Appendix 1

FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT - PERIOD 3 2025/26

SECTION 1: SUMMARY

Revenue Budget

1.1 This is the third Financial Monitoring Report of 2025/26, covering the period from April to December 2025. The report has been prepared excluding the revenue financial implications of any other reports presented on the same agenda. There will be a further Financial Monitoring Report covering the outturn position for the full-year financial performance in 2025/26.

1.2 At the end of December, there is a forecast service overspend of £7.153m against the net portfolio budget of £203.880m One-off corporate underspends are forecast to offset the overspend by £3.669m, resulting in a forecast net budget overspend of £5.448m. This is broadly a significantly worse position to the overspend of £3.119m that was reported within FMR P2.

1.3 Given the current position, 2025/26 will be the fourth consecutive year in which the Council has overspent.

1.4 The overspend position as set out shows that the Council still needs to control its costs and manage national demand pressures, whilst also achieving agreed savings, in order to deliver a balanced outturn.

1.5 The forecast position is summarised in the table below.

Portfolio	**Forecast Variance at P2** **£000**	**Forecast Variance at P3** **£000**
Neighbourhoods & Environmental Services	(53)	+122
Finance & Governance	0	(19)
People, Performance & IT	(129)	(110)
Business & Inclusive Growth	(282)	(295)
Regeneration	+700	+604
Adult Social Care & Health	+1,200	+1,500
Localities, Culture & Heritage	(52)	(56)
Children & Young People	+3,817	+7,747
Stronger Communities	(313)	(376)
Net Portfolio Position	**+4,888**	**+9,117**
Corporate Budgets	(1,769)	(3,669)
Net Forecast Position 2025/26	**+3,119**	**+5,448**

1.6 The main pressure of £7.747m is within the Children & Young People portfolio, with placement costs associated with caring for children looked after, unachieved savings, and frontline social care agency staffing pressures being the main drivers of this.

1.7 Previously reported delays in the delivery of the saving regarding provision of Children's Homes owned by the authority due to delays in Ofsted registration, which has prevented placements being made remain and is a significant element (£1.8m) of the overspend of £4.440m for children looked after.

1.8 Staffing costs within the department remain high, with a £1.7m pressure linked to the continued usage of agency social workers; a phased reduction plan is in place to safely reduce agency reliance, but this will take time to implement.

1.9 The pressures and issues being faced by the Children & Young People portfolio have been identified as a key area for organisational focus within the Annual Auditors' Report provided by the Council's external auditor, Grant Thornton. The demand management plan for Children's Placements has been updated as at January 2026 with key actions identified to manage and mitigate cost pressures.

1.10 There is also a significant overspend within the Regeneration portfolio, with a forecast overspend of £0.604m, primarily because of the non-delivery of savings, in particular the delay in the sale of Lincoln House and Wesley House. However, the pressure is currently being managed within the Place Directorate, where the net departmental position is break-even.

1.11 The position with regard to Adult Social Care is an unfavourable movement from the position reported at FMR2, with an overspend forecast of £1.500m. This is as a result of increased demand for services, particularly domiciliary care, and increases in the cost of individual care package costs.

1.12 The Neighbourhood and Environmental Portfolio is showing a small overspend of £0.122m. The main pressure is in Recycling due to employee overspends, use of agency staff and underachievement in income. There are several pressures across the Directorate, which are actively being managed to ensure stability and maintain delivery while longer-term solutions are developed. The net departmental position for the Place directorate is break-even.

1.13 The other portfolios are either projecting a balanced position or small underspends against the budget.

1.14 Corporate underspends that are one-off in nature totalling £3.669m result from additional investment income from Treasury Management activity and borrowing activity being undertaken at less than budget (£1.657m), a reduction in Minimum Revenue Provision due to slippage in the outturn capital programme for 2024/25 (£0.669m), income due of £843k as part of the Mim-Mersey Business Rates Pool for 2024/25, and a forecast underspend on the restructuring budget (£0.500m).

1.15 As noted in the previous Financial Monitoring Report the following measures have been implemented by the Executive Leadership Team to minimise the budget pressures being faced by the Council:

- A recruitment freeze
- The cessation of all non-essential expenditure
- Continued review and reduction of agency workers

1.16 These measures will continue until the end of the financial year and it is critical that the forecast overspend position continues to be vigorously monitored during the final period of the year.

Dedicated Schools Grant

1.17 Not included in the above table is the forecast on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the current year which is a pressure of £11.064m; after taking into account the accumulated prior year deficit of £1.432m, the overall position at 31 March 2026 is forecast to be a deficit of £12.496m.The most significant area of pressure is in relation to the school's high needs block which supports provision for pupils and students with special educational needs and disabilities.

1.18 Under current arrangements and regulations set out in the Local Authorities (Capital and Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 DSG deficits are held within a separate reserve and do not impact on the Council's revenue budget. This statutory override will continue until March 2028, with Government providing an indication of how this will be dealt with within the Local Government Financial Settlement 2026 to 2029.

Savings

1.19 The 2025/26 budget was approved by Council on 5 March 2025. In doing so, Members agreed to the delivery of £6.074m of savings during the year which had been approved as part of a previous year's Medium Term Financial Strategy. In addition, £3.204m of savings which had been approved for delivery in previous years have slipped and still need to be delivered. A review of the underlying assumptions and funding estimates for the period 2025-2027, based upon the Local Government Finance Settlement announced on 3 February 2025 and the wider economic outlook, showed that no further savings were required for 2025/26. Section 3 of this report provides a summary of the latest position in relation to the progress towards delivering these savings, and portfolio commentaries provide additional information.

1.20 At this stage it is forecast that savings of £6.141m (66.19%) will be delivered in year. £3.137m may not be fully delivered in the year due to delays in implementation. At this juncture, mitigations of £1.290m have been identified / are in the process of being developed to offset the savings that may not be delivered. It is critical that action plans continue to be addressed and implemented to ensure that savings are delivered or alternative permanent reductions in expenditure are found.

1.21 It is essential that savings delivery has a full year impact from 2026/27.

Financial Outlook

1.22 It is essential that robust financial management continues over the remainder of the financial year and future years to manage the ongoing challenges being faced by the Council and the need to deliver savings, manage demand and costs across a wide range of services to protect the Council's underlying financial stability.

1.23 The Local Government Finance Settlement 2026-2029 was announced on 9 February 2026 and details of the financial outlook beyond 2025/26 are set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2026-2029 and Revenue & Capital Budget 2026/27 Report which is included on the same agenda as this report.

Capital Budget

1.24 The capital programme covers a three-year period through to 2027/28. The capital budget has been updated to reflect new schemes approved during the last quarter. Schemes have also been reprofiled to reflect the latest spending estimates.

1.25 The key revisions to the capital programme for the quarter are:

(i) Broad Oak Primary School extension £1.6m

(ii) Additional of Council led schemes and Council contribution to LCRCA led schemes for Public Sector Decarbonisation Works

(iii) The allocation of the Pride in Place Impact Fund £1.5m

(iv) Subject of approval of reports on the same agenda, Highways Capital Allocations and Leisure Strategic Investment.

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

Reserves and Balances

1.26 Section 5 of this report provides detail on the Council's reserves and balances. As part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025-2028, Members approved the Council's current Reserves Strategy, which is focused on building reserves to support performance, transformation, regeneration and growth, as well as ensuring longer term financial sustainability and resilience to changes in funding, inflationary pressures and other unexpected events.

1.27 Based on the projected budget position outlined in Table 1, the level of general fund balances at 31 March 2026 is forecast to be £6.552m. If the financial position can be brought back to a balanced position or better, this will be the first year since 2021/22 that the transfer of earmarked reserves to maintain the general fund at £12m will not be required. This position aligns to the approved Reserves Strategy, which identifies the Council's required level of general balances as being £12m for 2025/26.

Treasury Management

1.28 This report provides details of the Treasury Management position at the end of the current period. No new borrowing has been taken out during the period. Annex G provides further details.

SECTION 2: REVENUE BUDGET

2.1 The budget and forecast outturn positions for 2025/26 are summarised in Table 1. At the end of Period 3 there is a projected portfolio budget pressure of £9.117m.

Table 1 – Revenue Budget 2025/26	Current Budget (a) £000	Forecast outturn at P3 (b) £000	Variance at P3 + / - (b)-(a) £000	Variance at P2 + / - £000	Section Reference Annex C
Neighbourhoods & Environmental Services	18,940	19,062	+122	(53)	(i)
Finance & Governance	8,165	8,146	(19)	0	(ii)
People, Performance & IT	0	(110)	(110)	(129)	(iii)
Business & Inclusive Growth	18,370	18,075	(295)	(282)	(iv)
Regeneration	3,211	3,815	+604	+700	(v)
Adult Social Care & Health	69,821	71,321	+1,500	+1,200	(vi)
Localities, Culture & Heritage	5,490	5,434	(56)	(52)	(vii)
Children & Young People	72,487	80,234	+7,747	+3,817	(viii)
Stronger Communities	6,688	6,312	(376)	(313)	(ix)
Net Portfolio Budgets	**203,172**	**212,289**	**+9,117**	**+4,888**	
Levies & Precepts	24,230	24,230	0	0	
Treasury Management	9,894	7,568	(2,326)	(1,269)	
Restructuring Costs*	1,000	500	(500)	(500)	
Transfers to / (from) Earmarked Reserves	1,993	1,993	0	0	
Capital Charges	(21,652)	(21,652)	0	0	
Net Corporate Items	**15,465**	**12,639**	**(2,826)**	**(1,769)**	
Council Tax	(101,050)	(101,050)	0	0	
Collection Fund**	(2,387)	(2,387)	0	0	
Formula Top-Up	(20,317)	(20,317)	0	0	
Business Rates / Section 31 Grant	(80,910)	(80,910)	0	0	
Recovery Grant	(6,297)	(6,297)	0	0	
Other Funding	(7,676)	(8,519)	(843)	0	
Funding	**(218,637)**	**(219,480)**	**(843)**	**(0)**	
NET POSITION 2025/26	**0**	**+5,448**	**+5,448**	**+3,119**	

* Net of £1.000m sum applied via Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy.
** Collection Fund figure includes the prior-year net surplus on Council Tax and Business Rates plus a reimbursement to earmarked reserves relating to shortfalls in Section 31 Grants received in prior years.

2.2 The previous budget approved by Cabinet on 19 November 2025 has been revised to include:

(i) Approved use of earmarked reserves in the period and earmarked reserves previously approved for use in 2025/26, which have been reprofiled into 2026/27. (see Annex D)

(ii) Neutral technical adjustments between portfolios (e.g. recharges)

2.3 There is a forecast underspend within the corporate budgets of £3.669m as a result of:

- Treasury Management costs being forecast to be below budget by £1.657m due to a combination of rates of return on investments being higher than budgeted as a result of slower than anticipated reductions in Bank Rate, and borrowing activity being undertaken at less than the planned budget.

- a reduction in Minimum Revenue Provision of £0.669m due to slippage in the 2024/25 capital programme,

- As part of the Mid-Mersey Business Rates Pool arrangement with Warrington and Halton Borough Councils, St Helens is due a sum of £0.843m in relation to previous financial years.

- a forecast underspend on the restructuring budget of £0.500m.

2.4 Details of portfolio budget movements can be found in Annex A. This report also provides details of the forecast outturn position on a priority basis at Annex B.

2.5 Commentary in relation to the key portfolio variations is detailed in Annex C.

SECTION 3: IMPLEMENTATION OF 2025/26 SAVINGS PROPOSALS AND OUTSTANDING SAVING PROPOSALS FROM PRIOR YEARS

3.1 Budget savings for 2025/26 were developed when setting the budget for 2024/25 that were designed to address the budget shortfall over the period of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), 2024-2027. The budget for 2025/26 was set against a backdrop of additional government funding, and no further savings were required to those approved in previous MTFS periods. However previously approved savings must be delivered during the year to protect the Council's financial position. It is imperative that approved savings are delivered in a timely manner.

3.2 Savings for the financial year 2025/26 include the two categories:

- Savings slipped from previous financial years

- 2025/26 savings approved when setting previous years' budget

3.3 As detailed in Table 2, of the required savings total of £9.278m, it is currently forecast that 62.15% of these savings will be achieved in year.

Table 2 - Budget Savings 2025/26	Total Saving Requirement 2025/26 £000	Savings on track to be delivered £000 (a)	Slippage on delivery in year £000 (b)	Saving Not Achievable £000 (c)	Mitigation 2025/26 £000 (d)
Corporate Services	1,103	1,103	0	0	0
Integrated Health and Care	1,933	1,288	645	0	645
Children's Services	3,025	1,140	1,885	0	38
Public Health	285	243	42	0	42
Place Services	1,029	464	565	0	565
Council-Wide	1,903	1,903	0	0	0
Total	**9,278**	**6,141**	**3,137**	**0**	**1,290**
Total forecast financial saving 2025/26 (a)+(d)	**7,431**				

3.4 The value of savings that are on track to be delivered is £6.141m.

3.5 Of the £3.137m of savings that have not yet been achieved, temporary mitigations of £1.290m have been identified / are in the process of being developed. Further work is needed to ensure these savings are delivered in full on a recurring basis to negate pressures on the current year and future year's budget.

3.6 The non-achievement of permanent savings presents a severe risk for both current and future financial years. It is imperative that action continues to be taken to alleviate these risks, either by delivering the approved savings in full or by identifying alternatives to offset savings that have slipped or can no longer be delivered. These actions will continue to be monitored and challenged through the Budget and Performance Monitoring Board, which exists to monitor implementation of savings throughout 2025/26 and ensure that directorates are accountable for the delivery of approved savings.

3.7 Given the significant slippage in delivery of savings within Children's Services, specific work is ongoing within the Management Team to consider all options to mitigate slippage. There is robust oversight and collaboration between the Executive Director, Director, Assistant Director, and Finance Business Partner to ensure all options are thoroughly explored, with ongoing review of savings opportunities, mitigation strategies, and expenditure.

SECTION 4: CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2025/26 to 2027/28

4.1 The capital budget has been updated to reflect revised expenditure profiles for capital schemes. This includes reprofiling a number of schemes to the next financial year to reflect the latest forecast spend.

4.2 In addition, other key revisions to the programme this period relate to:

(i) An allocation of £1.6m to extend the site of Broad Oak Primary School, to provide an additional 20 places for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder from September 2027, as approved by Cabinet on 17 December 2025.

(ii) The addition of Public Sector Decarbonisation Schemes, as approved by Cabinet on 17 December 2025. The overall scheme will deliver £6.938m of decarbonisation works on five Council owned buildings, with a Council contribution of £1.123m.

(iii) Subject to approval of the report on the same agenda, addition of £0.9m of Consolidated Active Travel Funding in respect of Sherdley Road Active Travel Scheme, £0.95m in respect of St Helens Town Centre Traffic Management Improvements and increase Taylor Park Dam capital allocation to £0.580m.

4.3 As part of this report, it is proposed to approve the allocation of Pride in Place Impact Fund against the following objectives, with schemes added to the detailed capital programme in Annex F:

Objective	**Amount £000**		
	2025/26	**2026/27**	**Total**
Community Spaces	250	270*	**520**
Public Spaces	120	370	**490**
High Street and Town Centre Revitalisation	380	110	**490**
Total	**750**	**750**	**1,500**

**250k to be allocated. N.B. In order to ensure deliverability of the fund, the contribution towards Town Centre regeneration programme will be the balancing figure should any schemes not be identified and completed by 31st March 2027.*

4.4 The Capital Programme has also been updated to reflect additions proposed as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy, including provisions for Leisure Strategic Investment, subject to approval of the report. Further details are included in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

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

Table 3 - Capital Programme 2025/26 to 2027/28	**2025/26 £000**	**2026/27 £000**	**2027/28 £000**
Children & Young People	4,580	19,932	2,289
Adult Social Care and Health	119	25	0
Stronger Communities	5,451	4,846	4,293
Localities, Culture & Heritage	1,343	5,270	5,000
Finance & Governance	350	0	0
People, Performance & IT	1,057	0	0
Business & Inclusive Growth	25,726	26,132	7,020
Neighbourhoods & Environmental Services	3,018	7,073	2,600
Regeneration	31,681	89,454	27,260
Cross Portfolio	0	2,282	3,064
Total	**73,325**	**155,014**	**51,526**

FINANCED BY			
Grants and Other Contributions	57,897	81,313	15,370
Capital Receipts	3,340	4,868	3,480
Revenue Contribution	2,809	2,622	2,400
Borrowing	8,144	66,211	30,276
Tax Increment Financing (Borrowing)	1,135	0	0
Total	**73,325**	**155,014**	**51,526**

SECTION 5: RESERVES AND BALANCES

5.1 General Balances

The general balances position at 31 March 2026 is forecast to be as follows, having regard to the net current forecast outturn position detailed in Table 1.

Table 4 – General Balances	Original Estimate £000	Forecast Outturn £000
General Balances at 1 April 2025	12,000	12,000
Net Position 2025/26	-	(5,448)
General Balances at 31 March 2026	**12,000**	**6,552**

5.1.1 The Council recognises that the level of reserves it maintains must have regard to its future priorities and the operational and financial risks it faces. The Council's current Reserves Strategy is included within the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025-2028 and Revenue & Capital Budget 2025/26 report considered by Cabinet on 26 February 2025 and approved by Council on 5 March 2025.

5.1.2 The Council's required level of general balances is identified as being £12m. This is considered a prudent amount set aside to cushion against uncertainty and act as an emergency fund in exceptional circumstances. At this juncture it is forecast that the general fund balance will reduce by £5.448m in 2025/26 which is due entirely to the forecast net budget position detailed at Section 2.

5.1.3 In light of the above position 2025/26 will be the fourth consecutive year in which the Council has overspent.

5.1.4 The Medium Term Financial Strategy that was approved by Cabinet and Council on 26 February 2025 and 5 March 2025 respectively, budgeted to increase earmarked reserves by circa £3.1m, excluding anticipated usage and increases from specific funding, in order to bolster reserves after previous years unplanned usage due to overspends. Therefore, as result of the current overspend position, the net decrease in reserves for 2025/26 is currently forecast to be circa £2.3m.

5.2 Earmarked Balances

The forecast position in relation to earmarked balances at 31 March 2026 is provided in Table 5. Annex D details approved use of earmarked balances during the period and Annex E provides details of earmarked balances to 2027/28.

Table 5 – Earmarked Balances	£000
Earmarked Balances at 1 April 2025	39,866
Transfer to / (from) during the year	2,244
Forecast Earmarked Balances at 31 March 2026	**42,110**

5.3 **Schools Balances**

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

Table 6 – School Balances	£000
School Balances at 1 April 2025	8,948
Forecast Net Position 2025/26	(948)
Forecast School Balances at 31 March 2026	**8,000**

5.4 **Usable Capital Receipts**

Table 7 – Usable Capital Receipts	£000
Capital receipts brought forward at 1 April 2025	18,997
Receipts generated in year to date from land, property and fleet sales	1,353
Receipts set aside to resource the transformation programme in 25-26 where the use of flexibilities can be applied	(1,000)
Required to fund approved capital programme 2025/26 to 2027/28	(11,688)
Additional funding set aside for Key Strategic Regeneration Schemes	(1,000)
Available Balance (after taking commitments into account)	**6,662**

SECTION 6: DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT

6.1 The latest 2025/26 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation is detailed in the table below:

Grant allocation 2025/26	**£m**
Schools Block	79.855
High Needs Block	35.595
Early Years Block	30.057
Central School Services Block	1.306
Total DSG received by the Authority	**146.813**
Other DSG funding / adjustments:	
Academy Schools	73.362
Business Rates	1.483
Directly funded SEND places	1.515
Total DSG for St Helens	**223.173**

6.2 It is currently forecast that there will be an in-year budget pressure of £11.064m in relation to the overall DSG. However, there is a cumulative net prior year deficit of approximately £1.432m, resulting in a projected overall deficit balance outturn of £12.496m as at 31st March 2026. The main area of pressure driving the forecast deficit position continues to be expenditure associated with the high needs block of the DSG.

6.3 The high needs block is forecast to overspend in 2025/26 by £11.717m. High needs funding primarily supports provision for pupils and students with SEND (special educational needs and disabilities) who require additional resources to participate in education and learning. The increasing level of demand, combined with market cost pressures and a greater reliance on specialist provision, continues to drive the deficit position.

6.4 Local authorities are currently permitted to carry DSG deficits through a specific regulation known as the “statutory override”. Whilst this provides an accounting mechanism to hold DSG deficits outside of the Council’s General Fund position, it does not address the underlying issue that funding within the high needs block is insufficient to meet the level of demand, nor does it remove the need for the Authority to manage the associated cashflow and treasury implications.

6.5 Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) determine a child or young person’s education, health and social care needs and set out the additional support required. Rising EHCP volumes, alongside an increase in the complexity of need, continue to place significant pressure on the DSG. Managing the number of children who require an EHCP and ensuring that support is delivered at the right level and at the right time, is therefore a key component of the Council’s approach to addressing the deficit.

6.6 The local position in St Helens continues to reflect the national trend, with the number of EHCPs increasing year-on-year. This growth is driving both increased assessment and review activity and higher associated support costs.

6.7 Financial support may be awarded to schools via top-up payments to help educate pupils within mainstream settings where that is appropriate. However, a growing number of pupils are requiring placements outside mainstream education, including independent and specialist provision, which typically carries significantly higher costs. Reducing reliance on independent school places, alongside strengthening mainstream inclusion, remains a key priority in tackling the deficit.

6.8 Delivering long-term financial stability will require both national reform and sustained local action. At a local level, the department is developing a multi-year demand management strategy, embedding as key mitigating pillars: reducing reliance on independent provision, supporting effective early intervention, and managing EHCP demand through robust pathways and a strengthened graduated response. These measures will be subject to robust governance arrangements across the organisation to monitor progress, assess effectiveness, and manage emerging risks.

6.9 Work has already commenced to expand capacity within local provision. This includes expanding SEND units/resourced provision attached to mainstream schools through the repurposing of the former Fourways and Thatto Heath Children's Centres. In addition, Cabinet have approved a £1.536m capital investment to repurpose and renovate the former Parr Library site to accommodate additional pupils at Mill Green Special School. The department also continues to work with local schools to identify how capital funding can be deployed to develop new SEND bases and expanded provision throughout the borough. Places in these settings are usually at a significantly lower cost than out-of-borough alternatives. The department will also continue to work with schools to ensure the graduated response is effectively embedded to support pupils earlier and reduce reliance on specialist provision where appropriate.

6.10 However, given the underlying level of demand within the overall system, it is expected that costs will continue to rise, resulting in ongoing pressures on the DSG. The Council will therefore continue to implement and strengthen its multi-year approach, focusing on demand management, increased local capacity, and a reduction in high-cost provision, to improve financial sustainability over time.

SECTION 7: OTHER FINANCIAL MONITORING MATTERS

7.1 Liverpool City Region Mayor's Community Environment Fund

At the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Meeting on 12 December 2025, the CA announced the award of £0.2m of Mayor's Community Environment Funding to each local authority within the City Region to enable work on community and environmental improvement schemes.

The funding will be utilised to:

- Improve the Liverpool City Region's environment.
- Develop opportunities for environmental education to encourage long-term behavioural change; and/or
- Promote community buy-in and participation to safeguard the long-term sustainability of quality green spaces.

SECTION 8: TREASURY MANAGEMENT POSITION STATEMENT

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

Table 9 – Treasury Management Position	As at 1 April 2025	As at Previous Period	As at Current Period
Investments Outstanding	£112.7m	£138.5m	£118.8m
Investment Returns (average for the year to date)	-	4.420%	4.367%
Benchmark Returns	-	4.335%	4.225%
Borrowing	£132.5m	£157.5m	£157.5m

Budget Movements since the previous reporting period **Annex A**

PORTFOLIO	Previous Budget £000 *1	Reserves slipped into 2026/27 £000 *2	Use of Reserves in Period £000 *2	Technical & Accounting Adjustments £000 *3	Current Budget £000
Neighbourhood & Environmental Services	18,913	0	0	27	18,940
Finance & Governance	8,158	0	45	(38)	8,165
People, Performance & IT	69	(150)	0	81	0
Regeneration	3,205	0	0	6	3,211
Adult Social Care & Health	69,796	0	0	25	69,821
Business & Inclusive Growth	18,371	0	0	(1)	18,370
Localities, Culture & Heritage	5,477	(37)	48	2	5,490
Children & Young People	72,595	0	0	(108)	72,487
Stronger Communities	7,296	(613)	0	6	6,688
TOTAL DIRECTORATE BUDGETS	**203,880**	**(800)**	**93**	**0**	**203,172**
Council-Wide Budgets	(203,880)	**800**	**(93)**	**0**	(203,172)
Net Position 2025/26	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

*1 Approved budget – Council, 18 November 2025

*2 Use of earmarked reserves during the period and previously approved use of earmarked reserves in 2025/26 which have now slipped into 2026/27 (see Annex D)

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

Annex B

Portfolio Budgets on a Priority Basis

	Current Net Budget 2025/26 £000	Forecast Outturn 2025/26 £000	Variance 2025/26 £000
Priority 1 – Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	72,487	80,234	+7,747
Priority 2 – Promote good health, independence, and care across our communities	69,821	71,321	+1,500
Priority 3 – Create safe and strong communities and neighbourhoods for all	9,281	8,700	(581)
Priority 4 – Support a strong, thriving, inclusive and well-connected local economy	11,302	11,485	+183
Priority 5 – Create green vibrant places that reflect our heritage and culture	33,598	33,275	(323)
Priority 6 – Be a modern, efficient and effective Council	6,683	7,274	+591
Total	**203,172**	**212,289**	**+9,117**

Annex C

(i) Neighbourhoods & Environmental Services

Neighbourhoods & Environmental Services	Current Expend. Budget 2025/26 £000 (a)	Current Income Budget 20245/26 £000 (b)	Current Net Budget 2025/26 £000 (c)=(a)+(b)	Forecast Outturn 2025/26 £000 (d)	Variance P3 2025/26 £000 (e)=(d)-(c)	Variance P2 2025/26 £000
Place Services Directorate						
Parking Services	1,430	(1,096)	334	300	(34)	(8)
Street Lighting	2,687	(158)	2,529	2,491	(38)	(59)
Traffic Management & Road Safety	1,121	(292)	829	653	(176)	(46)
Parks & Open Spaces	3,268	(155)	3,113	2,959	(154)	(101)
Street Cleansing	2,772	(194)	2,578	2,577	(1)	(40)
Waste Collection	4,343	(696)	3,647	3,685	+38	(9)
Recycling	9,695	(5,131)	4,564	5,085	+521	+427
Climate Change	674	(594)	80	93	+13	0
Direct Services	21,989	(21,900)	89	(119)	(208)	(217)
Environmental Health	1,695	(518)	1,177	1,132	(45)	0
Management & Support Services	1,281	(1,281)	0	206	+206	0
Total	**50,955**	**(32,015)**	**18,940**	**19,062**	**122**	**(53)**

1.1 The portfolio is overspent by £0.122m.

1.2 Traffic Management, Road Safety and Street Lighting is underspending on employees, across supplies and services, and there is an overachievement of income.

1.3 The main pressures in Recycling are due to employee overspends, use of agency staff and underachievement in income.

1.4 Employee slippage in Parks & Open Spaces is the driver of the underspend.

1.5 Transport within Direct Services is forecasting an underspend on employees and fuel.

1.6 Management actions are absorbing several pressures across the Directorate, which are actively being managed to ensure stability and maintain delivery while longer-term solutions are developed.

(ii) **Finance & Governance**

Finance & Governance	Current Expend. Budget 2025/26 £000 (a)	Current Income Budget 2025/26 £000 (b)	Current Net Budget 2025/26 £000 (c)=(a)+(b)	Forecast Outturn 2025/26 £000 (d)	Variance Q3 2025/26 £000 (e) =(d)-(c)	Variance Q2 2025/26 £000
Corporate Services Directorate						
Local Tax Collection	5,120	(3,652)	1,468	1,563	+95	+30
Contact Centre	1,975	(1,975)	0	(90)	(90)	(34)
Emergency Planning	148	0	148	141	(7)	(7)
Local Welfare Assistance Schemes	3,381	(3,136)	245	245	0	0
Grants and Donations	40	(1)	39	39	0	0
Non-Distributed Costs	1,200	(23)	1,177	1,145	(32)	0
Finance	6,028	(6,028)	0	(97)	(97)	(103)
Audit and Risk	1,298	(1,298)	0	21	+21	+15
Coroners Court Services	340	0	340	360	+20	0
Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages	328	(249)	79	65	(14)	+12
Democratic Representation and Management	1,956	(142)	1,814	1,825	+11	+11
Elections	499	(53)	446	446	0	0
Governance & Administration	279	(279)	0	(18)	(18)	(8)
Legal Services	2,342	(2,342)	0	101	+101	+86
Housing Benefit Administration	34,190	(33,285)	905	905	0	0
Corporate Management	1,504	0	1,504	1,495	(9)	(2)
Other Services	129	(129)	0	0	0	0
Total	**60,757**	**(52,592)**	**8,165**	**8,146**	**(19)**	**0**

People, Performance & IT

People, Performance & IT	Current Expend. Budget 2025/26 £000 (a)	Current Income Budget 2025/26 £000 (b)	Current Net Budget 2025/26 £000 (c)=(a)+(b)	Forecast Outturn 2025/26 £000 (d)	Variance Q3 2025/26 £000 (e) =(d)-(c)	Variance Q2 2025/26 £000
Corporate Services Directorate						
People Management	3,899	(3,899)	0	209	+209	+209
Organisational Development	1,200	(1,200)	0	8	+8	+8
I.T.	7,326	(7,326)	0	(134)	(134)	(134)
Press and Public Affairs	1,612	(1,612)	0	(65)	(65)	(65)
Policy Development	2,920	(2,920)	0	(128)	(128)	(147)
Total	**16,957**	**(16,957)**	**0**	**(110)**	**(110)**	**(129)**

2.1 It is anticipated that overall there will be a small underspend across the two corporate portfolios. There is a departmental staff slippage target of £725k and it forecast this target will be met during the year alongside the updated approved staff savings.

2.2 All other savings in the portfolios are on track to be achieved including the corporate wide savings.

2.3 The above position includes legal costs associated with term time only claims of circa £0.158m.

2.4 There is a forecast pressure on the Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation budget of circa £0.078m. This is a due to a combination of the dividend for 2025/26 being less than budget and a prior year adjustment.

2.5 The Council have been advised by Sefton Council, who administers the Coroners Service of the projected outturn position which will lead to a small pressure this year of £0.020m.

2.6 The position on the housing benefits budget continues to be closely monitored. The Council does not receive full cost subsidy in relation to homeless individuals who are placed in temporary accommodation or other individuals placed in supported accommodation. It is forecast there will a pressure on the budget of circa £0.420m. However, whilst options continue to be explored to fund the pressure from other external grant funding the above figures assume a neutral position.

(iii) **Business & Inclusive Growth**

Business & Inclusive Growth	**Current Expend. Budget 2025/26 £000 (a)**	**Current Income Budget 2025/26 £000 (b)**	**Current Net Budget 2025/26 £000 (c)=(a)+(b)**	**Forecast Outturn 2025/26 £000 (d)**	**Variance Q3 2025/26 £000 (e) =(d)-(c)**	**Variance Q2 2025/26 £000**
People's Services Directorate						
Non Schools						
Adult Community Learning	784	(760)	24	24	0	0
Total People's Services	**784**	**(760)**	**24**	**24**	**0**	**0**
Place Services Directorate						
Economic Development	1,085	(1,023)	62	74	+12	+12
Growth Delivering Prosperity	18,568	(11,503)	7,065	7,046	(19)	+7
Highways Maintenance	13,530	(2,851)	10,679	10,417	(262)	(274)
Transport Planning, Policy and Strategy	540	0	540	514	(26)	(27)
Total Place Services	**33,723**	**(15,377)**	**18,346**	**18,051**	**(295)**	**(282)**
Total	**34,507**	**(16,137)**	**18,370**	**18,075**	**(295)**	**(282)**

3.1 The main driver of the forecasted underspend of £0.295m is within Highways Maintenance, forecasting an underspend on employees and additional capital fee income

(iv) Regeneration

Regeneration	Current Expend. Budget 2025/26 £000 (a)	Current Income Budget 2025/26 £000 (b)	Current Net Budget 2025/26 £000 (c)=(a)+(b)	Forecast Outturn 2025/26 £000 (d)	Variance Q3 2025/26 £000 (e) =(d)-(c)	Variance Q2 2025/26 £000
Place Services Directorate						
Building Control	844	(380)	464	552	+88	+90
Development Control	1,709	(1,090)	619	696	+77	+114
Planning Policy	1,076	(356)	720	636	(84)	(94)
Estates - Industrial & Commercial Premises (including Town Centre)	5,957	(5,308)	649	1,033	+384	+433
Market Undertakings	1,197	(372)	825	815	(10)	+47
Management & Support Services	1,720	(1,720)	0	(205)	(205)	(82)
Building Support Services	7,081	(7,081)	0	398	+398	+229
Estates Management	498	(564)	(66)	(110)	(44)	(37)
Total	**20,082**	**(16,871)**	**3,211**	**3,815**	**+604**	**+700**

4.1 The portfolio is forecasting an overspend of £0.604m.

4.2 The overspend on Building Control & Planning is due to the underachievement of income this is in part being offset by an underspend on Planning Policy due to employee slippage.

4.3 Estates is forecasting an overspend due to an unachieved saving of increased lease income of £0.140m and an unachieved saving for alternative use of land of £0.100m the balance is a shortfall of income.

4.4 Building Support overspend is a result of an unachieved saving on the disposal of Lincoln and Wesley House, which is being mitigated in part by underspend on utilities.

4.5 It should be noted that for these unachieved savings actions are in place to resolve and are being mitigated across the Place directorate.

(v) **Adult Social Care & Health**

Adult Social Care & Health	Current Expend. Budget 2025/26 £000 (a)	Current Income Budget 2025/26 £000 (b)	Current Net Budget 2025/26 £000 (c)=(a)+(b)	Forecast Outturn 2025/26 £000 (d)	Variance Q3 2025/26 £000 (e) =(d)-(c)	Variance Q2 2025/26 £000
People's Services Directorate						
Social Care Activities						
Physical Support - Frail & Elderly	41,089	(26,056)	15,033	12,685	(2,348)	(1,884)
Sensory Support	967	(225)	742	640	(102)	(56)
Support with Memory & Cognition	18,656	(8,856)	9,800	10,498	+698	+736
Learning Disability Support	45,215	(16,503)	28,712	32,770	+4,058	+3,812
Mental Health Support	6,700	(1,169)	5,531	5,722	+191	+158
Assistive Equipment & Technology	3,717	(2,221)	1,496	1,313	(183)	(10)
Care Management - Assessment & Review	11,176	(3,368)	7,808	7,279	(529)	(1,230)
Transport and Generic Services	3,540	(2,617)	923	1,089	+166	(144)
Management, Commissioning & Support Services	5,195	(5,480)	(285)	(736)	(451)	(182)
Total Adult Social Care Activities	**136,255**	**(66,495)**	**69,760**	**71,260**	**+1,500**	**+1,200**
Public Health Activities:						
Sexual Health	1,954	0	1,954	2,024	+70	+206
Primary Care	82	0	82	82	+0	0
Public Health Advice	640	0	640	641	+1	0
Obesity	791	0	791	1,238	+447	+34
Physical Activity	648	0	648	447	(201)	+21
Substance Misuse	4,577	(1,949)	2,628	2,628	+0	+1
Stop Smoking Services and Interventions	629	(211)	418	455	+37	+21
Healthy Child Programme	4,378	0	4,378	4,378	+0	+321
Miscellaneous Public Health Services	2,088	0	2,088	1,986	(102)	(385)
Management & Support Services	0	0	0	(584)	(584)	(75)
Public Health Grant	0	(13,566)	(13,566)	(13,234)	+332	(144)
Total Public Health Activities	**15,787**	**(15,726)**	**61**	**61**	**0**	**0**
Total	**152,042**	**(82,221)**	**69,821**	**71,321**	**+1,500**	**+1,200**

5.1 The budget for Adult Social Care Activities is forecast to overspend by £1.500m. This is an adverse movement of £0.300m from FMR P2 and has been caused by higher cost of new packages of care and increasing levels care required by the existing population.

5.2 There are significant pressures caused by the growing demand for domiciliary care and the rising price of residential care. Other financial risks include:

- supporting young people transitioning from children's social care
- an increasing volume of higher-acuity service users being discharged from hospital placements, and
- the wider economic climate affecting service users' ability to make a financial contribution towards their care.

5.3 The department is successfully managing demand for residential and nursing care. There are fewer people in receipt of residential care now compared to 31st March (-1%), at a time when the overall number of elderly people in St Helens is rising. However, the average price of a residential package of care has risen by 8% in the same period, which is a large contributor to the department's forecast overspend.

5.4 Since April, the number of domiciliary care service users hasn't changed significantly. 154 packages have been reduced upon review, saving a total of £1.5m. However, there have been 368 increases in care packages over the same period - driven by increased acuity of service users - causing a cost pressure of approximately £2.1m.

5.5 There are a number of mitigations in place, including use of new technology as a cost-effective means of maintaining service users' independence for longer. The portfolio has a £1.900m savings target for 2025/26 which will be delivered through a combination of improved income collection, transformation of commissioned services and ensuring that packages of care are sufficient to meet the assessed needs of service users. To date, £1.700m of savings have been verified, mostly in domiciliary care.

5.6 Where savings are known to be slipping or outright unachievable, a variety of alternative savings measures have been delivered in mitigation.

5.7 The Public Health budget is forecast to be in surplus by £0.332m. The forecast is based on contractual values and is considered low-risk in terms of volatility.

5.8 The two main drivers of this underspend are lower-than-anticipated increases in the Agenda for Change pay awards and vacancies within the wider Public Health team.

5.9 The Public Health Grant is ringfenced; any surplus at the end of the year will be transferred to the Public Health Grant Reserve, which is also ringfenced.

(vi) **Localities, Culture & Heritage**

Localities, Culture & Leisure	Current Expend. Budget 2025/26 £000 (a)	Current Income Budget 2025/26 £000 (b)	Current Net Budget 2025/26 £000 (c)=(a)+(b)	Forecast Outturn 2025/26 £000 (d)	Variance Q3 2025/26 £000 (e) =(d)-(c)	Variance Q2 2025/26 £000
Place Services Directorate						
Arts Development and Support	619	(197)	422	411	(11)	+15
Archiving	354	(95)	259	388	+129	0
Sports Development	338	(391)	(53)	(74)	(21)	(14)
Indoor Sports & Recreation	5,679	(3,954)	1725	1,615	(110)	(3)
Outdoor Sports & Recreation	679	(163)	516	480	(36)	(30)
Library Services	3,065	(464)	2,601	2,594	(7)	(20)
Tourism and Events	20	0	20	20	0	0
Total	**10,754**	**(5,264)**	**5,490**	**5,434**	**(56)**	**(52)**

6.1 The portfolio is forecasting an underspend of £0.056m.

6.2 This is mainly due to employee slippage in the library service, and overachievement of income in sports and recreation.

6.3 The pressure within Archiving refers to the cost for the temporary relocation of the archive to the World of Glass to facilitate the Gamble regeneration programme.

(vii) **Children & Young People**

Children & Young People	Current Expend. Budget 2025/26 £000 (a)	Current Income Budget 2025/26 £000 (b)	Current Net Budget 2025/26 £000 (c)=(a)+(b)	Forecast Outturn 2025/26 £000 (d)	Variance Q3 2025/26 £000 (e) =(d)-(c)	Variance Q2 2025/26 £000
People's Services Directorate						
Schools						
Schools Delegated Budget	138,593	(138,593)	0	0	0	0
Schools Total	**138,593**	**(138,593)**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Non-Schools						
Alternative Provision	3,532	(3,476)	56	56	0	0
Child Protection	15,499	(642)	14,857	16,511	+1,654	+1,265
Children Looked After	45,096	(10,762)	34,334	38,774	+4,440	+1,454
Children's Centres and Early Help	4,638	(2,764)	1,874	1,739	(135)	(9)
CWD Services	2,696	(478)	2,218	2,704	+486	+315
Family Support Services	2,710	(1,933)	777	1,194	+417	(15)
LA/Corporate Expenditure Attributable to Schools	18,708	(11,723)	6,985	6,985	0	0
Other Education Functions	20,235	(9,715)	10,520	11,426	+906	+792
Service Strategy - Education	674	(674)	0	(9)	(9)	(3)
Service Strategy - Social Care	808	(683)	125	159	+34	+18
Youth Justice Services	2,097	(1,356)	741	695	(46)	0
Non-Schools Total	**116,693**	**(44,206)**	**72,487**	**80,234**	**+7,747**	**+3,817**
Total	**255,286**	**(182,799)**	**72,487**	**80,234**	**+7,747**	**+3,817**

7.1 The portfolio is facing significant financial challenges in 2025/26. The main drivers are the rising costs associated with caring for looked after children, maintaining sufficient social worker capacity to manage caseloads safely, and increasing demand for services supporting children and young people with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities). These pressures sit alongside the ongoing programme of efficiencies and wider demand growth across the portfolio.

7.2 Expenditure on delivering the required placements for looked-after children, including care leavers and unaccompanied asylum seekers, is generating a projected pressure of £4.184m. This reflects continued demand and market cost pressures across the sector, and highlights the importance of reducing reliance on high-cost residential placements and increasing local, in-house capacity where possible.

7.3 Family support services are forecast to be under pressure by £0.417m, reflecting the cost of support packages aimed at keeping young people at home and avoiding costly care placements, including support for those with complex needs. These services remain critical to managing demand and preventing escalation but are contributing to the in-year financial challenge.

7.4 Adoption Services are projecting a pressure of £0.173m, primarily due to fees associated with adoptive placements. Ongoing management of these costs will continue to focus on ensuring expenditure is necessary, proportionate, and aligned to service requirements.

7.5 There is an estimated pressure of approximately £1.737m in respect of the social care workforce. This is driven by recruitment challenges for suitably skilled and experienced staff and a reliance on agency workers, which is more costly than permanent employment. Maintaining adequate staffing levels remains essential to avoid unsafe caseloads and increased system risk, while work continues to reduce agency reliance where it is safe to do so.

7.6 SEND-related pressures include £0.683m linked to the volume of Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) assessments and reviews, alongside a forecast pressure of £0.850m in home-to-school/college transport, driven by increased numbers of placements in education settings outside mainstream provision. These pressures reinforce the need for a sustained focus on reducing EHCP demand where appropriate, increasing local provision, and reducing reliance on high-cost transport solutions.

7.7 Overall, after taking account of several other budget variances delivering a net underspend of -£0.297m, the portfolio is forecasting a total pressure of £7.747m. These financial challenges are consistent with sector-wide demand and market conditions. Key to mitigating this position is the development of a multi-year demand management strategy, supported by robust organisational oversight, to reduce demand for statutory services, reduce the number of children in care, increase foster and kinship capacity, reduce reliance on high-cost residential placements, reduce the number of children requiring EHCPs and home-to-school transport, reduce independent school placements, and reduce reliance on agency social workers. Actions already underway (including review of placements, increasing in-house capacity, and the development of the Families First Programme), alongside further workstreams in progress, will help to prevent, reduce, or avoid these pressures in future years, with progress and mitigations kept under continuous review.

(viii) **Stronger Communities**

Stronger Communities	Current Expend. Budget 2025/26 £000 (a)	Current Income Budget 2025/26 £000 (b)	Current Net Budget 2025/26 £000 (c)=(a)+(b)	Forecast Outturn 2025/26 £000 (d)	Variance Q3 2025/26 £000 (e) =(d)-(c)	Variance Q2 2025/26 £000
Place Services Directorate						
Housing Services	11,072	(6,557)	4,515	4,254	(261)	(225)
Homelessness	2,453	(2,319)	134	155	+21	+40
Community Safety	2,535	(922)	1,613	1,508	(105)	(110)
Trading Standards	612	(15)	597	586	(11)	(44)
Cemetery & Crematorium	2,273	(2,784)	(511)	(351)	+160	+59
Licensing & Land Charges	1,367	(1,027)	340	160	(180)	(33)
Total	**20,312**	**(13,624)**	**6,688**	**6,312**	**(376)**	**(313)**

8.1 The portfolio is underspent by £0.376m.

8.2 This is mainly due to employee slippage across the portfolio, and on the Supported Housing contracts within Housing Services.

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

This table details the approved decisions to utilise Earmarked Reserves in 2025/26 during the period (a) as well as use of previously approved earmarked reserves that have now slipped into 2026/27 (b)				
Portfolio / Corporate Items	**Reserve**	**Detail**	**Decision Reference**	**Cash Limit Change 2025/26 £000**
Localities, Culture & Heritage	Transformation Reserve (a)	Community Led Library	DED0087 2024/25	+48
Finance & Governance	Strategic Priorities Fund (a)	Provision of a Women at War Memorial	CORP001711	+15
Finance & Governance	Strategic Priorities Fund(a)	Freedom of the Borough Ceremony	CORP001711	+30
Total				**+93**
People, Performance & IT	Funding Reform & Volatility Reserve (b)	Schools ICT	Outturn 2024/25	(150)
Stronger Communities	Revenue Grants & Contributions Reserve (b)	Domestic Abuse Statutory Duty	Outturn 2023/24	(219)
Stronger Communities	Revenue Grants & Contributions Reserve (b)	Domestic Abuse Grant - c/f from 21/22	Outturn 2023/24	(394)
Localities, Culture & Heritage	Revenue Grants & Contributions Reserve (b)	Sports Development Grants	Outturn 2023/24	(37)
Total				**(800)**

Annex E

EARMARKED BALANCES 2025/26 to 2027/28

Reserve	Balance at 1 April 2025 £000	Balance at 31 March 2026 £000	Balance at 31 March 2027 £000	Balance at 31 March 2028 £000
Transformation Reserve	4,162	4,170	4,695	5,445
Growth Reserve	4,339	4,479	4,672	4,873
Councillor Improvement Fund	59	0	0	0
Insurance & Contingent Liability Reserve	2,463	2,463	2,463	2,463
Waste Management Development Fund	66	510	1,026	982
Inflationary Reserve	5,340	5,052	5,052	5,052
Restructuring Reserve	3,707	3,707	3,707	3,707
Funding Reform & Volatility Reserve	12,178	15,000	18,836	25,384
Revenue Grants & Contributions Reserve	2,301	1,729	1,286	1,286
Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Reserve	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Strategic Priorities Reserve	250	0	0	0
General Earmarked Balances	**39,865**	**42,110**	**46,737**	**54,192**

The figures in the above table assume that during the period of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2026-2029, Council Tax will increase by 4.99%.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2025/26 TO 2027/28

Annex F

PORTFOLIO					Funding				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total	Borrowing	Tax Increment Finance (Borrowing)	Capital Receipts	Revenue	Grants / Conts.
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Children & Young People	4,580	19,932	2,289	26,801	2,212	0	0	165	24,424
Adult Social Care & Health	119	25	0	144	119	0	0	0	25
Stronger Communities	5,451	4,846	4,293	14,590	1,657	0	734	0	12,199
Localities, Culture & Heritage	1,343	5,270	5,000	11,613	10,556	0	18	64	975
Finance & Governance	350	0	0	350	0	0	350	0	0
People, Performance & IT	1,057	0	0	1,057	0	0	790	267	0
Business & Inclusive Growth	25,726	26,132	7,020	58,878	5,708	1,135	948	135	50,952
Neighbourhoods & Environmental Services	3,018	7,073	2,600	12,691	4,079	0	2,411	5,700	501
Regeneration	31,681	89,454	27,260	148,395	80,300	0	1,091	1,500	65,504
Cross Portfolio	0	2,282	3,064	5,346	0	0	5,346	0	0
TOTAL	**73,325**	**155,014**	**51,526**	**279,865**	**104,631**	**1,135**	**11,688**	**7,831**	**154,580**

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2025/26 TO 2027/28

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total	Funding				
					Borrowing	TIF	Capital Receipts	Revenue	Grants / Conts.
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Primary Schools									
Allanson Street - Structural	43	0	0	43	0	0	0	0	43
Allanson Street - Windows	147	50	0	197	0	0	0	0	197
Allanson Street - Heating	93	240	0	333	0	0	0	0	333
Bleak Hill - Drainage	57	53	0	110	0	0	0	0	110
Bleak Hill - Lighting	47	0	0	47	0	0	0	0	47
Bleak Hill - MUGA	69	0	0	69	0	0	0	69	0
Bleak Hill - Remodel Existing Space	34	0	0	34	0	0	0	34	0
Bleak Hill - Roof / Fascia / Gutters	0	80	0	80	0	0	0	0	80
Broad Oak - Windows	94	0	0	94	0	0	0	0	94
Broad Oak - Structural	57	50	0	107	0	0	0	0	107
Broad Oak - Boiler	0	100	0	100	0	0	0	0	100
Broad Oak - Lighting	0	50	0	50	0	0	0	0	50
Broad Oak - Gutters / Fascias / Cladding	0	50	0	50	0	0	0	0	50
Broad Oak - SEND provision	0	1,600	0	1,600	0	0	0	0	1,600
Car Mill - Rooflights	0	80	0	80	0	0	0	0	80
Car Mill - Boiler	0	100	0	100	0	0	0	0	100
Car Mill - Fire Alarm	0	20	0	20	0	0	0	0	20
Car Mill - Windows	0	80	0	80	0	0	0	0	80
Eaves - Windows	0	100	0	100	0	0	0	0	100
Eaves - Heating	0	50	0	50	0	0	0	0	50
Eaves - Fire Alarm	0	20	0	20	0	0	0	0	20
Eccleston Lane - Heating	56	115	0	171	0	0	0	0	171
Eccleston Lane - Boiler	0	100	0	100	0	0	0	0	100
Eccleston Lane - Drainage	0	60	0	60	0	0	0	0	60
Garswood - Boiler	0	100	0	100	0	0	0	0	100
Grange Valley - Heating	0	50	0	50	0	0	0	0	50
Grange Valley - Roof	76	0	0	76	0	0	0	0	76
Legh Vale - Fascias	0	50	0	50	0	0	0	0	50
Legh Vale - Windows	0	50	0	50	0	0	0	0	50
Legh Vale - Heating	0	50	0	50	0	0	0	0	50
Lyme - Roof	0	100	0	100	0	0	0	0	100
Merton Bank - Pipework	0	250	0	250	0	0	0	0	250
Merton Bank - Structural Works	44	0	0	44	0	0	0	0	44
Merton Bank - Dining Room Damp	30	8	0	38	0	0	0	0	38
Merton Bank - Dining Room Windows	92	0	0	92	0	0	0	0	92
Orchard - External Play	0	100	0	100	0	0	0	0	100
Queens Park - Windows	147	0	0	147	0	0	0	0	147
Queens Park - Fascias	0	50	0	50	0	0	0	0	50
Rainhill Nursery - Dist Board	0	10	0	10	0	0	0	0	10
Rainhill Nursery - Remodelling	62	0	0	62	0	0	0	62	0
Rectory - SEND Provision	150	99	0	249	0	0	0	0	249
Rectory - Remodelling	0	150	0	150	0	0	0	0	150
Rectory - Demolition	0	100	0	100	0	0	0	0	100
Rivington - Roof and Windows	400	62	0	462	0	0	0	0	462
Rivington - Pipework	0	200	0	200	0	0	0	0	200
Robins Lane - Roof	140	0	0	140	0	0	0	0	140
Robins Lane - Windows	138	0	0	138	0	0	0	0	138
Robins Lane - Lighting	0	50	0	50	0	0	0	0	50
Sherdley - Boiler	0	100	0	100	0	0	0	0	100
Sherdley - Drainage	0	60	0	60	0	0	0	0	60
Sutton Manor - H&S Works	0	50	0	50	0	0	0	0	50
Sutton Manor - Kitchen Extraction	0	30	0	30	0	0	0	0	30
Sutton Manor - Fire Alarm	0	20	0	20	0	0	0	0	20
Sutton Oak - Heating	0	50	0	50	0	0	0	0	50
Sutton Oak - Pipework	0	250	0	250	0	0	0	0	250
Sutton Oak - Boiler Replacement	87	0	0	87	0	0	0	0	87
Thatto Heath - Structural Works	24	0	0	24	0	0	0	0	24
Thatto Heath - Heating	106	222	0	328	0	0	0	0	328
Thatto Heath - SEND Provision	160	0	0	160	0	0	0	0	160
Thatto Heath - Hot Water Boiler	0	20	0	20	0	0	0	0	20
Wargrave - Fascias	0	50	0	50	0	0	0	0	50
Wargrave - Windows	0	50	0	50	0	0	0	0	50
Secondary Schools									
De La Salle - SEND Base	0	944	0	944	0	0	0	0	944
Lansbury Bridge - Hot Water Boiler	0	20	0	20	0	0	0	0	20
Lansbury Bridge - Boiler (LL)	0	20	0	20	0	0	0	0	20

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total	Borrowing	TIF	Capital Receipts	Revenue	Grants / Conts.
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Special & Other Schools									
Launchpad - Roof Renewal	0	100	0	100	0	0	0	0	100
Pupil Referral Unit - Heating	0	37	0	37	0	0	0	0	37
Mill Green - Satellite Base	78	1,458	0	1,536	0	0	0	0	1,536
Willow Bank - Door Panelling	19	0	0	19	0	0	0	0	19
PACE - Rooflights	0	50	0	50	0	0	0	0	50
PACE - Windows	0	80	0	80	0	0	0	0	80
PACE - Boiler	0	100	0	100	0	0	0	0	100
PACE - Extraction	0	30	0	30	0	0	0	0	30
Other Schemes									
School Devolved Formula Capital	500	785	250	1,535	0	0	0	0	1,535
Various Schools - Fire Safety	33	160	0	193	0	0	0	0	193
Various Schools - Emergancy Heating / Pipework Repairs	0	150	0	150	0	0	0	0	150
ACM Removal	6	18	0	24	0	0	0	0	24
Family Hubs	69	0	0	69	0	0	0	0	69
Children's Residential Homes	230	1,047	0	1,277	1,277	0	0	0	0
Single Social Care & Education System	181	0	0	181	181	0	0	0	0
Millersdale - Grant	440	0	0	440	440	0	0	0	0
Millersdale - Lease	314	0	0	314	314	0	0	0	0
Uncommitted Grant Funding									
Healthy Pupils Capital Funding	0	125	0	125	0	0	0	0	125
Childcare Expansion	157	0	0	157	0	0	0	0	157
Higher Needs Provision Capital	100	3,148	0	3,248	0	0	0	0	3,248
Basic Need Uncommitted	0	2,942	1,039	3,981	0	0	0	0	3,981
School Condition Funding Uncommitted	100	3,339	1,000	4,439	0	0	0	0	4,439
TOTAL	**4,580**	**19,932**	**2,289**	**26,801**	**2,212**	**0**	**0**	**165**	**24,424**

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH PORTFOLIO	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total	Borrowing	TIF	Capital Receipts	Revenue	Grants / Conts.
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Unallocated Community Capacity Grant	0	25	0	25	0	0	0	0	25
Transistional Apartment Lease - Heathside	119	0	0	119	119	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	**119**	**25**	**0**	**144**	**119**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**25**

STRONGER COMMUNITIES PORTFOLIO	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total	Borrowing	TIF	Capital Receipts	Revenue	Grants / Conts.
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
CCTV Replacement	563	0	0	563	563	0	0	0	0
New Cemetery and Crematorium System	75	0	0	75	0	0	75	0	0
Air Blast Cooler - St Helens Crematorium	45	0	0	45	0	0	45	0	0
New Regulatory and Housing System	78	0	0	78	0	0	78	0	0
Disabled Facilities Grants and Adaptations	4,303	4,456	3,906	12,665	500	0	0	0	12,165
Emergency Fund (Housing)	82	85	82	249	134	0	81	0	34
General Fund Housing (Housing Assistance)	80	80	80	240	110	0	130	0	0
Housing Clearance and Enforcement	50	50	50	150	50	0	100	0	0
Insulation Measures and Fuel Poverty	175	175	175	525	300	0	225	0	0
TOTAL	**5,451**	**4,846**	**4,293**	**14,590**	**1,657**	**0**	**734**	**0**	**12,199**

LOCALITIES, CULTURE AND HERITAGE PORTFOLIO	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total	Borrowing	TIF	Capital Receipts	Revenue	Grants / Conts.
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Libraries ICT Refresh	93	0	0	93	44	0	0	28	21
Haydock Library SEND Redesign	297	0	0	297	0	0	0	36	261
Newton Le Willows Health and Fitness Centre Equipment	65	0	0	65	65	0	0	0	0
Parr Locality Hub (feasibility)	72	0	0	72	72	0	0	0	0
Parr Swimming & Fitness Centre Demolition	175	0	0	175	175	0	0	0	0
Newton Le Willows Pitch	36	0	0	36	20	0	0	0	16
Queens Park Health & Fitness Gym Equipment	180	0	0	180	180	0	0	0	0
Strategic Leisure Investment	0	5,000	5,000	10,000	10,000	0	0	0	0
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	157	0	0	157	0	0	0	0	157
Localities Programme - Community Hubs Development	268	20	0	288	0	0	18	0	270
Community Spaces Investment - Pride in Place	0	250	0	250	0	0	0	0	250
TOTAL	**1,343**	**5,270**	**5,000**	**11,613**	**10,556**	**0**	**18**	**64**	**975**

FINANCE & GOVERNANCE PORTFOLIO	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total	Borrowing	TIF	Capital Receipts	Revenue	Grants / Conts.
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
New Revenue & Benefits System	350	0	0	350	0	0	350	0	0
TOTAL	**350**	**0**	**0**	**350**	**0**	**0**	**350**	**0**	**0**

PEOPLE, PERFORMANCE & ICT PORTFOLIO	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total	Borrowing	TIF	Capital Receipts	Revenue	Grants / Conts.
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
ICT Device & Systems Refresh	724	0	0	724	0	0	457	267	0
Server Upgrade	333	0	0	333	0	0	333	0	0
TOTAL	**1,057**	**0**	**0**	**1,057**	**0**	**0**	**790**	**267**	**0**

BUSINESS AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH PORTFOLIO	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total	Borrowing	TIF	Capital Receipts	Revenue	Grants / Conts.
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Highway Schemes									
A49 to M6 Junction 22 Link Road	950	3,721	0	4,671	4,671	0	0	0	0
KRN Levelling Up (Parkside Junction Mitigation Works)	160	185	0	345	0	0	0	0	345
KRN Levelling Up (A580 Structures)	263	1,474	0	1,737	0	0	0	0	1,737
Active Travel Fund - Tranche 2	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Active Travel Fund - Tranche 3	174	1,083	0	1,257	0	0	0	0	1,257
Peasley Cross Roundabout	0	2,098	0	2,098	0	0	0	0	2,098
Active Travel Fund - Tranche 4	1,249	0	0	1,249	0	0	0	0	1,249
Active Travel Fund - Tranche 5	310	0	0	310	0	0	0	0	310
Sherdley Road Active Travel Scheme	0	900	0	900	0	0	0	0	900
Highway / Road Investment	64	0	0	64	64	0	0	0	0
CRSTS - Indicative Estimate	0	0	7,020	7,020	0	0	0	0	7,020
CRSTS- Active Travel-City Region	506	720	0	1,226	0	0	0	0	1,226
CRSTS- Strategic Maintenance	4,320	3,160	0	7,480	0	0	0	0	7,480
CRSTS - Bridges	924	710	0	1,634	0	0	0	0	1,634
CRSTS - Technology & Comms Upgrade	807	1,010	0	1,817	0	0	0	0	1,817
CRSTS - Potholes	410	410	0	820	0	0	0	0	820
CRSTS - Flooding / Drainage	1,098	710	0	1,808	0	0	0	0	1,808
CRSTS - Resource Funding	770	638	0	1,408	0	0	0	0	1,408
LED Retrofit - Traffic Signals	108	0	0	108	0	0	0	0	108
Local Highways Maintenance	1,216	0	0	1,216	0	0	0	0	1,216
St Helens Town Centre Traffic Management Improvements*	0	950	0	950	950	0	0	0	0
Safer Routes to Schools	23	0	0	23	23	0	0	0	0
Cowley Hill Link Road	2,134	7,499	0	9,633	0	0	0	0	9,633
Carr Mill Road Flood Alleviation Works	7	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	7
Rainford Brook Flood Alleviation Improvements	20	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	20
Taylor Park Dam Strengthening & Repair Works*	121	459	0	580	0	0	580	0	0
Town Deal and Economic Development Schemes									
Town Deal - Glass Futures Ph 2	4,759	0	0	4,759	0	0	0	0	4,759
Town Deal - Cannington Shaw	751	0	0	751	0	0	0	111	640
Town Deal - Digital Infrastructure	2,074	0	0	2,074	0	0	0	24	2,050
Town Deal - Health Hub	943	405	0	1,348	0	0	0	0	1,348
St Helens Manufacturing and Innovation Campus Strategic Acquisitions	60	0	0	60	0	0	0	0	60
Bold Forest Garden Masterplan	368	0	0	368	0	0	368	0	0
Life Science Investment Zone TIF									
Project Halo pre-development	1,135	0	0	1,135	0	1,135	0	0	0
TOTAL	**25,726**	**26,132**	**7,020**	**58,878**	**5,708**	**1,135**	**948**	**135**	**50,952**

NEIGHBOURHOODS & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total	Borrowing	TIF	Capital Receipts	Revenue	Grants / Conts.
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Air Quality - Indoor Monitoring Equipment	21	0	0	21	0	0	0	0	21
Air Quality Monitors	64	0	0	64	0	0	64	0	0
Climate Change Emergency Response Fund	0	46	0	46	46	0	0	0	0
Energy Efficiency Works - PSDS4 (LCRCA led)	236	471	0	707	0	0	707	0	0
Red Brow Woods Path Improvement Works	71	0	0	71	0	0	0	0	71
Penkford Open Space	0	29	0	29	0	0	29	0	0
St Helens Cemetery and Crematorium Flood Alleviation Scheme	11	165	0	176	0	0	176	0	0
West End Road - Sankey Valley	241	0	0	241	0	0	0	0	241
Resources and Waste Strategy	0	673	0	673	673	0	0	0	0
Food Waste Collection	168	0	0	168	0	0	0	0	168
Fleet Replacement Programme	1,678	4,410	2,600	8,688	2,988	0	0	5,700	0
Hardshaw Brook Depot Drainage and Surface Improvements	418	0	0	418	372	0	46	0	0
Hardshaw Brook Depot Phase 2 - Fuel Station	55	862	0	917	0	0	917	0	0
Hardshaw Brook Depot Phase 3 - Salt Barn	55	417	0	472	0	0	472	0	0
TOTAL	**3,018**	**7,073**	**2,600**	**12,691**	**4,079**	**0**	**2,411**	**5,700**	**501**

REGENERATION PORTFOLIO	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total	Borrowing	TIF	Capital Receipts	Revenue	Grants / Conts.
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Chalon Way Meanwhile Use	0	142	0	142	142	0	0	0	0
Building Capital Maintenance	500	500	500	1,500	0	0	0	1,500	0
New Asset Data System (Concerto)	20	0	0	20	20	0	0	0	0
Building Energy Management System	58	0	0	58	0	0	58	0	0
St Helens Town Hall PSDS4 Energy Efficiency Works	0	0	1,687	1,687	0	0	273	0	1,414
Church Square Service Deck	19	0	0	19	0	0	19	0	0
Wesley House Purchase	378	0	0	378	0	0	378	0	0
Scheme approved via Urgent Leader's Decision	0	652	0	652	0	0	0	0	652
St Helens Town Centre Masterplan	390	1,445	0	1,835	1,835	0	0	0	0
St Helens Town Centre Phase 1 Investment	8,509	44,234	21,805	74,548	69,216	0	0	0	5,332
Hardshaw Brook Depot Review	8	0	0	8	8	0	0	0	0
Modernisation of St Helens Crematorium	39	0	0	39	39	0	0	0	0
The Gamble Building (Phase 4)	516	0	0	516	296	0	220	0	0
The Gamble Building Enabling Works	950	458	0	1,408	0	0	0	0	1,408
The Gamble Building PSDS4 Energy Efficiency Works	0	0	884	884	0	0	143	0	741
Earlestown Regeneration	402	0	0	402	402	0	0	0	0
Earlestown Market	1,613	12,606	0	14,219	3,925	0	0	0	10,294
Earlestown Town Hall (Internal)	3,181	4,725	0	7,906	0	0	0	0	7,906
Earlestown Railway Station	97	2,831	2,384	5,312	3,258	0	0	0	2,054
Parr Footbridge Art Installation	0	25	0	25	25	0	0	0	0
Public Spaces - Pride in Place	120	370	0	490	0	0	0	0	490
High Street and Town Centre Revitalisation - Pride in Place	380	110	0	490	0	0	0	0	490
Town Centre Bus Station Strategic Acquisitions	722	2,412	0	3,134	1,134	0	0	0	2,000
St Helens Multi Modal Interchange	13,751	17,924	0	31,675	0	0	0	0	31,675
St Helens Temporary Bus Hub	28	0	0	28	0	0	0	0	28
Evelyn Avenue - remedial works	0	1,020	0	1,020	0	0	0	0	1,020
TOTAL	**31,681**	**89,454**	**27,260**	**148,395**	**80,300**	**0**	**1,091**	**1,500**	**65,504**

CROSS PORTFOLIO	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total	Borrowing	TIF	Capital Receipts	Revenue	Grants / Conts.
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Capital Receipts Funding for Essential Capital Works	0	2,282	3,064	5,346	0	0	5,346	0	0
TOTAL	**0**	**2,282**	**3,064**	**5,346**	**0**	**0**	**5,346**	**0**	**0**

TOTAL ALL PORTFOLIOS	73,325	155,014	51,526	279,865	104,631	1,135	11,688	7,831	154,580

*subject to approval of report on same agenda

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2025/26

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO	FMR 2 Budget	New Schemes/ Funding Changes	Reprofiled into / from Future Years	Changes to be approved in this Period	Revised Budget	Narrative
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Primary Schools						
Allanson Street - Structural	43	0	0	0	43	Scheme completed.
Allanson Street - Windows	147	0	0	0	147	Scheme completed.
Allanson Street - Heating	93	0	0	0	93	Delivery of the scheme is phased over two years to minimise operational disruption to the school.
Bleak Hill - Drainage	110	0	-53	-53	57	Work commenced but there have been unanticipated delays. Scheme will in complete financial year 2026/27.
Bleak Hill - Lighting	50	-3	0	-3	47	Works will commence during February 2026 half term and are expected to be complete this financial year.
Bleak Hill - MUGA	69	0	0	0	69	Scheme completed.
Bleak Hill - Remodel Existing Space	34	0	0	0	34	Scheme completed.
Broad Oak - Windows	94	0	0	0	94	Scheme completed.
Broad Oak - Structural	57	0	0	0	57	Scheme completed.
Eccleston Lane - Heating	56	0	0	0	56	Delivery of the scheme is phased over two years to minimise operational disruption to the school.
Grange Valley - Roof	76	0	0	0	76	Scheme completed.
Merton Bank - Structural Works	44	0	0	0	44	Scheme completed.
Merton Bank - Dining Room Damp	38	0	-8	-8	30	A contract has been awarded and works have commenced (ENVP003940) but won't be completed until financial year 2026/27.
Merton Bank - Dining Room Windows	92	0	0	0	92	Scheme completed.
Queens Park - Windows	134	13	0	13	147	Scheme completed.
Rainhill Nursery - Remodelling	0	62	0	62	62	Scheme confirmed by OD ENVP004053. Will be complete by end of the finanical year 2025/26.
Rectory - SEND Provision	249	0	-99	-99	150	Work has commenced and the provision is currently at an operational status. However, further works are to be undertaken in line with the original scheme and these are expected to be delivered by 2026/27.
Rivington - Roof and Windows	400	0	0	0	400	Works are expected to commence during February 2026 half term and will be ongoing into the next financial year.
Robins Lane - Roof	140	0	0	0	140	Scheme completed.
Robins Lane - Windows	138	0	0	0	138	Scheme completed.
Sutton Manor - H&S Works	50	0	-50	-50	0	The scheme is currently in the design phase with plans to commence 2026/27.
Sutton Oak - Boiler Replacement	87	0	0	0	87	Scheme completed.
Thatto Heath - Structural Works	24	0	0	0	24	Scheme completed.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO	FMR 2 Budget	New Schemes/ Funding Changes	Reprofiled into / from Future Years	Changes to be approved in this Period	Revised Budget	Narrative
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Thatto Heath - Heating	106	0	0	0	106	Although work is expected to commence in 2025/2026, it is not expected to be complete until 2026/2027.
Thatto Heath - SEND Provision	200	-40	0	-40	160	Works are expected be completed by the end of the 2025/2026 financial year.
Pupil Referral Unit - Heating	37	0	-37	-37	0	Scheme currently in design with works forecast to be completed in 2026/27.
Mill Green - Satellite Base	1,536	0	-1,458	-1,458	78	The tender process is currently ongoing with enabling works expected to commence during the summer term.
Willow Bank - Door Panelling	19	0	0	0	19	Scheme completed.
School Devolved Formula Capital	500	0	0	0	500	The 2025/26 Devolved Formula Capital budget provision reflects the estimated expenditure during the current financial year on schemes and equipment that schools have identified in their own plans as being priorities for them.
Various Schools - Fire Safety	193	0	-160	-160	33	School fire risk assessments are currently being evaluated to determine the priority of schemes to be delivered 2026/2027.
ACM Removal	24	0	-18	-18	6	A number of inspections have been undertaken and are being evaluated to determine the priority of works.
Family Hubs	69	0	0	0	69	It is currently anticipated that capital works in relation to this grant will be delivered during 2025/26.
Children's Residential Homes	630	0	-400	-400	230	Three properties have been purchased and renovated for use as children's homes. The department are currently assessing options and requirements for further expanded capacity.
Single Social Care & Education System	181	0	0	0	181	The system is now live and operational.
Millersdale - Grant	440	0	0	0	440	Works required to repurpose the property for use within the Staying Close programme have been completed.
Millersdale - Lease	314	0	0	0	314	Lease for care leaver flats - under IFRS 16 the council is now required to treat the agreement of the lease as a capital addition of a right to use asset.
Childcare Expansion	157	0	0	0	157	
Higher Needs Provision Capital	1,000	40	-940	-900	100	
School Condition Funding Uncommitted	500	-10	-390	-400	100	
TOTAL	**8,131**	**62**	**-3,613**	**-3,551**	**4,580**	

ADULT SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH PORTFOLIO	FMR 2 Budget	New Schemes/ Funding Changes	Reprofiled into future Years	Changes to be approved in this Period	Revised Budget	Narrative
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Unallocated Community Capacity Grant	25	0	-25	-25	0	
Transistional Apartment Lease - Heathside	119	0	0	0	119	
TOTAL	**144**	**0**	**-25**	**-25**	**119**	

STRONGER COMMUNITIES PORTFOLIO	FMR 2 Budget	New Schemes/ Funding Changes	Reprofiled into / from Future Years	Changes to be approved in this Period	Revised Budget	Narrative
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
CCTV Replacement	563	0	0	0	563	Scheme in progress.
New Cemetery and Crematorium System	75	0	0	0	75	
Air Blast Cooler - St Helens Crematorium	45	0	0	0	45	
New Regulatory and Housing System		78	0	78	78	
Disabled Facilities Grants and Adaptations	4,303	0	0	0	4,303	The DFG funding allocation has been increased and the scheme reprofiled.
Emergency Fund (Housing)	82	0	0	0	82	Capital receipts from housing loan repayments have been recycled into the programme and the funding reprofiled over the next three years.
General Fund Housing (Housing Assistance)	80	0	0	0	80	
Housing Clearance and Enforcement	50	0	0	0	50	
Insulation Measures and Fuel Poverty	175	0	0	0	175	
TOTAL	**5,373**	**78**	**0**	**78**	**5,451**	

LOCALITIES, CULTURE & HERITAGE PORTFOLIO	FMR 2 Budget	New Schemes/ Funding Changes	Reprofiled into / from Future Years	Changes to be approved in this Period	Revised Budget	Narrative
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Libraries ICT Refresh	44	49	0	49	93	
Haydock Library SEND Redesign	297	0	0	0	297	Scheme to design Haydock Library.
Newton Le Willows Health and Fitness Centre Equipment	65	0	0	0	65	Equipment installed.
Parr Locality Hub (feasibility)	72	0	0	0	72	
Parr Swimming & Fitness Centre Demolition	1,032	-857	0	-857	175	Procurement underway.
Sutton Leisure Centre - Swimming provision	352	0	-352	-352	0	
Newton Le Willows Pitch	36	0	0	0	36	
Queens Park Health & Fitness Gym Equipment	180	0	0	0	180	Equipment installed in January 26.
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	157	0	0	0	157	Additional capital grant funding accepted as approved by Cabinet in March 25.
Localities Programme - Community Hubs Development	268	0	0	0	268	Additional funding for refurbishment works to enable the creation of North and South Community Hubs.
Community Spaces Investment - Pride in Place	0	0	0	0	0	
TOTAL	**2,503**	**-808**	**-352**	**-1,160**	**1,343**	

FINANCE & GOVERNANCE PORTFOLIO	FMR 2 Budget	New Schemes/ Funding Changes	Reprofiled into / from Future Years	Changes to be approved in this Period	Revised Budget	Narrative
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Revenue & Benefits System	350	0	0	0	350	Project progressing to implement a new revenue & benefits system.
TOTAL	**350**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**350**	

PEOPLE, PERFORMANCE & IT PORTFOLIO	FMR 2 Budget	New Schemes/ Funding Changes	Reprofiled into / from Future Years	Changes to be approved in this Period	Revised Budget	Narrative
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
ICT Device & Systems Refresh	724	0	0	0	724	Replacement of IT hardware.
Server Upgrade	333	0	0	0	333	Replacement of virtual infrastructure.
TOTAL	**1,057**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1,057**	

BUSINESS & INCLUSIVE GROWTH PORTFOLIO	FMR 2 Budget	New Schemes/ Funding Changes	Reprofiled into / from Future Years	Changes to be approved in this Period	Revised Budget	Narrative
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Highway Schemes						
A49 to M6 Junction 22 Link Road	4,671	0	-3,721	-3,721	950	Scheme complete - the Link Road was opened in May 2025.
KRN Levelling Up (Parkside Junction Mitigation Works)	345	0	-185	-185	160	Phase 1 & 2 of the scheme are now complete.
KRN Levelling Up (A580 Structures)	1,737	0	-1,474	-1,474	263	The schemes are in design stage with construction to commence this financial year.
Active Travel Fund - Tranche 2	2	0	0	0	2	Project complete.
Active Travel Fund - Tranche 3	174	0	0	0	174	Project being progressed with delivery partners, with delivery of the Peasley Cross element deferred to 25/26.
Active Travel Fund - Tranche 4	1,249	0	0	0	1,249	Project being progressed with delivery partners.
Active Travel Fund - Tranche 5	310	0	0	0	310	
Highway / Road Investment	64	0	0	0	64	Project complete.
CRSTS- Active Travel-City Region	506	0	0	0	506	Project being progressed with delivery partners.
CRSTS- Strategic Maintenance	4,320	0	0	0	4,320	Project being progressed with delivery partners.
CRSTS - Bridges	924	0	0	0	924	Project being progressed with delivery partners.
CRSTS - Technology & Comms Upgrade	807	0	0	0	807	Project being progressed with delivery partners.
CRSTS - Potholes	410	0	0	0	410	Project being progressed with delivery partners.
CRSTS - Flooding / Drainage	1,098	0	0	0	1,098	Project being progressed with delivery partners.
CRSTS - Resource Funding	770	0	0	0	770	
LED Retrofit - Traffic Signals	0	108	0	108	108	Additional funding awarded for conversion of additional signals.
Local Highways Maintenance	1,216	0	0	0	1,216	Additional funding awarded, subject to approval of separate report on this agenda.
Safer Routes to Schools	23	0	0	0	23	Project completed.
Section 106 Arrangements	81	-81	0	-81	0	Projects being progressed with delivery partners.

BUSINESS & INCLUSIVE GROWTH PORTFOLIO	FMR 2 Budget	New Schemes/ Funding Changes	Reprofiled into / from Future Years	Changes to be approved in this Period	Revised Budget	Narrative
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Cowley Hill Link Road	5,273	0	-3,139	-3,139	2,134	Scheme to provide high quality access to the Cowley Hill development site, and alternative traffic route to St Helens Town Centre, as approved by Cabinet in October 24.
Carr Mill Road Flood Alleviation Works	7	0	0	0	7	
Rainford Brook Flood Alleviation Improvements	0	20	0	20	20	
Taylor Park Dam Strengthening & Repair Works*	121	459	-459	0	121	Approval of construction element of scheme on same agenda.
Town Deal and Economic Development Schemes						
Town Deal - Glass Futures Ph 2	4,759	0	0	0	4,759	Grant funding for the Glass Future 2 project, to be drawn down over the year.
Town Deal - Cannington Shaw	751	0	0	0	751	Grant funding for the Cannington Shaw project, to be drawn down over the year.
Town Deal - Digital Infrastructure	2,074	0	0	0	2,074	Project progressing.
Town Deal - Health Hub	1,348	0	-405	-405	943	Works progressing on Business Connect element. Revised business case under development for the Skills Academy.
St Helens Manufacturing and Innovation Campus Strategic Acquisitions	60	0	0	0	60	
Bold Forest Garden Masterplan	368	0	0	0	368	Creation of a masterplan to unlock development of the Bold Forest Garden site.
Project Halo pre-development	1,135	0	0	0	1,135	Investment in pre-development works for life science economic development of the site, part of the St Helens Manufacturing & Innovation Campus.
TOTAL	**34,603**	**506**	**-9,383**	**-8,877**	**25,726**	

NEIGHBOURHOODS & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO	FMR 2 Budget	New Schemes/ Funding Changes	Reprofiled into / from Future Years	Changes to be approved in this Period	Revised Budget	Narrative
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Air Quality - Indoor Monitoring Equipment	21	0	0	0	21	
Air Quality Monitors	64	0	0	0	64	
Climate Change Emergency Response Fund	46	0	-46	-46	0	
Energy Efficiency Works - PSDS4 (LCRCA led)	0	236	0	236	236	As approved by Cabinet in December 25 - Council contribution to LCRCA led energy efficiency works on Hardshaw Brook Depot, Chester Lane Library and Queen Parks Leisure Centre.
Section 106 Arrangements (Non-Highway Schemes)	48	-48	0	-48	0	
Red Brow Woods Path Improvement Works	71	0	0	0	71	
Penkford Open Space	29	0	-29	-29	0	
St Helens Cemetery and Crematorium Flood Alleviation Scheme	321	-145	-165	-310	11	Works to design and create basins to reduce frequency and severity of flooding at the site.
West End Road - Sankey Valley	241	0	0	0	241	Additional funding awarded from EA to undertake flood alleviation works at this site.
Resources and Waste Strategy	673	0	-673	-673	0	Balance of the funding for the scheme, including works to improve the energy infrastructure for the electric vehicles.
Food Waste Collection	168	0	0	0	168	The vehicle is expected to be delivered this financial year.
Fleet Replacement Programme	3,488	0	-1,810	-1,810	1,678	Procurement in progress for 25-26 programme, with remainder of vehicles from 24-25 expected to delivered this financial year.
Hardshaw Brook Depot Drainage and Surface Improvements	418	0	0	0	418	Project being progressed with delivery partners.
Hardshaw Brook Depot Phase 2 - Fuel Station	332	0	-277	-277	55	Construction of a new fuel station at Hardshaw Brook Depot as approved by Cabinet in Sept 25.
Hardshaw Brook Depot Phase 3 - Salt Barn	472	0	-417	-417	55	Construction of a new Salt Barn on the Hardshaw Brook Depot site as approved by Cabinet in Sept 25.
TOTAL	**6,392**	**43**	**-3,417**	**-3,374**	**3,018**	

REGENERATION PORTFOLIO	FMR 2 Budget	New Schemes/ Funding Changes	Reprofiled into / from Future Years	Changes to be approved in this Period	Revised Budget	Narrative
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Chalon Way Meanwhile Use	142	0	-142	-142	0	
Building Capital Maintenance	500	0	0	0	500	Schemes being prioritised for investment.
New Asset Data System (Concerto)	20	0	0	0	20	
Building Energy Management System	58	0	0	0	58	
Church Square Service Deck	0	19	0	19	19	
Wesley House Purchase	0	378	0	378	378	Freehold purchase of a leasehold asset.
St Helens Town Centre Masterplan	1,835	0	-1,445	-1,445	390	Compensation for the two final relocations to be agreed.
St Helens Town Centre Phase 1 Investment	6,412	0	2,097	2,097	8,509	Demolition works have commenced.
Hardshaw Brook Depot Review	8	0	0	0	8	
Modernisation of St Helens Crematorium	39	0	0	0	39	
The Gamble Building (Phase 4)	516	0	0	0	516	Design works being progressed with delivery partner.
The Gamble Building Enabling Works	1,408	0	-458	-458	950	Enabling works and RIBA4 design, subject to approval of report on this agenda.
The Gamble Building PSDS4 Energy Efficiency Works	0	0	0	0	0	
Earlestown Regeneration	402	0	0	0	402	
Earlestown Market	8,744	0	-7,131	-7,131	1,613	Allocations between elements of the LUF scheme have been reprofiled as approved by Cabinet in April. Additional funding from S106 contributions and Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme have been included.
Earlestown Town Hall (Internal)	7,223	0	-4,042	-4,042	3,181	
Earlestown Railway Station	97	0	0	0	97	
Parr Footbridge Art Installation	25	0	-25	-25	0	
Public Spaces - Pride in Place	0	120	0	120	120	
High Street and Town Centre Revitalisation - Pride in Place	0	380	0	380	380	
Town Centre Bus Station Strategic Acquisitions	1,134	2,000	-2,412	-412	722	Compensation for the final relocations to be agreed.
St Helens Multi Modal Interchange	17,521	-1,525	-2,245	-3,770	13,751	Demolition works have commenced.
St Helens Temporary Bus Hub	260	-232	0	-232	28	The temporary bus hub is now operational.
Evelyn Avenue - remedial works	1,020	0	-1,020	-1,020	0	Remedial works to unlock a brownfield site for housing.
TOTAL	**47,364**	**1,140**	**-16,823**	**-15,683**	**31,681**	

CROSS PORTFOLIO	FMR 2 Budget	New Schemes/ Funding Changes	Reprofiled into / from Future Years	Changes to be approved in this Period	Revised Budget	Narrative
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Capital Receipts Funding for Essential Capital Works	2,183	-542	-1,641	-2,183	0	Funding essential capital maintenance, health & safety works and leverage match funding for key strategic capital schemes, pending formal approval for allocation to specific schemes.
TOTAL	**2,183**	**-542**	**-1,641**	**-2,183**	**0**	

TOTAL ALL PORTFOLIOS	**108,100**	**479**	**-35,254**	**-34,775**	**73,325**

Annex G

TREASURY MANAGEMENT POSITION STATEMENT

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

Investments

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

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

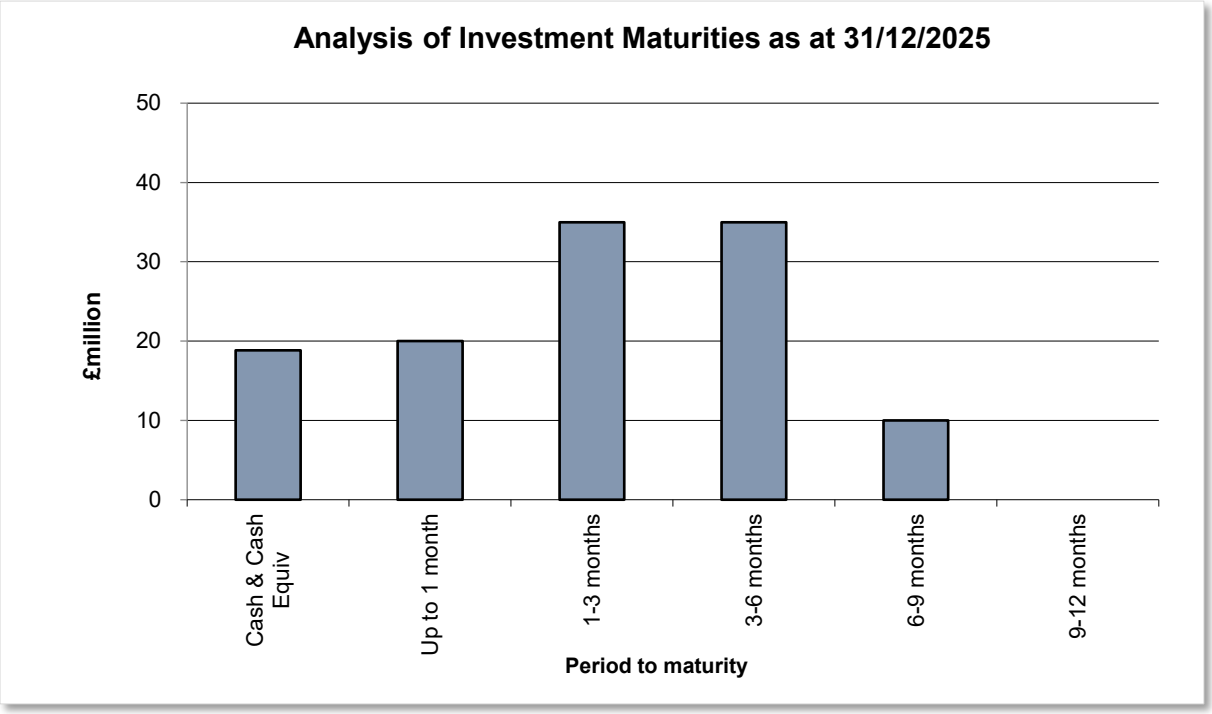
1.4 The Council has sought to maintain a mix of investments with the Counterparties who meet the Council's criteria. However, the profile of maturities has been influenced by a number of factors:

i. the availability of advantageous call rates from some high-quality Counterparties

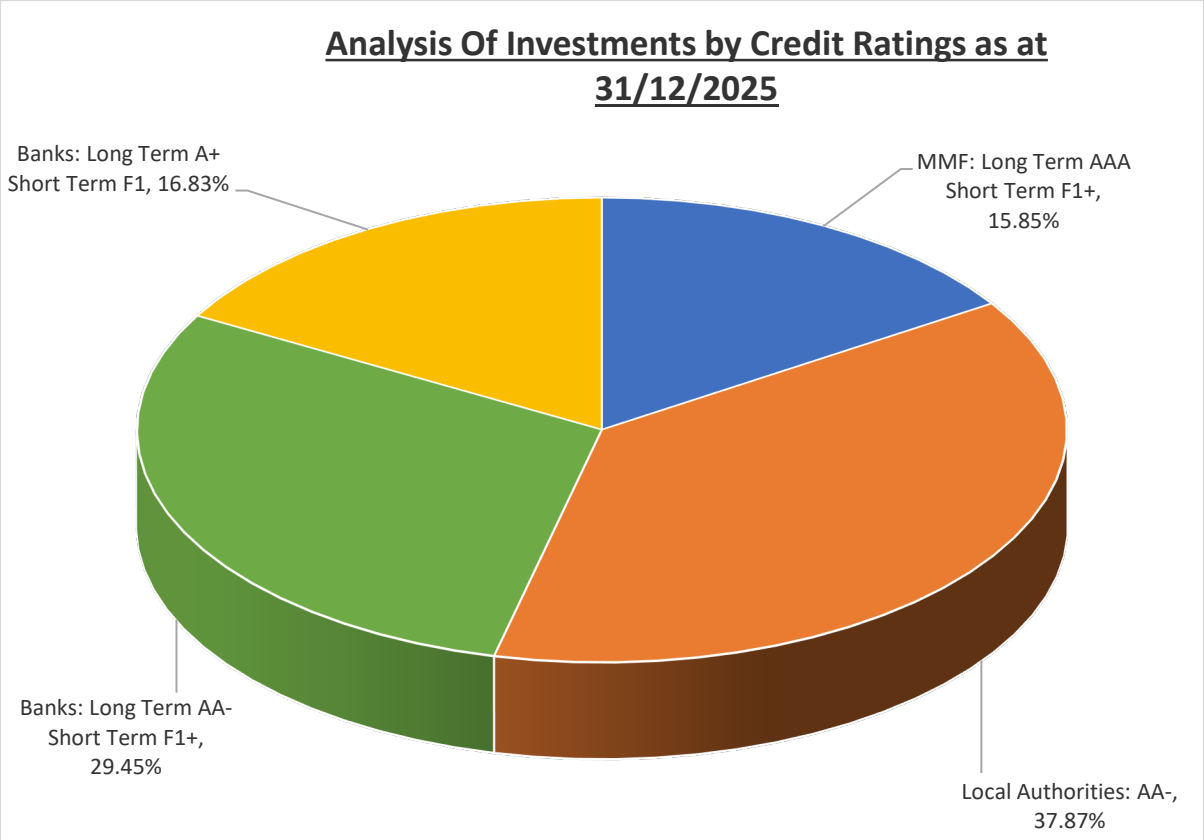
ii. limits on the duration of investments with certain counterparties

iii. availability of investment opportunities in excess of one year with a number of counterparties.

The following chart provides an overview of the split in the Authority's investments by maturity as at 31 December 2025.



1.5 As at 31 December 2025, the Council has investments of £118.835m. The chart below details the split of the Council's investment by type and the credit rating assigned to the different groups of Counterparties.



These investments include funds held in relation to Schools and Merseyside Recycling and Waste Disposal Authority (circa £17m).

1.6 15.85% of investments are with the highest-graded counterparties, i.e. those with the very best prospects and the lowest risk of failure, with extremely strong and stable characteristics. 67.32% of investments are with counterparties graded AA-/F1+, including 37.87% of the Council's investments which are held with other local authorities. These counterparties have very strong prospects for ongoing viability, strong and stable fundamentals and a particularly good liquidity profile. The remainder (16.83%) are with counterparties who are graded A+/F1. These have strong prospects for ongoing viability and are not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.

1.7 The average level of funds available, for investment purposes, for the period April to December 2025 was £146.904m. Investment rates available in the market have remained higher than anticipated due to the rate of decrease in Bank Rate being slower than forecast. However, there was a reduction in the base rate in December 2025 of 0.25 base points from 4% to 3.75% following the meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee on 18 December 2025. Any sudden changes in rates will impact upon performance against benchmarks as investment decisions need to be made based, having properly assessed all inherent risks, upon ensuring the security of investments, managing the liquidity of the authorities' investments for cashflow purposes, and achieving the optimum return on its investments.

Table 2 - Investment Returns 2025/26

2025/26	Returns Achieved			Benchmark Returns	Performance relative to Benchmarks
Month	**Fixed Term Investments**	**Call Accounts**	**Combined Return**	**Backward Looking 90 Day SONIA**	**Overall +/- return**
April	4.675%	4.403%	**4.573%**	**4.541%**	**+0.032%**
May	4.580%	4.274%	**4.477%**	**4.458%**	**+0.020%**
June	4.559%	4.242%	**4.457%**	**4.376%**	**+0.081%**
July	4.512%	4.168%	**4.392%**	**4.294%**	**+0.098%**
August	4.484%	3.996%	**4.325%**	**4.213%**	**+0.112%**
September	4.452%	3.957%	**4.294%**	**4.129%**	**+0.165%**
October	4.439%	3.959%	**4.281%**	**4.042%**	**+0.239%**
November	4.390%	3.917%	**4.243%**	**3.987%**	**+0.256%**
December	4.336%	3.963%	**4.259%**	**3.981%**	**+0.278%**

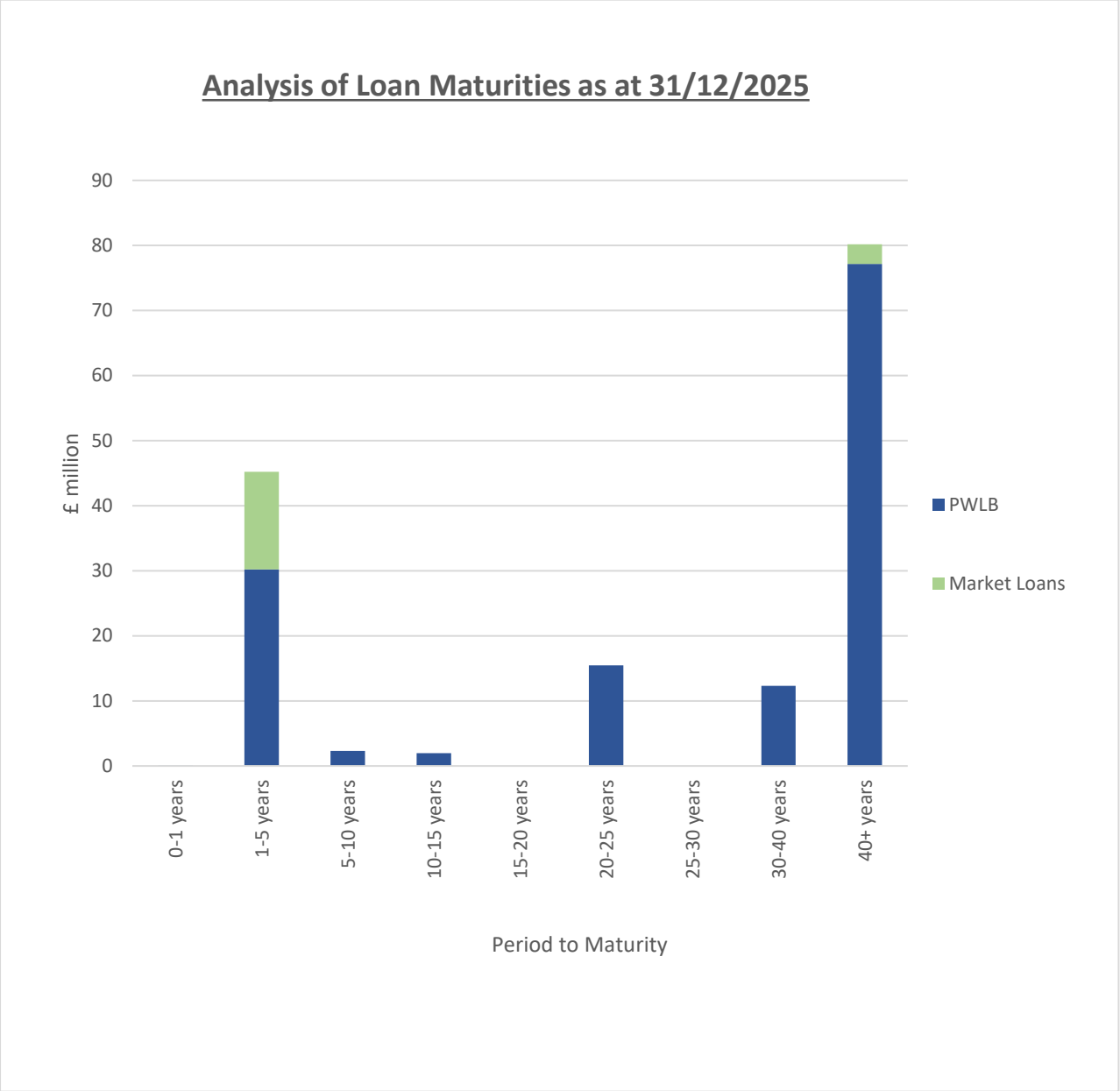
1.8 Cash holdings are currently above the forecast levels in the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, which is primarily due to the timing of income being received and expenditure being incurred and the levels of MRWA balances.

Borrowing

1.9 As at 31 December 2025, the Council has outstanding debt of £157.488m.

1.10 The cashflow projections are such that there will at some point be a need to borrow as a result of capital schemes funded through borrowing so, by taking some borrowing at this time, interest rate risk has been mitigated by locking in some certainty.

1.11 The following chart shows the maturity profile of the Council's loan portfolio as at 31 December 2025.



1.12 In accordance with the revised Prudential Code, the maturity of borrowing should be determined by reference to the earliest date on which the lender can require payment. If the lender does have the right to increase the interest rate payable (as is the case with a Market Loan (LOBO – Lender Option Borrower Option loan), then this should be treated as a right to require payment. In accordance with this guidance, the maturity dates of the Council's LOBO loans have been profiled as the next call date for each loan. This has made the Council's position look much more short term when all of these loans have maturity dates of 25+ years.

1.13 Economic conditions remain uncertain meaning that there may be volatility in gilt yields, and in turn PWLB borrowing rates. Whilst movements will not impact on the Council's current borrowing portfolio, which is wholly comprised of fixed rate agreements, inflated rates will mean that servicing of future debt requirements may become more expensive and future capital investment and borrowing decisions will

need to be considered in that light, as part of the Council's Medium Term Financial and Capital Investment strategies.

Prudential Indicators

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

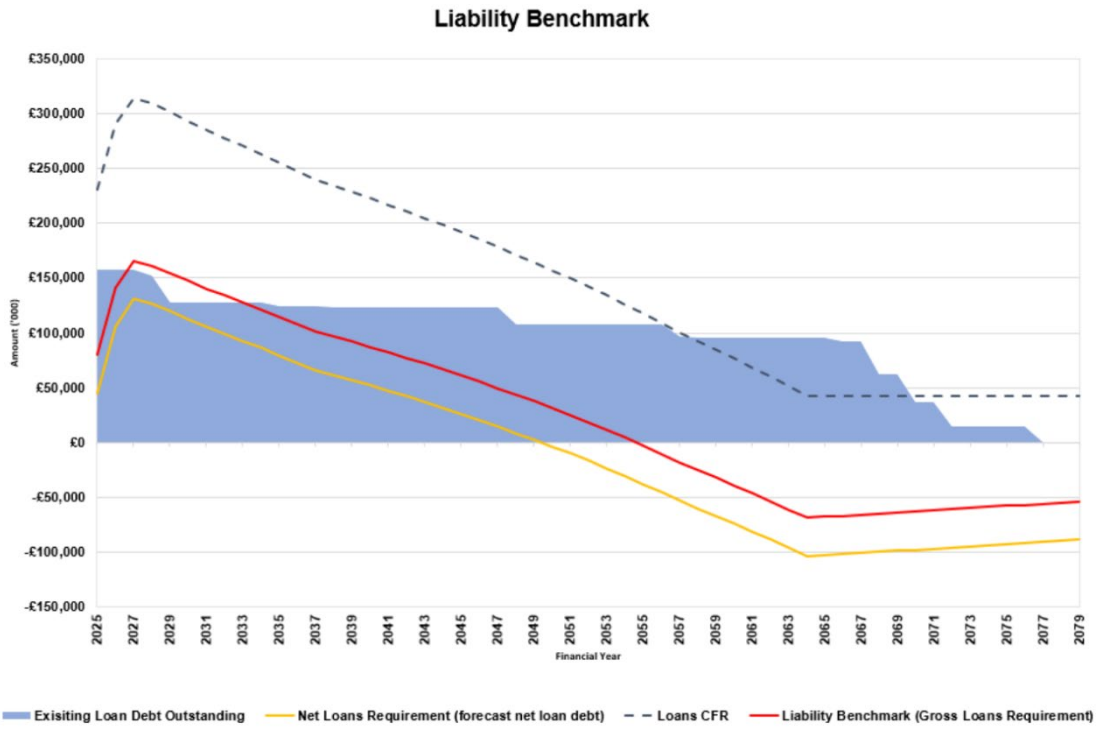
Appendix 1

Treasury Limits and Prudential Indicators 2025/26			2025/26 Revised	2026/27 Estimates	2027/28 Estimates	2028/29 Estimates
1(i)	Proposed capital expenditure that the Council plans to commit to during the forthcoming and subsequent two financial years.	**Capital Expenditure (£m)**	73.325	155.014	51.526	17.609
1(ii)	Additional in-year borrowing requirement for capital expenditure.	**In Year Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) (£m)**	3.603	60.217	23.450	(5.357)
2	The CFR is an aggregation of historic and cumulative capital expenditure, which has yet been paid for by either revenue or capital resources.	**Capital Financing Requirement as at 31 March (£m)**	224.370	284.587	308.037	302.680
3	The "net borrowing" position represents the net of the Authority's gross external borrowing and investments sums held.	**Net Borrowing Requirement:** External Borrowing (£m) Investments Held (£m) Net Requirement (£m)	157.480 (72.590) 84.890	251.283 (100.182) 151.101	269.558 (103.051) 166.507	239.181 (107.790) 131.391
4	Identifies the impact and trend of the revenue costs of capital financing decisions will have on the General Fund Budget over time.	**Ratio of financing cost to net revenue stream**	4.81%	4.86%	5.98%	6.69%

Treasury Limits and Prudential Indicators 2025/26			2025/26 Revised	2026/27 Estimates	2027/28 Estimates	2028/29 Estimates
5	The Council's Budget Strategy with regards to unsupported borrowing is such that there is no incremental impact to Council Tax.	**Incremental impact of capital investment decisions (increase in Council Tax Band D equivalent)**	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
6	This represents an absolute limit of borrowing at any one point in time. It reflects the level of external debt, which, while not desired, could be afforded in the short term, but is not sustainable in the longer term.	**Authorised Limit for External Debt (£m)**	220.673	299.292	319.663	301.312
7	This is the limit beyond which external debt is not normally expected to exceed.	**Operational Limit for External Debt (£m)**	203.951	290.966	310.044	285.438
8	These limits seek to ensure that the authority does not expose itself to an inappropriate level of interest rate risk, and has a suitable proportion of debt.	**Upper Limit for Fixed Interest Rate Exposure**	100%	100%	100%	100%
		Upper Limit for Variable Interest Rate Exposure	50%	50%	50%	50%
9	This limit seeks to ensure liquidity and reduce the likelihood of any inherent or associated risk.	**Upper Limit for Sums Invested over 365 Days**	60%	60%	60%	60%
10	This indicator is used to highlight where an authority may be borrowing in advance of need	**Gross Debt and the CFR (£m)**	35.747	4.026	10.896	37.338

Liability Benchmark

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

There are four components to the Liability Benchmark: -

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