

## Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 10 September 2025

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision	Reasons	Alternative Options
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### Part A – Items considered in public

<b>A8</b>	Nature Improvement Plan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the Winchester District Nature Improvement Plan 2025-2030 technical document be adopted.</li> <li>2. That authority be delegated to the Corporate Head of Economy and Community to create and publish a resident and partner facing executive summary setting out the nature improvement priorities and key areas of delivery.</li> </ol>	<p>The council recognises the critical importance of protecting and enhancing the natural environment of the district and is determined to reverse the long-term decline in nature and biodiversity. Protecting our natural environment and tackling the ongoing nature emergency remains a central priority within the Council Plan. Building on the foundations of the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), the council is now moving to a more ambitious, district-wide strategic approach through the proposed Nature Improvement Plan 2025–2030 (NIP).</p>	<p>Keep the existing style of the Biodiversity Action Plan</p> <p>This would not tie in with recent local and national changes and would not comply with the enhanced biodiversity duty under the Environment Act 2021. It would also not improve the way we prioritise actions or report back on biodiversity. Therefore, this option was rejected.</p>
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			<p>The NIP provides, for the first time, a comprehensive framework for nature recovery in the Winchester district. It has been shaped by national legislation and policy, alongside the council's own strategies, particularly the Winchester City Council Biodiversity Action Plan 2021. The successes and lessons learnt, through the BAP over the last four years have directly informed the aims and objectives of this new plan, ensuring it reflects both local experience and national best practice.</p> <p>The overarching aim of the NIP is to halt and reverse the decline in nature and biodiversity by actively promoting and delivering nature improvement and</p>	

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			<p>recovery across the district. This responds to the council's declaration of a nature emergency and reflects the strengthened biodiversity duty set out in the Environment Act 2021.</p> <p>To focus collective effort and resources, the NIP sets out five new clear pathways for action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect and manage land for nature</li> <li>• Create new spaces for nature</li> <li>• Deliver more nature-based solutions for tackling climate change</li> <li>• Prevent and control pollution better</li> <li>• Connect more people to nature</li> </ul> <p>For each pathway, measures</p>	

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			<p>have been identified where possible. Two sets of measures will be monitored between 2025 and 2030: one for council actions on land it owns and manages, and one for actions delivered across the wider district. Progress will be reviewed annually through Action Plans for both the council land and the district as a whole.</p> <p>Guiding principles have also been established to ensure that biodiversity is embedded across all council functions, particularly in areas where numerical targets cannot be applied.</p> <p>The NIP therefore marks an important next step. It supersedes the BAP and sets out a bold, strategic approach for achieving</p>	

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			meaningful nature recovery across the Winchester district. By working together with communities, partners and stakeholders, the council is committed to delivering real and lasting improvements for biodiversity and the natural environment.	
<b>A9</b>	Community Infrastructure Levy Funding Allocations	<p>1. That funding allocations, capital budget and expenditure be approved as follows from the Winchester City Council CIL receipts ring-fenced to support transport and active travel projects:</p> <p>i) £36,393 to Hampshire County Council in 2025/26 for the upgrade of the existing pedestrian crossing at</p>	<p>Report CAB3518 seeks approval to allocate CIL funds to support requests from Hampshire County Council for two transport and active travel projects and the city council's Natural Environment and Recreation Team for an open space enhancement project, from funds ring-fenced for this purpose.</p> <p>Subject to this funding being approved by Cabinet, the projects detailed in the report</p>	All options were considered for the allocation of grant funds to applicants, ranging from the full amount requested through to no award at all. The applications were assessed against the approved scheme criteria and the recommendations represent the best balance of maximising support for projects while retaining a sufficient level of resilience in case of a reduction in CIL

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		<p>Friarsgate in Winchester.</p> <p>ii) £282,000 to Hampshire County Council in 2026/27 for the provision of a footway adjacent to Andover Road Micheldever.</p> <p>2. That a funding allocation and capital budget of £153,000 in 2026/27 be approved from the Winchester City Council CIL receipts ring-fenced to support council-led strategic projects, for the provision of a perimeter footpath at River Park recreation ground in Winchester. This is subject to subsequent approval of expenditure under Financial</p>	<p>will become part of the rolling programme of schemes wholly or partly funded by CIL in line with the protocol agreed in September 2018 (CAB3071 refers) and reviewed and updated in July 2023 (CAB3385 refers).</p>	<p>collected in future years.</p>

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		<p>Procedure Rule 7.4.</p> <p>3. That it be noted that £150,000 of district CIL, which was previously allocated to the delivery of KGV park plan, is no longer required, so has been released back to the fund for future allocation.</p> <p>4. That authority be delegated to the Corporate Head of Economy and Community to approve grant payments (in instalments where appropriate) based on evidence of spend provided by the applicant.</p> <p>5. That authority be delegated to the Service Lead Legal to enter into the grant funding agreements in</p>		

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		accordance with the council's funding criteria.		
<b>A10</b>	General Fund outturn 24/25 (less exempt appendix)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the General Fund Revenue Outturn and Capital Programme Outturn be noted as set out in report CAB3514.</li> <li>2. That the transfers to and from the Major Investment Reserve as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report be approved and the reserves and closing balances at 31 March 2025 (as set out in Appendix 2) be noted.</li> <li>3. That the revised 2025/26 capital programme be approved as set out in Appendix 5 of the report including the following new budgets:</li> </ol>	<p>Report CAB3514 provides an overview of the General Fund Revenue outturn and Capital Programme outturn for 2024/25.</p> <p>The 2024/25 General Fund budget was approved by Council in February 2024 (CAB3444 refers). The budget was set based on a stable financial position with a forecast balanced budget now covering 2024/25 and 2025/26. Quarterly monitoring has kept the forecast 2024/25 outturn under close review. A final outturn favourable variance of just over £2.4m is reported, resulting from additional interest receivable</p>	The potential to use the additional surplus for specific investment has been considered. However, in light of the specific emerging pressures identified within the MTFS, this is not recommended at this stage.



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Special maintenance vehicles replacements - £251,000</li> <li>b. Rural Enterprise Prosperity Fund (additional funding received) - £223,000</li> <li>c. Disabled Facilities Grant (additional funding received) - £185,000</li> <li>4. That the revised 2025-2035 capital programme as set out in Appendix 6 of the report be noted.</li> <li>5. That the proposal to write-off the five individual outstanding Non-Domestic Rate debts totalling £458,213.50, listed in exempt Appendix 7 of the report be approved, in accordance with</li> </ul>	and a number of service variances.	

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		Financial Procedure Rule 12.7(f).		
<b>A11</b>	Housing Revenue Account outturn 24/25	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the HRA Outturn figures for 2024/25 be noted as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 of report CAB3516.</li> <li>2. That the Housing capital programme outturn for Major Works and New Build be noted as detailed in paragraphs 10.5 and 10.6 and Appendices 3 &amp; 4 of the report.</li> <li>3. That the funding of the 2024/25 HRA capital programme be noted as detailed in paragraphs 10.7 to 10.10 and Appendix 5 of the report.</li> <li>4. That the reforecast</li> </ol>	<p>Report CAB3516 provides an update to members on the financial performance of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), and the HRA capital programme, in 2024/25. It requests approval for revised budget forecasts to the 2025-26 HRA capital programme to reflect slippage, to take account of delays to some schemes and reflect the likely revised spend profile in the capital programme.</p> <p>The 2024/25 outturn was a surplus to the HRA of £1.855m for 2024/25, compared to the originally budgeted deficit of £1.704m; a favourable movement of £3.559m. This has increased the current working balance</p>	No other options have been considered. There is a statutory requirement to approve the HRA outturn.

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		capital programme budget of £48.8m for 2025/26 be approved, as detailed in paragraphs 10.11 to 10.15 and Appendix 6 & 7 of the report, that takes into account potential programme slippage and the reprofiling of expected spend.	to £15.951m (£14.096m as at 31 March 2024). The Capital programme outturn was £13.237m against the revised budget of £22.995 presented to Cabinet in February 2025.	
<b>A12</b>	Q1 Finance & Performance Monitoring	That the progress achieved during Q1 of 2025/26 be noted and the contents of report CAB3513 be endorsed.	The Council Plan sets out the priorities of the council and this report provides a summary of the progress achieved during the period 1 April 2025 to 30 June 2025.	None.