	
New Recruitment System	Reversal of previous year's growth - Replacement of iTrent recruitment system.	Cllr Mark Elliot / Chris Kinsella	(25)			
Resources Total			11,517	5,051	5,766	
Portfolio: Economic and Cultural Sustainable Development						
Staffing	Removal of income/recovery target associated with staffing recharges	Cllr Paul Roper / Chris Major	36			New Budget Proposal
Business Rate Revaluation and Inflation Increases	Business Rate Revaluation and Inflation Increase on Corporate Properties.	Cllr Paul Roper / Various	(2)			Existing Budget Proposal
Contractual Inflation	Annual increases in contract costs within the portfolio.	Cllr Paul Roper / Various	32	32	32	Revised Budget Proposal
Pay Inflation	Salary inflation estimated at 4% in 25/26, 3% in 26/27, 3% in 27/28, and allowing for annual staff pay increments.	Cllr Paul Roper / Various	124	93	91	Revised Budget Proposal
Employer's National Insurance	Increases to Employer's National Insurance costs from April 2025	Cllr Paul Roper / Various	265			New Budget Proposal
Economic and Cultural Sustainable Development Total			455	125	123	
Portfolio: Adult Services						
Social Care Settlement Grant Increase	Ring-fenced grant income announced in Local Government Finance Settlement.	Cllr Alison Born / Suzanne Westhead	(1,577)			New Budget Proposal
Public Health Grant Increase	Ring-fenced grant income increase announced 7th February 2025	Cllr Alison Born / Rebecca Reynolds	(627)			New Budget Proposal
Public Health Grant	Spend linked to ringfenced Public Health Grant Increase	Cllr Alison Born / Rebecca Reynolds	627			New Budget Proposal
Contractual Inflation - Adult Social Care	The local authority commission placements and packages of care for people who have been assessed under the Care Act 2014 and have an eligible care and support need. This is the estimated inflation requirement to fund associated contracts.	Cllr Alison Born / Suzanne Westhead	3,155	1,379	1,379	Revised Budget Proposal
Contractual Inflation - Leisure Services	Annual increases in contract costs within the portfolio.	Cllr Alison Born / Rebecca Reynolds	12	12	12	Existing Budget Proposal
Demography	Adult Social Services have assessed the existing budget growth and demographics assumptions and have revised this figure to reflect rising demand, increased costs in the market and national policy directives.	Cllr Alison Born / Suzanne Westhead	1,958	1,316	1,342	Revised Budget Proposal
Pay Inflation	Salary inflation estimated at 4% in 25/26, 3% in 26/27, 3% in 27/28, and allowing for annual staff pay increments.	Cllr Alison Born / Suzanne Westhead	837	637	625	Revised Budget Proposal
Employer's National Insurance	Increases to Employer's National Insurance costs from April 2025	Cllr Alison Born / Suzanne Westhead	539			New Budget Proposal
Adult Services Total			4,924	3,344	3,358	

Annex 2(ii): 2025/26 - 2027/28 Funding Requirements

2025/26 - 2027/28 Funding Proposals						
Funding Title	Description of Funding Requirement	Portfolio Holder / Director	2025/26 Funding £000	2026/27 Funding £000	2027/28 Funding £000	Category
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	(628)			New Budget Proposal
Children's Social Care Prevention Grant	Ringfenced Children's Social Care Prevention Grant announced in Local Government Finance Settlement.	Cllr Paul May / Mary Kearney-Knowles	(401)			New Budget Proposal
Children's Social Care Prevention Grant	Spend linked to ringfenced Children's Social Care Prevention Grant announced in Local Government Finance Settlement.	Cllr Paul May / Mary Kearney-Knowles	401			New Budget Proposal
Corporate Overhead Rebasing	Dedicated Schools Grant recovery phased over 3 years (£1m) from 2024/25 to 2026/27.	Cllr Paul May / Mary Kearney-Knowles	333	333		Existing Budget Proposal
OFSTED SEND Staffing	Recruit additional staff to support the team with increased levels of demand for statutory assessment and higher caseloads.	Cllr Paul May / Chris Wilford	179	(179)		New Budget Proposal
Home to School Transport Rebasing	To address the current cost pressures as a result of high demand and increasing costs.	Cllr Paul May / Chris Major	1,718		(300)	New Budget Proposal
Home to School Transport investment	Investment in council employed drivers and vehicles.	Cllr Paul May / Chris Major	350			New Budget Proposal
Trial Youth Club Provision in Bath	Provision of open access detached youth work in the Bath area (currently no open access provision in Bath - provision in North East Somerset is funded through parishes)	Cllr Paul May / Mary Kearney-Knowles	50	(50)		New Budget Proposal
Student Community Partnership (SCP) Funding	Majority funded by the universities, this is B&NES contribution to SCP funding (previously funded though Bath Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Fund)	Cllr Paul May / Chris Kinsella	47	(47)		New Budget Proposal
Business Rate Revaluation and Inflation Increases	Business Rate Revaluation and Inflation Increase on Corporate Properties.	Cllr Paul May / Mary Kearney-Knowles	23			Existing Budget Proposal
Contractual Inflation	The local authority must ensure every Child Looked After has a suitable and tailored placement, fulfilling Bath and North East Somerset's (B&NES) Sufficiency Duty. This statutory duty requires B&NES to secure appropriate placements for all Children Looked After.	Cllr Paul May / Mary Kearney-Knowles	1,207	576	595	Revised Budget Proposal
Demography	Children's Services have assessed the existing budget growth and demographics assumptions and have revised this figure to reflect rising demand, increased costs in the market and national policy directives.	Cllr Paul May / Mary Kearney-Knowles	3,824	912	930	Revised Budget Proposal
Pay Inflation	Salary inflation estimated at 4% in 25/26, 3% in 26/27, 3% in 27/28, and allowing for annual staff pay increments.	Cllr Paul May / Various	759	576	565	Revised Budget Proposal
Employer's National Insurance	Increases to Employer's National Insurance costs from April 2025	Cllr Paul May / Various	433			New Budget Proposal
Children's Services Total			8,295	2,121	1,790	
Portfolio: Highways						
HGV Charging Reversal	Removal of the proposed income line from implementation of a Euro 6 HGV charge in line with the wider CAZ charges, after public consultation.	Cllr Manda Rigby / Chris Major	100	10		New Budget Proposal
Impacts of infrastructure investment	On-going maintenance costs associated with increased asset base (CRSTS, Street Lighting)	Cllr Manda Rigby / Chris Major	22	34	88	New Budget Proposal
Extended Park and Ride Hours	Trial of increased Park and Ride service	Cllr Manda Rigby / Sophie Broadfield	125	(125)		New Budget Proposal
Speed Indicator Signage	6 new vehicle activated speed signs throughout B&NES	Cllr Manda Rigby / Chris Major	40	(40)		New Budget Proposal
More Enforcement Cameras	Improvements to pedestrian and traffic safety through two new enforcement camera sites.	Cllr Manda Rigby / Chris Major	120	(120)		New Budget Proposal
Borrowing Costs	Inflationary increases associated with vehicle replacement	Cllr Manda Rigby / Chris Major	35			New Budget Proposal
Business Rate Revaluation and Inflation Increases	Business Rate Revaluation and Inflation Increase on Corporate Properties (including car parks).	Cllr Manda Rigby / Chris Major	27			Existing Budget Proposal
Contractual Inflation	Annual increases in contract costs within the portfolio.	Cllr Manda Rigby / Chris Major	141	143	145	Revised Budget Proposal
Pay Inflation	Salary inflation estimated at 4% in 25/26, 3% in 26/27, 3% in 27/28, and allowing for annual staff pay increments.	Cllr Manda Rigby / Chris Major	191	145	142	Revised Budget Proposal
Employer's National Insurance	Increases to Employer's National Insurance costs from April 2025	Cllr Manda Rigby / Chris Major	105			New Budget Proposal
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 and review of CAZ fee.	Cllr Manda Rigby / Chris Major	24			
Highways Total			930	47	375	
Portfolio: Neighbourhood Services						
Extended Producer Responsibility Grant Funding	2025/26 allocation of funding resulting from new Extended Producer Responsibility scheme. Value subject to change on an annual basis.	Cllr Tim Ball / Chris Major	(2,700)	700		New Budget Proposal
Waste Staffing Costs	Adjusting base budgets to make sure sickness and holiday cover within waste and fleet services and adequately funded.	Cllr Tim Ball / Chris Major	756	55		New Budget Proposal
Waste Running Costs	Rebasing of revenue budget following the first year of operating the new waste facility at Pixash Lane, Keynsham.	Cllr Tim Ball / Chris Major	225	17		New Budget Proposal
Borrowing Costs	Inflationary increases associated with vehicle replacement	Cllr Tim Ball / Chris Major	142	188		New Budget Proposal
Increase in Clean and Green Funding	Two additional demand led rapid response crews (weeds, graffiti, litter, fortnightly monitoring)	Cllr Tim Ball / Chris Major	281	(81)		New Budget Proposal
Business Rate Revaluation and Inflation Increases	Business Rate Revaluation and Inflation Increase on Corporate Properties.	Cllr Tim Ball / Various	114			Existing Budget Proposal
Contractual Inflation	Annual increases in contract costs within the portfolio.	Cllr Tim Ball / Various	387	305	230	Revised Budget Proposal
Pay Inflation	Salary inflation estimated at 4% in 25/26, 3% in 26/27, 3% in 27/28, and allowing for annual staff pay increments.	Cllr Tim Ball / Various	793	604	591	Revised Budget Proposal
Employer's National Insurance	Increases to Employer's National Insurance costs from April 2025	Cllr Tim Ball / Various	471			New Budget Proposal
Neighbourhood Services Total			469	1,788	821	
Portfolio: Built Environment and Sustainable Development						
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			Existing Budget Proposal
Contractual Inflation	Annual increases in contract costs within the portfolio.	Cllr Matt McCabe / Various	2	2	2	Revised Budget Proposal
Pay Inflation	Salary inflation estimated at 4% in 25/26, 3% in 26/27, 3% in 27/28, and allowing for annual staff pay increments.	Cllr Matt McCabe / Various	147	112	110	Revised Budget Proposal
Employer's National Insurance	Increases to Employer's National Insurance costs from April 2025	Cllr Matt McCabe / Various	98			New Budget Proposal
Built Environment and Sustainable Development Total			372	114	112	
OVERALL FUNDING PROPOSALS			27,623	12,526	12,516	

Annex 3

Equality Impacts of 2025-2026 Budget Proposals

The following report provides supplementary information for existing/revised growth or income budget items, or additional growth and income budget proposals for 2025/26. Annex 4.1 to this report provides an introduction and legal background to this budget equality report.

Table of portfolio holders holding budget proposals with potential impact.

The Proposals are presented in two sections for each service area to reflect the following:

- a. Savings and income generation budget proposals
- b. New budget proposals

There is further section to reflect the following:

- c. Growth

Budget proposals that note a potential positive or negative impact on people with protected characteristics.

Adult Services – Cllr Alison Born		Page
Savings and Income Generation Proposals		
• Adult Social Care Commissioning		3
• Technology Enabled Care (existing budget proposal)		4
• Provider Services Income Opportunities		5
New Budget Proposals		
• Review of Care Packages		6
Children’s Services – Cllr Paul May		
Savings and Income Proposals		
• Reunifications		7
• Specialist Commissioning Saving		8
Highways – Cllr Manda Rigby		
New Budget Proposals		
• Parking Reinvestment Fund (Innovation Fund)		9
• Parking Permit Charges Review		10
Neighbourhood Services – Cllr Tim Ball		

New Budget Proposals	
• Green waste fees and charges uplift	11

Growth	Page
Adult Services – Cllr Alison Born	
• Adult Social Care Contract Inflation	12
Children’s Services – Cllr Paul May	
• Demographics	13
• Children's Services Inflation	14
New Budget Proposals	
• SEND Staffing	15
• Home to School Transport investment	16
Resources	
• Artificial Intelligence (AI) Investment	17
• Improved Customer Contact Technology (Unified Communications)	18

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Alison Born

Adult Services Proposal: Adult Social Care Commissioning The published Equality Impact Assessment is available to view on the link below: https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/AS01%20Budget%20Proposal%20and%20EQIA%20Commissioning%202025-26_0.pdf											
Precis: This proposal will be achieved through maximising the use of the Better Care Fund and Improved Better Care Fund to protect social care expenditure.											
2025-26 budget proposal statement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximise the Better Care Fund and Improved Better Care Fund through ongoing review to support protecting and developing adult social care expenditure. 											
Considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There is anticipated positive impact on people with protected characteristics as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working closely with internal and external stakeholders to ensure that Better Care Fund and Improved Better Care Fund is spent on service in line with local priorities. This should create a positive impact for people as Better Care Fund and Improved Better Care Fund will be invested to support better independence and support. ➤ There is a risk of delays in publication of Better Care Fund planning guidance by DHSC. 											
Recommendation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Proportionate equality analysis should be carried out as part of the review and implementation process 											
Impacts	All	Age	Disability	Gender reassignment	Marriage & civil partnership	Pregnancy & maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual orientation	Socio economic
Negative											
Positive	✓										

Proposal: Technology Enabled Care

The published Equality Impact Assessment is available to view on the link below:

https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/AS02%20Budget%20Proposal%20and%20EQIA%20Technology%202025-26_0.pdf

Precis:

This proposal will be achieved by using technology enabled care to reduce social care resource requirements. Technology enabled care products such as personal alarms and pendants, bed and chair sensors, pills dispensers and door sensors support people to undertake daily living tasks and enable independence.

2025-26 budget proposal statement

'This will make best use of social care resources to support better independence and support for people'.

Considerations:

- There is anticipated positive impact on people with protected characteristics as:
 - Technology enabled care has been proven to better independence and support.
 - These are positive changes that will be managed within national frameworks and industry standards for technology enabled care.
- Risks of low take up of technology enabled care.

Recommendation:

- During implementation and through an ongoing review process proportionate equality analysis should be carried out as part of the review and implementation process.

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

Proposal: Provider Services Income Opportunities

The published Equality Impact Assessment is available to view on the link below:

<https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/AS05%20Budget%20Proposal%20and%20EQIA%20Provider%20Servcies%20Income%20Opportunities%20final%202025-26%201.pdf>

Precis:

As a provider and an Extra Care Service the council has always offered a service to self-funders. This proposal seeks to increase the level of income generated from self-funders, placements commissioned by other local authorities and Integrated Care Board (ICB) by charging the actual cost of delivering care of Learning Disabilities Day Services, Community Resource Centres - Residential Care Homes

2025-26 budget proposal statement:

‘This proposal seeks to increase the level of income generated from placements made by other local authorities, placements commissioned by the ICB and self-funders by charging the actual cost of delivering care’.

Considerations:

- Services users who have a package of care funded by ASC (1) will see no change as the financial assessment care charge is based on their income not on service delivery costs or fee levels.
- A 10% increase will be applied incrementally to self-funders.
- Risk of increase in complaints from existing service users and funders (self-funders and other local authorities/ICB).
- Risk of people giving notice and moving to other provision.

Recommendation:

- Complete a detailed Equality Impact Assessment as part of the process of implementing this new price change.

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

New Budget Proposal

Proposal: Review of Care Packages

The published Equality Impact Assessment is available to view on the link below:

https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/AS04%20Budget%20Proposal%20and%20EQAI%20Reviews%202025-26_0.pdf

Precis:

The target operating model proposals include supporting more people to access the resources available in our communities using online portals that provide advice and information about access to adult social care. Alongside this we are enhancing our support to people who would provide to manage their own care through direct payments.

2025-26 budget proposal statement:

'The Care Act eligibility proposals include an approach to reviews under the Care Act that ensure people's needs are being met, their outcomes are being achieved and that support when needed is provided in the most cost-effective way using least restrictive practices'.

Considerations:

- The proposals ensure that Adult Social Care is meeting its statutory duties and do not go beyond the legal limits for Adult Social Care Support including the application of the National Frameworks for Continuing Health Care Funding, Section 117 funding for Mental Health Needs and the Joint funding policy for B&NEs.
- Adult Social Care need to ensure that all services provided to service users are adequate and proportionate to meet their assessed eligible care and support needs.
- Ensure that digital exclusion does not negatively impact on vulnerable people.
- Risk of increase in complaints, multiple changes for staff and pace of change. This may negatively impact on older and disabled people. Women are more likely to work in the sector and may be disadvantaged by these changes.

Recommendation:

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

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

Children and Young People Proposal: Reunifications

The published Equality Impact Assessment is available to view on the link below:

https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/CS02%20-%20EqlA%20Savings%20Nov%2024_0.pdf

Precis:

The savings will be delivered by an increase in family reunifications and step downs from residential placements.

The project is an expansion of existing work with higher targets to achieve before the end of the 24/25 financial year.

2025-26 budget proposal statement:

All children within residential placements will be considered for reunification or step down. Any suitability criteria will be based on the availability of suitable placements or family reunification.

The team monitors outcomes to address disparities, supports providers to promote equality and inclusion, and is working towards a co-production model with parent carers.

Considerations:

- By embedding equality at every stage of the process, the team ensures that children from all backgrounds receive high-quality, equitable support.
- A placement change cannot be made for a child or young person based on the ability to deliver savings for the Local Authority.
- Risk that reunification with family may be unsuccessful and result in a more expensive placement due to complexity of child/young persons need.
- Boys, teenagers, disabled and ethnic minority children and young people are disproportionately represented as children 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
- Continue to monitor the impact of reunifications, including the on-costs of intensive intervention by officers.

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

Proposal: Specialist Commissioning Saving

The published Equality Impact Assessment is available to view on the link below:

<https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/CS03%20-%20EQIA%20Specialist%20Commissioning%20Saving.pdf>

Precis:

These savings will reduce reliance on high-cost placements, particularly out-of-area or unregulated provisions, promoting stability and better outcomes for children. However, achieving these savings requires a careful balance to ensure cost reductions do not compromise the quality, safety, or suitability of placements, which are essential for meeting the complex needs of Children Looked After.

2025-26 budget proposal statement

'By focusing on value-driven commissioning and stronger collaboration with providers, these savings could enhance service efficiency while maintaining high standards of care'.

Considerations:

- Risk that B&NES will not offer competitive or comparative prices and lose ability to deliver statutory duties.
- Not being able to find placements for Children Looked After.
- The team monitors outcomes to address disparities, supports providers to promote equality and inclusion, and is working towards a co-production model with parent carers.
- By embedding equality at every stage of the commissioning process, the team ensures that children from all backgrounds receive high-quality, equitable support.
- Boys, teenagers, disabled and ethnic minority children and young people are disproportionately represented as children looked after (see Reunifications proposal).

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.

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

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Manda Rigby

Transport Proposal: Parking Reinvestment Fund (one-year only)

The published Equality Impact Assessment is available to view on the link below:

<https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/PS04%20Innovation%20Fund%20%20Parking%20Charges%20%202025-26.pdf>

Precis: Budget saving by not spending the Reinvestment Fund in Parking Services – one year only.

2025-26 budget proposal statement

'No significant impact; however, non-essential maintenance and improvements of Parking assets, such as car parks, as well as developments which improve operational efficiency or customer experience may take longer to be identified, developed and implemented, subject to resource availability'.

Considerations:

- The removal of this budget will delay investment in the improvement of car parks within Midsomer Norton and Radstock, where parking charges are to be introduced in January 2025.
- Vulnerable people such as older, younger, disabled, pregnant people may be at increased risks of harm if the car parks are not well maintained.
- Improvements to street lighting and CCTV coverage across car parks may be delayed resulting in night-time security risks for those who feel or are more vulnerable including women, LGBTQ+ community, ethnic minority people and older people.
- Wider implications for the economy as people may choose to go elsewhere.
- Schemes will progress where a clear case can be demonstrated and where resources exist

Recommendation:

- Review and update the detailed Equality Impact Assessment considering where people with protected characteristics may be more impacted than others (see below).
- Consider knock-on effects.

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

Proposal: Parking Permit Charges Review

The published Equality Impact Assessment is available to view on the link below:

<https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/PS05%20On%20Street%20Parking%20Permit%20Charges%20EqIA%202025-26.pdf>

Precis:

Income generated from a review of the baseline charge for on street parking permits, including emissions-based resident parking permits.

2025-26 budget proposal statement

'An increase in the baseline charge for on-street parking permits from £100 to £120 for an annual permit, with corresponding increase across bands where permits charges are emission based'.

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 by increased costs.
- People on maternity/paternity leave may have reduced income and could be negatively impacted.
- Many disabled people do not have a blue badge but need ease of access to facilities, including health services, so could be impacted.
- Women may be disproportionality disadvantaged as there is national acknowledgment of gender pay gaps.
- May displace or disadvantage many people with protected characteristics into residential areas that are not covered by a resident parking scheme.
- Positive: Improved air quality for all residents.

Recommendation:

- Complete a detailed Equality Impact Assessment
- Determine whether people from particular groups are disproportionately more likely to benefit or not from this practice.
- Consider the cumulative impact regarding cost of access for residents particularly to the above-mentioned groups of people with protected characteristics.
- Consider knock-on effects.
- Carry out inclusive consultation.

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

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Tim Ball

Neighbourhood Services Proposal: Green waste fees and charges uplift.

The published Equality Impact Assessment is available to view on the link below:

<https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/PS02%20Garden%20Waste%20Fees%20and%20Charges%20Uplift%20EqIA%20%20-%20November%202024.pdf>

Precis:

Increase garden waste fees to £70 per year as part of the fees and charges process.
Delivered by annual billing process for subscriber service.

2025-26 budget proposal statement

‘Review of an existing service. Costs of running the garden waste service have been increasing.

National requirement to provide an optional garden waste service as part of the Environment Act 2021.

No scope for review. Rates proposed are in common with other authorities.’

Considerations:

- Resident communications on website will advise the availability of a free tipping service at the household recycling centres for those who cannot afford subscription fees
- This may have a detrimental impact on disabled, older people and those who are at socio-economic disadvantage meaning inequality in access to waste services.
- Free access to 3 recycling centres for all B&NES residents.
- Potential for increasing travel costs and adverse climate impact of increased vehicle movements when accessing the recycling centres.
- Service team to monitor service usage patterns and subscriptions to determine any adverse impacts.
- Home composting also available as an alternative option of disposing of garden waste.

Recommendation:

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

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

Growth

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Alison Born

<p>Proposal: Contract Inflation Request</p> <p>The published Equality Impact Assessment is available to view on the link below: https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/AG02%20Budget%20Proposal%20and%20EQIA%20Adults%20Services%20Inflation.pdf</p>											
<p>Precis: The local authority commission placements and packages of care for people who have been assessed under the Care Act 2014 and have an eligible care and support need. This is the estimated inflation requirement to fund associated contracts.</p>											
<p>2025-26 budget proposal statement</p> <p><i>‘Adult Social Services have seen an increase in the need and complexity of the young people transitioning to adulthood and adults who have eligible social care needs; this alongside rising demand is having an impact on the service. These increased costs have been recognised as a regional and national issue by ADASS (The Association of Directors of Social Services)’.</i></p>											
<p>Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Tenders for new contracts and frameworks will seek assurance from bidding organisations around their compliance to the Equality Act and will exclude those who do not provide this assurance from contracting with the local authority. ➤ See detailed Equality Impact Assessment for the equalities profile of B&NES adult services users. ➤ There is currently no data held related to gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity or religion or belief. ➤ Adult service users could be placed at increased safeguarding risk if the budget growth request is not met. ➤ The outcome could be a positive or negative impact, for people with protected characteristics, dependent on the decision. 											
<p>Recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Complete a proportionate Equality Impact Assessment to identify where the proposal ➤ Implement strategies to improve equality, diversity and inclusion across the service (EDI working group established). ➤ Improve equality data collation of all protected characteristics. ➤ Continue to embed equality analysis throughout service delivery. 											
Impacts	All	Age	Disability	Gender reassignment	Marriage & civil partnership	Pregnancy & maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual orientation	Socio economic
Negative		✓	✓				✓		✓		
Positive	✓										

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Paul May

Proposal: Budget Growth and Demographics

The published Equality Impact Assessment is available to view on the link below:

<https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/CG01%20-%20CSC%20growth%20EqIA%202025.pdf>

Precis: Children's Services have assessed the existing budget growth and demographics assumptions and have revised this figure to reflect rising demand, increased costs in the market and national policy directives.

2025-26 budget proposal statement

'Children's Services have seen an increase in the need and complexity of the children and young people who need to be accommodated and the increase cost of care in the market. This growth will enable the Local Authority to effectively discharge their statutory duties'.

Considerations:

- This budget growth request recognises the additional growth required to ensure that the Local Authority has sufficient funding to effectively deliver statutory services to adults with eligible social care needs and to those with protected characteristics. (There could be a positive or negative impact dependent on the decision)
- The population of B&NES is projected to increase by 8% from 2018 to 2028,
- There is a predicted population growth in B&NES for over 65's, significantly for people aged between 75-84yrs and for people living with dementia.

Recommendation:

- Implement strategies to improve equality, diversity and inclusion across the service (EDI working group established).
- Continue to embed equality analysis throughout service delivery.

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

Proposal: Children's Services Inflation

The published Equality Impact Assessment is available to view on the link below:

<https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/CG03%20-%20EQIA%20Children%27s%20Services%20Inflation.pdf>

Precis: Children's Services have assessed the existing budget growth and demographics assumptions and have revised this figure to reflect rising demand, increased costs in the market and national policy directives.

2025-26 budget proposal statement:

"Children's Services have seen an increase in the need and complexity of the children and young people who need to be accommodated and the increase cost of care in the market. This growth will enable the Local Authority to effectively discharge their statutory duties".

Considerations:

- We have seen an increase in the need and complexity of the children and young people who need to be accommodated and the increase cost of care in the market. These increased costs have been recognised as a regional and national issue by ADCS (The association of Directors of Children's Service) and the DFE (Department of Education).
- See detailed Equality Impact Assessment for the equalities profile of children and young people in B&NES.
- Children and Young People could be placed at increased safeguarding risk if the budget growth request is not met.
- The outcome could be a positive or negative impact, for people with protected characteristics, dependent on the decision.

Recommendation:

- Continue to embed equality analysis throughout service delivery.

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

Proposal: SEND Staffing

The published Equality Impact Assessment is available to view on the link below:

<https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/CG02%20-%20EIA%20OFSTED%20SEND%20Staffing%20Nov%2024.pdf>

Precis: Recruit additional staff to support the team with increased levels of demand for statutory assessment and higher caseloads.

2025-26 budget proposal statement:

‘This growth request is to increase the staffing in the statutory SEND team. The council is responsible for the statutory assessment of all children who may have special educational needs and disabilities.

The outcome intended is to increase capacity and increase the council's compliance with the timescale for the completion of these assessments. Currently, the council only completes 24% of all assessments within the set timescale of 20 weeks. Increased staffing should improve our compliance’.

Considerations:

- See detailed Equality Impact Assessment for the equalities profile of children and young people with an Educational and Health Care Plan (EHCP) in B&NES.
- Children and Young People could be placed at increased safeguarding risk if the budget growth request is not met.
- The outcome could be a positive or negative impact, for people with protected characteristics, dependent on the decision.

Recommendation:

- Continue to embed equality analysis throughout service delivery.

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

Proposal: Home to School Transport Growth and Savings

The published Equality Impact Assessment is available to view on the link below:

<https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/PG03%20HTST%20Budget%20Proposal%20EqIA%202025-26%20.pdf>

Precis:

Cost pressures remain in the home to school transport service and as such the budget needs rebasing. However, work to in-house delivery is intended to reduce reliance on a challenging external marketplace, and in turn reduce costs. Both growth and invest to save proposals have been included in the budget papers.

2025-26 budget proposal statement

‘Aim to achieve all eligible children be provided with appropriate Travel arrangements.’

Considerations:

- Funding is required to prevent the transport being cancelled resulting in eligible children not be provided transport to school which will be a breach of the Council Statutory Duty.
- Some services will be delivered internally, reducing reliance on external providers.
- Continuing to recruit drivers to enable increase of in-house provision, recruitment has proven problematic due to onboarding times compared to the private sector.
- High risk of vulnerable children missing education if transport is not provided

Recommendation:

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

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

Proposal: Artificial Intelligence

The published Equality Impact Assessment is available to view on the link below:

<https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/RG02%20EqIA%20Artificial%20Intelligence.pdf>

Precis: B&NES is piloting the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in internal and resident-facing services, including:

- AI summarisation of meetings and phone calls.
- AI web bot answering queries like “When is my next recycling pickup?”
- AI creation of draft documents from multiple sources.

The intended outcome is to enhance service quality for residents and increase staff efficiency.

2025-26 budget proposal statement

‘Introducing AI capabilities to improve resident facing services’.

Considerations:

- B&NES council is new to AI use.
- There is anticipation that AI will offer wide ranging improvements in communication means and accessibility options for all residents, visitors and staff.
- It is already known that the following improved inclusive options will be available at point of contact:
 - *Verbal to written word transcription*
 - *A wide range of translated languages.*
 - *Web bots to support people who find using the telephone difficult or expensive or are unavailable or unviable to use.*
 - *Documentation creation and summarisation from multiple sources.*
- Although there will be many anticipated benefits there should be careful consideration of people experiencing digital exclusion.
- Consideration of individual staff needs when implementing new systems and strategies.

Recommendation:

- Complete a detailed Equality Impact Assessment and ongoing equality analysis to identify positive and negative impact to residents, visitors and workforce.
- Carry out inclusive consultation

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

Proposal: Unified Communications

The published Equality Impact Assessment is available to view on the link below:

<https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/RG03%20-%20EqIA%20Unified%20Communications.pdf>

Precis: This is a replacement of the existing 'legacy' telephony and contact centre systems with a modern cloud solution.

2025-26 budget proposal statement

'Replacement service, modernising our telephone and communications'.

Considerations:

- Gaps identified for digital inclusion including access to multiple languages including sign language. This project will provide improved accessibility when contacting the council.
- There is anticipation that this project will offer wide ranging improvements in communication means and accessibility options for all residents, visitors and staff
- Pilot web bots are already in place on the B&NES website for limited services, these are already demonstrating a high volume of use and initial feedback has been positive
- Options of phone calls will still be available for people that prefer this
- Consideration of support required of individual staff needs when implementing new systems and strategies.

Recommendation:

- Complete a detailed Equality Impact Assessment and ongoing equality analysis to identify positive and negative impact to residents, visitors and workforce.
- Carry out inclusive consultation

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

Additional Protected Characteristics as adopted by B&NES:

The Equality Act does not cover armed forces community. However, the Armed Forces Bill (which came in on 22 Nov 2022) introduces a requirement to pay 'due regard' to make sure the Armed Forces Community are not disadvantaged when accessing public services.

The Equality Act does not cover care experienced people. B&NES adopted this group as a protected characteristic in March 2024 alongside over 80 other Local Authorities. Although we have data for care leavers and children/young people who are currently in the care of B&NES we do not have wider data on disadvantage experienced through being in care.

These additional Protected Characteristics are not evident on this report any significant positive or negative impacts would have been made clear.

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 EqlA suggest? Is it justifiable?

- a. There are four possible outcomes of an EqlA, 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

Annex 3.1

Equality impact introduction and legal background to the 2025-2026 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 2021 United Kingdom Census 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 Caribbean (672 people) 0.3%
 - Black British African (980 people)

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

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

Annex 3.1

Equality impact introduction and legal background to the 2025-2026 budget proposals

- 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 2025/26 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 2025/26 budget proposals have been made available for public consultation from 12 December 2024 until 20 January 2025.
- b. Proposals will be scrutinised by the Corporate Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel on 28 January, before going to cabinet and Council.
- c. The final budget proposals for 2025 to 2026, which will be considered by cabinet on 13 February and Full Council on 25 February, will also reflect any other

Annex 3.1

Equality impact introduction and legal background to the 2025-2026 budget proposals

changes to the council's finances, including the level of central government funding, which should be confirmed later in December.

The detailed budget proposals will be drawn up and presented for consideration by councillors at the following meetings:

- d. Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel on 13 January 2025
- e. Corporate Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel on 14 January 2025
- f. Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel on 22 January 2025
- g. Corporate Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel on 28 January 2025

5. Savings proposals for 2025-26

- 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 in the attached document and are grouped in order of portfolio holder.

Annex 3.1

Equality impact introduction and legal background to the 2025-2026 budget proposals

7. 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.

8. 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 year-on-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.

Annex 3.1

Equality impact introduction and legal background to the 2025-2026 budget proposals

9. 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.

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

Religion and Belief
<p>The Equality Act 2010 states you must not be discriminated against because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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) <p>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.</p>
Potential equality impact:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Adult Services: Provider Services➤ Transport: Parking Reinvestment Fund➤ Transport: Parking Permit Charges Review

Annex 3.1

Equality impact introduction and legal background to the 2025-2026 budget proposals

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:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Adult Services: Review of Care Packages➤ Adult Services: Provider Services➤ Children and Young People: Specialist Commissioning Saving➤ Children and Young People: Reunifications➤ Neighbourhoods: Green Waste | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Resources: Artificial Intelligence➤ Resources: Unified Communications➤ Transport: Parking Reinvestment Fund➤ Transport: Parking Permit Charges Review |
|---|--|

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 EqlAs will address these issues and will develop mitigations as the proposals are developed and will review these during implementation.

Annex 3.1

Equality impact introduction and legal background to the 2025-2026 budget proposals

Sex
<p>The Equality Act 2010 states you must not be discriminated against because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•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:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Adult Services Review of Care Packages➤ Adult Services: Provider Services➤ Children and Young People: Specialist Commissioning Saving➤ Children and Young People: Reunifications➤ Public Health: RVP Leisure Facilities➤ Transport: Parking Reinvestment Fund➤ Transport: Parking Permit Charges Review
<p>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.</p> <p>The increase in parking charges could disadvantage people based on their sex, women may feel vulnerable if they cannot access safe spaces to park.</p>
<p>The individual service EqlAs will address these issues and will develop mitigations as the proposals are developed and will review these during implementation.</p>

Annex 3.1

Equality impact introduction and legal background to the 2025-2026 budget proposals

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:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Adult Services: Provider Services➤ Transport: Parking Reinvestment Fund➤ Transport: Parking Permit Charges Review
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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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

Annex 3.1

Equality impact introduction and legal background to the 2025-2026 budget proposals

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:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Adult Services: Provider Services➤ Transport: Parking Reinvestment Fund➤ Transport: Parking Permit Charges Review➤ Neighbourhoods: Green Waste
The individual service EqlAs 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Adult Services: Provider Services➤ Children and Young People: Reunifications
The individual service EqlAs will address these issues and will develop mitigations as the proposals are developed and will review these during implementation.

Annex 3.1

Equality impact introduction and legal background to the 2025-2026 budget proposals

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:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Adult Services Review of Care Packages➤ Adult Services: Provider Services➤ Children and Young People: Specialist Commissioning Saving➤ Children and Young People: Reunifications➤ Transport: Parking Reinvestment Fund➤ Transport: Parking Permit Charges Review
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.

Annex 3.1

Equality impact introduction and legal background to the 2025-2026 budget proposals

Disability	
<p>The Equality Act 2010 states that you must not be discriminated against because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>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.</p>	
Potential equality impact:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Adult Services Review of Care Packages ➤ Adult Services: Provider Services ➤ Children and Young People: Specialist Commissioning Saving ➤ Children and Young People: Reunifications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Resources: Artificial Intelligence ➤ Resources: Unified Communications ➤ Transport: Parking Reinvestment Fund ➤ Transport: Parking Permit Charges Review ➤ Neighbourhoods: Green Waste
<p>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.</p>	
<p>Specific equality analysis for proposals before and during implementation will address and mitigate where possible; ongoing monitoring will inform these mitigations.</p>	

Annex 3.1

Equality impact introduction and legal background to the 2025-2026 budget proposals

11. Recommendations for implementation of accepted budget proposals

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

a. 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. EqlAs 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.

b. 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.

c. 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.

d. 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.

Annex 3.1

Equality impact introduction and legal background to the 2025-2026 budget proposals

e. 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.

f. 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). The Council's Equality and Diversity internet page can be found [here](#).

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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 its 2025/26 Local Government Finance Policy Statement that the flexibility would extend to 2029/30.

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 £9.73m has been utilised between 2017/18 and 2023/24 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:

Category	Spend			
	2017/18 - 2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Restructuring & Severance Costs	7.375	0.162	1.481	9.018
Procurement, Commissioning and other service redesign	0.714	0.000	0.000	0.714
Total	8.089	0.162	1.481	9.732

Category	Cumulative Savings			
	2017/18 - 2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Restructuring & Severance Costs	6.219	6.387	6.525	9.065
Procurement, Commissioning and other service redesign	6.290	6.290	6.290	6.290
Total	12.509	12.677	12.815	15.355

It is estimated that up to £1.15m will be utilised in 2024/25 in one-off costs to deliver savings. This will be reported as part of the outturn report in June/July 2025.

As the flexibility will continue beyond 2024/25 it is recommended that the remaining estimated balance of £0.62m capital receipts from the originally allocated £11.5m will be utilised in 2025/26 to meet eligible costs associated with the delivery of the Being our Best programme related savings as outlined in Annex 2(i).

In summary the estimated overall level of receipts required has remained at the £11.5m reported in the 2024/25 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 2025/26.

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:-

Prudential Indicator	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Forecast Outturn	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Estimate of Capital Expenditure (£'000s)					
Actual/estimates of capital expenditure	63,502	76,020	160,957	125,999	108,279
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			£3.22	£7.25	£5.53
Cumulative totals:			£3.22	£10.47	£16.00
Capital Financing as % of Net Revenue Stream					
Actual/estimates of the ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream			15.06%	17.10%	18.59%
<i>Memo: estimates of the ratio of financing cost to gross revenue stream</i>			4.87%	5.65%	6.35%
Borrowing Limits (£m)					
Operational boundary – borrowing			£414m	£466m	£544m
Operational boundary – other long-term liabilities			£9m	£9m	£9m
Operational boundary – total			£423m	£475m	£553m
Authorised limit – borrowing			£442m	£492m	£570m
Authorised limit – other long-term liabilities			£9m	£9m	£9m
Authorised limit – total			£451m	£501m	£579m
Capital Financing Requirement (£'000s) (as at 31 March)					

Actual/estimate of capital financing requirement	367,612	382,660	441,814	492,385	570,255
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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 Scheme	Forecast Outturn 2024/25	Actual / Forecast Spend all years to 2024/25	Total Budget 2024/2025	Rephasing from 24/25 into FY	New Budget Request 2025/26	Total Budget 2025/2026	Total Budget 2026/2027	Total Budget 2027/28	Total Budget 2028/29	Total Budget 2029/30	Total Cost 5 Years	Overall Project Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Full Approval												
Resources												
Commercial Asset Re-Investment	1,269	1,269	1,269	0	0	5,118	3,613	0	0	0	8,731	10,000
Capital Contingency	1,924	1,924	1,924	0	1,900	1,900	0	0	0	0	1,900	3,824
Commercial Estate Fire Safety Works	0	0	0	0	1,630	1,630	543	0	0	0	2,173	2,173
Commercial Estate Planned Maintenance Programme	350	350	1,000	650	0	650	0	0	0	0	650	1,000
Commercial Estate Refurbishment Programme	2,360	2,360	5,597	3,237	0	3,237	0	0	0	0	3,237	5,597
Flexible Use of Capital Receipts (Transformation)	1,150	10,881	1,768	618	0	618	0	0	0	0	618	11,500
Orange Grove	100	548	992	892	0	892	0	0	0	0	892	1,440
Preparing for the Future - New Technology	401	3,723	706	305	0	305	0	0	0	0	305	4,028
Property Company Investment - Council (Loan): Developments	1,900	24,239	10,861	8,961	0	3,350	5,611	0	0	0	8,961	33,200
Subtotal Full Approval - Resources	9,454	45,294	24,118	14,664	3,530	17,701	9,767	0	0	0	27,468	72,762
Provisional Approval												
Resources												
Commercial Asset Re-Investment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,000	3,000	0	6,000	6,000
Commercial Estate Planned Maintenance Programme	0	0	0	0	0	355	500	500	500	500	2,355	2,355
Commercial Estate Refurbishment Programme	0	0	1,784	1,784	1,494	4,778	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	10,778	10,778
IT Asset Refresh	0	0	407	407	0	907	500	500	500	500	2,907	2,907
Project Inception Fund	0	0	22	22	288	310	0	0	0	0	310	310
Property Company Investment	0	0	0	0	0	0	7,389	36,000	23,000	7,000	73,389	73,389
Property Disposals (Disposals Programme (Minor))	0	0	900	900	300	1,200	0	0	0	0	1,200	1,200
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	3,213	3,213	2,082	7,650	9,889	41,500	28,500	9,500	97,038	97,038

Capital Scheme	Forecast Outturn 2024/25	Actual / Forecast Spend all years to 2024/25	Total Budget 2024/2025	Rephasing from 24/25 into FY	New Budget Request 2025/26	Total Budget 2025/2026	Total Budget 2026/2027	Total Budget 2027/28	Total Budget 2028/29	Total Budget 2029/30	Total Cost 5 Years	Overall Project Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Full Approval												
Economic & Cultural Sustainable Development												
Bath City Centre Renewal Programme	223	912	1,091	867	0	1,003	0	0	0	0	1,003	1,916
Bath Central Riverside	46	46	115	69	0	69	0	0	0	0	69	115
Bath Quays North	1,318	10,089	1,816	497	-743	1,255	15,340	14,507	1,742	0	32,844	42,933
Bath Quays South, Bridge & Linking Infrastructure	186	36,196	230	44	0	44	0	0	0	0	44	36,240
BWR Phase 2	1,026	22,757	4,259	2,133	0	1,066	1,066	0	0	0	2,133	24,890
Corporate Estate Planned Maintenance	2,755	2,755	4,619	1,865	2,700	4,865	300	0	0	0	5,165	7,919
Digital B&NES	280	1,990	695	415	0	415	0	0	0	0	415	2,406
Equality Act Works	48	48	48	0	50	50	50	50	50	50	250	298
Fashion Museum Renovation	0	0	288	288	-288	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Parade & Under croft	0	111	0	0	0	117	0	0	0	0	117	228
Heritage Collections Centre	75	268	377	302	0	302	0	0	0	0	302	570
Heritage Services Retail System	0	230	100	100	0	100	0	0	0	0	100	330
High Street Recovery	134	166	1,229	1,095	0	1,095	0	0	0	0	1,095	1,261
Norton Radstock Ecological Improvements	0	2,718	51	51	0	51	0	0	0	0	51	2,769
Midsomer Norton High Street Renewal Programme	1,021	2,877	1,828	807	0	822	30	0	0	0	852	3,728
Milsom Quarter Masterplan Delivery	255	364	850	595	0	595	0	0	0	0	595	959
Radstock Regeneration	413	508	473	60	0	60	0	0	0	0	60	568
York Street Vaults Phase 2	24	1,123	47	23	0	23	0	0	0	0	23	1,146
Subtotal Full Approval - Economic & Cultural Sustainable Development	7,806	83,159	18,117	9,211	1,719	11,932	16,786	14,557	1,792	50	45,117	128,276
Provisional Approval												
Economic & Cultural Sustainable Development												
Bath Quays Delivery	0	0	9,127	9,127	-9,127	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bath Quays North	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10,237	0	10,237	10,237
Corporate Estate Decarbonisation Programme	0	0	0	0	250	250	1,000	1,000	1,000	750	4,000	4,000
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	800	800	0	1,000	307	1,693	12,215	4,785	20,000	20,000
Guildhall Roof Refurbishment	0	0	0	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	0	0	0	4,000	4,000
Heritage Collections Centre	0	0	0	0	0	750	0	0	0	0	750	750
Heritage Infrastructure Development	0	0	729	729	0	1,079	350	350	350	300	2,429	2,429
Museums Acquisitions	0	0	5	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	5	5
Radstock Road Depot - Community Equipment Store	0	0	0	0	300	300	0	0	0	0	300	300
Refurb of Roman Baths Shop	0	0	100	100	0	100	0	0	0	0	100	100
Somer Valley Enterprise Zone - Infrastructure	0	0	553	63	0	9,105	5,419	634	0	0	15,158	15,158
Subtotal Provisional Approval - Economic & Cultural Sustainable Development	0	0	11,314	10,824	-9,277	14,589	11,776	6,677	26,802	8,835	68,679	68,679
Provisional Approval												
Leader												
Bath Area Forum - CIL Funded Schemes	0	0	214	214	0	214	0	0	0	0	214	214
Subtotal Provisional Approval - Leader	0	0	214	214	0	214	0	0	0	0	214	214

Capital Scheme	Forecast Outturn 2024/25	Actual / Forecast Spend all years to 2024/25	Total Budget 2024/2025	Rephasing from 24/25 into FY	New Budget Request 2025/26	Total Budget 2025/2026	Total Budget 2026/2027	Total Budget 2027/28	Total Budget 2028/29	Total Budget 2029/30	Total Cost 5 Years	Overall Project Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Full Approval												
Climate Emergency & Sustainable Travel												
Bath River Line	411	537	1,548	1,137	0	1,137	0	0	0	0	1,137	1,674
Bathscape	60	258	267	207	0	223	0	0	0	0	223	481
CRSTS Bath City Centre (BCC)	214	214	455	241	0	241	0	0	0	0	241	455
CRSTS Bath Sustainable Walking & Cycling Links (BSWCL)	450	450	450	0	0	450	0	0	0	0	450	900
CRSTS Cycling and Walking - Scholars Way	285	285	2,370	2,085	0	2,085	0	0	0	0	2,085	2,370
CRSTS - Midsomer Norton & Westfield, Walking, Wheeling & Cycling Links	226	231	278	52	0	52	0	0	0	0	52	283
CRSTS Somer Valley Links (SVL)	1,077	1,077	1,804	727	0	727	0	0	0	0	727	1,804
Renewable Energy Development Fund	186	682	211	25	0	25	0	0	0	0	25	707
Somer Valley Rediscovered	106	117	243	137	0	329	0	0	0	0	329	446
Waterspace Connected	0	720	87	87	0	127	32	8	0	0	167	887
Subtotal Full Approval - Climate Emergency & Sustainable Travel	3,015	4,571	7,713	4,698	0	5,395	32	8	0	0	5,435	10,006
Provisional Approval												
Climate Emergency & Sustainable Travel												
Bath River Line	0	0	95	95	0	3,780	0	0	0	0	3,780	3,780
Better Mooring Project	0	0	300	300	0	350	50	0	0	0	400	400
Biodiversity Net Gain – BNG	0	0	120	40	20	60	0	0	0	0	60	60
Carrswood Day Centre Heating Upgrades	0	0	696	696	-396	300	0	0	0	0	300	300
CRSTS Bath City Centre (BCC)	0	0	0	0	700	700	3,500	0	0	0	4,200	4,200
CRSTS Bath Sustainable Walking & Cycling Links (BSWCL)	0	0	0	0	514	514	2,386	0	0	0	2,900	2,900
CRSTS Cycling and Walking - Bath Quays Links	0	0	1,187	1,187	0	1,824	0	0	0	0	1,824	1,824
CRSTS - Midsomer Norton & Westfield, Walking, Wheeling & Cycling Links	0	0	1,250	1,250	0	1,250	0	0	0	0	1,250	1,250
CRSTS Somer Valley Links (SVL)	0	0	0	0	5,300	5,300	9,800	0	0	0	15,100	15,100
Entry Hill Ecology Centre	0	0	350	350	0	350	0	0	0	0	350	350
Renewable Energy Development Fund	0	0	940	940	0	1,752	500	500	500	500	3,752	3,752
Renewable energy in B&NES	0	0	200	200	50	250	50	50	50	50	450	450
Tree Planting/Doubling Woodland Cover	0	0	50	50	25	125	50	50	50	0	275	275
Waterspace Connected	0	0	0	0	25	2,350	1,860	465	0	0	4,675	4,675
Subtotal Provisional Approval - Climate Emergency & Sustainable Travel	0	0	5,189	5,109	6,238	18,905	18,196	1,065	600	550	39,316	39,316

Capital Scheme	Forecast Outturn 2024/25	Actual / Forecast Spend all years to 2024/25	Total Budget 2024/2025	Rephasing from 24/25 into FY	New Budget Request 2025/26	Total Budget 2025/2026	Total Budget 2026/2027	Total Budget 2027/28	Total Budget 2028/29	Total Budget 2029/30	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												
Englishcombe Lane Supported Housing	277	599	438	161	0	161	0	0	0	0	161	760
Housing Delivery Vehicle/ Schemes (Capital Disposals ADL)	450	450	578	128	0	128	0	0	0	0	128	578
Local Authority Housing Fund (Ukrainian/Afghan homes)	2,294	2,294	3,133	839	0	839	0	0	0	0	839	3,133
Social Rent Programme (Phase 1 of BANES Homes)	2,647	6,672	4,015	1,368	0	4,186	1,500	0	0	0	5,686	12,358
Subtotal Full Approval - Built Environment & Sustainable Development	5,669	10,016	8,165	2,496	0	5,314	1,500	0	0	0	6,814	16,830
Provisional Approval												
Built Environment & Sustainable Development												
Affordable Housing (Enabling)	0	0	4,119	4,112	0	1,191	819	5,798	635	635	9,077	9,077
Housing Delivery Initiation Fund	0	0	0	0	1,000	1,000	0	0	0	0	1,000	1,000
BANES Homes (was Council House Building Programme)	0	0	5,000	5,000	0	0	2,568	12,432	0	0	15,000	15,000
Supported Housing Scheme (Englishcombe Lane and saving initiative)	0	0	5,000	5,000	0	5,000	6,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	20,000	20,000
Subtotal Provisional Approval - Built Environment & Sustainable Development	0	0	14,119	14,112	1,000	7,191	9,387	21,230	3,635	3,635	45,077	45,077
Full Approval												
Adult Services												
Community Resource Centre Capital Investment	15	674	41	26	0	26	0	0	0	0	26	700
Community Resource Centre Equipment Replacement	56	76	186	130	0	10	120	0	50	0	180	255
Disabled Facilities Grant	1,946	1,946	2,299	353	347	2,142	1,789	1,789	1,789	1,789	9,299	11,245
Odd Down Sports Ground and Other Leisure Feasibility	137	210	137	0	0	92	0	0	0	0	92	302
Subtotal Full Approval - Adult Services	2,154	2,906	2,662	509	347	2,270	1,909	1,789	1,839	1,789	9,597	12,502
Provisional Approval												
Adult Services												
Adults Day Services Equipment Replacement	0	0	0	0	30	30	30	30	30	30	150	150
Community Resource Centre Equipment Replacement	0	0	0	0	0	50	50	50	50	20	220	220
Community Resource Centres - Improvements	0	0	2,202	2,202	-2,202	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leisure - Commercialisation of Parks	0	0	32	32	0	32	0	0	0	0	32	32
Odd Down Sports Ground and Other Leisure Feasibility	0	0	505	505	700	1,205	0	0	0	0	1,205	1,205
Subtotal Provisional Approval - Adult Services	0	0	2,739	2,739	-1,472	1,317	80	80	80	50	1,607	1,607

Capital Scheme	Forecast Outturn 2024/25	Actual / Forecast Spend all years to 2024/25	Total Budget 2024/2025	Rephasing from 24/25 into FY	New Budget Request 2025/26	Total Budget 2025/2026	Total Budget 2026/2027	Total Budget 2027/28	Total Budget 2028/29	Total Budget 2029/30	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	4,192	4,192	4,239	47	0	1,588	0	0	0	0	1,588	5,780
Culverhay SEND project	52	52	202	150	0	150	0	0	0	0	150	202
Early Years Premises Improvements	267	267	321	54	116	171	0	0	0	0	171	437
Schools Capital Maintenance Schemes	985	985	2,295	1,310	0	1,310	0	0	0	0	1,310	2,295
SEND (Special Education Needs & Disability) Capital Programme	2,607	2,607	2,686	79	0	1,659	0	0	0	0	1,659	4,266
Small Residential Unit	927	927	927	0	0	3,864	1,351	0	0	0	5,215	6,142
Special Education Needs & Disability (SEND) - Residential Provision at Bath College	100	135	2,490	2,390	0	3,890	0	0	0	0	3,890	4,025
Subtotal Full Approval - Children's Services	9,130	9,166	13,160	4,030	116	12,631	1,351	0	0	0	13,982	23,148
Provisional Approval												
Children's Services												
Basic Needs - School Improvement / Expansion	0	0	8,981	7,858	0	12,787	4,457	0	0	0	17,244	17,244
Schools Capital Maintenance Schemes	0	0	518	509	0	1,009	436	0	0	0	1,445	1,445
Schools CIL	0	0	12	12	-12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Small Residential Unit	0	0	4,000	4,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Education Needs & Disability (SEND) Education Provision	0	0	1,982	1,435	0	1,275	1,021	0	0	0	2,296	2,296
Subtotal Provsional Approval - Children's Services	0	0	15,493	13,814	-12	15,071	5,914	0	0	0	20,985	20,985

Capital Scheme	Forecast Outturn 2024/25	Actual / Forecast Spend all years to 2024/25	Total Budget 2024/2025	Rephasing from 24/25 into FY	New Budget Request 2025/26	Total Budget 2025/2026	Total Budget 2026/2027	Total Budget 2027/28	Total Budget 2028/29	Total Budget 2029/30	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	32	32	32	0	30	50	50	50	50	50	250	282
CCTV Camera Replacement	316	535	456	140	0	140	0	0	0	0	140	675
Keynsham Memorial Park	30	107	187	157	0	157	0	0	0	0	157	264
Neighbourhood Services Vehicles	2,006	2,006	2,148	142	0	713	0	0	0	0	713	2,719
Parks Equipment Replacement Programme	0	0	0	0.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parks S106 Projects	316	316	950	634	0	840	0	0	0	0	840	1,156
Pixash Site Redevelopment	867	39,821	2,753	1,885	0	1,885	0	0	0	0	1,885	41,706
Waste Depot Relocation	35	7,244	214	179	0	179	0	0	0	0	179	7,423
Waste Infrastructure Modernisation	580	791	629	49	0	49	0	0	0	0	49	840
Waste Container Replacements	36	8,539	45	9	0	40	0	0	0	0	40	8,579
Subtotal Full Approval - Neighbourhood Services	4,219	59,390	7,415	3,197	30	4,054	50	50	50	50	4,254	63,644
Provisional Approval												
Neighbourhood Services												
Air Quality Management Area and AQ Monitors	0	0	174	174	0	0	174	0	0	0	174	174
CCTV Camera Replacement	0	0	100	100	0	100	206	50	0	0	356	356
Electric Vehicle Feasibility Plan	0	0	50	35	0	35	0	0	0	0	35	35
Fleet Decarbonisation Programme Management	0	0	0	0	75	75	0	0	0	0	75	75
Green Vehicle Replacement	0	0	5	5	0	136	0	0	0	0	136	136
Haycombe Cemetery Expansion	0	0	0	0	0	0	750	500	500	750	2,500	2,500
Haycombe Cremator	0	0	0	0	340	340	1,160	0	0	0	1,500	1,500
Haycombe Crematorium	0	0	15	15	0	15	0	0	0	0	15	15
Keynsham Memorial Park	0	0	50	50	0	50	0	0	0	0	50	50
Litter Bin Replacement Programme	0	0	20	0	0	20	20	20	20	20	100	100
Neighbourhood Services Vehicles	0	0	675	645	2,652	6,894	1,305	11,324	981	2,280	22,783	22,783
Parks Equipment Replacement Programme	0	0	167	167	0	188	21	21	21	21	272	272
Parks S106 Projects	0	0	991	991	-1,478	100	0	0	0	0	100	100
Play Area Refurbishment / Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	350	350	350	350	350	1,750	1,750
Property Improvement – Bath Library	0	0	213	213	0	213	0	0	0	0	213	213
Security Surveillance Hub Plan	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	50	50
Tree Planting	0	0	138	5	0	50	53	47	47	44	241	241
Waste Infrastructure Modernisation	0	0	3,443	0	0	2,284	7,633	0	0	0	9,917	9,917
Subtotal Provisional Approval - Neighbourhood Services	0	0	6,041	2,400	1,589	10,900	11,672	12,311	1,919	3,465	40,267	40,267

Capital Scheme	Forecast Outturn 2024/25	Actual / Forecast Spend all years to 2024/25	Total Budget 2024/2025	Rephasing from 24/25 into FY	New Budget Request 2025/26	Total Budget 2025/2026	Total Budget 2026/2027	Total Budget 2027/28	Total Budget 2028/29	Total Budget 2029/30	Total Cost 5 Years	Overall Project Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Full Approval												
Highways												
Clean Air Zone	192	14,360	1,005	813	0	813	0	0	0	0	813	15,173
CRSTS Liveable Neighbourhoods	1,780	4,209	3,152	1,372	0	2,602	2,901	0	0	0	5,503	9,712
Highways Maintenance Block	9,194	9,194	9,695	501	9,718	10,219	0	0	0	0	10,219	19,413
Highways s106 Projects	5	5	23	18	0	189	0	0	0	0	189	194
Local Active Travel Safety Programme (LATS)	2,785	2,785	3,207	422	2,535	3,052	0	0	0	0	3,052	5,837
London Road Modification	0	149	51	51	0	51	0	0	0	0	51	200
Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) Bid -GULW	130	1,605	320	190	0	190	0	0	0	0	190	1,795
Subtotal Full Approval - Highways	14,085	32,306	17,451	3,367	12,253	17,116	2,901	0	0	0	20,017	52,323
Provisional Approval												
Highways												
ANPR Enforcement Camera Replacement	0	0	190	190	0	0	0	0	640	0	640	640
Car Park Security	0	0	0	0	110	110	0	0	0	0	110	110
CAZ - Clean Air Zone	0	0	250	250	0	250	0	0	0	0	250	250
CRSTS Liveable Neighbourhoods	0	0	3,700	0	0	900	0	0	0	0	900	900
CRSTS Manvers Street Remediation	0	0	4,183	4,183	0	4,183	0	0	0	0	4,183	4,183
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
Local Active Travel Safety Programme (LATS)	0	0	0	0	-1,163	0	2,363	1,163	1,163	1,163	5,852	5,852
P&R Security	0	0	110	110	15	125	0	0	0	0	125	125
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	30	0	0	40	0	70	70
Parking Enforcement Hand Held Computer Terminal Replacement	0	0	50	0	0	50	0	0	50	0	100	100
Parking Radio System Replacement	0	0	15	15	0	50	0	15	35	0	100	100
Resident Parking Zone	0	0	0	0	700	700	0	0	0	0	700	700
Sustainable Transport Initiatives CRSTS	0	0	1,721	1,670	0	1,670	14,592	0	0	0	16,262	16,262
Subtotal Provisional Approval - Highways	0	0	10,859	7,058	-8,172	8,708	24,789	9,012	9,762	8,997	61,268	61,268
TOTAL CAPITAL SCHEME BUDGET	55,531	246,808	167,981	101,652	9,972	160,957	125,999	108,279	74,980	36,921	507,136	753,943

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NEW SCHEMES & UPDATES WITHIN THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME

This annex provides a 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 reports, with due consideration to re-phasing. Capital proposals funded from Community Infrastructure Levy are described in Annex 5(v) and not duplicated here.

1. RESOURCES

1.1 Property Company Investment for Provisional Approval of £73.389m funded by Service Supported Borrowing, profiled £7.389m 2026/27, £36m 2027/28, £23m 28/29 & £7m 2029/30.

Loan facility for site purchases and funding delivery through project business cases as per the Aequis Business Plan for approval by the Shareholder in January 2025.

1.2 Commercial Estate Fire Safety Works for Full Approval of £1.630m 2025/26 & £543k 2026/27, funded by Corporate Supported Borrowing and third-party contributions.

To complete fire safety improvement works for residential premises within the commercial estate, including landlord responsibility in communal areas to address changes in legislation.

1.3 IT Asset Refresh for Provisional Approval of £500k for 2029/30, funded by Corporate Supported Borrowing.

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

1.4 Property Disposal for Full Approval of £300k 2025/26 funded by Capital Receipts.

An uplift to the budget to fund the disposal of assets. This includes costs such as legal, internal fees, Energy Performance Certificates and minor works to facilitate sale e.g. separation works.

1.5 Project Inception Fund – Provisional Approval of £288k funded by Corporate Supported Borrowing 2025/26.

The fund enables schemes to progress whilst business cases are under development and grant approvals are being finalised. This is the return from the Fashion Museum

Renovation of budget allocated in 2024/25 for design costs, which were subsequently funded by WECA revenue grant.

1.6 Commercial Estate Planned Maintenance Programme for Provisional Approval of £500k 2029/30, funded by Service Supported Borrowing.

Extend existing scheme to fifth year. This is a prioritised programme of repairs to commercial properties based on condition surveys, to ensure health and safety and reduce costs of reactive repairs. The approved budget may be supplemented from tenant contributions, dilapidations payments and insurance income as required.

1.7 Commercial Estate Refurbishment for Provisional Approval of £2.994m, £1.494m Service Supported Borrowing 2025/26 and £1.0m Service Supported Borrowing and £500k Corporate Supported Borrowing 2029/30.

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

1.8 Capital Contingency – Approved Budget of £1.9m 2025/26, funded by Corporate Supported Borrowing

To increase balance to reflect the use in 2024/25 on repairs to Victoria Art Gallery Roof and provide for increased risk reflecting the nature and complexity of the Capital Programme. Total contingency to become £3.824m, with £1.924m remaining available for 2024/25.

2. ECONOMIC & CULTURAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Corporate Estate Decarbonisation Programme for Provisional Approval of £4.0m funded by Corporate Supported Borrowing, profiled: £250k 2025/26, £1m per annum from 2026/27 to 2028/29 & £750k 2029/30.

To meet Net Zero by 2030 means removing gas as a heating fuel from Corporate Estate (CE) buildings. An initial provisional estimate has identified that fully decarbonising the CE would cost in the range of £5m-10m. This is a broad estimate that needs to be refined through feasibility and design work in 2025/26 to produce a plan for each asset, where the capital costs and funding will become clearer, the balance of funding for programme to come from existing replacement provision and seeking external grant funding.

2.2 Corporate Estate Planned Maintenance for Full Approval of current Provisional Budget £3.0m funded by Corporate Supported Borrowing, profiled £2.7m in 2025/26 and £300k in 2026/27. Plus **Provisional Approval** for £3m in 2029/30 funded by Corporate Supported Borrowing

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

2.3 Equalities Act Works for Full Approval of £50k per annum from 2025/26 to 2029/30, funded by Corporate Supported Borrowing.

To enable a programme of works to improve access to Council sites after completion of statutory inspections.

2.4 Guildhall Roof Refurbishment for Provisional Approval of £4m, funded from Corporate Supported Borrowing and profiled £2m in 2025/26 and £2m in 2026/27.

Guildhall Roof Major Repairs are being assessed in 2024/25 ready for repairs in 2025/26 and 2026/27. This is required for safety reasons including the structural integrity of the building.

2.5 Radstock Road Depot Community Equipment Store for Provisional Approval of £300k in 2025/26, funded by Corporate Supported Borrowing.

To carry out essential maintenance to address poor building condition and enable continued operational occupation for Housing & Home Adaptations Service.

2.6 Heritage Infrastructure Development for Provisional Approval of £300k for 2029/30, funded by Service Supported Borrowing.

To extend the programme of museum improvement initiatives to five years.

2.7 Bath Quays North (BQN) including integrating Bath Quays Delivery Provisional Approval. A re-profile of budgets and funding to reflect current programme status. **Full Approval** for £1.255m in 2025/26 largely from secured grant; £15.340m in 2026/27, £14.507m in 2027/28 to reflect support from WECA's Economic Development Fund. **Provisional Approval** of £10.237m 2028/29 funded by Service Support Borrowing.

A re-alignment of budget to delivering BQN following Legal and General's decision not to progress the project. Alternative delivery options will inform an update of the Business Case and delivery mechanism being developed under a Memorandum with the University of Bath.

2.8. Fashion Museum Renovation – Provisional Budget re-profiled with overall increase of £6.5m of Service Supported Borrowing. Budgets are £1m in 2025/26, £307k in 2026/27 & £1.693m in 2027/28 funded by Corporate Supported Borrowing; £12.215m in 2028/29 & £4.785m in 2029/30, funded by Service Supported Borrowing.

A provisional budget showing expected Council contributions to the project which needs to be supplemented by National Lottery, and WECA grant applications, as well as other fundraising. 2025/26 is expected to produce a Full Business Case based upon detailed design and costings.

3. CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

3.1. CRSTS Bath Walking, Wheeling & Cycling Links for Provisional Approval of £514k in 2025/26 and £2.386m in 2026/27, funded by WECA grant.

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 ensure safe and segregated provision where appropriate. Scheme proposals being developed through the project comprise of:

- 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 Locksbrook - to join the hospital site with National Cycle Network (NCN) Routes 4 and 244.

3.2. CRSTS Somer Valley Links for Provisional Approval of £5.3m in 2025/26 and £9.8m in 2026/27 fully funded by WECA grant.

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

- 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 high-quality 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 improve access to the strategic bus corridors and also to enable safe movement by active modes between settlements on the corridor. Such improvements will be designed in accordance with the latest Low Traffic Neighbourhood guidance.

3.3. CRSTS Bath City Centre for Provisional Approval of £700k in 2025/26 and £3.5m in 2026/27, funded by WECA grant.

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. 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).

3.4 Renewable Energy in BANES for Provisional Approval of £50k per annum from 2025/26 to 2029/30, funded by Corporate Supported Borrowing.

To increase the provisional budget to allow for staff time to develop a pipeline and programme of Renewable Projects.

3.5 Renewable Energy Development Fund for Provisional Approval of £500k 2029/30, funded by Service Supported Borrowing.

Extend existing provision to fifth year to deliver Net Zero Council operations.

3.6 Scheme Adjustment of Previous Schemes following review:

Carrswood Day Centres Heating Upgrade – Provisional Budget removal of £396k, funded by £295k Service Supported Borrowing and £101k Grant.

The budget had envisaged schemes for Connections and Carrswood Day Centre, though following feasibility scheme delivery will now only be pursued at Carrswood, the 2025/26 budget being £300k.

4. BUILT ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

4.1. Housing Delivery Initiation Fund for Provisional Approval of £1m for 2025/26, funded by Service Supported Borrowing.

The Council will be publishing its Housing Delivery Plan. This provision within the Capital Programme will develop schemes and scale up delivery of Council House building. Developing a programme of specialist and affordable housing schemes for children and adults to address the needs of the Council and support residents. Projects will come forward through scheme specific business cases with a combination of funding sources.

4.2. B&NES Homes (previously) Council House Building Programme) for Provisional Approval re-profile of £2.568m in 2026/27 and £12.432m in 2026/27, funded by £2.5m Corporate Supported Borrowing, £6.25m Service Supported Borrowing and £6.25m grant funding.

This provisional budget reflects the commitment to develop the general need for affordable homes over future years to include Council-owned land, including at Midland Road. A full programme description is provided in 9.2 below.

4.3 Affordable Housing (Enabling) for Provisional Approval re-profile of £1.191m in 2025/26, £0.891m in 2026/27, £5.798m in 2027/28, £0.635 per annum funded by £1.142m Corporate Supported Borrowing, £5.163m Service Supported Borrowing £2.741m Right to Buy Receipts and £30k S106.

This provisional budget reflects the commitment to direct Right To Buy capital receipts back into re-provision of social rented homes through the Council enabling functions. Other funding will be reviewed during 2025/26 with a view to re-assign into other Housing Programmes.

4.4 Supported Housing Scheme (Englishcombe Lane and saving initiatives)_re-profile of £5m 2025/26, £6m 2026/27, then £3.0m per annum, funded by Service Supported Borrowing £2.741m Right to Buy Receipts and £30k Section 106 Contribution (S106).

A profile review has clarified the expected delivery of Englishcombe Lane and later initiatives.

5. ADULT SERVICES

5.1. Odd Down Sports Ground and Other Leisure Facilities for Provisional Approval of £500k for 2025/26, funded by Service Supported Borrowing.

A new provisional budget to reflect the 2025/26 commitment for delivery of the following assets: additional indoor and outdoor fitness spaces & improved facilities for families with young children, especially those from priority areas, to include Padel Tennis, outdoor fitness areas and walking trails.

5.2. Adult Day Services Equipment Replacement for Provisional Approval of £30k per annum from 2025/26 to 2029/30, funded by Corporate Supported Borrowing.

Following new service delivery changes, there is a need for a programme for essential equipment replacement is fit for purpose and safe to use.

5.3. Disabled Facilities Grant for Full Approval of £347k per annum from 2025/26 to 2028/29 then £1.789m in 2029/30, funded by grant.

Uplift to reflect the new grant settlement and an extension of the programme into fifth year.

5.4. Community Resource Centre Equipment Replacement for Provisional Approval of £20k 2029/30 to be funded by Corporate Supported Borrowing.

Extend of this replacement programme into fifth year

5.5. Scheme Adjustment of Previous Schemes following review:

Community Resource Centres Improvements removal of £2.2m in 2025/26, funded by Service Supported Borrowing. Due to the change of purpose of Charlton House (now to deliver a SEND Residential School), this Adult Services budget is no longer required.

6. CHILDREN'S SERVICES

6.1. Basic Needs Programme total held in **Provisional Approval** is £12.787m in 2025/26 & £4.457m in 2026/27, funded by grant.

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 needs have been identified as part of the annual DfE School Capacity (SCAP) Return.

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

remaining funding will be used to support expansion schemes at primary and secondary schools or specialist provision locations.

It is noted that £1m BN grant is committed to meet any potential abnormal costs for delivery of the SEND Free School as identified by the DfE.

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's Services.

6.2. Schools' Capital Maintenance Programme (SCMP), total held in **Provisional Approval** is £1.009m in 2025/26 & £436k in 2026/27, all fully funded by DfE Grant.

The SCMP includes provisional allocations for **Emergency & Minor Works** to address ad hoc, unforeseen condition issues as they arise throughout the year. This may include items such as boiler replacement or roof repairs.

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's Service.

6.3. Devolved Schools' Capital for Full Approval - an allocation of DfE capital to be allocated directly for spending by schools. The Council is waiting for an announcement of the 2025/26 funding allocation and adjust budgets at a later date to reflect this.

6.4. Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) total held in **Provisional Approval** of £1.275m in 2025/26 and £1.021m in 2026/27, 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 are considering at options to create a permanent solution and the possibility of a secondary pathway.
- Mulberry Park Educate Together Primary – a 12-place SEMH resource base due to open September 2026.

- Ralph Allen School – a 20-place ASD resource base, due to open in September 2025.
- St Mark's School – a 20-Place ASD resource base, due to open in September 2025.
- Charlton House Conversion – 30-place SEND school, including 12 residential, due to open in September 2026.

The Authority is also working on plans for a New Alternative Provision SEND school and a SEND Free School for 4–19 age range, 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.

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's Services. This includes full approval of approximately £150k per annum to develop feasibility studies as needed.

The Council made a successful 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.

6.5. Early Years total £116k **Full Approval**, funded £107k Grant and £9k S106 in 2025/26.

Grants to help current Early Years & Wraparound Care providers update their premises to provide additional spaces. Funded by Government grant and Section 106 Contributions, both of which have been already received.

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

7.1. Neighbourhood Services Vehicles for Provisional Approval of uplift of £9.961m profiled £2.652m 2025/26, funded £2.6m Corporate Supported Borrowing and £52k Service Supported Borrowing; 412k 2026/27 funded Service Supported Borrowing; £4.6m 2027/28, funded Corporate Supported Borrowing; £17k 2028/29 & £2.28m 2029/30 funded by Service Supported Borrowing. Also **Fleet Decarbonisation Programme Management** total £75k **Provisional Approval** to be funded by Corporate Supported Borrowing in 2025/26. This will support the decarbonisation of the fleet which is a key part of the Council's Net Zero Policy.

Fleet vehicles account for almost half of the Council's carbon footprint. Within this, Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) account for 70% of emissions despite only making up

28% of the fleet. The replacement of 12 Refuse Collection Vehicles is due in 2025/26 and 30 Recycling trucks in 2027. Whilst new Corporate Supported Borrowing provides for some of the uplift for purchase of Electric Vehicles, service budgets will also redirect predicted from savings on maintenance, fuel and vehicle tax. Programme management will further develop replacement plans more widely across the fleet.

7.2. Haycombe Cemetery Expansion for £2.5m **Provisional Approval**, funded by Corporate Supported Borrowing profiled: £750k in 2026/27, £500k in 2027/28, £500k in 2028/29 & £750k in 2029/30.

Haycombe has approximately 8 years of burial space remaining available, with plots for faith groups further restricted. The Council owns a 10-acre field directly behind the Crematorium earmarked for the development.

7.3. Play Area Refurbishment / Equipment for **Provisional Approval** of £350k for 2029/30, funded by Corporate Supported Borrowing.

To extend this programme into a fifth year.

7.4. Parks Equipment Replacement Programme for **Provisional Approval** of £21k for 2029/30, funded by Corporate Supported Borrowing.

To extend this programme into a fifth year.

7.5. Tree Replacement for **Provisional Approval** of £44.2k in 2029/30, funded by Corporate Supported Borrowing.

Add a fifth year to new Street Trees Programme to continue support for Tree Replacement Policy of up to 100 trees per annum.

7.6. Christmas Market for **Full Approval** of £170k, funded by revenue contribution to capital, profiled £30k per annum from 2025/26 to 2028/29 and £50k in 2029/30.

To increase by £20k per annum existing approvals from 2025/26 to 2028/29 and extend the budget to five years at £50k per year to reflect works needed to maintain the condition of chalets.

7.7 Litter Bin Replacement Programme for **Provisional Approval** of £20k 2029/30 funded by Corporate Supported Borrowing.

To extend the programme to five years.

7.8 Scheme Adjustment of Previous Schemes following review:

- **Haycombe Cremator – Provisional Budget** of £1.5m currently in 2027/28 to be re-profiled £340k 2025/26 & £1.16m 2026/2, funded by Corporate Supported Borrowing. The current cremators useful economic life have been re-assessed and replacement needs to be brought forward to 2026.
- **Parks S106 Projects – Provisional Budget** removal of £2.653m, funded by £543k grant and £2.11m S106 profiled £1.478m 2025/26, £587k 2026/27 & £588k 2027/28.

A full review of received Section 106 Contributions for parks allocations has been undertaken and aligned to programme. These include Staddlestones as part of Somer Valley Rediscovered, Hedgemoor Park, Waterspace Connected, Parks and Open Spaces (including Abbots Wood, Manor Road Woodlands and Brickfields), Bath River Line, Tree Replacements and Greenstreets and various Play Area Refurbishments. Historically Provisional Budgets have been set on estimated future Section 106 Contributions, but this has been changed to include only confirmed sums following formal completion of Section 106 agreements and in-year budget adjustments will be made where needed. No Section 106 Contributions have been repaid.

8. HIGHWAYS

8.1. **Local Active Travel Safety Programme** (formerly Transport Improvement Programme) current Provisional Budget for **Full Approval** of £1.163m in 2025/26, funded by grant and **Full Approval** for further £1.372m funded by £1.232m Corporate Supported Borrowing and £140k developer contributions. In addition, **Provisional Approval** for £1.2m 2026/27, funded by Corporate Supported Borrowing and £1.163m for 2029/30, funded by grant. to add the 5th year to the programme.

Funding comes from a capital grant through WECA, provided in the maintenance element of the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement with further supporting investment of £2.4m from Corporate Supported Borrowing.

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

2025/26 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 Highways. 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 Match Funding, for Provisional Approval of £14.592m in 2026/27. funded by various funding sources as illustrated below.

This provides an estimate of matching funding for CRSTS schemes which reflected in the provisional programme, including the A4 Bath to Bristol Sustainable Transport Corridor to be led and delivered by WECA. The current full match funding plan for all the schemes is £18.270m as detailed below.

Funding Source	Local Contribution (£m)
Clean Air Zone	2.500
Community Infrastructure Levy	2.321
Section 106 Contributions	0.954
Council Approved Borrowing	2.320
Capital Financing Reserve Contribution	3.000
Development Receipts	7.265
TOTAL	18.270

This total figure includes existing approvals to date of £3.678m. Funding and future profiling will be confirmed as Final Business cases are submitted. If 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.

8.3. Park and Ride Security for Provisional Approval of £15k, funded by Service Supported Borrowing in 2025/26.

£15k SSB was used from this provisional budget to support the Manvers Street Security upgrade in 2024/25, and this will return the budget to its previous level.

8.4. Residents Parking Zone for Provisional Approval of £700k, funded by Service Supported Borrowing in 2025/26.

This is to support the consultation, detailed design and implementation of new and extended Residents' Parking Zones.

8.5. Highways Maintenance Programme for Full Approval of £9.718m in 2025/26, funded by £2m Corporate Supported Borrowing and £7.718m WECA Grant (including a supplementary grant settlement for "potholes"). **Provisional Approval** of £7.834m in 2029/30, 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. Corporate Supported Borrowing of £2m per annum, in addition to WECA grant, provides 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. The improvement of 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), with a late grant announcement to be allocated, has been produced following technical assessment and consultation with Cabinet Member for Highways. Amendments to the programme will be approved by the Director of Place Management in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways.

8.6. Car Park Security for Provisional Approval of £110k in 2025/26, funding by Service Supported Borrowing.

Improvements to the security of the undercover area at Bath Sports & Leisure Centre

8.7. ANPR Enforcement Camera Replacement for Provisional Approval of £450k in 2028/29, funded by Service Supported Borrowing.

Replacement of specialist equipment utilising Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) for enforcement of bus lanes and moving traffic restrictions. This remains the most effective way to enforce and encourage behaviour change.

9. EMERGING CAPITAL SCHEMES

The following schemes are not yet fully developed, and 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, where necessary, on-going revenue funding.

9.1. Cycling and Walking Scholars Way

The proposed route comprises 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. The programme to deliver the Western section is included in the existing programme for £2.085m and consists of road links with pedestrian and cycle crossings, cycleways and shared footpaths. Grant Funding for the delivery of the Eastern Section of £3m is being sought from the West of England Combined Authority.

9.2 B&NES Homes (previously Council House Building Programme)

It is envisaged this will cost approximately £90m in total, with a mainly future Council subsidy of around £15m to be supported by Corporate Supported borrowing; the balance to be funded from grants to be applied for and Service Supported 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. The programme may include provision for housing Children in Care to

help achieve better outcomes from the current mainly out of area provision. The initial provisional programme of in set out in 4.3 above.

9.3 Milsom Quarter

The Council has completed a Milson Quarter Masterplan with proposals to reimagine the Northern part of the city centre by positioning the area as a fashion destination for the South West, providing more housing and improving public spaces. Individual Business Cases for decision will now be progressed including Walcot Gateway (Cornmarket and Cattle Market), Bath Fashion Museum (as set out in 2.8 above) King Edward's School, Broad Street Yards and enhanced Public Realm works.

9.4. Bath Central Riverside

Masterplanning undertaken has identified projects to develop Bath Central Riverside to the east of Bath city centre along Manvers Street to include Pulteney Bridge, Grand Parade and Parade Gardens, including the Undercroft. Business cases are in-progress to implement specific proposals.

9.5. Specialist School Provision

Developing In Area provision to deliver the Council's Safety Valve Programme by providing new capacity for Special Educational Needs and Alternative Provision including the plans for the redevelopment of the former Bath Community Academy Culverhay site. To facilitate DfE investment the Council will need to progress the clearance and demolition of this site, to enable new school construction.

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2025/26 Highways Maintenance Block Programme		
Description	Measurement	Budget (£'000)
<u>Street Lighting Programme</u>	No. of units	
Bathampton - Kennet Park, The Normans & Tynning Road	10	17.0
Bathwick - Beckford Gardens, Claverton Court, Forester Avenue, Forester Lane, Hampton Row, Horseshoe Walk & Lime Grove Gardens	18	30.0
Camerton - Bath Road, Meadgate East & Meadgate West	35	58.5
Clutton - Burchill Close, Lower Bristol Road & Venus Lane	11	18.4
Combe Down - Exmoor Road, Foxhill & Trinity Road	5	8.3
High Littleton - Gores Park, Paulton Road & Westwood Avenue	17	28.4
Lambridge - Deadmill Lane, Dowding Road, Wallace Road & Willow Falls	8	13.4
Lansdown - Cavendish Crescent, Solsbury Way & St Stephens Road	3	5.0
Lyncombe - Entry Hill Park	4	6.7
Marksbury - Bath Road & Church Farm Close	3	6.5
Midsomer Norton - Colliers Rise, Fern Close, Footpath High Street to Ham Gardens, Footpath St Marks Road to North Road, Footpath Charlton Park, Footpaths Nightingale Way to Hazel Terrace, Hawthorn Road, Hayes Road, Sycamore Road & Withies Park	32	53.4
Newbridge - Brassmill Lane, Clarence Place & Newbridge Gardens	5	8.3
Norton Malreward - Chalk Farm Close	2	3.3
Paulton - Clover Close, Gregorys Tynning & Old Mills	20	37.0
Peasedown St John - Bramley Close & Knightstone Close	6	10.0
Southdown - Alderley Road, Footpath the Hollow to Elliston Drive, Padfield Close & Teddington Close	9	15.0
Temple Cloud - Access Road to Recreation Ground, Ashmead, Meadway, Molly Close, Paulmont Rise & Perrin Close	30	50.0
Twerton - Cleeve Green, Dominion Road, Freeview Road, Little Hill, St Michaels Road, Claude Terrace, Dartmouth Avenue, North View Close, Priddy Close, Springfield Close & Victoria Close	27	45.0
Weston - Beresford Gardens, Brookfield Park, Dean Hill Lane, Harcourt Gardens, High Street, Holcombe Green, Linden Gardens, Lucklands Road, Purlewent Drive, Southlands & Weston Park West	42	70.1
Whitchurch - Oldbridge Road, Staunton Fields & Staunton Way	11	18.4
Widcombe - Abbey View Gardens, Abbey View Gardens, Footpath Hatfield Buildings, Holloway, Lyncombe Vale, Oak St, Park Avenue, Perrymead, Pulteney Grove, Rosemount Lane, The Tynning, Thornbank Place, Tynning End, Upper Oldfield Park & Westmoreland Station Road	36	60.1
Various - Heritage LED Conversions (Energy Savings)	90	87.2
Street Lighting Sub Total	424	650
<u>Highway Structures Programme</u>	No.	
Upper Stanton, Stanton Drew - Bank Stabilisation Construction	N/A	180.0
A36 Cleveland Bridge, Bath - Ongoing Monitoring	1	80.0
Structure Inspection and Remedial Works Programme	N/A	100.0
Structures Special Assessment Programme	N/A	75.0
Bridge Parapet and Pedestrian Railing Improvements	N/A	100.0
Midland Bridge Road Bridge, Bath - Bearing Repair Design	1	25.0
Grosvenor Footbridge, Larkhall, Bath - Refurbishment	1	140.0
Wansdyke Culvert, Bathford Hill, Compton Dando - Damage Repairs	1	80.0
Highway Structures Sub Total	4	780
<u>Highway Drainage Programme</u>		
Highway Drainage Extensive Investigation Works, Various Locations	N/A	150.0
A368 Compton Martin Road Drainage Improvement	N/A	30.0
A368 Bath Road, West Harptree Drainage Improvement	N/A	40.0
A39 New Road, Farmborough/High Littleton Drainage Improvement	N/A	25.0
B3130 Belluton Narrows, Belluton Collapsed Culvert repair	N/A	75.0
Hatfield Road, Bath Drainage Improvement	N/A	20.0
Holloway, Bath Drainage Improvement	N/A	60.0
Twinhoe, Nr Bath Drainage Improvement	N/A	20.0
Withyditch, Nr Tunley Drainage Improvement	N/A	30.0
Highway Drainage Sub Total		450
<u>Carriageway Resurfacing & Major Re-Construction</u>	SQM	
First Ave, Second Ave, Third Ave (Westfield Trading Estate) - Westfield	3,824	130.0
A4 Bath Road - Saltford	19,630	755.0
A431 Kelston Road (Dangerous Bend) - Kelston	2,194	112.0
Bathwick Hill (part) - Bathwick	7,125	207.0
Bonhill Road & Wick Road Junction - Bishop Sutton	3,500	110.0
Brook Road & Bridge - Westmoreland	2,469	60.0
Farrington Road, Abbots Farm Close & Church Street - Paulton	5,760	250.0
Lansdown Road - Charlcombe	1,147	130.0
Limeburn Hill & Wells Road - Chew Magna	9,128	300.0

2025/26 Highways Maintenance Block Programme		
Description	Measurement	Budget (£'000)
Milton Avenue - Bear Flat	1,338	55.0
Park Lane - Lower Weston	2,940	130.0
Paulton Road - Midsomer Norton	2,268	80.0
Queens Road - Keynsham	5,426	160.0
Ralph Allen Drive - Widcombe	6,471	400.0
Saltwell Avenue - Whitchurch	657	50.0
South Parade - City Centre, Bath	1,188	50.0
Stockwood Lane - Stockwood	3,109	105.0
St Saviours Road - Larkhall	1,968	120.0
Tunley Hill, Bath Road & Overdale - Tunley	7,557	175.0
Carriageway Resurfacing Sub Total	43,197	3,379
Carriageway Surface Dressing Programme	SQM	
A431 Kelston Road - Kelston	24,000	400.0
Lansdown Road - Charlcombe	21,522	400.0
Carriageway Surface Dressing Sub Total	45,522	800
Footway Programmes		
Paving Programme	SQM	
High Street, Chew Magna	450	225.0
Queen Square Place, Bath	190	60.0
Charlotte Street, Bath	215	65.0
Palace Yard Mews, Bath	50	15.0
Monmouth Place (junction), Bath	100	35.0
Marlborough Buildings, Bath	80	30.0
Royal Crescent, Bath	20	20.0
Asphalt Concrete Programme		
Triangle West, Oldfield Park, Bath	150	8.2
Durley Park, Oldfield Park, Bath	1500	82.4
Withies Park, Riverside Walk	2500	137.4
Maple Walk, Keynsham	500	27.5
Charlton Road, Keynsham	500	27.5
Lincoln Close, Keynsham	300	16.5
Teviot Road, Keynsham	600	33.0
Hurn Lane, Keynsham	200	11.0
Apsley Road, Newbridge, Bath	400	22.0
Roundhill Park, Southdown, Bath	700	38.5
Devonshire Road, Bathampton, Bath	200	11.0
Holcombe Lane (shops), Bathampton	400	22.0
Church Street, Pensford	250	13.7
Whitecross, East Harptree	300	16.5
Moorsfield, Clutton	300	16.5
Tynings Way, Clutton	100	5.5
Valley View, Clutton	200	11.0
Footway Programme Sub Total	10,205	950
Other Programmes		
Supplementary Grant Settlement to be allocated ("Pothole funding")	N/A	1,884.0
Planned Carriageway Patching Programme	N/A	425.0
Planned Road Marking Improvement Programme	N/A	175.0
Spray Injection Patching Programme	N/A	225.0
Other Programmes Sub Total		2,709
PROGRAMME OVERALL TOTAL		9,718

Details		Budget £'000
Funding Source		
Grant - CRSTS Maintenance Block Settlement		5,834.0
Grant - supplementary settlement ("Pothole funding")		1,884.0
Corporate Supported Borrowing		2,000.0
PROGRAMME OVERALL TOTAL		9,718

2025/26 Local Active Travel Safety Programme	
Description	Budget £'000
Local Safety Schemes	
Anti-Skid Surfacing	15
Collision investigation and prevention (CIP)	15
Vehicle Activated Signs improvement programme	25
Safety improvements junction of Lambridge St with London Road	35
Charlton Road safety Improvements -Assessment	15
Minor safety improvements	30
Station Rd Roundabout Keynsham	50
Local Safety Schemes Sub Total	185
Public Transport	
Improvements to bus stops	10
Public Transport Sub Total	10
Managing Congestion	
Area Parking Review	75
Year 3 of 5 yr programme to replace traffic signal equipment	45
Improvements to HGV restriction signs in Bath (year 1 of 2)	10
Managing Congestion Sub Total	130
Cycle Signs and Parking Stands	
Eleven additional cycling signs to sign post a cycle route connection	10
Cycle parking & Signs	15
Cycle Signs and Parking Stands Sub Total	25
Pedestrian Schemes	
Aids to mobility and footway improvements	40
Public Rights of Way	80
Assessment and development Pavement on Winford Road (B3130), East of Broadcroft	20
Pedestrian Crossing Somerdale Development -Assessment and design	15
Install a central pedestrian refuge on Bath Road (hill) A4 Saltford to facilitate safer crossing to the bus-stops near The Glen and The Shallows junctions	35
South Road improvements to pedestrian safety from Loves Hill to North Road and to slow traffic speeds including installing new pavement on the north side of the road	175
Pedestrian Crossing at bottom of Eastfield Avenue	82
Walcot street pedestrian crossing	90
Whiteway Road and Crossing & safety improvements	70
Pedestrian Improvements St John Road -Assessment and Design	40
Pedestrian Guard Rail St Andrews School	10
Crossing Worcester Building / Avondale Building / Charlcombe Lane - Assessment and Design	25
A367 Elm Tree Avenue Footway improvement and pedestrian crossing improvements Feasibility study	15
Feasibility Study for Active Travel improvements between Farmborough and Timsbury.	20
Pedestrian crossing for children walking to Moorlands School, with Linear Park cycling route	60
Zebra crossing, Marlborough buildings/Royal Avenue	80

2025/26 Local Active Travel Safety Programme	
Description	Budget £'000
Study Upper Bloomfield road pedestrian crossing and drop kerb to enable safe crossing to local shops	15
Pedestrian signal improvements existing	240
Footpath link Combe Hay Lane to P&R S106	45
City centre mobility improvements	50
Marlborough Junction Julian Rd Ped Crossing CIL	95
Pedestrian Schemes Sub Total	1,302
Traffic Management Schemes	
Improved safety on North Road junctions	50
ANPR Cameras on A37 at Temple Cloud- Assessment and design	20
Measures to address traffic speeding problem on lower end of West Road and Station Road, Norton	70
Old Newbridge Hill safety improvements -study	60
The Avenue priority giveway and Radford Hill priority passing	35
North Road Timsbury improvements to pedestrian safety and slow traffic speeds access including line of sight safety measures at junction with Lansdown View (route to Primary School) - Assessment and design	25
Parking schemes Grosvenor Place and Kensington Place	25
More 20 mph limits including:	80
Radford Hamlet, Bathford Hill/High Street, Tunley Village, Durley Lane, Durcott Lane , A367 St Gregory's school, Manor Road and Courtney Road rural sections, Firgrove Lane, Bath Road extend 30mph on A4, Weeksley Lane , Newtown, Farrington Gurney	
Morford Street junction improvements	250
Upper Oldfield Park safety scheme	80
Traffic Calming on Shophouse Road and Long Valley Road	80
TRO and signage for weak bridge in Claude Avenue	8
Traffic Management Schemes Sub Total	783
Miscellaneous	
JLTP Monitoring, Equipment and NHT survey	15
Programme Management	60
Legacy/Remedial works - previous years schemes	25
Miscellaneous Sub Total	100
PROGRAMME 2025/26 OVERALL TOTAL	2,535

Details	Budget £'000
Funding Source	
Grant - CRSTS Maintenance Block Settlement	1,163
Cil /Zebra crossing, Marlborough buildings/Royal Avenue	95
106 Combe Hay	45
Corporate Supported Borrowing	1,232
PROGRAMME 2025/26 OVERALL TOTAL	2,535

CORPORATE ESTATE MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 2025-26			
Service Area	Business Unit Name (Property)	Works Description	Budget (£'000)
Youth & Community	Odd Down Community Centre	Replace existing storage heaters with new Lot 20 more eco efficient units.	40
Youth & Community	Southside Youth Hub	Roof Leak and general maintenance	55
Community Resource Centres	Various Properties - capital repairs / upgrades	Urgent repairs, managed and prioritised throughout the year as they arise against any available budget.	58
Operational Properties	The Guildhall	Roof domes replacement glazing works. Surveys to inform larger work.	87
Operational Properties	The Guildhall Market	Roof Repairs	300
Operational Properties	Keynsham Civic Centre	External Ramp & Stair. The current wood is pass it's lifespan. The repairs will be made in OAK which will give a life span of 25 years.	90
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.	30
Car Parks	Car Parks	General allowance for remedial works to parking bays, boundaries, fencing etc, including potholes. To be managed and prioritised throughout the year as they arise against any available budget.	250
Parks and Leisure	Bath Leisure Centre	Capital patch repairs and maintenance to car resurfacing only	150
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	BMS repairs and upgrades allowance for works arising throughout the year.	15
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 UK after February 2024. The new LED lighting should result in energy cost savings.	174
Various Properties	Various Properties servicing - capital works & misc. arising	Statutory and emergency remedial works arising throughout the year.	250
Various Properties	Various Properties - Anomaly Structures	Minor emerging repairs & further reports - Bridges, viaducts, boundaries, emergency H&S works/making safe, inspections for unallocated assets in Council ownership generally D-1 items by nature.	116
Various Properties	Various Properties Quinquennial surveys	Quinquennial condition surveys for buildings, non-highway bridges and remedial works.	300
Various Properties	Various Properties - Energy and Carbon Reduction - capital works arising	Funding (for fees) to SALIX decarbonisation bids for 25/26. (Guildhall; Keynsham Civic Centre and Carrswood)	200
Compliance	Various properties - Energy Performance Certificates (EPC)	Allowance for obtaining updated EPC certificates and essential remedial works arising.	50
Operational Properties	Haycombe Crematorium	Replace Cremator 1 - patch repair	95
Various Properties	Various Properties - capital repairs / upgrades - lightning conductor systems	Lightning Conductor Systems, repairs and upgrades.	29
Compliance	Various Properties - capital repairs / upgrades	Legionella remedial and mitigating works arising from risk assessments	17

CORPORATE ESTATE MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 2025-26			
Service Area	Business Unit Name (Property)	Works Description	Budget (£'000)
Compliance	Various Properties - capital repairs / upgrades	Radon remedial and mitigating works arising from inspections.	60
Compliance	Various Properties - capital repairs / upgrades	UPS battery replacement and refurbishment.	58
Compliance	Various Properties - capital repairs / upgrades	Fire dampers remedial works / upgrades.	40
Compliance	Various Properties - capital repairs / upgrades	Ductwork remedial works / upgrades.	26
Compliance	Various properties - other misc. programmes	Lifts remedial and mitigating works arising from insurance inspections.	50
Compliance	Various Properties - provision for fire alarm upgrades	Fire Alarm phased replacement.	85
Compliance	Various Properties - provision for Fire Risk Assessments	Fire Risk Assessment remedial works.	60
Compliance	Various Properties - fire door inspection programme and remedials	Fire doors remedial works.	30
Compliance	Various Properties - provision for emergency lighting upgrades	Emergency lighting remedial works arising from inspections.	40
Compliance	Various Properties - provision for 5 yearly electrical testing programme and remedials	Electrical wiring remedial works arising from 5 yearly testing inspections.	60
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.	30
Compliance	Bridge survey programme - work arising from Bridge inspections	Remedial works arising from Bridge inspections. Budget requirement of £800k over 5 years. First year allocation is (£171k & £182k)	172
Compliance	Various Properties - photovoltaic arrays - work arising from safety inspections	Work arising from - Annual safety and maintenance inspections on existing 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 Contractor to cover managing the framework, admin, vehicles, equipment etc. Part of framework agreements.	30
	Overprogramming		(301)
	Contingency		100
		PROGRAMME 2025-26 OVERALL TOTAL	3,000

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) ALLOCATIONS 2025/26

1. INTRODUCTION

Strategic CIL income available for spending in the financial year 2025/26 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.

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 is aligned with the Council's Capital Programme, with some revenue budget only 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 2025/26

Based on the CIL Spend Principles above, the infrastructure projects to be funded by CIL in 2025/26 are summarised in the below Table, some of which are additions to on-going 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.

Should further amendments for 2025/26 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.

CIL Spend Projects 2025/26

Infrastructure Item	Allocation (£)	Commentary
Flood Risk Management	500,000	
Bath Quays Flooding - (RIF Repayment)	500,000	Council to repay WECA £0.5m p.a. for three years from 2024/25 to 2026/27, in line with terms of Revolving Infrastructure Fund Agreement for Bath Quays Flood Defence Scheme.
CRSTS	500,000	
Match Funding for CRSTS	500,000	CRSTS WECA funded project. CIL contribution to meet requirement for 20% match funding in Full Business Case.
Parks and Leisure	551,000	
Lansdown Playing fields, Bath Football Club	51,000	Football Federation funded project. CIL contribution to meet match funding requirements. Enhancement of pitches plus storage and maintenance equipment. Submission in line with Playing Field Strategy.
Odd Down Sports Ground and Facilities	200,000	Existing Council Project to develop Odd Downs Sports Ground and Leisure Facilities. CIL contribution to fill funding gap linked to our build facilities and the Playing Field Strategy.
Keynsham Memorial Park (KMP)	300,000	Improvement works at KMP to Play area, new/improved footpaths, improvements to the entrance, existing café refurbishment & wildlife enhancements.
Public Realm	270,000	
Keynsham High Street Renewal Programme	20,000	To fund final elements of existing project.
Radstock Trinity Church Community Facility	100,000	Contribution to building renovations. To date the project has secured the building plus completed phase 1 renovation.
Bath Local Centres	50,000	Extend Bath local centres high street programme in Neighbourhoods with new development.

Midsomer Norton High Street Public Realm Improvements	100,000	This provides match-funding to WECA Investment Fund “Love our High Streets” grant supporting the next phase and will support external bids
Green Infrastructure / Recreation	470,000	
Bathscape area Green Infrastructure Improvements	40,000	Contribution to a larger Lottery funded project which entails improving access from the city to countryside and delivering nature recovery network.
Bath River Line Green Infrastructure Improvements	50,000	Match funding to larger WECA funded project. To deliver Phase 2: Access and biodiversity improvements.
Somer Valley Rediscovered	35,000	A match contribution to WECA funded project which aims to improve biodiversity on 5 key sites located along the Wellow Brook and its tributaries. Delivering tree planting, habitat restoration and improved footpath networks.
Chew Valley Reconnected	50,000	Match Contribution to WECA funded project for development of Full Business Case for the southern section of Chew Valley Recreational trail.
Keynsham Memorial Park Weir Removal	55,000	This is for early stage works with funding for the main project being prepared. This is recognised as a priority project by Bristol Avon River Trust, WECA, and contributions from the other parties such as Bristol Water. B&NES own the weir which has large silt build up and restricts fish movement. Project aims to support nature recovery and address impact of Ecological Emergency.
Waterspace Green Infrastructure Programme Improvements	75,000	A contribution towards larger project for Feasibility and Development and delivery works linked to Somerdale Bridge and New Nature
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. First site has been secured: Charlcombe Community Nature Reserve, with further sites to follow

Nature Recovery Maintenance	50,000	Ecological Emergency Action Plan identified bringing council owned Sites of Nature Conservation Interest into good ecological status for nature recovery. This also links across to Local Plan.
Tree Planting/Doubling Woodland Cover	70,000	Delivering the commitment to double tree coverage by 2050 in line with the Forest of Avon Plan. CIL will support landowners tree planting.
TOTAL	2,291,000	

Bath and North East Somerset Capital and Investment Strategy 2025/26

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 2025/26 to 2029/30 is as follows:

	2025/26 Budget	2026/27 Budget	2027/28 Budget	2028/29 Budget	2029/30 Budget
	£'m	£'m	£'m	£'m	£'m
Total	160.957	125.999	108.279	74.980	36.921

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 2025/26 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 Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government.

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 Finance	2025/26 Budget	2026/27 Budget	2027/28 Budget	2028/29 Budget	2029/30 Budget
	£'m	£'m	£'m	£'m	£'m
Grant	73.309	42.809	14.500	8.836	8.786
Capital Receipts/RTB	2.745	8.400	0.635	0.635	0.202
Revenue	2.292	3.570	0.050	0.050	0.050
Borrowing	73.705	66.400	92.315	65.456	27.883
3rd Party (inc S106 & CIL)	8.907	4.820	0.778	0.003	0
Total	160.957	125.999	108.279	74.980	36.921

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 2023/24 which was £367.6m which outlines the Council's underlying need to borrow compared to the current actual long-term borrowing of £267.0m as at 31st December 2024.

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:-

Table 1: Loans for service purposes in £ millions

Loan Detail	Amount Outstanding at 31st March 2024	Forecasted Amount Outstanding at 31st March 2025	2025/26 Approved Limit
	£'m	£'m	£'m
Council's Housing Company	6.998	7.172	10.493
Bath & West Community Energy - Renewable Energy Scheme	0.078	0.069	0.060
Total	7.076	7.241	10.553

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 support the Corporate Plan, meet the needs of the Council, are fit for purpose and affordable. The council's property portfolio comprises 900 assets, consisting of historical assets, operational property, investment property and property held for specific community or regeneration purposes. The council continually reviews the purpose of holding assets for:-

- Operational purposes e.g. assets that support core business and service delivery e.g. schools, office buildings, depots and car parks.
- 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.
- Historical and legacy assets comprising mines, scheduled monuments, vaults and retaining structures.

The Council has established 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. Both Estates will continually review the performance of the assets to ensure we manage the deployment liabilities. Where assets do not meet specific criteria for retention the Council will repurpose or dispose of assets to manage the liability appropriately.

The vision statements for the functions are below:

Corporate Landlord Mission	
<p><i>“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”</i></p>	
Corporate Estate Team Vision	Commercial Estate Team Vision
<p><i>“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.”</i></p>	<p><i>“To support the Council’s corporate, and budgetary objectives, through the generation of resilient net income”</i></p>

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 £4.9m in 2025/26 and £3m per annum in future years.
- Commercial Estate refurbishment programme £8.0m in 2025/26 and £1.5m per annum in future years.
- Commercial Estate Planned Maintenance Programme £1m in 2025/26 and £0.5m per annum in future years.
- Commercial Estate Fire Safety Works £1.6m in 2025/26 and £0.5m in 2026/27.
- Commercial Asset Re-investment £5.1m in 2025/26, £3.6m 2026/27, £3m in 2027/28 and £3m in 2028/29.

The property portfolio is continually reviewed for repurposing or disposal. Where appropriate, development by the Council’s wholly owned companies Aequus Developments Ltd and Aequus Construction Ltd will be deployed.

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 maintenance, refurbishment, 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. 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 fail leaving properties remaining vacant which not only reduces revenue income but in itself incurs additional holding costs such as maintenance and business rates.

The Council had 266 properties classified as held for investment purposes as at 31st March 2024, as shown in the table below. The revenue income supports Council frontline services including Adult and Children's Social Care Services.

Property held for investment purposes in £ millions

Property Type	No of Properties as at 31/03/23	Value in Accounts as at 31/03/23	No of Properties as at 31/03/24	Value in Accounts as at 31/03/24
	No.	£'m	No.	£'m
Retail	189	162.589	187	154.207
Offices	13	37.850	13	32.325
Licenced	20	17.905	20	17.000
Industrial	17	16.751	16	17.618
Other	22	13.928	27	13.222
Leisure	3	7.362	3	7.644

Total	264	256.385	266	242.016
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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 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.

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

Net Income from Investment Properties & Service Loans to Net Service cost	2023/24 Actual £m	2024/25 Forecast £m	2025/26 Forecast £m	2026/27 Forecast £m	2027/28 Forecast £m
Net Investment Properties Income	14.964	15.372	15.572	15.572	15.572
Net Service Loans income	0.234	0.315	0.447	0.633	1.330
Net Budget/Outturn	149.791	137.532	151.710	156.500	164.630
Total (%)	10.15%	11.41%	10.56%	10.35%	10.27%

The proportion is net income from investment properties and service loans divided by net budget.

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 service reductions.

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 unmitigated 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	31/03/24 Actual	31/03/2025 Forecast	31/03/2026 Forecast
	£'m	£'m	£'m
Treasury Management Investments	31.843	20.000	20.000
Service Investment Loans	7.076	7.241	10.553
Commercial Investment Properties	242.016	241.366	241.366
Total Investments	280.935	268.607	271.919
Contractual Commitments to Lend	0.000	0.000	0.000
Guarantees Issued on Loans	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total Exposure	280.935	268.607	271.919

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	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast
	£'m	£'m	£'m
Commercial Investments – Property	92.300	91.229	90.128

- 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	2023/24 Actual or Average Value/ Investment	2023/24 Actual Return	Rate of Return	2024/25 Forecast Average Value/ Investment	2024/25 Forecast Return	Forecast Rate of Return
	£'m	£'m	%	£'m	£'m	%
Treasury Management Investments (weighted average balance)	49.685	2.302	4.63	35.966	1.745	4.85
Service Investments: Loans (weighted average balance)	6.568	0.234	3.56	7.159	0.315	4.39
Commercial Investments: Returns on Property Compared to Income	242.016	14.964	6.18	241.366	15.372	6.37

Other investment indicators

	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast
	%	%	%
Debt Interest payments to net revenue expenditure	4.86%	6.74%	7.75%
Debt Financing costs (interest & MRP) to net revenue expenditure	11.66%	14.85%	15.28%
Commercial Investments debt compared to asset value	38.14%	37.80%	37.34%

Council MRP Policy – (2025/26 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 2025/2026

Introduction

1. This document sets out the Pay and Reward Policy for Bath & North East Somerset Council (B&NES) for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. 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 of Financial Services, Assurance and Pensions

- Director of Place Management
 - Director of Capital Delivery & Housing
 - 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
 - Legal Services Manager
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 Leaders 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 2023 Gender and Ethnicity Pay Gap in 2024. 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 (61.5%) than men (38.5%) and with a greater number working part-time and/or in administrative roles, there is a median gender pay gap across the organisation of -2.2% as at March 2023.
24. This was the second 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 £15.62 per hour. For employees self-identifying as asian the median hourly rate was £15.72 which is a gap -£0.10. For employees self-identifying as black the median hourly rate was £15.62 which is a gap of £0. For employees self-identifying as mixed ethnicity the median hourly rate was £15.43 which is a gap of £0.19. For employees self-identifying as other ethnicity the median hourly rate £14.97 was which is a gap of £0.65.

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 1 of the NJC payscale which is £24,047 and £12.45 per hour as at 1 April 2024¹. 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 £110,386 and for the Chief Executive it is £169,950.
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.

¹ At the time of writing (2 January 2025) we are undertaking collective bargaining negotiations with local trade union representatives to revise our pay and grading structure. National pay negotiations for 2025 are also on-going and the final pay award is unknown at the time of writing.

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 2025-2026 is as follows:

34.

Multiple of salary	Ratio
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the multiple between the annual salary of the lowest paid Council employee and the average Chief Officer (full-time equivalent basis) as a ratio 	1:4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the multiple between median earning of Council employees and the Chief Executive (full-time equivalent basis) as a ratio 	1:6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the multiple between median earning of Council employees and the average Chief Officer (full-time equivalent basis) as a ratio 	1:4

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 2025²:

Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service)

The salary for the post is £174,199 per annum. Additional payments will be made for Returning Officer duties in respect of 2025 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 is £131,257 per annum. The salary is a fixed point.

Executive Director Resources

The salary for the Executive Director Resources is £140,000 per annum. The salary is a fixed-point.

Directors and deputies to statutory officers

Pay Band	Roles	Number
Band 4 (JNC): £112,062 - £118,539	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adult Social Care• Children & Education• Place Management• Sustainable Communities• People & Change• Financial Services, Assurance & Pensions	6
Band 5 (JNC): £99,122 - £105,589	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education, Inclusion and Children's Safeguarding• Public Health & Prevention• Capital Delivery & Housing	3
Grade 14 (NJC): £88,839 - £95,511	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Head of Financial Management• Head of Legal & Democratic Services	2
Grade 13 (NJC): £61,710 - £67,504	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legal Services Manager	1

² At the time of writing (2 January 2025) we are undertaking collective bargaining negotiations with local trade union representatives to revise our pay and grading structure. The pay ranges for Executive Director and Director (Chief Officer) posts form part of the negotiations and are expected to increase recognising changes in the market for these positions. National pay negotiations for 2025 are also 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 25 February 2025. 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

Any alternative budget proposals must be finalised and submitted to the Section 151 Officer at least 3 working days before the day of the meeting – so by 5pm Wednesday for the following Tuesday's budget meeting.

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 6 March 2025.

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 2025-26 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 2025-26. The consultation took place from 12 December 2024 to 20 January 2025.

Our thanks go to all those who participated in the consultation.

2. Consultation on draft detailed budget proposals

On 12 December 2024 the council opened an [online consultation](#) on its draft spending plans for the next financial year, 2025 to 2026. This was made available on the council's website and ran until 5pm on 20 January 2025. A [press release](#) 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 growth, income and 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 **20 submissions** on these detailed budget proposals.

3. General response to the draft budget proposals for 2025 to 2026

The start of the consultation enabled respondents to comment on the overall draft budget proposals for 2025 to 2026. These are summarised below together with a council response:

Council Tax support – the value of the council's Local Council Tax Support Scheme was recognised but within the context of paying rent through Universal Credit.

" council tax support ... was increased to 100% for 2024/25 while at the same time, because of the 53 week year, I paid rent not covered by Universal Credit so I was no better off."

Parking Charges – the proposal to increase residents' parking charges was raised as an issue of concern:

"Adding to the residents parking charges is unfair. Costs, pollution and congestion should have already been reduced, so benefit to the overall city enjoyed."

Disposal of council owned buildings – was identified as an opportunity to generate a capital receipt and allow the authority to focus on its statutory duties:

"Sell off some of the Council owned buildings (if letting out is problematic as stated) and let the market handle the opportunity - thus allowing greater Council focus on its main responsibilities."

Other revenue opportunities – the council was encouraged to explore opportunities to generate additional revenue through a tourist tax, greater enforcement of the highway and revising Council Tax charges.

"Increase revenue by: a) Charge a tourist tax b) Increase council tax for higher band properties c) Enforce existing parking regulations d) Find a way of receiving speeding fines and use ANPR to manage enforcement."

General feedback:

- There was mixed support for the proposed changes to Council Tax and green bin charges
- Concerns that the consultation would be a box-ticking exercise
- There were calls for better procurement practices to realise savings
- There was some opposition to investment in Artificial Intelligence (AI)

"Scrap the idea of "investing in" (depending on) AI. It will NEVER replace humans, and can lead to misleading / inaccurate information"

The proposed changes to the general Council Tax and Social Care Precept are necessary to maintain service levels amidst increasing costs and rising demand faced by the council.

Without this proposal some services risk being significantly reduced or even stopping.

The council will continue to provide its Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2025-26 to support low-income households.

All revenue opportunities continued to be explored and targets are embedded within the budget, relating to building disposals.

The baseline charge for parking permits has not increased for over 10 years, and the increase for the most polluting vehicles will help to improve air quality.

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:

i) Adult Services

Proposal	Value	Budget status	Comments
Adult Social Care Demographics	£1.958m (growth)	Change to our existing budget	No comments received

Proposal	Value	Budget status	Comments
Adult Social Care contract inflation	£3,155m (growth)	Change to our existing budget	No comments received

Proposal	Value	Budget status	Comments
Adult Social Care commissioning	£750k (savings)	Change to our existing budget	No comments received

Proposal	Value	Budget status	Comments
Adult Social Care commissioning	£125k (savings)	New budget proposal	No comments received

Proposal	Value	Budget status	Comments
Review of Care Packages	£900k (savings)	New budget proposal	Yes

Proposal to review care packages to ensure the level of care matches people's needs:

Comments

Parents, carers and service users – should be included in any reviews

"Make sure you include parents/carers in reviews, as well as service users."

Communication – needs to be clear, honest and understandable

"Be open and honest, use language that people understand. Do not use technical/vacuous terms"

Council response – The council will actively work with people who need care and their carers to make sure their goals and needs are met. The council will do this by focusing on our clients' strengths, improving local services, building resilience, and reducing the use of expensive, restrictive services.

Proposal	Value	Budget status	Comments
Technology enabled care	£50k (savings)	Existing budget proposal not yet consulted on	Yes

Proposal to develop a technology enabled care offer within the council-led Community Equipment Service:

Comments

Culture change – the single response received argued the need for an effective cultural programme to underpin the further rollout of technology enabled care.

***“without efforts to shift culture”... technology enabled care
“might be funded in addition to traditional care models rather than replacing them”***

Council response – By using technology, the council will facilitate independence, provide support for individuals, and reduce the demand on social care resources.

Proposal	Value	Budget status	Comments
Provider services income opportunities	£100k (income)	Existing budget proposal not yet consulted on	Yes
Proposal to increase the level of income from self-funders, placements commissioned by other local authorities, and the ICB by charging the actual cost of delivering care.			
<u>Comments</u>			
A single response received supported this proposal:			
<i>“I agree that you should charge self-funders and incoming placements on full cost recovery basis”</i>			

ii) Neighbourhood services

Proposal	Value	Budget status	Comments
Green waste fees and charges uplift	£350k (income)	New budget proposal	Yes
Proposal to increase garden waste fees to £70 per year.			
<u>Comments</u>			
Unfairness – some felt that the charge for this waste collection is unfair			

"It is not something I agree with as green waste is easy enough to compost and the charge seems unfair."

Costs – support for the scheme if charges were representative of actual costs.

"Neutral, is this representative of actual cost? In which case support."

Fly tipping - others believed that the change would discourage the use of green bins and lead to fly-tipping.

"Cost increase seems disproportionate. Will just encourage fly-tipping..."

Council response – the council is required to provide an optional garden waste service as part of the Environment Act 2021. The proposals for green waste fees changing from £57 to £70 a year have been benchmarked against other councils. The revenue enables the council's green waste service to continue be sustainable and efficient, when faced with inflationary costs.

Proposal	Value	Budget status	Comments
Waste staffing costs	£756k (growth)	New budget proposal	Yes
Proposal to adjust the Waste Service's base budget to cover actual costs.			
<u>Comments</u>			
Health and Safety - the need for sufficient staffing paid at appropriate rates was highlighted, particularly when considering the important of health and safety..			
<i>"It is vital for our health and safety that waste is adequately dealt with so we need staff and should not be cutting corners."</i>			
"Support paying correct wages and having correct staffing levels."			
Redundancies and staffing history – One respondent raised an interest in understanding the impact on staffing levels when waste collection frequency changed.			

"Redundancies required. I'd be interested to know how many were made at the point our bins were collected every two weeks."

Council response – this proposal adjusts the base budget to ensure sickness and holiday cover within waste and fleet services are adequately funded for 2025-26.

Proposal	Value	Budget status	Comments
Waste running costs	£225k (growth)	New budget proposal	Yes
<p>Proposal to rebase the revenue budget following the first year of operating Pixash Lane, Keynsham</p> <p><u>Comments.</u></p> <p>Feedback received related to the Waste Service in general, with calls to improve efficiency, maintain existing facilities and to halt development:</p> <p><i>"I am in favour of efficiency measures and wonder if savings could be made by sending fewer trucks covering wider areas."</i></p> <p><i>"Halt Locksbrook development."</i></p> <p><i>"Keep Midland site open & staff it properly."</i></p> <p>Council response – this budget proposal enables the council to continue to offer a high standard of compliant service from the new waste facility in Pixash Lane.</p>			

Proposal	Value	Budget status	Comments
Recycling income	£450k (income)	New budget proposal	Yes

Responses to the projected income growth projected for 2025-26 from market prices and optimal sorting of recycled materials were supportive and recognised the strong recycling culture across B&NES:

"I recycle everything ..."

"Bath is very strong on recycling so we need to get more people on board."

"You should be doing everything you can to encourage recycling."

Council response – the council is fully committed to recycling as outlined in its Towards Zero Waste 2030 Strategy. By maintaining advantageous contract prices and by using optical sorting at the new facility to maximise materials value, it will increase income and help offset depot service operating costs.

iii) Resources portfolio

Proposal	Value	Budget status	Comments
Cyber improvements	£90k (growth)	Changes to our existing budget	Yes
This growth proposal to fund 24/7, 365 days a year cyber security and monitoring generated generally positive responses:			
<i>"Improvements to prevent cyber attacks is sensible."</i>			
Council response – cyber improvements ensures that the council's data is protected, public trust is maintained, service continuity is secure, financial resources are safeguarded and regulations are met.			

Proposal	Value	Budget status	Comments
Investment in Artificial Intelligence (AI)	£65k (growth)	New budget proposal	Yes

Proposal to fund the introduction of AI capabilities to improve the way our residents interact with the council:

Comments

Opposition to investment in AI

"AI investment is an utter waste of money (that the council don't have available in the first place!)."

A preference to communicate with people:

"We want to hear back from a real person, not have the added frustration of only being able to hear back from a robot."

Accuracy and Reliability Issues – with concerns about the accuracy and reliability of AI

"AI is not accurate and will result in misleading and inaccurate information being given."

Council response – this investment in artificial intelligence will enhance service quality for residents, increase staff efficiency by allowing interactions with the public to be summarised and easy queries to be answered using AI.

Proposal	Value	Budget status	Comments
Improved customer contact technology	£251k (growth)	New budget proposal	Yes

Proposal to invest in replacement telephony and a contact system:

Comments

Preference for Human Interaction:

"Would prefer the customers could contact actual human beings for support."

Partial support:

"This will be a good thing if only implemented and supported appropriately."

Council response – by replacing the legacy telephony and contact centres it will improve the experience for residents and service users when contacting the council via telephone, email, social media, WhatsApp and Webchat.

Proposal	Value	Budget status	Comments
Commercial Estate - increased income	£200k (income)	New budget proposal	Yes
<p>Proposal to deliver additional income by refurbishing empty commercial properties more quickly so they can be let:</p> <p><u>Comments</u></p> <p>Approach to disposals – it was suggested that the council should dispose some of its assets to generate funding</p> <p><i>"Sell off some of the freehold property portfolio to raise cash"</i></p> <p>Challenging the council's performance in this area:</p> <p><i>"You're notoriously bad at this & proposals prove nothing has changed."</i></p>			
<p>Council response - The vision for the Commercial Estate is to support the council's goals and budget by generating steady income. The Commercial Estate team achieves this through new lettings, property management, and income recovery. By prioritising necessary refurbishments to make empty properties market-ready quickly, the council is confident this target can be met.</p>			

iv) Children's Services

Proposal	Value	Budget status	Comments
Children's Services Demographics	£3,824m (growth)	Change to our existing budget	No comments received

Proposal	Value	Budget status	Comments
Children's Services inflation	£1,193m (growth)	Change to our existing budget	No comments received

Proposal	Value	Budget status	Comments
OFSTED SEND staffing	£179k (growth)	New budget proposal	No comments received

Proposal	Value	Budget status	Comments
Home to School Transport rebasing	£1,718m (growth)	New budget proposal	Yes
<p>Proposal to increase the budget to address the current cost pressures as a result of high demand and increasing costs:</p> <p><u>Comments</u></p> <p>Efficiencies - Concern that the council is considering growth before exhausting efficiencies:</p> <p><i>" A lot of councils are looking at route optimisation and other potential efficiencies around this, I couldn't see that mentioned anywhere here, just a lot more money."</i></p> <p>Council response – this funding is required to enable Home to School Travel arrangements to be provided to eligible children. The council is continuing to recruit drivers to enable an increase in house provision and improving tendering by securing earlier confirmation of children's placements.</p>			

Proposal	Value	Budget status	Comments
Home to School Transport investment	£350k (growth)	New budget proposal	No comments received

Proposal	Value	Budget status	Comments
Home to School Transport savings	£600k (savings)	New budget proposal	No comments received

Proposal	Value	Budget status	Comments
Reunifications	£1.4m (savings)	Change to our existing budget	Yes

Proposal to an increase in family reunifications and step downs from residential placements:

Comments

Risk Concerns – the proposal was felt to be risky especially considering the vulnerability of children and young people.

"This to me seems enormously risky on a number of fronts. Most importantly please remember - these children and young people are extraordinarily vulnerable."

Savings likelihood - concern on the viability of delivering savings in this area

"I think you should RAG rate your potential savings in terms of their likelihood of being achieved."

Council response – this project is an expansion of existing work with higher targets to be achieved before the end of the 2024-25 financial year. These savings will be subject to public scrutiny through the council's Policy Development and Scrutiny Panels and proposals will place the welfare of the child at the centre of any decision making.

Proposal	Value	Budget status	Comments
Specialist Commissioning Saving	£923k (savings)	Change to our existing budget	No comments received

v) Highways

Proposal	Value	Budget status	Comments
Parking reinvestment fund	£210k (savings)	New budget proposal	Yes

One off proposal to not spend the Reinvestment Fund in parking Services:

Comments

Parking provision – a call to provide enhanced parking to support the local economy.

"Provide more parking to encourage more businesses."

Council response – this proposal will not impact the council's car park provision, however its reintroduction will improve operational efficiency and customer experience by offering improved non-essential maintenance, for example.

Proposal	Value	Budget status	Comments
Parking permit charges review	£172k (savings)	New budget proposal	Yes

Proposal to review the baseline charge for on street parking permits, including emissions based resident parking permits:

Comments

Opposition - to any additional charges without alternatives:

"Until the P+R to the east is built, P+R bus charges reasonable and public transport is improved no additional charges should be levied via residents' parking."

Impact on Low-Income Earners:

" this affects low-income earners, shift workers and those not served by appropriate public transport."

Public Consultation - frustration in the council's response:

"The public consultation showed very clearly that the majority did not want parking permit brought in, but it was and we have to suffer the financial consequences of that."

Support for increased charges:

"Agreed that resident charges should increase."

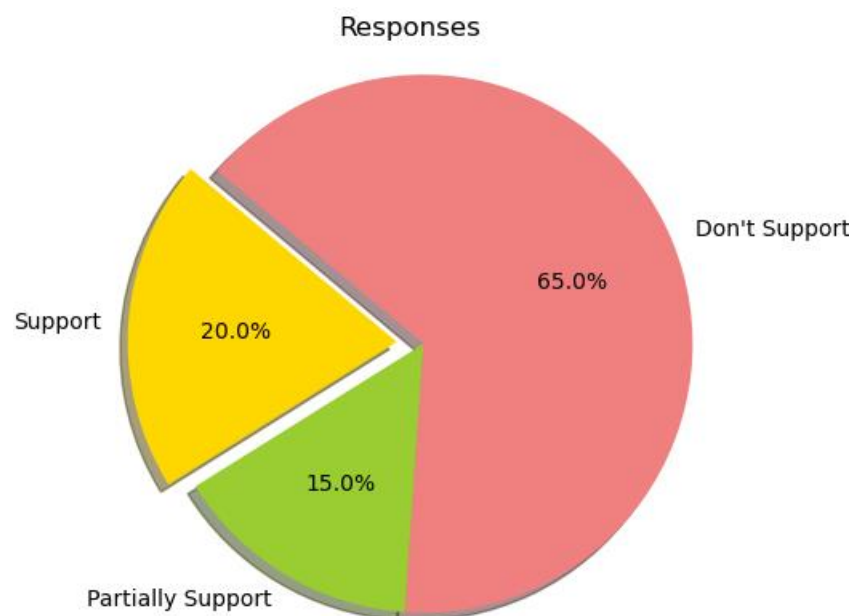
Council response - The baseline permit charge has not increased for over 10 years, despite ongoing inflationary pressures. A new charge will also increase the cost of a permit for more polluting vehicles; further helping to encourage behaviour change and reduce air pollution caused by private vehicles, whilst also reducing the emissions that cause climate change.

5. Responses to the proposed changes in Council Tax

Respondees at the end of the consultation were given the opportunity to answer the question of whether they supported the council's proposal for changes to next year's Council Tax and Social Care Precept.

Their responses are captured in the table below:

Support	Partially Support	Don't Support
4 (20%)	3 (15%)	13 (65%)



Respondees were then given the opportunity to provide a statement to support their answer above:

Support
Low council tax rates for higher band properties: <i>"Bath council tax rates are on the low side, especially for higher banded properties which should pay surcharges."</i> Underfunding – recognition of the budgetary challenges facing local authorities:

"Councils have been underfunded for a number of years."

Request for quality services – acknowledgement that this requires investment

"I want decent services."

Partial support

Council Tax Support Scheme – feedback that the scheme needs to be effective:

"Some people really can't afford another increase so you must also put in place a CT relief scheme that is fit for purpose."

Artificial intelligence - concerns that additional payment will be directed to AI:

"If none of the increase was to be wasted on AI then I would support an increase. If you're going to just waste the extra money on things that will actually make life harder for residents (AI cannot respond to emails in the way a human can, and a lot of residents will feel that once the 'bot' has 'replied' then their query will just be deleted / ignored by humans), then no I do not support any increase."

Don't support

Above inflationary increase – the Council Tax rise is above the current inflation rate:

"It is more than twice inflation. The Council need to work harder to show improved productivity and savings from within."

Focus of investment - concern about some of the projects where money is being directed:

"The council is already wasting so much time and money on schemes like shutting Winifred's Lane that nobody asked for and nobody wants."

Cost of living - the pressure an additional rise will place on residents when facing a cost of living crisis:

"Struggling with cost of living as is."

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Bath & North East Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

Fees and Charges 2025-26

Contents

Bereavement	3
Ashes - Gardens	4
Burials	6
Cremations	8
Ashes	10
Memorials	13
Public Protection	18
Dog Warden	19
Environmental Protection fees	19
Food Safety Fees	19
Food & Trading Standards Business Support	20
Local Air Pollution & Prevention Control Charges (Set By DEFRA)	21
Private Water Supply Charges	25
Pest Control Charges	26
Trading Standards Fees	29
Licensing Charges	33
Business Waste Collection Service	43
Bin Costs	44
Waste	46
Garden Waste Collection Service	47
Large Item Collection Service	47
Domestic black wheeled bin	47
Rubble & Soil above free limits	48
Public Weighbridge Facility	48
Business Waste Transfer Station Charges	48
City and Town Centre Management	49
Events on Council Owned Land	50
Clean Air Zone	60
Clean Air Zone	61
Highways Commuted Sums	62
Highways Commuted Sums	63
Highways Delivery	64
Network Management	65
Highway Maintenance	71
Transport Planning	73
Parks	75
Transport	79

Bereavement



Ashes - Gardens

Including Replacement, Repainting, Cleaning

Englishcombe & Valley View Gardens - New Plot	Charge
Englishcombe/Valley View Garden*	£1,753.00
Interment Fee	£269.00
Interment Fee following cremation elsewhere	£350.00

Pergola Garden - New Plot	Charge
Pergola Garden*	£1,415.00
Interment Fee	£269.00
Interment Fee following cremation elsewhere	£350.00

Sanctum Vaults - New Vault	Charge
Sanctum 2000 Vault* Above ground vault for up to 2 ashes placements	£1,905.00
Sanctum Family Vault* Above ground vault for up to 4 ashes placements	£3,809.00
Placement Fee (first placement fee included)	£98.00

Circle Gardens - New Plot	Charge
Circle Garden*	£1,415.00
Interment Fee	£269.00
Interment Fee following cremation elsewhere	£350.00

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/Old Conifer/Heather Garden Stone* (in addition to an added inscription only)"	£176.00
Interment Fee	£269.00
Interment Fee following cremation elsewhere	£350.00

Please note: Some areas of Bereavement Services involve third party providers and therefore prices are subject to change.

Replacement Memorial/Interment - All Gardens	Charge
Replacement Memorial * (including up to 60 characters)	Price on Request
Added Inscription (per Character)*	£5.50
Interment Fee	£269.00
Interment Fee following cremation elsewhere	£350.00
Administration Fee for processing Garden buy-back	£52.00

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)"	£176.00
Photo plaque*	£294.00
Simple rose or cross design on stone (same colour as lettering)*	£167.00
Complex design on stone - i.e. Service Badges/colour motifs*	£236.00
Rose tile*	£167.00
Provision of in-house Celebrant for Interment of Cremated Remains (subject to availability)	£66.00
Saturday ashes Supplement for shrubberies / scatterings (subject to staff availability)	£153.00
Saturday ashes supplement for graves or gardens (subject to staff availability)	£230.00

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*	£296.00

* 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	£1,176.00 (zero charge to family. To be claimed via Child Funeral Fund)	£1,176.00	£2,352.00
Standard Grave 50 years	N/A	£1,954.00	£1,954.00	£3,909.00
Standard Grave 75 years	N/A	£2,456.00	£2,456.00	£4,798.00
Standard Grave 99 years	N/A	£2,829.00	£2,829.00	£5,660.00
Vault Grave (inc interment fee) 50 years	N/A	£3,812.00	£3,812.00	£7,625.00
Vault Grave (inc interment fee) 75 years	N/A	£5,473.00	£5,473.00	£10,947.00
Vault Grave (inc interment fee) 99 years	N/A	£5,848.00	£5,848.00	£11,698.00
Additional 20 years to existing term (excluding vault graves)	N/A	£778.00	£778.00	£1,557.00
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.

Full Burial Interment Fee	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
Interment fee for single depth	£0.00	£402.00 (zero charge to family. To be claimed via Child Funeral Fund)	£896.00
Interment fee for double depth (where achievable)	N/A	£501.00 (zero charge to family. To be claimed via Child Funeral Fund)	£1,104.00

Burial Extras	Charge
Use of Hilltop Chapel per 45 minute slot	£332.00
Celebrancy provided by our in-house celebrant	£219.00
Late arrival and over run of time slot penalty	From £98.00
Tree and plaque for green burial grave*	£418.00
Cancellation fee once digging of any grave has commenced	£417.00
Full Exhumation (based on individual assessments of the grave)	£3,756.00
Ashes Exhumation (based on individual assessments of the grave)	£275.00

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	£1,756.00	£3,513.00
Prepurchase Standard Grave 50 years	£2,925.00	£5,849.00
Prepurchase Standard Grave 75 years	£3,427.00	£6,852.00
Prepurchase Standard Grave 99 years	£3,802.00	£7,603.00
Prepurchase Vault Grave inc interment fee 50 years	£5,741.00	£11,481.00
Prepurchase Vault Grave inc interment fee 75 years	£6,093.00	£12,185.00
Prepurchase Vault Grave inc interment fee 99 years	£6,342.00	£12,685.00
Additional 20 years to existing term (excluding vault graves)	£1,169.00	£2,336.00
Administration Fee for processing Grave buy-back	£105.00	£105.00

Transfer of Ownership of Right of Interment	Charge
Simple i.e. probate to executors -	£67.00
Standard - paperwork	£95.00
Complex i.e. onward transfer required	£152.00
Express Service - paperwork to be drawn up within 3 days	plus £65.00

Searches	Charge
Tracing fees (per name)*	£53.00
Marking a traced grave in any cemetery*	£53.00

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	£399.00
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	£462.00

Valley & Hilltop Chapel	Babies up to and including 23 weeks gestation	Children from 24 weeks gestation up to and including 17 years	18+ years
20 minute service duration with our in-house celebrant from: 9.00am	N/A	N/A	£775.00
20 minute service duration from: 09.30 a.m.	£0.00	£441.00 (Zero charge to family. To be claimed via Child Funeral Fund)	£927.00
45 minute service duration from: 10.00 am, 11.00 am, 12.00 pm, 1.00pm, 2.00 pm, 3.00 pm, 4.00pm.	£0.00	£557.00 (Zero charge to family. To be claimed via Child Funeral Fund)	£1,205.00

The cremation fee includes:-

- Medical referees fee.
- Certificate of cremation.
- Provision of organ (not organist)
- Provision of Obitus System
- Scattering of remains on communal area - unwitnessed (Note: a charge will apply to FD's returning ashes after 6 months - See extras below).
- Recycling of metals through a national scheme with profits going to charity.
- Abatement of mercury from emissions.
- Facility to accept large coffins.
- Provision of biodegradable container as required.

Cremation Extras	Charge
Use of the Valley Chapel (following a service in the Hilltop Chapel)	£514.00
Extended use of Valley Chapel per time slot (per 45 mins subject to availability)	£514.00
Celebrancy provided by our in-house celebrant	£219.00
Saturday Supplement (subject to staff availability)	£332.00
Bringing the deceased into our care prior to a cremation	£23.00
Storage of remains (six months free of charge - remains held longer than this period will incur a monthly charge)	£59.00
Postage of remains to address in UK*	from £83.00
Ashes being returned by Funeral Directors after 6 months to intern/scatter in a communal area unwitnessed	each £57.00
Late arrival and over run of time slot penalty	From £98.00
Duplicate Cremation Certificate	£13.00

Media Charges

Cremation Extras	Charge
Live Web Cast + 28 day Downloadable	£71.00
Keepsake Copy of Webcast (DVD/Blu-ray/USB stick/CD)(First copy £71 thereafter £29 per copy)	£71.00
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)	£69.00
Music slideshow (up to 25 photos set to music with fade transitions)	£86.00
Additional 25 Photos for any Slideshow or Pro Tribute)	£29.00
Keepsake Copy Recording of a Pro Tribute	£29.00
Downloadable Copy Recording of a Pro Visual Tribute	£14.00
Family-Made Video Checking (checking and preparation of video supplied by family or third party (played once at a time)	£29.00
Obitus Extra Work - for either adding video to a Pro Tribute, revisions, late fee, or major departure from a standard product	£29.00

Other packages available.

Misc	Charge
Medical Referee (Price changes in April)	£32.00

* 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)	£603.00	£1,203.00
Cremation Plot for 4 (for 50 years)	£979.00	£1,956.00
Cremation Plot for 4 (for 75 years)	£1,230.00	£2,457.00
Cremation Plot for 4 (for 99 years)	£1,415.00	£2,830.00
Additional 20 years to existing term	£376.00	£753.00

Interment Options - Cremated Remains	Charge
Witnessed interment in a shrubbery or scattering in The Grassland (to be arranged and paid by applicant of cremation)	£98.00
Interment of remains in a shrubbery following cremation elsewhere (to be arranged and paid by applicant of cremation)	£173.00
Scattering of remains on The Grassland following cremation elsewhere (to be arranged and paid by applicant of cremation)	£173.00
Cremated remains interment (Private Grave/Garden plot)	£269.00
Cremated remains interment (Private Grave/Garden Plot) following cremation elsewhere	£332.00
Cremated remains interment at full burial depth	£538.00
Additional cremated remains to be interred or scattered simultaneously in the same plot	£57.00
Additional Cremated remains to be interred or scattered simultaneously in the same plot following cremation elsewhere	£96.00
Administration fee for returned cremated remains to be interred or scattered at our convenience	£57.00
Provision of in-house Celebrant for interment of cremated remains	£66.00
Saturday Supplement for graves or gardens (subject to staff availability)	£161.00
Saturday supplement for shrubberies / scatterings (subject to staff availability)	£230.00

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)	£894.00	£1,786.00
Prepurchase Cremation Plot for 4 (for 50 years)	£1,531.00	£3,063.00
Prepurchase Cremation Plot for 4 (for 75 years)	£1,782.00	£3,564.00
Prepurchase Cremation Plot for 4 (for 99 years)	£1,970.00	£3,938.00
Additional 20 years to existing term	£637.00	£1,277.00

Cremated Remains - Scatterings	Charge
The Meadow or Glade scattering	£173.00
Additional cremated remains to be scattered on The Meadow or Glade following cremation elsewhere	£249.00
The Meadow or Glade plaque* (on 10 year lease)	£289.00
Choice of motif on The Meadow or The Glade plaque*	£89.00
Additional lease of 10 years for The Meadow or Glade plaque on expiry of previous lease	£145.00
The Glade Mushroom Plaque	£289.00

Cremated Remains - Green Burial	Charge
Coppice, Locksbrook and Haycombe Other* (plus interment)	£1,130.00
Additional Plaque*	£269.00

Caskets/Urns <small>(Third party provider prices subject to change)</small>	Charge
Light & Dark Oak Caskets	£109.00
Scatter Tube - full size	£37.00
Scatter Tube - keep sake	£10.00
Brass Urns* - full size	£244.00
Brass Urns* - keep sake	£53.00
3" Hand Held Heart*	£59.00
5" Keep Sake Heart*	£101.00
Wooden Keep Sake Heart – including inscription on front	£81.00
Wooden Keep Sake Heart – additional inscription on the reverse	£8.00

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
Baby Vase Blocks including plaque and inscription	£565.00
Butterfly Baby Shrubbery metal plaque	£128.00
Old Babies Section - White Marble Shrubbery Memorial* (including up to 20 characters)	£446.00
Old Babies Section - Extra letters over 20 characters* (each)	£4.00
Butterfly Section Tower plaques*	£231.00
Forest Friends Frieze – Memorial butterfly incl wording	£98.00

Benches	Charge
Eco Bench of Remembrance (25 year lease period) - including a bronze plaque*	£1,541.00
Extra plaque for Eco Bench of Remembrance until end of lease period*	£283.00
Additional 25 year lease of Eco Bench at expiry of previous lease	£771.00
One off clean of Wooden Bench of Remembrance*	£169.00
Granite Backed Bench of Remembrance (25 year lease period) - including a granite plaque*	£1,756.00
Additional 25 year lease of backed granite bench at expiry of previous lease	£878.00
Granite Backless Bench of Remembrance (25 year lease period) - including a granite plaque*	£1,466.00
Additional 25 year lease of backless granite bench at expiry of previous lease	£733.00
Motif on granite bench plaque	£169.00
Photo plaque on granite bench plaque	£162.00
Extra plaque for Granite Backed & Backless Bench of Remembrance until end of lease period*	£231.00

Book of Remembrance Memory Tree	Charge
Leaf on Book of Remembrance Memory Tree (10 year lease)	£153.00
Additional 10 year lease on Leaf on Book of Remembrance Memory Tree	£77.00

Willow Memory Tree	Charge
Granite Leaf on Willow Memory Tree (10 year lease)	£153.00
Additional 10 year lease on Leaf on Willow Memory Tree	£77.00

Memorial Wall Plaques and Sweetheart Leaves	Charge
Memorial Wall Plaques*	£340.00
Extra letters over 60 characters on inscription*	£5.50
Sweetheart Leaf with 25 year lease including inscription	£90.00

Saddlestone	Charge
Additional Inscription (per letter)*	£5.50
Repainting of a Saddlestone* (in addition to an added inscription only)	£177.00
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)	£1,265.00
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)	£177.00
Repaint only of a Shrubbery Stone* (no added inscription)	£264.00
Tree of Remembrance	Charge
Tree of Remembrance for a 25 year period*	£793.00
Additional lease of Tree of Remembrance for 25 years on expiry of previous lease	£396.00
Tree of Remembrance - additional plaque until end of lease*	£269.00
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
Temporary grave marker for full graves or cremation plots (where not already included in the interment fee)	£42.00
Aluminium flower container (gold or silver topped)*	£14.00
Aluminium flower container Lid only for Kerb Block*	£5.00

Memorial Permits

Memorial Fees	Charge
New Memorial - Lawn, Traditional, Vault & Cremated Remains Sections	£283.00
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*	£147.00
Added Inscription	£147.00
Added Memorial	£147.00
Replacement Memorial	£147.00
All Other Work (i.e cleaning/renovation etc.)	£0 charge
Duplicate Permit (to replace lost original)	£26.00

* denotes VAT included

Book of Remembrance & Memorial Cards

Book of Remembrance & Memorial Cards	Charges
2 line entry*	£147.00
5 line entry*	£186.00
8 line entry*	£244.00
Simple designs i.e. flowers*	£70.00
Complex design ie service badges/heraldic designs*	£123.00

* denotes VAT included

Pets (inc Pet Book of Remembrance)

Pet Burials and Ashes	Charges
1st Interment inc Exclusive Right of Burial (for 30 years)*	£475.00
2nd Interment* (for older plots only - check previous burial record)	£244.00
Pet coffin – extra small*	£187.00
Pet Coffin – Small	£212.00
Pet coffin - medium*	£227.00
Pet coffin - large*	£260.00
Cremated remains including plaque*	£219.00
Re-opening for ashes*	£104.00
Prepurchase of Right of Interment for 30 years*	£734.00
Renewal of Exclusive Right of Interment (per unit of 10 years)*	£155.00

* denotes VAT included

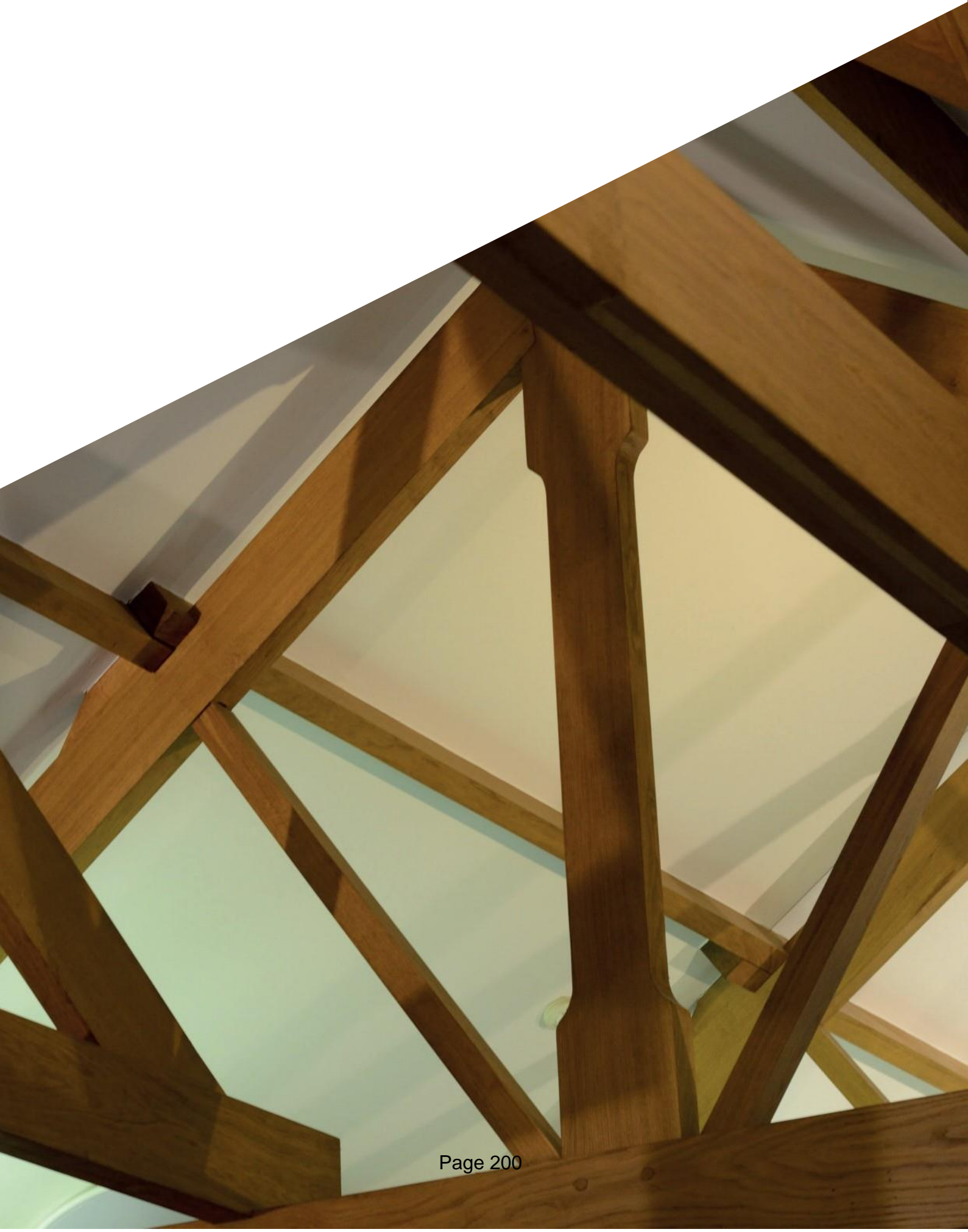
Pet Book of Remembrance	Charges
2 line entry*	£147.00
5 line entry*	£186.00
Simple designs ie flowers*	£70.00
Complex design ie animal*	£123.00

* denotes VAT included

Memorial Permits

New Memorial or Gardens development	Charges
New Memorial	£POA
New Garden	£POA

Public Protection



Dog Warden

Service	Cost 25/26	Notes
Stray dogs 1 to 3 days kenneling	£175.00 vat exempt	per recovery plus any veterinary expenses and/or any other associated fees
Stray dogs 4 to 7 days kenneling	£334.00 vat exempt	per recovery plus any veterinary expenses and/or any other associated fees
Returned Stray dog charge without kenneling fee	£118.00	

Environmental Protection fees

Service	Cost 25/26	Notes
Contaminated land advice	£93.00	per hour, inc vat

Food Safety Fees

Training Courses

Service	Cost 25/26	Notes
RSPH Level 2 Award in Identifying and Controlling Allergy risks	£89.00	Includes VAT
Exam re-sit fee	£47.00	Includes VAT

Food Hygiene

Service	Cost 25/26	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	£93.00	Per hour .VAT exempt

Business Audit and Support

Service	Cost 25/26	Notes
Business Audit	£285.00	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	£198.00	vat exempt
FHRS Fast- track - Event catering	£198.00	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 25/26	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	£93	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 25/26	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	£93.00	vat exempt

Travelling to premises outside of B&NES

Service	Cost 25/26	Notes
Either - hourly rate + mileage charge or public transport costs and accommodation - with prior agreement as appropriate	£93.00+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 25/26	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 25/26	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	£473.00	ex vat

Service	Cost 25/26	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 25/26	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 25/26	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 25/26	Notes
Basic	£10.00	ex vat
Detailed	£100.00	ex vat

Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999 – LA-IPPC

Service	Cost 25/26	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	£93.00	ex vat

Private Water Supply Charges

Service	Cost 25/26	Notes
Risk Assessment	£93 per hour in time in addition to the actual sampling costs	
Sampling (each visit)	£93 per hour in time in addition to the actual sampling costs	
Investigation (each investigation)	£93 per hour in time in addition to the actual sampling costs	
Granting an authorisation (each authorisation)	£93 per hour in time in addition to the actual sampling costs	
Analysing a sample	£93 per hour in time in addition to the actual sampling costs	
Taken under regulation 10	£93 per hour in time in addition to the actual sampling costs	
Taken during check monitoring	£93 per hour in time in addition to the actual sampling costs	
Taken during audit monitoring	£93 per hour in time in addition to the actual sampling costs	
Officer time per hour and then part thereof	£93 per hour in time in addition to the actual sampling costs	

Pest Control Charges

Commercial Pest

Service	Cost 25/26	Notes
Rats	£407	inc vat
Mice	£407	inc vat
Additional visit for rodents	£147	inc vat
Wasps/Hornets' nest	£158	inc vat
additional wasp nest (at time of treatment)	£63	inc vat
Bedbugs, Fleas and Carpet Moths 1-2 rooms (Initial assessment and 1 treatment)	£376	inc vat
Bedbugs, Fleas and Carpet Moths 3-4 rooms (Initial assessment and 1 treatment)	£514	inc vat
Bedbugs, Fleas and Carpet Moths 5 rooms (Initial assessment and 1 treatment)	£661	inc vat
Bedbugs, Fleas and Carpet Moths 6-10 rooms (Initial assessment and 1 treatment)	£1248	inc vat
Additional visit Bedbugs, Fleas and Carpet Moths 1-2 rooms (normal business hours)	£294	inc vat
Additional visit Bedbugs, Fleas and Carpet Moths 3-4 rooms (normal business hours)	£441	inc vat
Additional visit Bedbugs, Fleas and Carpet Moths 5 rooms (normal business hours)	£588	inc vat
Additional visit Bedbugs, Fleas and Carpet Moths 6-10 rooms (normal business hours)	£1175	inc vat
Ants (2 visits within 4 weeks of the initial visit)	£220	inc vat
Cockroaches (initial Assessment & 2 visits)	£220	inc vat
Cockroaches (additional site visits)	£102	inc vat
Cluster Flies - (per attic)	£153	inc vat
Commercial Contract prices	£73	inc vat

Domestic Pest

Service	Cost 25/26	Notes
Rats (up to 3 visits)	£199/£100	Inc vat. Lower figure is for households on means tested benefit
Mice (up to 3 visits)	£199/£100	Inc vat. Lower figure is for households on means tested benefit
Wasps/Hornet nest (1 visit)	£122/£77	Inc vat. Lower figure is for households on means tested benefit
Additional nest (at time of treatment)	£37/£37	Inc vat. Lower figure is for households on means tested benefit
Cockroaches (up to 3 visits)	£220/£110	Inc vat. Lower figure is for households on means tested benefit
Cluster Flies	£147/£73	Inc vat. Lower figure is for households on means tested benefit
Bedbugs, Fleas and Carpet Moths 1-2 rooms (Initial assessment and 1 treatment)	£220/£110	Inc vat. Lower figure is for households on means tested benefit
Bedbugs, Fleas and Carpet Moths 3-4 rooms (Initial assessment and 1 treatment)	£367/£184	Inc vat. Lower figure is for households on means tested benefit
Bedbugs, Fleas and Carpet Moths 5 rooms (Initial assessment and 1 treatment)	£514/£257	Inc vat. Lower figure is for households on means tested benefit
Bedbugs, Fleas and Carpet Moths 6-10 rooms (Initial assessment and 1 treatment)	£661/£330	Inc vat. Lower figure is for households on means tested benefit
Additional visit Bedbugs, Fleas and Carpet Moths 1-2 rooms (normal business hours)	£147/£73	Inc vat. Lower figure is for households on means tested benefit
Additional visit Bedbugs, Fleas and Carpet Moths 3-4 rooms (normal business hours)	£294/£147	Inc vat. Lower figure is for households on means tested benefit
Additional visit Bedbugs, Fleas and Carpet Moths 5 rooms (normal business hours)	£441/£220	Inc vat. Lower figure is for households on means tested benefit

Service	Cost 25/26	Notes
Additional visit Bedbugs, Fleas and Carpet Moths 6-10 rooms (normal business hours)	£588/£294	Inc vat. Lower figure is for households on means tested benefit
Call out fee if no treatment takes place	£73	Inc vat.
Missed appointment	£73	Inc vat.
Out of hours charge (per hour per officer)	£102	Inc vat.
Administration charge for late cancellation	£73	Inc vat.
Administration charge for cancellation	£37	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		£70 (VAT exempt)
Petrol Pump Verification		£175.00 (+VAT) per officer per hour

Explosives

New Application

Storage between 0 and 250kg	Set by statutory instrument
1 year	£119.00
2 years	£154.00
3 years	£190.00
4 years	£226.00
5 years	£260.00

Renewal

Storage between 0 and 250kg	Set by statutory instrument
1 year	£59.00
2 years	£94.00
3 years	£132.00
4 years	£166.00
5 years	£202.00

New Application

Storage between 250kg up to 2000kg	Set by statutory instrument
1 year	£202.00
2 years	£266.00
3 years	£333.00
4 years	£409.00
5 years	£463.00

Renewal

Storage between 250kg up to 2000kg	Set by statutory instrument
1 year	£94.00
2 years	£161.00
3 years	£226.00
4 years	£291.00
5 years	£357.00

Miscellaneous fees

	Set by statutory instrument
Vary Name & Address	£40.00
Transfer Licence	£40.00
Replacement Licence	£40.00
Other variation	£93.00 per officer per hour

Service	Page 212	Cost 25/25
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Annual licence to sell year round	£500
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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 members)	Charge
Sole trader - No employees	£150
1-5 employees	£255
6-15 employees	£310
16+ employees	£400

Buy with Confidence Membership - National Scheme - New Members from 01/04/2016. All prices excluding VAT

Buy with Confidence categories	Charge
Initial Application Fee	FREE
Sole trader - No employees	£150
1-5 employees	£292
6-20 employees	£441
21-50 employees	£584
50+ employees	POA

Licensing Charges

Animals

Licence Activity	Statutory fee	25/26 fee
New	No	£761.00
Renewal	No	£436.00
Maintenance (Annual Fee)	No	£224.00
Variation	No	£196.00
DWA - New	No	£541.00
DWA - Maintenance (Annual Fee)	No	£204.00
Zoo - New	No	£1,784.00
Zoo - Renewal	No	£1,578.00
Zoo - Maintenance	No	£825.00
All - Replacement Licence	No	£11
All - Pre-Application Advice	No	£173 + VAT
All - Checking Service	No	£46 + VAT

Gambling

Licence Activity	Statutory fee	25/26 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	£404.00
Premises - Variation	No	£404.00
Premises - Transfer	No	£252.00
Premises - Maintenance (Annual Fee)	No	£489.00
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	25/26 fee
Temporary Use Licence	No	£133.00
All - Pre-Application Advice	No	£173.00 + VAT
All - Checking Service	No	£46.00 + VAT

Liquor

Licence Activity	Statutory fee	25/26 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	£173.00 + VAT
Premises - Checking Service	No	£46.00 + VAT
Club - New	Yes	banded on size - please request charge
Club - Variation	Yes	banded on size - please request charge

Licence Activity	Satutory fee	25/26 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	£173.00 + VAT
Club - Checking Service	No	£46.00 + VAT
Personal - New	Yes	£37.00
Personal - Change of Details	Yes	£10.50
Personal - Replacement Licence	Yes	£10.50
Personal - Pre-Application Advice	No	£173.00 + VAT
Personal - Checking Service	No	£46.00 + VAT
Temporary Event Notice (TEN) - New	Yes	£21.00
TEN - Replacement	Yes	£10.50
TEN - Pre-Application Advice	No	£173.00 + VAT
TEN - Checking Service	No	£46.00 + VAT

Pavement Licence

Licence Activity	Statutory fee	25/26 fee
Application	No	£500.00
Renewal	No	£350
Replacement Licence	No	£11
Pre-Application Advice	No	£173.00 + VAT
Checking Service	No	£46.00 + VAT

Amenities on the Highway

Licence Activity	Statutory fee	25/26 fee
Application	No	£205.00
Maintenance	No	£245
Transfer	No	£59
Replacement Permit	No	£11
Pre-Application Advice	No	£173.00 + VAT
Checking Service	No	£46.00 + VAT

Street Trading

Licence Activity	Statutory fee	25/26 fee
Individual Trader - New (including consultation)	No	£549.00
Individual Trader - Renewal	No	£46.00
Individual Trader - Maintenance	No	£3284
Individual Trader - Variation	No	£92.00
Individual Trader - Consultation	No	£183.00
Market Organiser - New	No	£549.00
Market Organiser - Renewal	No	£46.00
Market Organiser - Maintenance	No	£3433.00
Market Organiser - Variation	No	£92.00
Market Organiser - Consultation	No	£183.00
Christmas Market - New	No	£549
Christmas Market - Renewal	No	£45.00
Christmas Market - Maintenance	No	£7142
Christmas Market - Variation	No	£92.00
Christmas Market - Consultation	No	£183.00
Busker - New	No	£89.00
Busker - Renewal	No	£45.00
Mobile Artist - New	No	£89.00
Mobile Artist - Renewal	No	£45.00
All - Badge Fee	No	£13.00
All - Replacement Licence	No	£11.00
All - Pre-Application Advice	No	£173.00 + VAT
All - Checking Service	No	£46.00 + VAT

Taxi Drivers

Licence Activity	Statutory fee	25/26 fee
New	No	£582.00
Renewal	No	£444.00
Language Test	No	£124
Knowledge Retest	No	£92.00
Paper DBS	No	£116.00
Replacement Licence	No	£11
Pre-Application Advice	No	£173.00 + VAT
Checking Service	No	£46.00 + VAT

Taxi Vehicles (inc. Operators)

Licence Activity	Statutory fee	25/26 fee
HC - New (Zone 1)	No	£89.00
HC - New (Zone 2)	No	£73.00
HC - Renewal (Zone 1)	No	£180.00
HC - Renewal (Zone 2)	No	£149.00
HC - Change of Vehicle	No	£73.00
HC - Proprietorship Transfer	No	£38.00

Licence Activity	Statutory fee	25/26 fee
HC - Roof Sign	No	£139.00
HC - Replacement Licence	No	£11
HC - Pre-Application Advice	No	£173.00 + VAT
HC - Checking Service	No	£46.00 + VAT
PH - New	No	£73.00
PH - Renewal	No	£124.00
PH - Change of Vehicle	No	£73.00
PH - Proprietorship Transfer	No	£38.00
PH - Roof Sign	No	£83.00
PH - Replacement Licence	No	£11
PH - Pre-Application Advice	No	£173.00 + VAT
PH - Checking Service	No	£46.00 + VAT
Operator - New	No	£424.00
Operator - Renewal	No	£437.00
Operator - Replacement Licence	No	£11
Operator - Pre-Application Advice	No	£173.00 + VAT
Operator - Checking Service	No	£46.00 + VAT

Other Licences

Licence Activity	Statutory fee	25/26 fee
Charity - House to House	Yes	£0.00
Charity - Street Collections	Yes	£0.00
Hypnotism - Applications	No	£92.00
Hypnotism - Maintenance	No	£46.00
Film Classification - Applications	No	£92 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	£420.00
Fireworks (All Year) - Renewal	No	£42.00
Fireworks (All Year) - Maintenance	No	£7.00
Petroleum Storage Certificate - Applications	Yes	banded on size (please see Trading Standards Petroleum Storage fees)
Piercing (Personal) - Applications	No	£179.00
Piercing (Premises) - Applications	No	£488.00
Promotional Pitches	No	£83.00

Licence Activity	Statutory fee	25/26 fee
Scrap Metal - New	No	£213.00
Scrap Metal - Renewal	No	£213.00
Scrap Metal - Variation	No	£213.00
Scrap Metal - Change of Details	No	£37.00
Scrap Metal - Maintenance	No	£262.00
Sex - New	No	£1,831.00
Sex - Renewal	No	£129.00
Sex - Maintenance	No	£275.00
All - Replacement Licence	No	£11.00
All - Pre-Application Advice	No	£173.00 + VAT
All - Checking Service	No	£46.00 + VAT

Other Fees

Licence Activity	Statutory fee	25/26 fee
Business Advice and Support (Pre-App)	No	£173.00 + VAT
Checking Service	No	£46.00 + VAT
Replacement Licence	No	£11.00
Office Administration Fee for late payments etc.	No	£92.00

Business Waste Collection Service



Bin Costs

Business Waste Prices (No VAT)

Recycling materials: Paper & cardboard (mixed or separated)

Container	Cost 2025/26
240 litre wheeled bin	£6.10
360 litre wheeled bin	£6.40
660 litre wheeled bin	£7.90
1100 litre wheeled bin	£11.25
Sack (minimum order 20)	£2.50
Stickers for cardboard bundles (minimum order 20)	£2.50

Recycling Materials: Cans & Plastics (mixed or separated)

Container	Cost 2025/26
240 litre wheeled bin	£6.10
360 litre wheeled bin	£6.40
660 litre wheeled bin	£7.90
1100 litre wheeled bin	£11.25
Sack (minimum order 20)	£2.50

Recycling Materials: Glass bottles & Jars

Container	Cost 2025/26
240 litre wheeled bin	£6.10
360 litre wheeled bin	£6.40

Recycling Materials: Food

Container	Cost 2025/26
140 litre wheeled bin	£10.90

Rubbish/General Waste

Container	Cost 2025/26
240 litre wheeled bin	£9.35
360 litre wheeled bin	£10.95
660 litre wheeled bin	£18.95
1100 litre wheeled bin	£25.45
Sack (minimum order 50)	£3.60

Waste



Garden Waste Collection Service

Description of Service	Fees 2025/26
Garden waste bin annual charge	£70.00
Garden waste bin delivery	£4.75
Garden waste sack (each)	£4.75

Large Item Collection Service

Description of Service	Fees 2025/26
Collection of 1-3 items	£39.22
Collection of 4-6 items	£68.58
Collection of 7-10 items	£85.53

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.

Domestic black wheeled bin

Description of Service	Fees 2025/26
Replacement of lost, stolen, vandalised or misused black wheeled bins	£23.97
Provision for new builds black wheeled bin	£23.97

Business Waste Clinical Waste Sacks Historical Service no longer available to new customers

Description of Service	Fees 2025/26
Clinical waste sack	£2.94

Rubble & Soil above free limits

Description of Service	Fees 2025/26
Charge to residents for depositing rubble/soil at the transfer station above the permitted recycling centre free limit per tonne (No minimum charge)	£56.71

Public Weighbridge Facility

Description of Service	Fees 2025/26
All Vehicles	£13.21

Business Waste Transfer Station Charges

Description of Service	Fees 2025/26
Unsorted waste commercial waste (C&I) - loose & compacted, construction and demolition waste at weighbridge per tonne	£196.80
Unsorted waste commercial waste (C&I) - loose & compacted, construction and demolition waste minimum charge 0.5 tonne	£98.40
Sorted recycling wood and garden waste at weighbridge per tonne	£78.00
Sorted recycling wood and garden waste at weighbridge minimum charge 0.5 tonne	£39.00
Plasterboard waste at weighbridge per tonne	£168.00
Plasterboard waste at weighbridge minimum charge 0.5 tonne	£84.00
Mixed Inert waste at weighbridge per tonne	£72.00
Mixed Inert waste at weighbridge at weighbridge minimum charge 0.5 tonne	£36.00
Loads containing upholstered domestic seating per tonne	£360.00
Loads containing upholstered domestic seating minimum charge 0.05 tonne	£180.00
Mattress	£18.00
New business waste recycling streams	£POA

The transfer station charges may need to change during the financial year due to external market conditions.

City and Town Centre Management



Events on Council Owned Land

Landhire – Heritage, Prime Location and other parks

Service	Cost 25/26	Cost 26/27
Land Hire rates below are exclusive of VAT, VAT status will be confirmed on application submission		
Royal Crescent Lower Lawn	£5,857	£6,208.00
PEAK Commercial (Heritage Parks and prime city centre location) Royal Victoria Park, Parade Gardens, Sydney Gardens, Queen Square	£2,021	£2,142.00
OFF-PEAK Commercial (Heritage Parks and prime city centre location) Royal Victoria Park, Parade Gardens, Sydney Gardens, Queen Square	£1,516.00	£1,607.00
PEAK Charity (Heritage Parks and prime city centre location) 50% of the new commercial hire rate	£1,010.00	£1,071.00
OFF-PEAK Charity (Heritage Parks and prime city centre location) 50% of the new commercial hire rate	£758.00	£803.00
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)	£735.00	£779.00
Charity (All other parks and open spaces in B&NES)	£368.00	£390.00
Pigeon Park (Flat Rate per day)	£361.00	£382.50

Other costs

Service	Cost 25/26	Cost 26/27
Services below are inclusive of VAT, except for *		
Boules bookings per terrain (Queen Square, Sydney Gardens) *	£35.00	£37.00
Boules Clubs bookings unlimited use - 12 months *	£794.00	£841.50
Fitness Trainer Fees, unlimited use - 12 months	£952.00	£1,009.40
Fitness Trainer Fees, unlimited use - 6 months	£715.20	£758.40
Fitness Trainer Fees, unlimited use - 3 months	£476.40	£505.20
Fitness Trainer Fees, Administration Fee per renewal	£130.80	£138.60

Service	Cost 25/26	Cost 26/27
Forest Schools	£43.20 admin plus £9.60per session or £159.60 pa	£45.60 admin plus £10.20 per session or £169.20 pa
For utilities, VAT will follow the main supply of land, either exempt or standard rate. VAT status will be confirmed on application submission		
Power (utilities electricity/gas) per day excluding VAT	£32.00	£34
Power (utilities electricity/gas) per day including VAT	£38.40	£40.80
Water (per day if not meter read) per day excluding VAT	£32.00	£32.00
Water (per day if not meter read) per day including VAT	£38.40	
Damage Deposit Bond	£500-£5,000	£500-£5,000
Council Officer requiring to attend an Event	£140.40 per hour	£148.80 per hour
Event Administration Fee – Standard Event	£130.80	£138.60
Event Administration Fee for Major Event	£262.80	£278.40
Event Administration Fee - Multiple Standard Events within one financial year	£262.80	£278.40

Filming on Council Owned Land

Admin fee for filming on the highway

Service	Cost 25/26
1 to 10	£75.00
11 to 19	£138.00
20+	£POA

Admin fee for filming in a park or open space

Service	Cost 25/26
1 to 10	£115.00
11+	£POA
Admin fee for arranging drone filming	£115.00

Other Fees

Service	Cost 25/26
Recces	£118.00
Officer in attendance	£118.00

Filming - Suspension of parking spaces

Service	Cost 25/26
First by coning charge	£POA +VAT
Subsequent bays	£POA +VAT
Administration Fee for Parking	£POA +VAT

Suspension of Parking spaces	Restrictions	Cost per day/bay
Single or first space	All zones and areas	£POA +VAT
Each additional space and/or day	Central zone and Zone 1	£POA +VAT
Each additional space and/or day	All other zones and areas	£POA +VAT
Additional Suspension charges that may also apply		Additional flat rate charge
Short Notice Charge – Level 1 New request made within 2-5 working days of start date		£143.10 +VAT
Short Notice Charge – Level 2 New request made within 6-9 working days of start date		£85.86 +VAT
Short Notice Charge – Level 3 New request for residential house move only, made within 2-9 working days of start date. Maximum of two bays for one day only.		£57.24 +VAT
Administration charge – Level 1. Extend an existing booking where signs are already in place, due to expire within 2-5 working days		£143.10 +VAT
Administration charge – Level 2. Extend an existing booking where signs are already in place, due to expire within 6-9 working days		£85.86 +VAT
Administration charge – Level 3. Amend an existing booking where the start date is within 5 working days		£85.86 +VAT
Administration charge – Level 4. Amend an existing booking where the start date is within 6-9 working days		57.24 +VAT

Location Fees

Area	Cost 25/26
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 25/26
CCTV Requests From Insurance Companies	£92
Emergency Planning/Event Multi-Agency Control Room	£1020
Emergency Planning/Event Exercise Planning/Delivery	POA

Bath Christmas Market

Catering & Bar Fees:

Description of Service	Cost 2024/2025
Milsom Street:	
Large Catering Chalet	£9,676.00 18 days + VAT
Small Catering Vehicle Pitch	£2,950 .00 18 days + VAT
Mobile Catering Pitch (cart/bike)	£2,212.00 18 days + VAT
Stall Street:	
Bar Vehicle Pitch	£6,600.00 18 days +VAT
Union Street:	
Small Catering Pitch	£3,200.00 18 days + VAT
Bath Street:	
Large Catering Chalet	£20,050.00 18 days + VAT
Mobile Catering Pitch (cart/bike)	£2,212.00 18 days + VAT
Hot Bath Street	
Small Catering Vehicle Pitch	£4,000.00 18 days +VAT
Abbeygate Street:	
Mobile Catering Pitch (cart/bike)	£2,212.00 18 days + VAT
Kingston Parade:	
Large Catering Chalet	£26,315.00 18 days + VAT
Medium Catering Chalet	£10,150.00 18 days + VAT
Mobile Catering Pitch (cart/bike)	£2,212.00 18 days + VAT
Abbey Green:	
Medium Catering Chalet	£10,150.00 18 days + VAT
Orange Grove	

Mobile Catering Pitch (cart/bike)	£2,212.00 18 days +VAT
Guildhall	
Mobile Catering Pitch (cart/bike)	£1,800.00 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

Description of Service	Cost 2024/2025
Zone 1: Corner Chalet	£4,830.00 + VAT for 18 days
Zone 1: Countertop Chalet	£3,925.00 + VAT for 18 days
Zone 1: Barn Door Chalet	£3,925.00 + VAT for 18 days
Zone 2: Corner Chalet	£4,450.00 + VAT for 18 days
Zone 2: Countertop Chalet	£3,540.00 + VAT for 18 days
Zone 2: Barn Door Chalet	£3,540.00 + VAT for 18 days
Zone 3: Barn Door Chalet	£2,285.00 + VAT for 18 days
Short Term Let Barn Door Chalet 7 days	£1,527.00 + VAT for 7 days
Short Term Lets Barn Door Chalet 11 days	£2,399.00 +VAT for 11 days
Small business carts all zones: Monday to Thursday	£155.00 + VAT for 4 days
Small business carts all zones: Friday to Sunday	£190.00 + 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 25/26
Rides and Attractions	£2,650.00 +VAT

Service	Cost 25/26
Sponsorship and funding contributions	POA

Service	Cost 25/26
Online advertising and web sales	POA

Clean Air Zone



Clean Air Zone

Service	Cost 25/26
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



Highways Commuted Sums

Feature	Units	2025/26
High Friction or Coloured Surfacing	Square Metre	£112.35
Knee rail fencing	Linear Metre	£35.14
SuDS Each Site specific quotation	Each	£POA
Soakaways	Each	£7,029.29
Petrol & Oil interceptors	Each	£7,029.29
Combined kerb drainage systems	Linear Metre	£21.08
Trees	Each	£431.21
Structures	Each	Site specific quotation (120 years)
Illuminated street furniture	Each	£548.28
Signalised 3 arm junction connected to Fibre	Each	£145,673.82
Signalised 3 arm junction connected to 4G	Each	£139,637.10
Signalised Junction with more than 3 arms	Each	£POA
Signalised crossing connected to Fibre	Each	£66,104.38
Signalised crossing connected to 4G	Each	£70,459.64
Zebra Crossing	Each	£37,113.3
Zebra Crossing with Anti Skid	Each	£53,955.30
Street Light	Each	£2,953.65
ANPR and CCTV systems	Each	Site specific quotation (120 years)
Bollards	Each	Site specific quotation (120 years)

Highways Delivery



Network Management

Permanent Traffic Regulation Orders

Service	Cost 25/26
Permanent Minor Traffic Regulation Orders for developers	£5,216.89
Permanent Standard Traffic Regulation Orders for developers	£6,521.11
Permanent Complex Traffic Regulation Orders for developers	£10,433.78
Priority TRO for developers	Add 25% to above fees
H markings	£316.47
H markings - additional cost for use of different road marking in winter months	Add 25% to fee above

Street Works Permit Fees

Service	Cost 25/26
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 25/26
Section 14 Road Closure Notice (planned works) - fees & adverts	£1669.52
Section 14 Road Closure Notice (planned works) - late submission fee	£321.32
Section 14 Road Closure Notice (planned works) - amendment fee	£128.08
Section 16a Street Closures ¹ to 6 roads - fee & advert charge	£131.45 plus advert charge
Section 16 a Street Closure more than 6 roads - fee & advert charge	£390.98 plus advert charge
Community Street Party	£0
Playing Out Scheme	£0
Emergency Notice	£296.60
Town Police Clauses Act Street Closures (processions, crowds etc.)	£202.23 non-charity £145.95 charity

Traffic signals

Service	Cost 25/26
Permanent Traffic Signal switch on/off charge	£473.11
Permanent Traffic Signals switch on/off charge - 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	£37.08
Permanent Traffic Signal switch on/off Safety Inspection	£61.79
Permanent Traffic Signal switch on/off - late notice application (< 10 working days)	£713.57
Traffic Information on one VMS sign per day	£60.67
Temporary multi way traffic signals application - utility companies	£0
Temporary multi way traffic signals application - non-utility company applicant	£196.61
Temporary multi way signals - design advice (all applicants)	£59.55

Road Safety

Service	Cost 25/26
Supply of personal injury collision data to third parties	£230.32
Road safety audits for external clients	£947.11

Streetworks and Events

VAT may apply where activities occur within council car parks

Suspension of Parking spaces	location	Cost per day/bay		
Single or first space	All zones and areas	£57.24 standing charge		
Additional charge for each extra space - £POA		Day 1-13	Day 14-27	Day 28 and over
Central Zone and Zone 1		£33.92	£37.31	£40.70
All other zones and areas		£11.66	£12.83	£13.99
Additional Suspension charges that may also apply		Additional flat rate charge		
Short Notice Charge – Level 1 New request made within 2-5 working days of start date		£143.10		
Short Notice Charge – Level 2 New request made within 6-9 working days of start date		£85.86		
Short Notice Charge – Level 3 New request for residential house move only, made within 2-9 working days of start date. Maximum of two bays for one day only.		£57.24		
Extension of a booking - charges calculated at the appropriate day/bay rate starting from day 1 of the original start date.		See additional charge for each extra space - £POA		
Administration charge – Level 1. Extend an existing booking where signs are already in place, due to expire within 2-5 working days		£143.10		
Administration charge – Level 2. Extend an existing booking where signs are already in place, due to expire within 6-9 working days		£85.86		
Administration charge – Level 3. Amend an existing booking where the start date is within 5 working days		£85.86		
Administration charge – Level 4. Amend an existing booking where the start date is within 6-9 working days		£57.24		

Blue Badge Application

Service	Cost 25/26
Application for a Blue Badge	£10.00

Service	Cost 25/26
NRSWA sample inspections	£50.00
NRSWA Section 50 licences (new apparatus in the highway)	£570.90
NRSWA Section 50 licences (new apparatus in the highway)-retrospective licence	£139.65
NRSWA Section 50 licences (maintenance apparatus in the highway)	£414.70
NRSWA Section 171 licences (excavation in the highway)	£244.65
NRSWA Section 171, 179 & 180 licences (control of openings in cellars)	£256.30
NRSWA Section 74 over-run charges	variable
NRSWA Oversail licences	£203.70
NRSWA Oversail licences - (under 5 days notice) New (non refundable)	£241.50
NRSWA Oversail licences - Retrospective - (non refundable)	£303.45
NRSWA Oversail Licence Emergency Fee	£63.00
NRSWA Raising Statutory Notices	N/A

Service	Cost 25/26
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	£48.30
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	£52.50
Temporary direction sign approval fee up to 10 signs	£78.75
Temporary direction sign approval fee 11 plus signs	£105.00
Temporary direction sign removal per sign	£10.50

* The government is reviewing Fixed Penalty Notices in 2025, therefore these statutory fees are subject to change mid-year.

Service	Cost 25/26
Traffic Management Plans	Actual Costs
A bus stop closure or pair with 5 plus working days notice plus £10 per additional stop	£87.63
A bus stop closure or pair with less than 5 working days notice plus £10 per additional stop	£168.00
Bus stop closure amendment fee	£16.85

Road Safety

Service	Cost 25/26
Supply of personal injury collision data to third parties	£230.32

Highway Maintenance

Service	Cost 25/26
Skip Licence (over 5 days notice)- New (non refundable)	£87.73
Skip Licence (under 5 days notice - New (non refundable)	£124.71
Skip Licence - Renewal (non refundable)	£71.90
Skip Licence - Retrospective (non refundable)	£148.30
Scaffold / Hoarding Licence (over 5 days notice)- New (non refundable)	£89.88
Scaffold / Hoarding Licence (under 5 days notice) - New (non refundable)	£128.08
Scaffold/Hoarding Emergency Fee	£62.92
Scaffold / Hoarding Licence - Renewal (non refundable)	£55.05
Scaffold / Hoarding Licence - Retrospective (non refundable)	£179.76
Cherry Picker/Mobile Crane Licence (over 5 days notice) - (non refundable)	£143.38
Cherry Picker/Mobile Crane Licence (under 5 days notice) - (non refundable)	£112.35
Cherry Picker/Mobile Crane Licence - Retrospective (non refundable)	£148.30
Building Materials and Container on Highway Licence (over 5 days notice) - (non refundable)	£75.18
Building Materials and Container on Highway Licence (under 5 days notice) - (non refundable)	£112.35
Building Materials/Container on Highway Licence - Renewal (non refundable)	£55.06
Building Materials/Container on Highway Licence - Retrospective (non refundable)	£148.30
Chase Fee	£13.48 per reminder
Safety Inspections	£61.79 per inspection
Banner on Highway Licence - New (non refundable)	£75.38
Footway Crossing Licence - New (non refundable)	£195.49
Footway Crossing Licence - Retrospective (non refundable)	£195.49
Duplicate Letter confirming Approval of Footway Crossing	£31.46

Service	Cost 25/26
Traffic Survey Equipment on the Highway (non refundable)	£87.63
Additional Site Inspection by Highway Inspector	£42.69
s116 Highways Stopping Up	£3624.41
Landowner Deposits - primary land	£264.03
Landowner Deposits - additional land	£33.71
Public Path Orders (Highway Act)	£4565.90
Public Path Orders (Town & Country Planning Act)	£6155.66
Local Search	£47.19
PROW Maps	£13.48
Section 14 PROW Closure Order (planned works) - fees & adverts	£1669.52
Section 14 PROW Closure Order (planned works) - late submission fee	£321.32
Section 14 PROW Closure Order (planned works) - amendment fee	£126.96
Section 14 TTRO Closure by order - SofS extension	£1669.52
Section 14 PROW Closure Notice (emergency works) – fees	£296.60

Land Drainage Consent for work on Ordinary Watercourses

Service	Cost 25/26
Temporary and Permanent works	£56.18

Street Lighting

Service	Cost 25/26
Permanent Relocation	£2,295.31
Temporary relocate and reinstall	£2,295.31
Trenching per metre	£125.83
Shield to Street light	£105.61

Transport Planning

Service	Cost 25/26
Temporary Automatic Traffic Counts (ATC)	£350.53
Hand Held Radar Speed Survey 1hour	£79.77

Manual Traffic Counts *(2x2hrs peaks)

Service	Cost 25/26
1 Enumerator	£338.17
Extra cost per Enumerator	£88.76

Manual Traffic Counts *(12hr 07:00-19:00)

Service	Cost 25/26
1 Enumerator	£447.15
Extra cost per Enumerator	£219.40
*Subject to 50% uplift for Out of Hours work (between 19:00 and 07:00 or weekends)	

Ad hoc surveys

Service	Cost 25/26
07:00-19:00	£15.10 per hour plus mileage and expenses
19:00-07:00	£ 22.78 per hour plus mileage and expenses

Miovision Video Camera Surveys

Service	Cost 25/26
Copied onto USB stick and provided to requestor for 1 week's viewing	£34.82
Erect 1 camera	£375.25
External Costs for Processing	Page 255
	Cost plus 10%

Supply of Existing Data Manual Classified Counts

Service	Cost 25/26
One peak period	£123.59
Two peak period	£164.03
12 Hour Classified	£232.57

Traffic Modelling

Service	Cost 25/26
Use of existing traffic models	Cost plus 30%

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 2025/26	
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 2025/26	
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	£299
School Tree inspections - primary/infant	£141

Play Team 2025/26	
Parish Council Annual Play Area Inspection	£124.00
Parish Council Operational Play Area Inspection (min. 1 visit; max 4 visits per year)	£96.39 per visit

Allotment charges	2025/26
Allotment annual charge per 25 sqm	£17.29
Allotment annual water charge per plot	£9.00
Allotment key deposit	£10.00

Sport and Parks hire rates	2025/26
Individual	£POA

Fees for Hot Air Balloons Launches from BANES sites	2025/26
Licence for Non-Commercial Club (valid to 31st March 2026).	£535.50
Licence for Commercial Club	£POA
Licence for small balloons (up to and including 105,000 ft3)	£36.00 per launch
Licence for large balloons (greater than a 105,000 ft3)	£44.00 per launch

Fees quoted exclude VAT. Fee applicable for any of the named launch sites owned by BANES: RVP, Weston Rec, Pennyquick Park and Kensington Meadows. We will ask for payment in advance and a licence to fly X number of flights within a financial year will be issued. If an operator finds that they are short of flights they can purchase more, but again it will be upfront and only valid to the 31st March]

Parks Concessions	2025/2026
7 day Pitch licence (per calendar month)	£315.00
Where available power & electrics	recharged
3 day Pitch licence (per calendar month)	£158.00

Sponsorships	2025/26
Bench sponsorship (10 years)	£1,989.00
Bench plaque (on an existing bench)	£POA
3D Bed	£POA
Flowerbeds	£POA
Roundabout sponsorship	£POA

Horticultural Excellence	2025/26
Hanging basket 18 inch with our watering service	£150.00
Hanging basket 18 inch without watering service	£77.00
Window Box 90cm with our watering Service	£146.00
Window Box 90cm without our watering Service	£77.00
Window Box 120 cm with our watering service	£188.00
Window Box 120 cm without watering service	£89.00

Sydney Gardens Community Pavilion	2025/26
Commercial (price per hour)	£21.50
Concession (price per hour)	£POA

Other	2025/26
Land access licence arrangement	£75.00
Land use charge (contractor use of space/hire charge per day)	£POA

Transport



Description of Service	Fees 2025/26	Notes
Taxi Inspections	£60.00	Inc Vat
Taxi Meter Test	£24.00	Inc Vat
Taxi Inspection with MOT	£92.00	Inc Vat
Inspection /MOT and Meter Test	£114.00	Inc Vat
Diagnostic Testing	£98.00	Inc Vat
Headlight Check	£40.00	Inc Vat
Diesel Smoke Check	£40.00	Inc Vat
Air Conditioning Refresh (gas134a)	£80.00	Inc Vat
Air Conditioning Refresh (Gas 1234yf)	£122.00	Inc Vat
MOT Class I (Motorcycles <200cc)	£29.65	No VAT
MOT Class II (Motorcycles >200cc)	£29.65	No VAT
MOT Class IV (Cars & Motorcaravans)	£54.85	No VAT
MOT Class V (Private Passengers 13-16 Passengers Seats)	£59.55	No VAT
MOT Class VII (Goods vehicles >3.5t)	£58.60	No VAT
MOT PSV Test 9-22 Passengers	£187.00	Inc Vat
MOT PSV Test 23+ Passengers	£212.00	Inc Vat
MOT PSV Re-Test 9-22 Passengers (up to 14 Days)	£84.00	Inc Vat
MOT PSV Re-Test 23+ Passengers (up to 14 Days)	£101.00	Inc Vat
MOT PSV Part Paid Re-Test (Next Day)	£37.00	Inc Vat
MOT HGV Motor Vehicle Test 2 Axle	£157	Inc Vat
MOT HGV Motor Vehicle Test 3 Axle	£179	Inc Vat
MOT HGV Motor Vehicle 4+ Axles	£203	Inc Vat
MOT HGV Motor Vehicle Re-Test 2 Axle (up to 14 Days)	£65.00	Inc Vat

MOT HGV Motor Vehicle Re-Test 3 Axle (up to 14 Days)	£79.00	Inc Vat
MOT HGV Motor Vehicle Re-Test 4+ Axles (up to 14 Days)	£95.00	Inc Vat
MOT HGV Vehicle Part Paid (Next Day)	£38.00	Inc Vat
MOT HGV Trailer 1 Axle	£89.00	Inc Vat
MOT HGV Trailer 2 Axle	£102.00	Inc Vat
MOT HGV Trailer 3+ Axles	£112.00	Inc Vat
MOT HGV Trailer 1 Axle Re-Test (up to 14 Days)	£48.00	Inc Vat
MOT HGV Trailer 2 Axle Re-Test (up to 14 Days)	£55.00	Inc Vat
MOT HGV Trailer 3+ Axle Re-Test (up to 14 Days)	£66.00	Inc Vat
MOT HGV Trailer Part Paid Re-Test (Next Day)	£32.00	Inc Vat
Loaded IBC/Blocks <12t	£51.00	Inc Vat
Loaded IBC/Blocks >13t - 26t	£63.00	Inc Vat
Loaded Trailer	£50.00	Inc Vat
Submit Truck for Customer	£70.00	Inc Vat
Submit Truck for Customer with Loaded Trailer	£120.00	Inc Vat
Labour Charge Per Hour (car/small van)	£85.00	Inc Vat
Labour Charge Per Hour <3.5t (Class V and VII)	£90.00	Inc Vat
Labour Charge per hour HGV/PSV	£100.00	Inc Vat
RBT (Roller Brake Test) Per Axle	£16.00	Inc Vat
Tachograph calibration Digital (1b) with Battery	£108.00	Inc Vat
Tachograph Calibration Digital (1c) with Battery	£120.00	Inc Vat
Tachograph Diagnostics (Per Hour)	£96.00	Inc Vat
Analogue Calibrations	Page 263 £ POA	Inc Vat

Top Wash Small Vehicle (van)	£15.00	Inc Vat
Top Wash Medium Vehicle <3.5t	£20.00	Inc Vat
Top Wash Large Vehicle >3.5t	£25.00	Inc Vat
Under Chassis Wash Small Vehicles (van)	£15.00	Inc Vat
Under Chassis Wash Medium Vehicle <3.5t	£20.00	Inc Vat
Under Chassis Wash Large Vehicles	£25.00	Inc Vat

ANNEX 12

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

EXTRACT OF MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL MEETING (BUDGET ITEM)

Tuesday, 28th January, 2025

Present:- **Councillors** Hal MacFie, Toby Simon, Malcolm Treby, Colin Blackburn, George Tomlin and Duncan Hounsell

Apologies for absence: Councillors: Robin Moss and Ian Halsall

132 BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2025/26 AND FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

The Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Mark Elliott introduced the report. He explained that the underlying theme was uncertainty and that the final figures would be available in early February. He stated that a cautious and carefully balanced budget would be presented.

The Chair of the Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing PDS Panel gave feedback from her Panel. Councillor Romero stated that there was a lack of information due to the growing lateness of information from Government (for example funding of the safety valve) which made the budget proposals difficult to scrutinise. She stated that there were concerns about there being similar proposals to last year. She pointed to the huge amount of work in non-statutory services and work on early support.

The Chair of the Climate Emergency and Sustainability PDS Panel gave feedback from his Panel. Councillor Wait stated that most things within the remit of the Panel are non-statutory activities so difficult to scrutinise. He agreed that there had been a lack of information in that no Capital Budget information was available. He stated that he was pleased to see funding for 3 school streets in the budget. He asked that more information be supplied in future years.

Panel members made the following points and asked the following questions:

Councillor MacFie asked if the costs regarding Children's Services are being investigated. The Cabinet Member stated that the plan is to bring more back in house and address the home to school transport issue as we are currently at the whim of the external market. He stated that things that were dismantled a long time ago are being rebuilt. Regarding home to school transport he stated that there is some work we can do around single taxi journeys. The Executive Director added that there is an action plan regarding home to school transport and that there are several drivers to the current pressures in the budget area such as more children in residential care. She stated that the focus was on what is best for young people. She stated that work is being done with health colleagues regarding children with education and health needs.

Councillor Blackburn stated that the Panel had consistently asked for data to show the context of the budget proposals to include information from the previous year and trajectory. He stated that we can look at a 5 year projection but not look back. He stated that he totally took on board the pressures but asked for more data. The Cabinet Member stated that he would be happy to work with the Panel to produce the detail they want. He stated that Annex 1 shows the last year and this year for each portfolio. He stated that there is no attempt to hide information.

Councillor Simon stated that these are more transparent budget papers than in previous years and in other authorities. He stated that it can be difficult to balance the bigger picture with too much detail. He stated that he felt there were robust proposals and that it would be helpful to have line by line risk analysis in severity order. Some risks (such as contract inflation are only moderately stated). He asked if there is provision for National Insurance increases in the care sector. The Executive Director explained that there is a lot of dialogue with the sector and that there is an annual grant from Government to allow us to give an uplift. There is pressure and discussions are ongoing.

Councillor Treby asked if the 3% increase on last years budget for Adult Services was achievable. The Cabinet Member stated that officers had signed off on this figure and we know there may be pressures. The level of uncertainty is higher than usual. We have a good record on achieving savings plans but predicting cost increases is more difficult.

Councillor Treby asked if the money generated by Heritage Services is a sufficient contingency. The Cabinet Member for Economic and Cultural Sustainable Development, Councillor Roper, explained that the Roman Baths is the key driver. There are other activities going on such as the shop, guided tours etc. and visitors will be charged more. There is a multiple pronged approach to revenue. The Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Elliott stated that there is contingency provision against high risk areas.

Councillor Treby asked how much Capital is flowing into next year and what level of borrowing there is for the Capital Programme. The Cabinet Member explained that Capital underspend is not a good thing, he is comfortable that it is not hitting the revenue budget. The officer added that Quarter 3 should be factored in and these figures are not in the report, there will be more details in the report to Cabinet in February. The Cabinet Member added that a lot of Capital schemes are grant funded not funded by borrowing.

Councillor Simon asked if the borrowing regarding the Capital Schools Grant overspend has a revenue cost and what is the additional borrowing cost. The officer stated that the deficit falls on the Council, we would have £33m more if the Government had funded this. The Cabinet Member added that there is a delay in the Government funding regarding Culverhay.

Councillor Simon asked about the 4 maintained schools that are left and if we should be encouraging them to join an academy. The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Councillor May, explained that SEND and DSG funding is a national issue. He explained that 94% of schools in the authority are in academies. Decisions are made by the Department for Education. We need to develop new ways to

communicate with schools such as the School Funding Board. He agreed that the Council cannot provide the same level of back office (for example Human Resources) support to schools with such a small number.

Councillor Hounsell asked about the estimate of 4% (then 3% thereafter) of pay inflation. The Cabinet Member stated that we are as confident in that figure as we can be and have been through the due diligence. The Chief Executive added that inflation has spiked and feels more stable now so there is an expectation that the pressure will reduce.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Members and asked them to note the comments of the Panel.

The meeting ended at 5.08 pm

Prepared by Democratic Services

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Bath & North East Somerset Council	
MEETING:	Council
MEETING DATE:	25th February 2025
TITLE:	Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2025/26
WARD:	All
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
List of attachments to this report: Appendix 1 - Treasury Management Strategy 2025/26 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**.

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 2025/26 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 Audit Committee have been nominated by Council to carry out this function.

2025/26 Treasury Management Strategy Statement

- 3.5 The Strategy Statement for 2024/25 set the Treasury Indicators for 2024/25 – 2026/27, which included a forecast for the total borrowing requirement at the end of 2024/25 of £441.7m. At the end of December 2024, actual external borrowing was at £266.95 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 2025/26, which is also on February's Cabinet and Council 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 2024, which shows after the netting off of the £43.10 million investments, the Council's net debt position was £223.85 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 2024) 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 2025/26 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 and 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 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 2025/26 Treasury Management Strategy includes options for ESG (Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance) focussed investments.

8 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 The Executive Director - Resources, 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 long-term 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 long-term interest costs may be less certain.

9 CONSULTATION

9.1 Consultation has been carried out with the Cabinet Member for Resources,
Executive Director - Resources and Monitoring Officer.

Contact person	<i>Jamie Whittard - 01225 477213; Claire Read – 01225 477019</i> Jamie_Whittard@bathnes.gov.uk ; Claire_Read@bathnes.gov.uk
Background papers	<i>2024/25 Treasury Management & Investment Strategy</i>
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 2025/26

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 2025/26 Revenue & Capital Budget Report.

1.2 External Context

1.2.1 Economic background (per advisor January 2025):

The impact on the UK from the government's Autumn Budget, slower than expected interest rate cuts, modestly weaker economic growth over the medium term, together with the impact from President-elect Trump's second term in office and uncertainties around US domestic and foreign policy, will be major influences on the Authority's treasury management strategy for 2025/26.

The Bank of England's (BoE) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) held Bank Rate at 4.75% at its December 2024 meeting, having reduced it to that level in November and following a previous 25bp cut from the 5.25% peak at the August MPC meeting. At the December meeting, six Committee members voted to maintain Bank Rate at 4.75% while three members preferred to reduce it to 4.50%.

The November quarterly Monetary Policy Report (MPR) expected Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth to pick up to around 1.75% (four-quarter GDP) in the early period of the BoE's forecast horizon before falling back. The impact from the Budget pushes GDP higher in 2025 than was expected in the previous MPR, before becoming weaker.

Current GDP growth was shown to be zero (0.0%) between July and September 2024 and 0.4% between April and June 2024, a further downward revision from the 0.5% rate previously reported by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

ONS figures reported the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation rate at 2.6% in November 2024, up from 2.3% in the previous month and in line with expectations. Core CPI also rose, but by more than expected, to 3.6% against a forecast of 3.5% and 3.3% in the previous month. The outlook for CPI inflation in the November MPR showed it rising above the MPC's 2% target from 2024 into 2025 and reaching around 2.75% by the middle of calendar 2025. This represents a modest near-term increase due to the ongoing impacts from higher interest rates, the Autumn Budget, and a projected margin of economic slack. Over the medium-term, once these pressures ease, inflation is expected to stabilise around the 2% target.

The labour market appears to be easing slowly, but the data still require treating with some caution. The latest figures reported the unemployment rate rose to 4.3% in the three months to October 2024 and economic inactivity fell to 21.7%. Pay growth for the same period was reported at 5.2% for both regular earnings (excluding bonuses) and for total earnings. Looking ahead, the BoE MPR showed the unemployment rate is expected to increase modestly, rising to around 4.5%, the assumed medium-term equilibrium unemployment rate, by the end of the forecast horizon.

The US Federal Reserve has continued cutting interest rates, bringing down the Fed Funds Rate by 0.25% at its December 2024 monetary policy meeting to a range of 4.25%-4.50%, marking the third consecutive reduction. Further interest rate cuts are expected, but uncertainties around the potential inflationary impact of incoming President Trump's policies may muddy the waters in terms of the pace and magnitude of further rate reductions. Moreover, the US economy continues to expand at a decent pace, rising at an (upwardly revised) annual rate of 3.1% in the third quarter of 2024, and inflation remains elevated suggesting that monetary policy may need to remain more restrictive in the coming months than had previously been anticipated.

Euro zone inflation rose above the European Central Bank (ECB) 2% target in November 2024, hitting 2.2% as was widely expected and a further increase from 2% in the previous month. Despite the rise, the ECB continued its rate cutting cycle and reduced its three key policy rates by 0.25% in December. Inflation is expected to rise further in the short term, but then fall back towards the 2% target during 2025, with the ECB remaining committed to maintaining rates at levels consistent with bringing inflation to target, but without suggesting a specific path.

1.2.2 Credit outlook (November 2024):

Credit Default Swap (CDS) prices have typically followed a general trend downwards during 2024, reflecting a relatively more stable financial period compared to the previous year. Improved credit conditions in 2024 have also led to greater convergence in CDS prices between ringfenced (retail) and non-ringfenced (investment) banking entities again.

Higher interest rates can lead to a deterioration in banks' asset quality through increased loan defaults and volatility in the value of capital investments. Fortunately, the rapid interest rate hikes during this monetary tightening cycle, while putting some strain on households and corporate borrowers, has not caused a rise in defaults, and banks have fared better than expected to date, buoyed by strong capital positions. Low unemployment and robust wage growth have also limited the number of problem loans, all of which are positive in terms of creditworthiness.

Moreover, while a potential easing of US financial regulations under a Donald Trump Presidency may aid their banks' competitiveness compared to institutions in the UK and other regions, it is unlikely there will be any material impact on the underlying creditworthiness of the institutions on the counterparty list maintained by Arlingclose, the authority's treasury adviser.

Overall, 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 2024):

The Authority's treasury management adviser Arlingclose expects the Bank of England's MPC will continue reducing Bank Rate through 2025, taking it to around 3.75% by the end of the 2025/26 financial year. The effect from the Autumn Budget on economic growth and inflation has reduced previous expectations in terms of the pace of rate cuts as well as pushing up the rate at the end of the loosening cycle.

Arlingclose expects long-term gilt yields to remain broadly at current levels on average (amid continued volatility), but to end the forecast period modestly lower compared to now. Yields will continue to remain relatively higher than in the past, due to quantitative tightening and significant bond supply. As ever, there will be short-term volatility due to economic and (geo)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 4.00% and long-term strategic investments will yield an average rate of 4.25%. It is forecast that new loans will be borrowed at an average rate of 5.10% during 2025/26.

1.3 Local Context

1.3.1 Council's position as at 31st December 2024: The Council held £266.95m of borrowing and £43.1m of treasury investments. This is set out in further detail in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Balance sheet summary

	31/12/2024 Actual portfolio £m	31/12/2024 Average rate %
External borrowing:		
Public Works Loan Board	231.95	3.47%
Local authorities	25.00	5.21%
LOBO loans from banks	10.00	4.50%
Total external borrowing	266.95	3.67%
Treasury investments:		
Local authorities	20.00	5.19%
Banks (unsecured)	3.10	4.07%
Money market funds	10.00	4.77%
Strategic pooled funds	10.00	4.47%
Total treasury investments	43.10	4.84%
Net debt	223.85	

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 Council's Capital Financing Requirement (CFR, or underlying need to borrow) excluding lease financing as at 31st March 2025 is expected to be £382.7m and is forecast to rise to £441.8m by March 2026 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 2025/26.

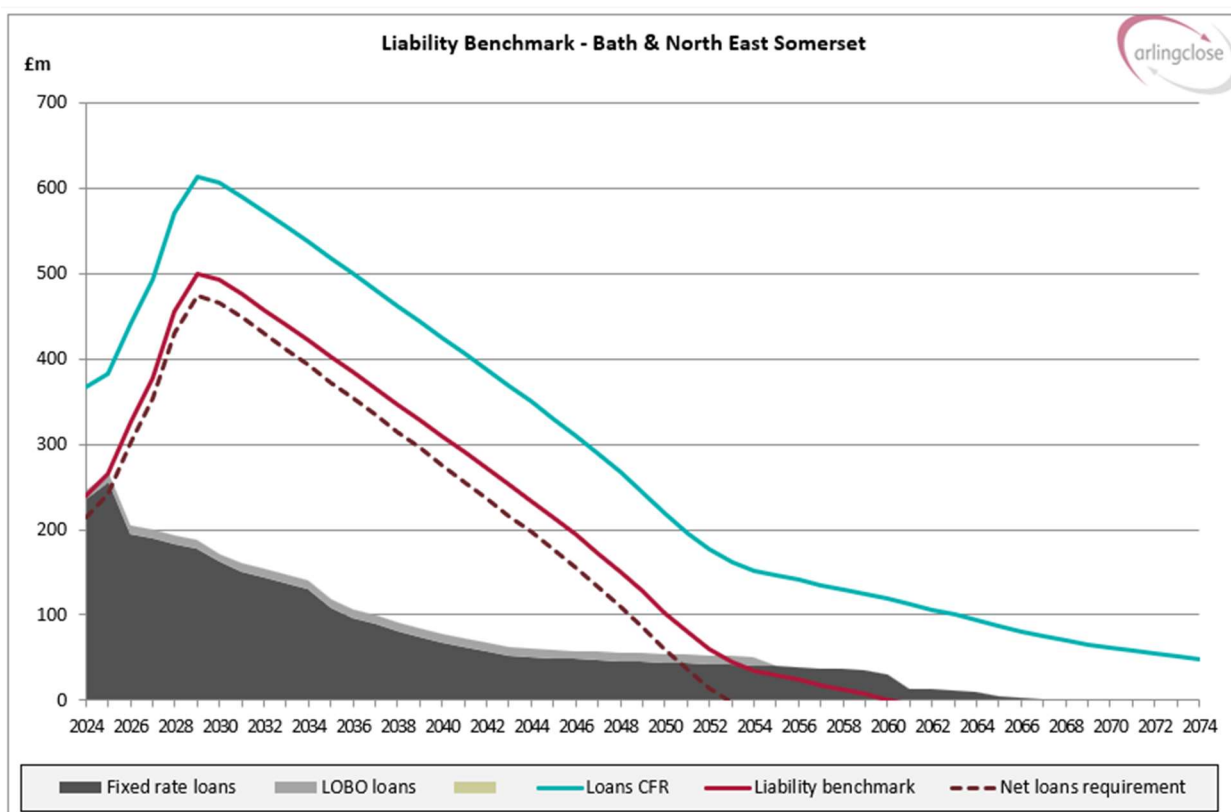
Liability Benchmark

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

	31.3.24 Actual £m	31.3.25 Estimate £m	31.3.26 Forecast £m	31.3.27 Forecast £m	31.3.28 Forecast £m
Loans CFR	367.60	382.66	441.81	492.39	570.26
Less: Balance sheet resources	(143.30)	(131.70)	(129.70)	(129.50)	(130.20)
Net loans requirement	224.30	250.96	312.11	362.89	440.06
Plus: Liquidity allowance	15	15	15	15	15
Liability benchmark	239.30	265.96	327.89	377.89	455.06

Following on from the medium-term forecasts in table 2 above, the long-term liability benchmark assumes capital expenditure funded by borrowing of around £35m for 2025/26, minimum revenue provision on new capital expenditure based on a 25 year asset life and income, and expenditure increasing by inflation of 2% 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 2025 and 2052. 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 £266.95 million of loans, an increase £49.97 million on the previous year. The Council has taken out £70m in new borrowing between January 2024 & December 2024. £45m was in in order to keep cash balances in line with the Liability Indicator, £10m was to cover a pension prepayment and £15m was for refinancing maturing loans. This was netted off by £5.03m in PWLB annuity loan repayments and £15m in repayment of maturing loans.

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 higher than in the recent past, but are expected to fall in the coming years and it is therefore likely to be more cost effective over the medium term to borrow short term loans. The risks of this approach will be managed by keeping the Council's interest rate exposure within the limit set in the treasury management prudential indicators. By doing so the Council is able to reduce net borrowing costs, over time and overall treasury risk.

The benefits 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 2025/26 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)
- National Wealth Fund Ltd (formally 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
- retail investors via a regulated peer-to-peer platform
- 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

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 2025/26 and it is possible that lenders will exercise their options. If they do, the Council 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 Council's treasury investment balance has ranged between £25.5m and £72.1m and similar levels are expected to be maintained in the forthcoming year.

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's existing portfolio of investments in strategic pooled funds, £5m in CCLA Local Authority Property Fund, £3m in FP Foresight UK Infrastructure Income Fund, and £2m in the VT Gravis Clean Energy Income Fund, will be maintained to diversify risk into different sectors and boost investment income, further details of this are provided in section 3.8.

Under the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID) II, 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 Executive Director - Resources believes this to be the most appropriate status.

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 2025/26 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 Local Authorities and Other Government Entities: Although most UK local authorities have not opted to obtain a formal credit rating from either Fitch, Moody's or Standard & Poors, they are considered quasi-governmental by advisors and therefore are assigned the same rating as the UK Government for the purpose of establishing credit criteria. No local authority has ever defaulted in its loan arrangements. The above withstanding the Council will consider other factors including; if a S114 Notice has been issued, if exceptional financial support is requested/granted and the status of the authorities' statement of accounts.

3.4.3 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, secured deposits 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.

3.4.4 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.

3.4.5 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.

3.4.6 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.

3.4.7 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.

3.4.8 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 A-for 'Banks (unsecured)' and be domiciled in a country which meets the minimum credit rating criteria set of AA+.

3.4.9 Other investments: This category covers treasury investments not listed above, for example unsecured corporate bonds and unsecured 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.

3.4.10 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 bail-in. 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 Council 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 £84 million as at 31st March 2024. To limit risk from any single default, the maximum that will be lent to any one organisation (other than the UK Government) will be £10 million which represents 11.83% 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 Council 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 Authority's 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 0.72% 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 Council's 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 2025/26 to 2027/28

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

	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m
Operational Boundary – Borrowing	414	465	543
Operational Boundary – Other Long-Term Liabilities	9	9	9
Operational boundary – TOTAL	423	474	552
Authorised Limit- Borrowing	442	492	570
Authorised Limit – Other Long-Term Liabilities	9	9	9
Authorised limit – TOTAL	451	501	579

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	+/- £0.8m
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 £800k 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	30%	0%
12 months and within 24 months	30%	0%
24 months and within 5 years	50%	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

This indicator looks at investments that at inception are for over 364 days or with no fixed maturity date. The purpose of which 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	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	No fixed Date
Limit on principal invested beyond year end	£20m	£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 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 Audit Committee by the Council's treasury advisors, Arlingclose.

5.5 Financial Implications

The budget for treasury management investment income in 2025/26 is £1.4m, based on an average investment portfolio of £33m at an average interest rate of 4.10%. The budget for debt interest paid in 2025/26 is £11.8m, based on an average debt portfolio of £295m at an average interest rate of 4.00%. 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 crystallised on the sale of treasury assets.

5.6 Other Options Considered

The CIPFA Code does not prescribe any particular treasury management strategy for local authorities to adopt. The Executive Director - Resources, 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
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 long-term 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 long-term interest costs may be less certain

Appendix A – Arlingclose Economic & Interest Rate Forecast – December 2024

Underlying assumptions:

- As expected, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) held Bank Rate at 4.75% in December, although, with a 6-3 voting split and obvious concerns about economic growth, presented a much more dovish stance than had been expected given recent inflationary data.
- The Budget measures remain a concern for policymakers, for both growth and inflation. Additional government spending will boost demand in a constrained supply environment, while pushing up direct costs for employers. The short to medium-term inflationary effects will promote caution amongst policymakers.
- UK GDP recovered well in H1 2024 from technical recession, but underlying growth has petered out as the year has progressed. While government spending should boost GDP growth in 2025, private sector activity appears to be waning, partly due to Budget measures.
- Private sector wage growth and services inflation remain elevated; wage growth picked up sharply in October. The increase in employers' NICs, minimum and public sector wage levels could have wide ranging impacts on private sector employment demand and costs, but the near-term impact will likely be inflationary as these additional costs get passed to consumers.
- CPI inflation rates have risen due to higher energy prices and less favourable base effects. The current CPI rate of 2.6% could rise further in Q1 2025. The Bank of England (BoE) estimates the CPI rate at 2.7% by year end 2025 and to remain over target in 2026.
- The MPC re-emphasised that monetary policy will be eased gradually. Despite recent inflation-related data moving upwards or surprising to the upside, the minutes suggested a significant minority of policymakers are at least as worried about the flatlining UK economy.
- US government bond yields have risen following strong US data and uncertainty about the effects of Donald Trump's policies on the US economy, particularly in terms of inflation and monetary policy. The Federal Reserve pared back its expectations for rate cuts in light of these issues. Higher US yields are also pushing up UK gilt yields, a relationship that will be maintained unless monetary policy in the UK and US diverges.

Forecast:

- In line with our forecast, Bank Rate was held at 4.75% in December.
- The MPC will reduce Bank Rate in a gradual manner. We see a rate cut in February 2025, followed by a cut alongside every Monetary Policy Report publication, to a low of 3.75%.
- Long-term gilt yields have risen to reflect both UK and US economic, monetary and fiscal policy expectations, and increases in bond supply. Volatility will remain

elevated as the market digests incoming data for clues around the impact of policy changes.

- This uncertainty may also necessitate more frequent changes to our forecast than has been the case recently.
- The risks around the forecasts lie to the upside over the next 12 months but are broadly balanced in the medium term.

	Current	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26	Mar-27	Jun-27	Sep-27	Dec-27
Official Bank Rate													
Upside risk	0.00	0.25	0.50	0.50	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75
Central Case	4.75	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75
Downside risk	0.00	-0.25	-0.25	-0.50	-0.50	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75
3-month money market rate													
Upside risk	0.00	0.25	0.50	0.50	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75
Central Case	4.90	4.60	4.35	4.10	3.90	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85
Downside risk	0.00	-0.25	-0.25	-0.50	-0.50	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75
5yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.70	0.80	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90
Central Case	4.34	4.30	4.20	4.10	4.00	3.90	3.90	3.95	4.00	4.05	4.05	4.05	4.05
Downside risk	0.00	-0.50	-0.60	-0.65	-0.65	-0.70	-0.70	-0.75	-0.75	-0.80	-0.80	-0.80	-0.80
10yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.70	0.80	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90
Central Case	4.56	4.55	4.45	4.30	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25
Downside risk	0.00	-0.50	-0.60	-0.65	-0.65	-0.70	-0.70	-0.75	-0.75	-0.80	-0.80	-0.80	-0.80
20yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.70	0.80	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90
Central Case	5.05	5.00	4.90	4.80	4.70	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65
Downside risk	0.00	-0.50	-0.60	-0.65	-0.65	-0.70	-0.70	-0.75	-0.75	-0.80	-0.80	-0.80	-0.80
50yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.70	0.80	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90
Central Case	4.52	4.70	4.60	4.50	4.40	4.35	4.35	4.35	4.35	4.35	4.35	4.35	4.35
Downside risk	0.00	-0.50	-0.60	-0.65	-0.65	-0.70	-0.70	-0.75	-0.75	-0.80	-0.80	-0.80	-0.80

PWLB Standard Rate = Gilt yield + 1.00%

PWLB Certainty Rate = Gilt yield + 0.80%

PWLB HRA Rate = Gilt yield + 0.40%

National Wealth Fund (NWF) Rate = Gilt yield + 0.40%

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Appendix 2

Complete Credit List as at: 31/12/2024

		ARLINCLOSE RECOMMENDS		FITCH RATINGS				MOODY'S RATINGS				STANDARD & POOR'S RATINGS					
Counterparty	Country of Domicile	Maximum Deposit/CD Duration	Repo & Covered Bonds	Short- term	Long-term	Viability	Outlook	Short- term	Long-term	Baseline Credit Assess	Outlook	Short- term	Long-term	Outlook	Banking Group	Accepts Deposits	Notes
UNITED KINGDOM: BANKS																	
BANK OF SCOTLAND PLC	GB	6 months	Yes	F1+	AA-	a+	STABLE	P-1	A1	a3	STABLE	A-1	A+	STABLE	Lloyds Banking Group	Yes	Ringfenced bank
LLOYDS BANK PLC	GB	6 months	Yes	F1+	AA-	a+	STABLE	P-1	A1	a3	STABLE	A-1	A+	STABLE		Yes	Ringfenced bank
LLOYDS BANK CORPORATE MARKET	GB	100 days	Yes	F1+	AA-		STABLE	P-1	A1	baa3	STABLE	A-1	A	STABLE			Non-ringfenced bank
BARCLAYS BANK PLC	GB	6 months	Yes	F1	A+	a	STABLE	P-1	A1	baa2	STABLE	A-1	A+	STABLE	Barclays Group	Yes	Non-ringfenced bank
BARCLAYS BANK UK PLC	GB	6 months	Yes	F1	A+	a	STABLE	P-1	A1	a3	STABLE	A-1	A+	STABLE		Yes	Ringfenced bank
CLYDESDALE BANK	GB	100 days	Yes	F1	A	bbb+	STABLE	P-1	A1	baa1	STABLE	A-1	A	STABLE	Nationwide	Yes	Also trades as Virgin Money
HANDELSBANKEN PLC	GB	6 months	-	F1+	AA		STABLE					A-1+	AA-	STABLE	Svenska HB	Yes	
HSBC BANK PLC	GB	6 months	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	6 months	Yes	F1+	AA-	a	STABLE	P-1	A1	a3	STABLE	A-1	A+	STABLE		Yes	Ringfenced bank
NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK	GB	6 months	Yes	F1	A+	a	POS	P-1	A1	a3	STABLE	A-1	A+	STABLE	NatWest Group	Yes	Ringfenced bank
NATWEST MARKETS PLC	GB	6 months	Yes	F1	A+		POS	P-1	A1	baa3	STABLE	A-1	A	STABLE		Yes	Non-ringfenced bank
ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND PLC/T	GB	6 months	Yes	F1	A+	a	POS	(P)P-1	A1	a3	STABLE	A-1	A+	STABLE		Yes	Ringfenced bank
SANTANDER UK PLC	GB	6 months	Yes	F1	A+	a	STABLE	P-1	A1	baa1	STABLE	A-1	A	STABLE	Santander	Yes	Ringfenced bank
STANDARD CHARTERED BANK	GB	6 months	Yes	F1	A+	a	STABLE	P-1	A1	baa2	POS	A-1	A+	STABLE		Yes	
UK: BUILDING SOCIETIES																	
NATIONWIDE BUILDING SOCIETY	GB	6 months	Yes	F1	A+	a	STABLE	P-1	A1	a3	STABLE	A-1	A+	STABLE	Nationwide	Yes	
UK: LOCAL AUTHORITIES																	
ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL	GB	2 years +	-						A2	baa1	STABLE						
BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL	GB	NONE	-														
CROYDON LONDON BOROUGH OF	GB	NONE	-														
CORNWALL COUNCIL	GB	2 years +	-						A1	a3	STABLE						
GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY	GB	2 years +	-									A-1+	AA	STABLE			
GLoucestershire COUNTY COUNCIL	GB	2 years +	-		A+		STABLE		A2	baa2	STABLE		AA-	STABLE			
NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY	GB	2 years +	-						A1	a3	STABLE						
NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL	GB	NONE	-														
ROUGHLAND BOROUGH COUNCIL	GB	NONE	-														
SUTTON LONDON BOROUGH OF	EN	2 years +	-						A1	a3	STABLE						
THURROCK BOROUGH COUNCIL	GB	NONE	-														
TRANSPORT FOR LONDON	GB	2 years	-	F1+	AA-		STABLE	P-1	A2	a3	STABLE	A-1+	AA-	STABLE			
WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL	GB	2 years +	-						Aa3	a1	STABLE						
WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL	GB	NONE	-														
WOKING BOROUGH COUNCIL	GB	NONE	-														
UK: OTHER INSTITUTIONS																	
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		STABLE		Aa3		STABLE	A-1+u	AAu	STABLE		Yes	
OTHER UK LOCAL AUTHORITIES	GB	50 years	-	F1+u	AA-u		STABLE		Aa3		STABLE	A-1+u	AAu	STABLE		Yes	
WELLCOME TRUST FINANCE PLC	GB	15 years	-						Aaa		STABLE		AAA	STABLE			
AUSTRALIA																	
AUST AND NZ BANKING GROUP	AU	6 months	-	F1+u	AAu		STABLE		Aaa		STABLE	A-1+u	AAu	STABLE			
COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRAL	AU	6 months	Yes	F1+	AA-	a+	STABLE	P-1	Aa2	a2	STABLE	A-1+	AA-	STABLE		Yes	
NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK LTD	AU	6 months	Yes	F1+	AA-	a+	STABLE	P-1	Aa2	a1	STABLE	A-1+	AA-	STABLE		Yes	
WESTPAC BANKING CORP	AU	6 months	-	F1+	AA-	a+	STABLE	P-1	Aa2	a2	STABLE	A-1+	AA-	STABLE		Yes	
AUSTRIA	AS		-	F1+u	AA+u		STABLE	P-1	Aa1		STABLE	A-1+	AA+	POS			
OESTERREICHISCHE KONTROLLBAN	AS	6 months	-					P-1	Aa1		STABLE	A-1+	AA+	POS		Yes	"OKB"
CANADA	CA		-	F1+u	AA+u		STABLE	P-1	Aaa		STABLE	A-1+	AAA	STABLE			
BANK OF MONTREAL	CA	6 months	Yes	F1+	AA	aa-	STABLE	P-1	Aa2	a3	STABLE	A-1	A+	STABLE		Yes	
BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA	CA	6 months	Yes	F1+	AA	aa-	STABLE	P-1	Aa2	a3	STABLE	A-1	A+	STABLE		Yes	
CAN IMPERIAL BK OF COMMERCE	CA	6 months	Yes	F1+	AA	aa-	STABLE	P-1	Aa2	a3	STABLE	A-1	A+	STABLE		Yes	
EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CANADA	CA	10 years	-					P-1	Aaa		STABLE	A-1+	AAA	STABLE		Yes	
NATIONAL BANK OF CANADA	CA	100 days	-	F1+	AA-	a+	STABLE	P-1	Aa2	a3	STABLE	A-1	A+	STABLE		Yes	
ROYAL BANK OF CANADA	CA	6 months	Yes	F1+	AA	aa-	STABLE	P-1	Aa1	a2	STABLE	A-1+	AA-	STABLE		Yes	
TORONTO-DOMINION BANK	CA	6 months	Yes	F1+u	AAu	aa-u	NEG	P-1	Aa2	a2	STABLE	A-1	A+	STABLE		Yes	

Counterparty	Country of Domicile	ARLINGCLOSE RECOMMENDS		FITCH RATINGS				MOODY'S RATINGS				STANDARD & POOR'S RATINGS			Banking Group	Accepts Deposits	Notes
		Maximum Deposit/CD Duration	Repo & Covered Bonds	Short- term	Long-term	Viability	Outlook	Short- term	Long-term	Baseline Credit Assess	Outlook	Short- term	Long-term	Outlook			
DENMARK	DE		-	F1+	AAA		STABLE	P-1	Aaa		STABLE	A-1+u	AAAu	STABLE			
KOMMUNEKREDIT	DE	10 years	-					P-1	Aaa		STABLE	A-1+	AAA	STABLE			
FINLAND	FI		-	F1+	AA+		NEG	P-1	Aa1		STABLE	A-1+	AA+	STABLE			
MUNICIPALITY FINANCE PLC	FI	10 years	-						Aa1		STABLE	A-1+	AA+	STABLE		Yes	
NORDEA BANK ABP	FI	6 months	-	F1+	AA	aa-	STABLE	P-1	Aa3	a3	POS	A-1+	AA-	STABLE		Yes	
OP CORPORATE BANK PLC	FI	100 days	-					P-1	Aa3	a3	STABLE	A-1+	AA-	STABLE		Yes	
GERMANY	GE		-	F1+u	AAAu		STABLE		Aaa		STABLE	A-1+u	AAAu	STABLE			
BAYERISCHE LANDESBANK	GE	6 months	-	F1+	AA-	bbb+	STABLE	P-1	Aa2	baa1	STABLE	NR	NR			Yes	"BayernLB"
DZ BANK AG DEUTSCHE ZENTRAL-	GE	6 months	-	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 (KFW)	GE	25 years	-	F1+u	AAAu		STABLE	P-1			STABLE	A-1+	AAA	STABLE			"KfW"
LANDESBANK BADEN-WUERTTEMBER	GE	6 months	-	F1+	AA-	bbb+	STABLE	P-1	Aa2	baa2	STABLE	NR	NR				"LBBW"
LANDESBANK HESSEN-THURINGEN	GE	6 months	-	F1+	AA-		STABLE	P-1	Aa2	baa2	STABLE	NR	NR			Yes	"Helaba"
LANDESKRED BADEN-WUERTT FOER	GE	25 years	-	F1+	AAA		STABLE	P-1	Aaa		STABLE	A-1+	AA+	POS		Yes	"L-Bank"
LANDWIRTSCHAFTLICHE RENTENBA	GE	25 years	-	F1+	AAA		STABLE	P-1	Aaa		STABLE	A-1+	AAA	STABLE		Yes	"Rentenbank"
NETHERLANDS	NE		-	F1+u	AAAu		STABLE	P-1u	Aaa		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	6 months	-	F1+	AA-	a+	STABLE	P-1	Aa2	a3	STABLE	A-1	A+	STABLE		Yes	"Rabobank"
NEDERLANDSE WATERSCHAPSBAK	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			
DB BANK LTD	SI	6 months	Yes	F1+	AA-	aa-	STABLE	P-1	Aa1	a1	STABLE	A-1+	AA-	STABLE		Yes	
OVERSEA-CHINESE BANKING CORP	SI	6 months	Yes	F1+	AA-	aa-	STABLE	P-1	Aa1	a1	STABLE	A-1+	AA-	STABLE		Yes	
UNITED OVERSEAS BANK LTD	SI	6 months	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			
SWEDSKA HANDELSBANKEN-A SHS	SW	6 months	-	F1+	AA+	aa	STABLE	P-1	Aa1	a2	STABLE	A-1+	AA-	STABLE	Svenska HB		
SWEDSK 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	100 days	-	F1+	AA	aa-	STABLE	P-1	Aa1	a1	STABLE	A-1+	AA-	STABLE			
SUPRANATIONAL																	
AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (AfDB)	IV	5 years	-	F1+	AAA		STABLE	P-1	Aaa		STABLE	A-1+	AAA	STABLE			
ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK	PH	5 years	-	F1+	AAA		STABLE	P-1	Aaa		STABLE	A-1+	AAA	STABLE			
COUNCIL OF EUROPE DEVELOPMENT BANK (CEDB)	FR	15 years	-	F1+	AAA		STABLE	P-1	Aaa		STABLE	A-1+	AAA	STABLE			
EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT (EBRD)	GB	25 years	-	F1+	AAA		STABLE	P-1	Aaa		STABLE	A-1+	AAA	STABLE			
EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK (EIB)	LX	25 years	-	F1+	AAA		STABLE	P-1	Aaa		STABLE	A-1+	AAA	STABLE			
INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (IADB)	US	25 years	-	F1+u	AAAu		STABLE	(P)P-1	Aaa		STABLE	A-1+	AAA	STABLE			
INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT (THE WORLD BANK)	US	25 years	-	F1+u	AAAu		STABLE	P-1	Aaa		STABLE	A-1+	AAA	STABLE	World Bank Group		"World Bank"
INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORP	US	5 years	-					(P)P-1	(P)Aaa		STABLE	A-1+	AAA	STABLE			
NORDIC INVESTMENT BANK (NIB)	FI	25 years	-					P-1	Aaa		STABLE	A-1+	AAA	STABLE			

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING:	Council	
MEETING DATE:	25th February 2025	
TITLE:	Proportionality Review	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
Appendix 1 – revised political proportionality table		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The Council is required to formally undertake a statutory review of the political proportionality arrangements (as triggered under section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989) in respect of bodies that are required to be politically proportionate, following the recent by-election in Saltford.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Council is asked to;

- 2.1 Agree a revised political proportionality table, offering a place on the Corporate Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel to the Unaligned Councillor, Cllr Chris Warren.
- 2.2 Expressly disapply the proportionality rule to the Restructuring Implementation Committee (with no Councillor voting against), as set out in section 5.9.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1 There are no financial, property or people implications directly arising from this report.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

- 4.1 As described in paragraph 1.1.

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 There has been a recent change in political group membership; - Councillor Alison Streatfeild-James resigned as a Councillor on 27th November 2024, triggering a by-election in the Saltford ward. The by-election took place on 16th

January 2025 and Councillor Chris Warren was elected. Councillor Warren is an independent (Unaligned) councillor (but not part of the Independent group).

- 5.2 As a result of this, an adjustment to committee memberships is needed so that a place is offered to Councillor Warren. The Liberal Democrat group need to lose one place from any of the bodies in the top table (of the attachment) to be offered to Councillor Warren so that their total number of committee places in the top table reduces from 38 to 37.
- 5.3 The allocation of seats between the bodies listed in the top table (compulsory cumulative proportionality) is traditionally managed through discussion between Group Leaders. As long as the Total numbers in the bottom column of the top table are correct, there is discretion as to how these are allocated within these bodies.
- 5.4 The Liberal Democrat Group have indicated that they will relinquish a place on the Corporate Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel which can be offered to Councillor Chris Warren.

Proportionality rules

- 5.5 The law gives detailed guidance on the principles to be applied in calculating the allocation of seats on Committees and Sub Committees but the basic principles are:-
- a) not all the seats on the body shall be allocated to one particular party;
 - b) the majority of the seats on the body shall be allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the Authority's membership;
 - c) Subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, the number of seats on the ordinary Committees of the Authority which are allocated to a political group shall bear the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary Committees of that Authority as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of that Authority;
 - d) subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, the number of seats on the body which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that body as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the Authority.
 - e) Notwithstanding (a) to (d) above the Act does not restrict the ability of the Council, or Committees where they are authorised by the Council, to decide on the size and number of seats on Committees and Sub Committees, and to make the actual appointments. A Committee or Sub Committee must, however comprise at least two voting members.
 - f) The law also deals with the allocation of committee places to members who do not belong to any political group formally recognised by the Council. It indicates that, where there are members of the Council who do not belong to a political group, a proportion of seats on each body to which appointments are made, equal to the proportion of authority members who do not belong to a political group, will be allocated to the Member(s) concerned. Thus, as there

are fifty five seats on Committee/Panels and one member who is not in a political group, one seat would be available to him.

- 5.6 It remains the position that, if a seat is allocated to a member/group, it is within their gift to offer their place to another group (or non-aligned member), and withdraw that offer at any point. This is an informal arrangement and does not affect the formal proportionality numbers.

Proportionality - Alternative arrangements

- 5.7 Should the Council wish to make alternative arrangements, the Council may disapply the political balance requirements in whole or in part provided no Councillor votes against those alternative arrangements (section 17(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and regulation 20 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990).

- 5.8 These alternative arrangements cease to have effect each time a review is triggered in accordance with section 15 of the Act.

- 5.9 This is specifically requested with regard to the Restructuring Implementation Committee (constituted of the Group Leaders)

Disapplication of proportionality

- 5.10 The following bodies are not required to be politically proportionate; Area Committees, Health and Wellbeing Board, the Cabinet and any Licensing Committee or Sub-Committee appointed by the Licensing Act 2003.

Standards committee chairing arrangement

- 5.11 The Standards committee features in the proportionality table with chairing rights allocated to a political group. This is statutorily required for when a formal vote is needed, as independent members do not have voting rights. However, in order to preserve the non-political nature of the committee and maintain trust and confidence in its operation, the committee has operated with one of the independent members taking the chair and it is hoped that this arrangement will continue.

6 RATIONALE

- 6.1 To ensure fair representation.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 Not applicable.

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer and Group Leaders were consulted in preparing this report.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 9.1 Not applicable.

Contact person	<i>Jo Morrison - Democratic Services Manager 01225 394358</i>
Background papers	<i>The Constitution</i>
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY TABLE – FEBRUARY 2025

Compulsory cumulative proportionality	Number on Committee	Liberal Democrat (40%) 68%	Labour (7) 12%	Independent (6) 10%	Green (3) 5%	Conservative (2) 3%	Unaligned (1) 2%	Chair Allocation	Vice Chair Allocation	Co-opted members
Corporate PD&S	9	7 6	1	1			<u>1</u>	LAB	LD	
Climate Emergency & Sustainability PD&S	9	6	1	1	1			LD	LAB	
Children, Adults, Health & Wellbeing PD&S	9	6	2	(1)*	1*			LD	LAB	4
Planning Committee	10	7	1	1		1		LD	LD	
Advisory Committee	5	3	1		1			LAB		1
Avon Pension Fund Committee	5	3	1		1			LD	LD	12 voting, 3 non voting
Employment Committee	3	3						LD		
Standards Committee	5	3		1		1		LD	LD	6 non voting *(current working practice is Chair is independent member unless Chair vote required)
TOTALS	55	<u>38</u> 37	7	5	3	2	<u>1</u>			

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* Independent Group offering their seat to the Green Group

Compulsory individual proportionality	No. on Cttee	LD	Lab	Ind	Green	Con			
Licensing Sub-Committee	3	2+1**	(1)**	(1)**		(1)**	LD		
Optional proportionality									
Licensing Committee	11	8	1	1		1	LD		
Fixed memberships									
WECA Overview & Scrutiny Committee	2	2							
WECA Audit Committee	2	2							
Health & Wellbeing Board	2	2 (appropriate Cabinet Members)	1 (observer)	1 (observer)		1 (observer)	Shared between CM & CCG Chair (or equivalent)		
Pensions Investment panel	3 (Chair & Vice of APF)	2	1						3
Restructuring Implementation Committee	5	Group Leader	Group Leader	Group Leader	Group Leader	Group Leader			
Charitable Trust Board *	5	1 Cab Mem + 3	1						
Alice Park Trust *	5	3			2 (Ward member)				2

- CTB - 5 councillors (to include Cabinet member responsible for Community Services) plus at least 1 Councillor who is not a member of controlling group but appointed by controlling group, plus 3 others).
- APT – 3 Councillors from the membership of the Charitable Trust Board (*excluding the Cab Member*) + the 2 Ward members for Lambridge as voting members + 2 co-opted non-voting members.
- ** No other group prepared to fill the Licensing Sub place hence 3 LDs