



Meeting	Cabinet
Date and Time	Wednesday, 10th September, 2025 at 9.30 am.
Venue	Walton Suite, Guildhall, Winchester and streamed live on YouTube at www.youtube.com/winchestercc .

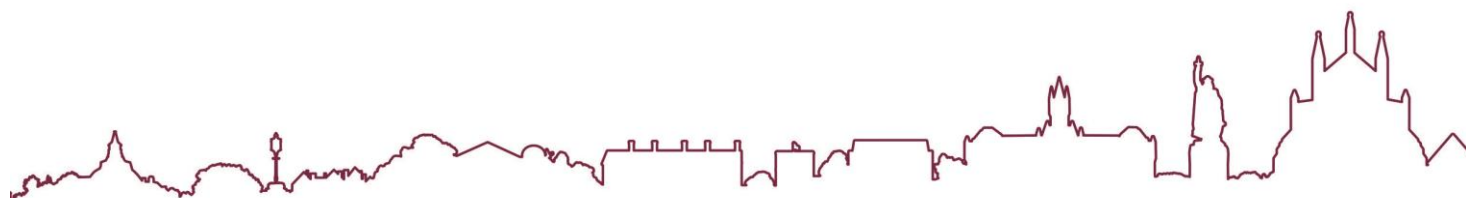
Note: This meeting is being held in person at the location specified above. Members of the public should note that a live video feed of the meeting will be available from the council's YouTube channel (youtube.com/WinchesterCC) during the meeting.

A limited number of seats will be made available at the above named location however attendance must be notified to the council at least 3 working days before the meeting. Please note that priority will be given to those wishing to attend and address the meeting over those wishing to attend and observe.

AGENDA

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

- 1. Apologies**
To record the names of apologies given.
- 2. Membership of Cabinet bodies etc.**
To give consideration to the approval of alternative arrangements for appointments to bodies set up by Cabinet or external bodies, or the making or terminating of such appointments.
- 3. Disclosure of Interests**
To receive any disclosure of interests from Councillors or Officers in matters to be discussed.
Note: Councillors are reminded of their obligations to declare disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs), other registerable interests (ORIs) and non-registerable interests (NRIs) in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct.



4. **To note any request from Councillors to make representations on an agenda item.**

Note: Councillors wishing to speak address Cabinet are required to register with Democratic Services three clear working days before the meeting (contact: democracy@winchester.gov.uk or 01962 848 264). Councillors will normally be invited by the Chairperson to speak during the appropriate item (after the Cabinet Member's introduction and questions from other Cabinet Members).

BUSINESS ITEMS

5. **Public Participation**

– to note the names of members of the public wishing to speak on general matters affecting the District or on agenda items (in the case of the latter, representations will normally be received at the time of the agenda item, after the Cabinet Member's introduction and any questions from Cabinet Members).

NB members of the public are required to register with Democratic Services three clear working days before the meeting (contact: democracy@winchester.gov.uk or 01962 848 264).

Members of the public and visiting councillors may speak at Cabinet, provided they have registered to speak three working days in advance. Please contact Democratic Services **by 5pm on Thursday 4 September 2025** via democracy@winchester.gov.uk or (01962) 848 264 to register to speak and for further details.

6. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 July 2025** (Pages 5 - 10)

7. **Leader and Cabinet Members' Announcements**

8. Nature Improvement Plan (Pages 11 - 92)

Key Decision (CAB3517)

9. Community Infrastructure Levy Funding Allocations (Pages 93 - 120)

Key Decision (CAB3518)

10. General Fund outturn 24/25 (less exempt appendix) (Pages 121 - 154)

Key Decision (CAB3514)

11. Housing Revenue Account outturn 24/25 (Pages 155 - 176)

Key Decision (CAB3516)

12. Q1 Finance & Performance Monitoring (Pages 177 - 224)

Key Decision (CAB3513)

13. To note the future items for consideration by Cabinet as shown on the October 2025 Forward Plan. (Pages 225 - 230)
14. EXEMPT BUSINESS:
To consider whether in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.
- (i) To pass a resolution that the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business because it is likely that, if members of the public were present, there would be disclosure to them of 'exempt information' as defined by Section 100 (I) and Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.
15. General Fund outturn 24/25 (exempt appendix) (Pages 231 - 232)

Key Decision

(CAB3514 EXEMPT APDX 7)

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Laura Taylor
Chief Executive



2 September 2025

Agenda Contact: Nancy Graham, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Tel: 01962 848 235, Email: ngraham@winchester.gov.uk

**With the exception of exempt items, Agenda, reports and previous minutes are available on the Council's Website www.winchester.gov.uk*

CABINET – Membership 2025/26

Chairperson: Councillor Tod - Leader and Cabinet Member for Regeneration

Vice-Chairperson: Councillor Cutler - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>
Becker	Cabinet Member for Healthy Communities
Cramoysan	Cabinet Member for Recycling and Public Protection
Learney	Cabinet Member for the Climate and Nature Emergency
Porter	Cabinet Member for Place and the Local Plan
Thompson	Cabinet Member for Business and Culture
Reach	Cabinet Member for Good Homes

Quorum = 3 Members

Corporate Priorities

As Cabinet is responsible for most operational decisions of the Council, its work embraces virtually all elements of the Council Strategy.

Public Participation at meetings

Representations will be limited to a maximum of 3 minutes, subject to a maximum 15 minutes set aside for all questions and answers.

To reserve your place to speak, you are asked to **register with Democratic Services three clear working days prior to the meeting** – please see public participation agenda item below for further details. People will be invited to speak in the order that they have registered, subject to the maximum time period allowed for speaking not being exceeded. Public Participation is at the Chairperson's discretion.

Filming and Broadcast Notification

This meeting will be recorded and broadcast live on the Council's website. The meeting may also be recorded and broadcast by the press and members of the public – please see the Access to Information Procedure Rules within the Council's Constitution for further information, which is available to view on the [Council's website](#). Please note that the video recording is subtitled but you may have to enable your device to see them (advice on how to do this is on the meeting page).

Disabled Access

Disabled access is normally available, but please phone Democratic Services on 01962 848 264 or email democracy@winchester.gov.uk to ensure that the necessary arrangements are in place.

Terms Of Reference

Included within the Council's Constitution (Part 3, Section 2) which is available [here](#)

CABINET

Tuesday, 15 July 2025

Attendance:

Councillors

Cutler
Cramoysan
Learney

Porter
Reach
Thompson

Apologies for Absence:

Councillors Becker

Members in attendance who spoke at the meeting

Councillors Cook, Godfrey, Laming, Lee and Tippet-Cooper

[Video recording of this meeting](#)

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Becker as noted above.

2. **MEMBERSHIP OF CABINET BODIES ETC.**

There were no changes to be made.

3. **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Councillors Tod and Porter declared disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of various items on the agenda due to their role as Hampshire County Councillors. However, as there was no material conflict of interest, they remained in the room, spoke and voted under the dispensation granted on behalf of the Audit and Governance Committee to participate and vote in all matters which might have a County Council involvement.

4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Ian Tait spoke regarding reports CAB3466 and CAB3489 and Lucy Taylor spoke regarding report CAB3466, as summarised under the relevant minutes below.

5. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 June 2025 be agreed as a correct record.

6. **LEADER AND CABINET MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements made.

7. **FUTURE OF FORMER LEISURE CENTRE SITE**
(CAB3466)

In Councillor Becker's absence, Councillor Tod introduced the report which outlined the background to the current proposals and set out plans to market the site for sale with evaluation criteria at paragraph 11.8 of the report. Initial public consultation on options for its future use had been undertaken with the results summarised in paragraph 6.4 of the report. The proposed plan confirmed that at least two further rounds of consultation would take place.

Ian Tait and Lucy Taylor spoke during public participation as summarised briefly below.

Ian Tait

Ian Tait reminded members that he had spoken in support of the previous proposal in 2022 to lease the site to Southampton University and would welcome the use of the site for arts or cultural purposes. However, he believed there had been a lack of progress since and highlighted the negative impact on the area of the old leisure centre building in its current state. He queried what were the results of the earlier consultation which took place in 2022 and believed the latest consultation was inadequate. In general, he would support any new proposal that was deliverable in the area.

Lucy Taylor (Winchester Lido group)

Lucy Taylor highlighted that over 3,000 people had signed the recent petition supporting the provision of a Winchester lido and the council's most recent consultation had indicated a lido was the most suggested option for the site. Lidos were seeing a resurgence in popularity across the country with new lidos being developed in several areas. She highlighted the many benefits for both physical and mental health and also in terms of economic benefits to the area. In summary, she urged the council to work with partners to provide a Winchester lido.

At the invitation of the Leader, Councillors Cook, Laming, Lee, Tippet-Cooper and Godfrey addressed Cabinet as summarised briefly below.

Councillor Cook

Councillor Cook made reference to the previous decision by Cabinet on 4 March 2022 to grant a five year option period to Southampton University

(SU). She expressed concern about the fact there was no contract, no legal obligation for SU to apply for planning consent and queried whether SU had been seriously interested in progressing. With regard to the current proposals, she believed the consultation was inadequate, expressed concern about the council entering into an agreement with only one partner again and about any proposal to dispose of existing public car parking spaces.

Councillor Lee

Councillor Lee welcomed confirmation that the site was a district asset and asked that future consultations better reflect this by engaging with residents across the district. He supported the use of a brownfield site to meet community requirements, but raised a number of queries and concerns, including the cost to the council of surveys and what options would be available if a viable investment proposal was not forthcoming. He emphasised the sensitive nature of the site and believed that emerging Local Plan new policy NE17 should be regarded as a material consideration, particularly as it was in a flood risk zone and queried the minimum buffer requirements.

Councillor Laming

Councillor Laming opposed the proposals for a number of reasons summarised below. He considered it was premature for any decision to be made in advance of the report of the Local Plan examination. He stated that submissions had been made to the Inspector regarding policy W10 contending that the policy failed the National Planning Policy Framework soundness test and took no account of the impact on local traffic. In addition, he believed the policy was inconsistent with the council's climate emergency plan. He highlighted that the site was in a flood risk area and he had concerns that it was not a brownfield site and that little account had been taken of either the historic statutory trust or the vendor's covenant on the land.

Councillor Tippet-Cooper

Councillor Tippet-Cooper spoke as a ward councillor and a nearby resident of the site. He highlighted that local residents were excited about redeveloping the area but it was clear that an investment partner was required as the council could not afford to develop on its own. He asked that proposals now proceed without further delay, highlighting that otherwise the potential impact of local government reorganisation would mean a future decision being taken by a larger, more remote unitary authority. He acknowledged that any proposal was unlikely to be supported by everyone, but believed the process proposed offered the best chance to ascertain what was the preferred option and to find a viable proposal with an investment partner.

Councillor Godfrey

Councillor Godfrey highlighted that he had expressed concern about the proposed previous agreement with SU and regretted the lack of redevelopment on the site to date. He welcomed the inclusion of best value

consideration in the new proposals but considered the plans placed too many restrictions on prospective investors. He urged the council to dispose of the site as quickly as possible and leave it to the open market to come forward with possible viable options.

Councillor Tod together with the Director of Regeneration responded to the comments made including those relating to the university's previous interest and subsequent withdrawal. Points relating to the Local Plan process and how the emerging plan's policies would be taken into account, together with the extent of the buffer were also clarified. The Director (Legal) also confirmed that the site was owned by the council.

Councillor Tod and other Cabinet Members noted the support for a lido on the site and any viable proposals were encouraged to come forward.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons set out in the report and outlined above.

RESOLVED:

1. That the feedback from the resident engagement undertaken in June 2025 be noted.
2. That the recommended approach to market the site for sale and find a new investor be agreed, including agreeing the evaluation criteria as set out in paragraph 11.8 of the report.
3. That resident engagement events take place following the receipt of expressions of interest stage and final bid as part of the on-going and continued commitment to resident and stakeholder engagement.
4. That a budget of £130,000 be approved, financed from the MIR reserve, to fund the costs of marketing the site.
5. That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director with responsibility for the former Leisure Centre site project to market the site and invite bids.
6. That a further report be brought back to Cabinet with recommendation to approve the sale of the site to the preferred bidder.

8. **CORNER HOUSE, NORTH WALLS, WINCHESTER (LESS EXEMPT APPENDIX)**
(CAB3489)

Councillor Reach introduced the report which requested authorisation to dispose of the Corner House. He outlined the background to the proposal and the reasons for the changed approach, as summarised in the report. He emphasised that, including the Corner House, the council had acquired 43 properties since 2020 and 42 of these had been made available for social or affordable housing.

Ian Tait spoke during public participation as summarised briefly below.

Ian Tait advised that he had spoken previously to raise his concerns about the council's acquisition of the property and the subsequent delays. He believed that there was no proper business case for the acquisition which had been taken quickly in order to prevent the loss of right to buy receipts but had resulted in costs to the council of over £800,000. He highlighted that his understanding of the latest proposal was restricted because he was unable to see the contents of the exempt appendix.

At the invitation of the Leader, Councillors Lee and Godfrey addressed Cabinet as summarised briefly below.

Councillor Lee

Councillor Lee stated that Scrutiny Committee had requested further detail about the Corner House acquisition at its meeting on 1 February 2025 but this had not yet been forthcoming. He requested confirmation that the correct procedures had been followed. He also queried why a leasehold disposal option was being offered as he believed freehold would offer better value.

Councillor Godfrey

Councillor Godfrey expressed concern that the property had remained empty since its acquisition in 2020 at a cost to the council. He also referred to other council owned properties which he considered remained empty for too long. He urged for action to be taken as soon as possible.

Councillor Reach together with the Strategic Director responded to the comments made including confirming that financial viability appraisals had been undertaken prior to the property being acquired and prior to planning permission being applied for which both indicated the scheme would be viable. Councillor Tod advised that he had responded to the queries raised by The Scrutiny Committee.

Cabinet members and invited councillors present confirmed that it was not necessary to go into exempt session to discuss the contents of the exempt appendix.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons set out in the report (including the exempt appendix) and outlined above.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Corporate Head of Asset Management be authorised to dispose of the Corner House, North Walls, Winchester on the open market on a freehold or leasehold basis.
2. That it be noted that the £1.8m Corner House scheme in the capital programme (CAB3490 refers) will be subsumed into the 'Unallocated 1,000 Homes' scheme to increase the investment in other affordable accommodation, subject to authority to spend.

9. **FUTURE ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION BY CABINET**

RESOLVED:

That the list of future items as set out in the Forward Plan for August 2025 be noted.

10. **EXEMPT BUSINESS:**

RESOLVED:

1. That in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

2. That the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business because it is likely that, if members of the public were present, there would be disclosure to them of 'exempt information' as defined by Section 100I and Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

<u>Minute Number</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Description of Exempt Information</u>
11	Corner House, North Walls (exempt appendix)) Information relating to the) financial or business affairs of) any particular person (including) the authority holding that) information). (Para 3 Schedule) 12A refers)

11. **CORNER HOUSE, NORTH WALLS (EXEMPT APPENDIX)**
(CAB3489)

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the exempt appendix be noted.

The meeting commenced at 9.30 am and concluded at 11.00 am

Chairperson

CAB3517
CABINET

REPORT TITLE: NATURE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

10 SEPTEMBER 2025

REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER: Cllr Kelsie Learney, Cabinet Member for the Climate and Nature Emergency

Contact Officer: Zoe Goldsmith Tel No: 01962 848 488 Email zgoldsmith@winchester.gov.uk

WARD(S): ALL

PURPOSE

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).

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.

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 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.

To focus collective effort and resources, the NIP sets out five new clear pathways for action:

1. Protect and manage land for nature
2. Create new spaces for nature
3. Deliver more nature-based solutions for tackling climate change
4. Prevent and control pollution better
5. Connect more people to nature

For each pathway, measures 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.

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.

The NIP therefore marks an important next step. It supersedes the BAP and sets out a bold, strategic approach for achieving 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.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That cabinet:

1. Adopt the Winchester District Nature Improvement Plan 2025-2030 technical document.
2. Delegate authority 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.

IMPLICATIONS:1 COUNCIL PLAN OUTCOME

1.1 Greener Faster

1.2 The Winchester District Nature Improvement Plan 2025- 2030 (Appendix A) will help reverse the long-term decline in nature and biodiversity. The Council recognises the vital connection between the climate and nature emergencies and is committed to addressing them both in tandem.

1.3 Healthy Communities

1.4 The Nature Improvement Plan includes measures and principles regarding land and water management and running of open spaces, as well as events. Providing access to nature, water, rivers and green spaces can improve health and wellbeing and aid participation in physical activities.

1.5 The plan will also be delivered in part through collaborating and enabling various partners and community groups.

1.6 The Plan should be accessible to a wide audience and easily understood no matter a readers' level of knowledge about land management, ecology and biodiversity. A public facing executive summary will include key content from the technical document, along with delivery priorities and project opportunities. Its presentation, will make it more accessible and inclusive, ensuring residents are fully able to engage with the Plan and what it is seeking to achieve. A short film will explain and promote the plan. This supports the council's Listen and Learn and Effective and Efficient priorities by ensuring that information about our services is easy to access, people know how to they can get involved and groups that might not already engage in this area of work have the ability to do so.

2 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

2.1 The Plan will be delivered with the existing ecology team budgets. No further resources are required at this stage.

2.2 To pursue future projects or actions further resources may be required at that time and will be subject to future decisions. The ecology team will pursue opportunities for funding where available.

3 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The Environment Act 2021 introduced a strengthened 'biodiversity duty' which requires public authorities to:

- Consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- Agree policies and specific objectives based on their consideration.

- Act to deliver their policies and achieve objectives.
- 3.2 In addition to the above, the Environment Act requires public authorities to produce a report on what they are doing and how they are complying with this biodiversity duty. The report must also include details of biodiversity net gains.
 - 3.3 The Nature Improvement Plan will be the reporting framework which demonstrates how the council is meeting the strengthened Biodiversity Duty, including reporting back on the work the council undertakes for Biodiversity Net Gain.
 - 3.4 Any procurement of works for land management, biodiversity improvement activity will be compliant with the council's Contract Procedure Rules and applicable external legislation. Service Level Agreement with agencies carrying out land management, survey or monitoring on behalf of the council will be subject to regular review to ensure the council is still achieving best value reviews and have the appropriate legal agreement in place.
 - 3.5 There is an existing grounds maintenance contract with IDVerde which will be used for appropriate works.
 - 3.6 The NIP principles, if adopted, will be included in the council's Sustainable Procurement Guide which is published to help contractors and suppliers bid for work from the council.

4 WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Plan has been developed and will be delivered with the current resourcing in the ecology team. This consists of two officers: a Principal Ecologist and Biodiversity Officer and an Ecologist and Biodiversity Officer. Other resources can be deployed from within the service and teams within the Sustainability and Natural Environment Team in support of projects and services that bring co-benefits, for example trees, play areas, carbon saving and climate adaptation.

5 PROPERTY AND ASSET IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The NIP does consider how council land could be managed to increase nature recovery and bio-diversity gain, which may include altering or changing current practices or uses. There could also be the opportunity to stack benefits such as nutrient and carbon credits, that have the potential to be traded commercially to support future council (or private sector) development.

6 CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

- 6.1 The proposal and scope to update the Biodiversity Action Plan was taken to Health and Environment Policy Committee on 3 December 2024. Comments provided were incorporated into the draft plan. The Draft Nature Improvement Plan (NIP) was then taken to Health and Environment Policy Committee on 3

July 2025 for further comments and feedback. This has been updated to incorporate feedback, in particular to:

- Make the document more of a celebration of Winchester's biodiversity
- Add clarity around data sources and assumptions, and how these have informed the measures
- Refer to ecosystem services and climate resilience
- Make more of the opportunities for SINC's and other future aspirational work areas coming out of the NIP after 2025/2026.
- Check whether the plan can be more aspirational but still achievable - clarify the limitations of the Plan.

6.2 Neighbouring Local Authority ecologists, including the ecologist at SDNP have been consulted, as have the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. None of these external partners raised any concerns.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 The Nature Improvement Plan 2025- 2030 (Appendix A) sets out the strategic approach to nature improvement across the whole district. This addresses the commitments made when the council declared a nature emergency and the strengthened biodiversity duty in the Environment Act 2021.

8 PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken (Appendix B).

9 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9.1 None required

10 RISK MANAGEMENT

10.1 The table below considers the risks, mitigation and opportunities related to the Nature Improvement Plan.

Risk	Mitigation	Opportunities
Financial Exposure - None		
Exposure to challenge	Consultation with HEP Committee and external partners including Hampshire and Isle of Wight	Strategic approach with robust mechanism for reporting back on measures and meeting monitoring requirements

Risk	Mitigation	Opportunities
	<p>Wildlife Trust (HIWWT), South Downs National Park (SDNP) Ecologist and other neighbouring authority Ecology Teams.</p> <p>Work on the NIP has been carried out alongside working with Hampshire County Council on the production of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LRNS) and aligns with it.</p>	<p>under the Environment Act 2021.</p> <p>Increased opportunities for engagement through delivery of the plan.</p>
Innovation	New practices and techniques to improve nature could be explored, particularly new digital and technology approaches for monitoring and reporting.	
Reputation - Failing to address the nature emergency or meet duties under the Environment Act 2021.	The plan provides a mechanism for delivering measurable nature improvements on council land and across the entire district.	Aligns with the delivery of the Hampshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
Achievement of outcome	Reviews will be undertaken, and annual action plans will be developed to ensure measures are delivered over the five-year period of the plan.	Potential for additional benefits to ecosystem services, health and wellbeing and climate resilience.
Property Changes to land management practices and uses are not supported	The NIP sets out the outputs and benefits to be gained to justify any changes. It can be used to underpin decisions that can be	Opportunity to trade BGN, nutrient or carbon credits

Risk	Mitigation	Opportunities
	taken in balance with other objectives.	
Community Support Lack of understanding or awareness of the plan could undermine support for it.	A resident-facing executive summary document will be published following approval of the NIP technical document. A launch film will be produced and the council website updated. A communications plan will be developed to support delivery of the plan which will include various engagement activities with stakeholders such as events and forums.	Increased awareness of the existing positive work undertaken by the council. Increased local participation and action to improve nature in local communities.
Timescales Achieving outcomes and reaching our aims over a long period requires sustained effort and resources	Provided the plan is approved by Cabinet, it will be launched in September.	
Project capacity A small delivery team can be impacted by changes and completing priorities	The wider service can help to support projects, and the use of external partners and stakeholder can fill capacity gaps.	Greater empowerment of local stakeholders and community groups to take action can increase project capacity.
Other Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) may affect the delivery of the later stages of the plan	The plan clearly sets out priorities and measures for nature improvement so these can be carried forward with LGR.	Devolution may increase the opportunity for investment and increased strategic approach to nature improvement.

11. SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

11.1. Background

11.2. The Nature Improvement Plan 2025- 2030 (Appendix A) is a technical document that for the first time sets out the strategic approach to reversing the

decline in nature by actively seeking enhancement and improvement across the whole district. This addresses the commitments made when the council declared a nature emergency and the strengthened biodiversity duty in the Environment Act 2021.

- 11.3. The Health and Environment Policy Committee noted and commented on the proposed scope of the Draft Nature Improvement Plan (NIP) at its 3 December 2024 meeting and provided further feedback on the Draft NIP at its 3 July 2025 meeting, which has been incorporated in the latest version of the plan.
- 11.4. Details of the Proposal
- 11.5. The NIP outlines a set of ambitious yet achievable measures and guiding principles for enhancing biodiversity, both on council-owned land and across the wider district. These measures align with national biodiversity goals and, where possible, exceeds them reflecting the district's rich natural assets and ecological potential. Halting the biodiversity decline in the Winchester district would be a significant and momentous achievement, with seeking recovery and improvement as the ambitious next step.
- 11.6. The Nature Improvement Plan has been informed by various important existing council documents as well as national policy and legislation. Particularly the Winchester City Council Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) 2021, of which the successes and lessons learnt over the last four years have shaped this next step and helped determine the aims and objectives of the Nature Improvement Plan. The NIP contains highlights of the BAP biodiversity achievements from 2021 to 2025. Learning from the projects that have led to successful reversal of biodiversity loss provides a model by which new opportunities will be identified and developed.
- 11.7. The aim of the NIP is to promote and achieve nature improvement and recovery across the Winchester district. Five new pathways have been identified under which delivery and projects can be coordinated:
 - I. Protect and manage land for nature
 - II. Create new spaces for nature
 - III. Deliver more nature-based solutions for tackling climate change
 - IV. Prevent and control pollution better
 - V. Connect more people to nature
- 11.8. These five pathways provide a mechanism for setting measures and prioritising actions. Rather than focusing on specific habitats and species as in the BAP, these pathways have a stronger link to the Council Plan and Carbon Neutrality Action Plan (CNAP) and set the parameters for achieving the overarching aim of nature improvement and recovery across the district.

- 11.9. Measures have been set where possible for each of the identified pathways. The measures are ambitious but achievable and were determined through internal cross service officer engagement and baseline assessment of certain designated sites and habitats. They are also in accordance with national targets set out in the Environment Improvement Plan 2023, although they are not always directly comparable due to availability and accuracy of data. These measures will be monitored over the life of the Plan through various approaches and techniques, and will be reported at appropriate intervals and times applicable to the type of measure.
- 11.10. There will be two sets of measures for 2025-2030, one for council-based actions on council owned and managed land, and one for district wide actions (as set out in table 6 and 7 of the NIP), and shown below.

Council Land 2030 Measures		
1	Protect and manage land for nature	1.1 100% of SSSI units achieving “favourable/unfavourable-recovering” condition
		1.2 100% SINCs in favourable management
		1.3 Achieve a minimum of 27.61% of WCC land managed for nature
2	Create new spaces for nature	2.1 1 ha new green or blue habitat created or improved for nature
		2.2 500m hedgerow planted for nature
		2.3 250 swift boxes and 50 bat roost features installed on council properties
3	Deliver more nature-based solutions	3.1 Additional carbon sequestered on 3 sites
4	Prevent and control pollution better	4.1 10 Wastewater Treatment Works on council land upgraded to reduce nitrogen and phosphorous loading
5	Connect more people to nature	5.1 10,000 volunteer hours of nature conservation activities on our land
		5.2 20 events on WCC land which promote connection with nature (health and wellbeing)

District 2030 Measures		
1	Protect and manage land for nature	1.1 Support the Solent Waders & Brent Goose Strategy and protect the sites included
		1.2 Deliver a minimum of 88% of SSSIs units in the district achieving “favourable/unfavourable-recovering” condition
		1.3 Maintain the achievement of a minimum of 61% SINC's (surveyed in last 10 years) under positive management
		1.4 Achieve a minimum of 12.48% land designated for nature
2	Create new spaces for nature	2.1 Discharge Biodiversity Gain Plans via Development Management to deliver habitat creation and enhancement of 500 biodiversity units
		2.2 100 biodiversity units secured through signing agreements with habitat banks
		2.3 10ha of natural green or blue space created
3	Deliver more nature-based solutions	3.1 Sustain Tree canopy/woodland cover above 22.991%
4	Prevent and control pollution better	4.1 Continue to deliver the council's nutrient mitigation strategy.
5	Connect more people to nature	5.1 50 farmers and land managers supported with nature-friendly practices
		5.2 5 businesses supported with nature-based projects
		5.3 6 nature events/forums delivered
		5.4 Grants given to nature conservation groups to create spaces for nature and connect people to nature
		5.5 4 partnerships collaborated with to deliver 5 restoration projects
		5.6 10 community groups collaborated with to deliver nature conservation activities
		5.7 10 event/programmes delivered through partners which promote connection with nature (health and wellbeing)

11.11. A Council Land Nature Improvement Action Plan and District Nature Improvement Action Plan will be developed to track progress against the five-year measures. 2025/2026 versions of the two action plans are provided in

Appendix C of the NIP. Progress against these action plans will be reported to the council at the appropriate time with reports published on the council website to inform the future priorities and actions.

- 11.12. The NIP establishes a set of guiding principles in relation to the way in which the council will deliver actions and work with others to improve nature and increase biodiversity. These provide a consistent framework to help ensure decisions align with aims and long-term goals of the NIP, reducing the risk of reactive or contradictory approaches. This will also give clarity to partners and contractors as to the standard to follow, particularly for areas of work where numerical targets are not applicable.

PRINCIPLE 1	BIODIVERSITY DUTY
	Consider biodiversity and nature improvement and recovery in all functions and decisions in accordance with the strengthened biodiversity duty in the Environment Act. The council expects all partners and contractors to consider biodiversity in all their actions relating to council buildings, land or projects.
PRINCIPLE 2	HIERARCHY OF SITES
	<p>We will endeavour to follow the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites (as described in section 3.1), and prioritise actions which improve sites of greatest importance.</p> <p>The council will pursue opportunities for nature improvement and recovery on un-designated sites, but the priority will be to protect, maintain and enhance important designated sites.</p>
PRINCIPLE 3	CHEMICAL USE
	<p>Pesticides and herbicides will only be used on biodiversity sites where considered absolutely necessary, for example to remove invasive species.</p> <p>We will strive to reduce herbicide, pesticide and non-organic chemical fertiliser use, on all council owned sites by 2030.</p>
PRINCIPLE 4	WATER USE & WATER QUALITY
	<p>Minimise water use and introduce water recycling methods and sustainable drainage solutions where possible, as part of projects, development or land management practices.</p> <p>Recognise the importance of appropriately managing land within buffer zones (5m to ditches and 10m to rivers) and controlling activities within these buffer areas which have the potential to cause pollution to watercourses.</p>
PRINCIPLE 5	BIOSECURITY
	Follow biosecurity best practices guidelines and remove invasive and non-native species (INNS) from council owned land.

	The removal of other species (not included on the INNS list e.g. Hogweed or nettles) will not be a priority and will only be undertaken where considered a health and safety risk, or their removal is necessary in accordance with the relevant management plan.
PRINCIPLE 6	MULTIPLE BENEFITS
	<p>Consideration will be given to the combination of benefits, and ecosystem services, which can be delivered through land management, development or specific projects, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements to biodiversity • Improvements to ecosystem services such as pollination, clean air production, water purification and flood alleviation • Delivery of nature-based solutions for tackling climate change such as increased carbon sequestration and urban greening • Improvements to health and wellbeing • Better access to nature, open space and recreation <p>Where possible these benefits should be stacked to ensure the best outcomes are delivered.</p>
PRINCIPLE 7	PARTNERSHIP WORKING
	The council will work in partnership with external stakeholders and established community groups to meet the 2030 measures.
PRINCIPLE 8	HAMPSHIRE NATURE RECOVERY
	Ensure that all work contributes towards the delivery of the Hampshire Nature Recovery Strategy by prioritising opportunities included within the “measures map”. This will provide a guide for where and how to deliver improvements for nature on a landscape scale, and create bigger, better, more joined up spaces for nature. (Local Nature Recovery Strategies are explained further in Appendix B).
PRINCIPLE 9	PROTECTED SPECIES
	<p>Support the delivery of species recovery strategies, referenced in the Environment Act 2021 and LNRS, as they emerge.</p> <p>Species will be considered and mitigation and enhancements sought in all areas of relevant work from management of biodiversity sites and open spaces to property maintenance and development management. This will be in accordance with relevant legislation including the Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.</p>
PRINCIPLE 10	PLANTING FOR BIODIVERSITY
	<p>Prioritise use of native, fruiting, and pollinator-friendly species for planting schemes.</p> <p>Flower beds will be created using sustainable planting.</p>

	<p>Soil health will be considered when designing and implementing planting plans and all compost used will be peat-free.</p> <p>Green waste such as wood chippings will be re-used where possible for example for mulch.</p>
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11.12 Conclusion

11.13 The Nature Improvement Plan 2025-2030 updates the BAP by:

- Responding to significant national and local changes since 2021.
- Setting specific measurable targets where possible.
- Strengthening the link between nature improvement and other co-benefits such as carbon sequestration and storage, and health and wellbeing.
- Separating out “core business” actions to improve the way we report back on nature improvement.
- Covering district and council actions separately.
- Improving the way the council reports back on nature improvement.

11.14 The NIP sets out the council's strategic approach to promoting and achieving nature improvement and recovery across the Winchester district.

11.15 If adopted by Cabinet, the Winchester District Nature Improvement Plan will be launched, this will include publishing the entire technical document as well as a public facing summary document. This summary will include key content from the technical document, along with delivery priorities and project opportunities, drawing from the actions identified in the Plan for both the council and the district. Its presentation will ensure it is accessible and engaging so that residents are clear what we are seeking to achieve and how we all have a part to play in halting the decline in nature and biodiversity. This will also be accompanied by an explanatory and promotional short film.

12 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

12.1 Keep the existing style of the Biodiversity Action Plan

12.1.1 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.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:-

Previous Committee Reports:-

HEP043 – Nature Improvement Plan, 3 July 2025

HEP041 - Biodiversity Action Plan Update, 3 December 2024

Other Background Documents:-

Winchester City Council Biodiversity Action Plan 2021

APPENDICES:

Appendix A: Winchester District Nature Improvement Plan 2025 – 2030

Appendix B: Equality Impact Assessment Template (EIA)

Winchester District Nature Improvement Plan 2025-2030 Technical Report

**Winchester City Council
Sustainability and Natural Environment Team
September 2025**

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ii. Foreword

Cllr Kelsie Learney – Cabinet Member for the Climate and Nature Emergency

Winchester district contains internationally important and amazing habitats and wildlife. Our chalk rivers and streams are recognised world-wide with their crystal-clear waters flowing through spectacular meadows, damselflies dancing along the banks and otters slipping in and out of the rapids. Species-rich grasslands support chalkhill blue and marbled white butterflies flitting amongst orchids. Our deciduous woodlands have woodpeckers and Natterer's bats utilising cracks and cavities in mature and majestic oaks.

All this is important to the area's identity, is highly valued by our residents and one of the reasons visitors continue to flock to the area. But it is being put in peril by the Climate and Ecological emergencies. Never has the need for action been so pressing. We are losing biodiversity at an alarming rate and the City Council is determined to do all it can to reverse this.

By collaborating with partners and stakeholders we can realise significant improvements in nature which in turn can play a role in tackling climate change, creating healthy communities and enhancing quality of life.

While our Biodiversity Action Plan has been effective on City Council land, it is time to replace it with this wider Nature Improvement Plan (NIP) setting out a strategic approach across the district and tying in with our Carbon Neutrality Action Plan.

The United Kingdom has committed to protect 30% of land and sea by 2030, and our NIP aligns with these targets with ambitious, yet achievable measures. We have the baseline information on the current biodiversity situation, and we need to monitor and report on progress to continue to drive forward nature improvement.

With this plan, we commit to:

- Protect and manage land for nature
- Create new spaces for nature
- Deliver more nature-based solutions for tackling climate change
- Prevent and control pollution better
- Connect more people to nature

One of the key aims of this document is to improve our engagement with everyone who shares our passion for nature improvement. We must all act now to make improvements in biodiversity across our district and beyond. We hope you will join us and help protect, enhance and improve nature throughout the Winchester district.

iii. Summary

The Nature Improvement Plan (NIP) 2025-2030 sets out our strategic approach to nature improvement, both on council owned land and across the entire district. It aligns with and responds to both local and national drivers, including the council's own Carbon Neutrality Action Plan (CNAP), Green Economic Development Strategy (GEDS) and Tree Strategy. There is also a strong link with the emerging Hampshire Nature Recovery Strategy (HNRS) which will inform the priority locations for habitat creation, restoration and enhancement.

The NIP will also provide the mechanism for reporting back on the enhanced biodiversity duty and Biodiversity Net Gain, as required under the Environment Act 2021. The main aim of the NIP is to promote and achieve nature improvement and recovery across the Winchester district, and we have identified five **pathways** to deliver this:

1. Protect and manage land for nature
2. Create new spaces for nature
3. Deliver more nature-based solutions for tackling climate change
4. Prevent and control pollution better
5. Connect more people to nature

These pathways provide a mechanism for setting measures and prioritising actions.

The NIP supersedes the Biodiversity Action Plan (2019-2025) which focused on specific habitats and species. Instead, the focus of the NIP is on the measures and species included in the Hampshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy. The five pathways also have a stronger link to the Council Plan and CNAP and set the parameters for achieving our overarching aim of nature improvement and recovery across the district.

There will be two sets of measures for 2025-2030, one for council-based actions on council owned and managed land, and one for district wide actions. The measures and actions delivered on council owned land will directly contribute to the district wide measures.

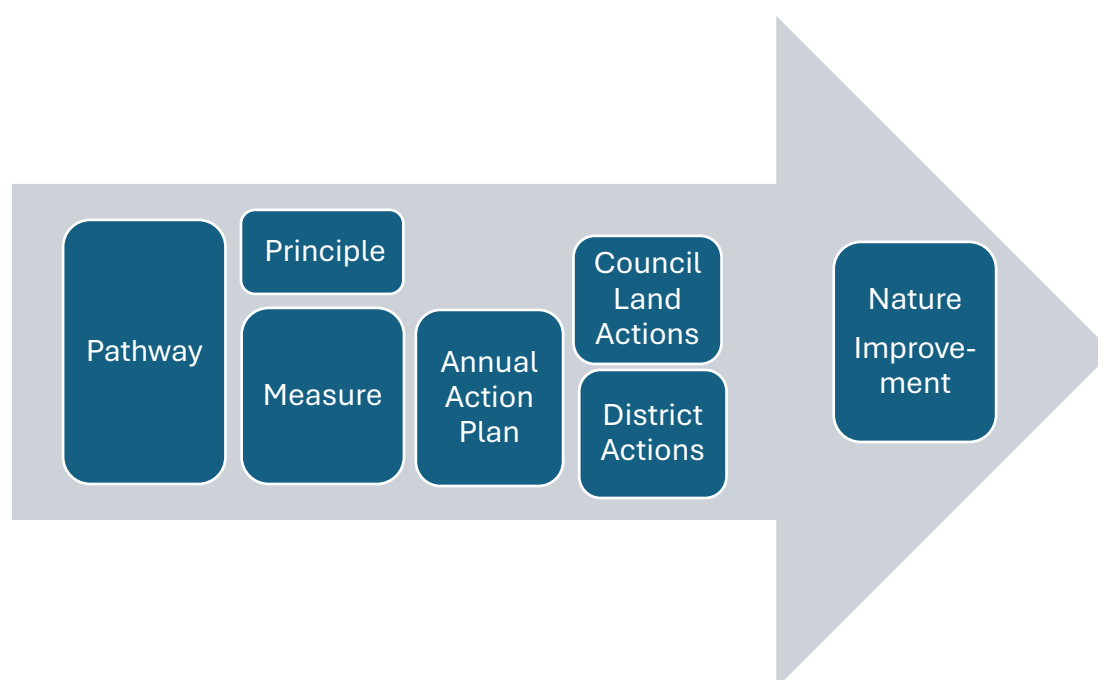
The council has set numerical measures where possible for each of the five pathways. The measures are ambitious but achievable. They are also in accordance with national measures set out in the Environment Improvement Plan 2023 (Appendix B). The measures have defined the 2025/2026 annual action plans (Appendix C).

A set of guiding principles for all council functions in relation to biodiversity have also been developed. These provide clarity on the council's position and standards which the council will follow, and expects partners to follow, particularly for areas of work where numerical measures are not applicable.

iv. How to use this document

The NIP provides a framework for improving the natural environment and biodiversity within the Winchester district. It does this by identifying the hierarchy of designated sites in Winchester as an all-important factor in nature improvement, allowing us to achieve gains on the district's most important sites (including SACs and SSSIs) through a combination of direct delivery, collaboration, enablement, influencing others and reporting. The reporting and monitoring of nature improvement work is also a vital part of this plan and is now recognised as a priority.

The NIP is based on five pathways promoting and achieving nature improvement and recovery across the Winchester district. These pathways lead to measures with numerical actions, which in turn facilitate the delivery of Annual Actions for nature improvement. These have been split into Council Land Actions and District Actions. The NIP is also based on a set of guiding Principles as set out in section 5.3 which are of high importance but against which it is difficult to set numerical measures. These should be applied in all aspects of the council's work and provide clarity on the council's position and standards which will be followed.



1. Introduction

1.1 Setting the scene

Nature refers to the physical world and all the living and non-living things that exist within it. This includes wildlife, plants, soil, water, air and landforms. The interactions between these vital components create a dynamic and sustainable ecosystem, which in turn provides essential ecosystem services such as water purification, air quality improvement, carbon storage, flood management and pollination. Nature is also vital for our physical health and mental wellbeing, sense of place, recreation, spiritual connection, inspiration, knowledge and learning.

The Winchester district is known for its natural beauty and biodiversity value, with 40% of the district forming part of the South Downs National Park (SDNP). We are lucky enough to have internationally important **chalk streams** and the Upper Hamble **Estuary, ancient woodlands, grasslands, wetlands** and an exceptional range of **rare and declining species**.

Winchester's natural environment is under pressure and has substantially deteriorated, as highlighted in the Winchester City Council Biodiversity Action Plan 2021¹ (BAP). Our Nature Improvement Plan 2025-2030 (which supersedes the BAP) describes a more proactive approach to delivering measurable nature improvement across the entire district.

The council is committed to restoring nature, safeguarding essential ecosystem services, and implementing nature-based solutions to help address the impacts of climate change. We are contributing to the concerted effort to combat the decline in nature by delivering conservation and sustainability projects, supporting volunteers and partnership groups, managing land for nature, monitoring biodiversity and implementing policy requirements such as BNG.

This document outlines the council's ambitious yet achievable measures and guiding principles for enhancing biodiversity, both on council owned land and across the wider district. These measures will align with national biodiversity goals and, where possible, exceed them, reflecting the district's rich natural assets and ecological potential.

1.2 Why do we need a Nature Improvement Plan?

There have been significant national and local changes relating to nature recovery in the last four years since publishing the council's Biodiversity Action Plan 2021 (BAP). The Environment Act 2021² places a strengthened duty on local authorities to consider biodiversity in all functions and the Environment Improvement Plan 2023³ sets out new

¹ [Biodiversity Action Plan - Winchester City Council](#)

² [Environment Act 2021](#)

³ [Environmental Improvement Plan](#)

national targets. The council's declaration of a nature emergency signifies the importance of nature locally and the need for action to address this. This has initiated a new approach by the council to ensure the delivery of nature improvement across the district.

The council has undertaken significant efforts to protect and enhance biodiversity across the district, as outlined in its Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). However, these initiatives have not always been systematically measured or widely communicated.

The Nature Improvement Plan (NIP) presents a valuable opportunity to highlight the council's existing achievements and to outline its future commitments. The NIP establishes guiding principles for all council functions in relation to biodiversity and sets measures for the next five years.

To ensure transparency and accountability, annual action plans will be developed for both the council and the wider district. These plans will follow the structure of the council's Carbon Neutrality Action Plan, promoting consistency and ease of understanding.

1.3 Council ambition

One of the council's priorities in the 2025-2030 Council Plan⁴ is 'Greener Faster' which includes the ambition of the Winchester District becoming carbon neutral by 2030 and reversing the long-term decline in nature and biodiversity.

Achieving nature improvement ambitions alongside competing priorities of meeting housing targets, supporting the local economy and ensuring a wide range of services and facilities are available to our residents, is a considerable challenge for the council, however this plan shows what is achievable within the next five years.

Climate change is accelerating the degradation of the natural environment, damaging habitats and disrupting ecosystems. Yet these very ecosystems deliver a variety of services and have the potential to store carbon and help mitigate rising global temperatures. The council recognises this vital connection and is committed to addressing both the climate and nature emergencies in tandem. Protecting and enhancing biodiversity is not only a moral imperative but also a practical solution to climate resilience.

This Nature Improvement Plan (2025–2030) outlines a strategic approach to restoring nature across the whole district. It brings together targeted actions designed to deliver measurable improvements to biodiversity and ecosystem services, while fulfilling the council's strengthened biodiversity duty.

⁴ [Strategies, Policies and Plans - Winchester City Council](#)

1.4 National driving documents and legislation

This section highlights some key areas of legislation and policy which have shaped the council's Nature Improvement Plan 2025-2030. Many of which have been introduced or progressed since the council produced its Biodiversity Action Plan in 2021.

- Environment Act 2021
 - Enhanced biodiversity duty
 - Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)
 - Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS)
 - Species Recovery Strategies
 - Protected Site Strategies
- Environment Improvement Plan 2023 (EIP)
- Environmental Land Management (ELMs)⁵

Further explanation on these documents and why they are important is provided in Appendix B.

The Hampshire LNRS and EIP in particular, are key driving documents for nature improvement and development of this plan. The council will ensure that it's work contributes towards the delivery of the Hampshire LNRS by prioritising opportunities included within the strategy and associated mapping. This will provide a guide for where and how to deliver improvements for nature on a landscape scale and create bigger, better, more joined up spaces for nature irrespective of administrative boundaries.

1.5 Regional and Local driving documents

The South Downs National Park, also known as a Protected Landscape, is an important part of the district and vital to nature improvement both nationally and locally. The council must seek to further the statutory purposes of this Protected Landscape under the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 ⁶(LURA).

Approximately 40% of the Winchester District lies within SDNP so the National Park is an important part of this plan. The council therefore strives to meet the ambitions as set out in the:

- South Downs Local Plan⁷
- SDNP Partnership Management Plan⁸

The council also owns and manages land within SDNP and works with many of the same partners.

⁵ [Future of farming in England - GOV.UK](#)

⁶ [Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023](#)

⁷ [South Downs Local Plan - South Downs National Park Authority](#)

⁸ [Partnership Management Plan - South Downs National Park Authority](#)

1.5.1 Planning Mitigation Schemes

Nature improvements delivered through development management also need to be considered particularly when determining the impacts on the whole district.

This section highlights the strategic partnerships and mitigation schemes within the district, aimed at protecting biodiversity and delivering improvements on a landscape scale.

Further explanation of them and why they are important is provided in Appendix B.

- Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH)⁹
- Bird Aware Solent¹⁰
- Nutrient Mitigation¹¹
- Solent Wader and Brent Goose Strategy (SWBGS)¹²
- Great Crested Newt District Level Licencing¹³
- Biodiversity Net Gain and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire¹⁴

1.5.2 Partnership Schemes

The council works closely with key environmental partnerships, such as the Meon Valley Partnership and the East Hants Catchment Partnership, to support and enhance biodiversity across the district. These collaborations enable a coordinated approach to landscape-scale conservation, water quality improvements, and habitat restoration. Actions delivered through these partnerships contribute to nature improvement across the district and therefore reporting back on these collaboration actions will be an important part of the plan.

In addition to wider arching partnerships the council works with local community groups to deliver nature improvement on council owned land. For community groups to work on our land they must have the necessary insurance, risk assessments and licence agreements with the council.

An indicative list of partnerships and community groups are provided below. This does not include all groups that the council works with. There are hundreds of fantastic groups, charities, companies, farming clusters, landowners and individuals delivering nature improvements across the district. The council recognises the importance of these groups and strives to collaborate with them and enable projects where possible.

⁹ [Home - Partnership for South Hampshire](#)

¹⁰ [Home - Bird Aware Solent](#)

¹¹ [Potential Nutrient Mitigation Schemes - Partnership for South Hampshire](#)

¹² [Solent Waders & Brent Goose Strategy – coastal bird conservation, waders and brent geese data and mapping](#)

¹³ [District Licensing - NatureSpace Partnership Limited](#)

¹⁴ [Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire | Environment | Hampshire County Council](#)

Meon Valley Partnership
East Hants Catchment Partnership
Test and Itchen Catchment Partnership
Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH)
NatureSpace and Newt Conservation Partnership
Bird Aware Partnership
Solent Forum Natural Environment Group
Solent Wader and Brent Goose Steering Group
Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC)
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT)
Hampshire Amphibian and Reptile Group (HIWARG)
Butterfly Conservation
Hampshire Swifts
WinACC

Partnerships

Friends of St Giles Hill
Friends of St Giles Hill Graveyard
Hyde Abbey Gardens
Wilder Hyde
North Pond Conservation Group
St Faiths Graveyard
Teg Down Nature Group
New Leaf Alresford
Worthy Conservation Group
Hampshire Magnificent Meadows

Community Groups

1.6 The Council's driving documents

The Nature Improvement Plan has been informed by various important existing council documents, as well as national documents and legislation, including:

- The Council Plan
- Winchester District Local Plan¹⁵
- Carbon Neutrality Action Plan¹⁶
- Green Economic Development Strategy¹⁷
- Tree Strategy¹⁸
- Air Quality Strategy¹⁹
- Open Space Assessment²⁰
- Biodiversity Action Plan 2021-2025

The successes and lessons learnt from the Biodiversity Action Plan 2021 in particular have shaped this next step and helped determine the aims and objectives of the Nature Improvement Plan.

The Carbon Neutrality Action Plan (CNAP) identifies 5 pathways to achieve emission reductions and work towards the target of being carbon neutral across the district by 2030:

1. Reduce energy consumption
2. Reduce transport carbon emissions
3. Increase renewable energy generation / purchase
4. Carbon sequestration through nature-based solutions
5. Support creation of local carbon credits

Pathway 4 is inextricably linked to the actions the council undertakes for biodiversity, and therefore the Nature Improvement Plan will include measures and actions to sequester carbon through nature-based solutions.

The Tree strategy sets out how the council addresses its legal and management duties in relation to trees, to protect and enhance the district's tree stock in a sustainable and appropriate manner, whilst recognising their value to people and places. The principles and measures set out in the Nature Improvement Plan align with the policies in the Tree Strategy.

In line with the Open Space Assessment, the council values the role of open spaces in supporting both people and wildlife. Ensuring these areas remain accessible, welcoming and where possible, ecologically rich is an integral part of this plan.

¹⁵ [Planning Policy - Winchester City Council](#)

¹⁶ [Carbon Neutrality Action Plan - Winchester City Council](#)

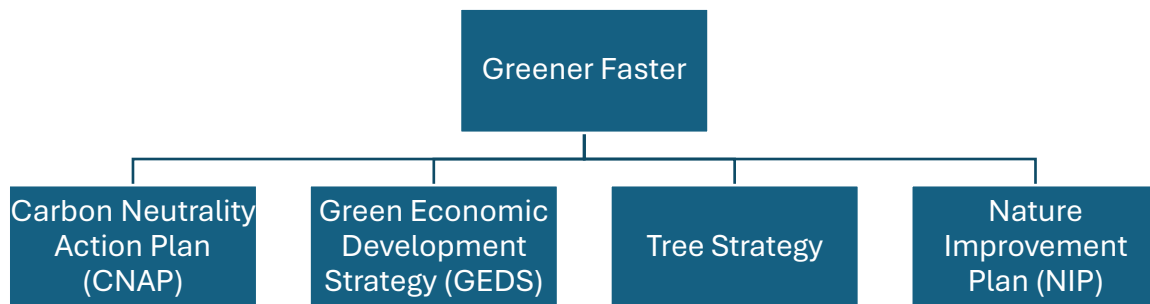
¹⁷ [Green Economic Development Strategy - Winchester City Council](#)

¹⁸ [Our Tree Strategy - Winchester City Council](#)

¹⁹ [Air Quality - Winchester City Council](#)

²⁰ [Open Space Assessment - Winchester City Council](#)

The Nature Improvement Plan will sit alongside the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan (CNAP), Green Economic Development Strategy (GEDS) and Tree Strategy to deliver the Council Plan priority of Greener Faster.



2. Biodiversity Achievements 2021– 2025

2.1 Winchester's Biodiversity Action Plan 2021 (BAP)

The council's Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) set out the strategic direction for how the council would respond to the need to protect, enhance and restore biodiversity across the district with a particular focus on the council's own operations.

The BAP identified several key habitats and species which provided a focus for the work of the council.

These key habitats included:

- Species Rich Grasslands
- Chalk Streams
- Woodland and Key Individual Trees
- Hedgerows and Arable Field Margins

The BAP identified and focused on 22 key species, such as hazel dormouse, hedgehog, swift, house sparrow, white-clawed crayfish, chalkhill blue butterfly and bee orchid.

Using the identified list of key habitats and species, an annual action plan outlined a series of actions and outcomes to protect and enhance those habitats and species. Our BAP successes are outlined below.

The BAP described how the council was meeting its obligations relating to biodiversity in the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. However, it did not identify measurable nature improvements for delivery across the entire district.

2.2 BAP Successes

Over the last four years, the BAP has helped us succeed in protecting, enhancing and restoring biodiversity in the following areas:

Habitat Creation and Land Management

- We created the meadow at Topfield, Kings Worthy (Figure 1) by turning an inaccessible and unmanaged scrubland into a valuable habitat for pollinators, foraging birds, reptiles and bats.
- We created the Biodiversity Grass Verge Management project to improve the way we manage road verges.
- We delivered targeted habitat enhancement for the striped lychnis moth at Chilcomb Recreation Ground, in partnership with the Butterfly Conservation Trust.
- We published a management plan for St Giles Hill Park, which is managed successfully alongside the Friends of St Giles Hill community group.



Figure 1 - Photograph of newly established meadow at Topfield, Kingsworthy.

Partnerships and Community Projects

Through the BAP, we supported and contributed to the East Hants Catchment Partnership, the Meon Valley Partnership, North Pond Conservation Group, and the Bird Aware Steering Group. The council engaged with community groups such as Wilder Hyde and Highcliffe Community Forum to empower and assist them with the delivery of wildflower projects.

Development Management and Forward Planning

We have delivered biodiversity training sessions for the council's planning team, new homes team and council members. We published our Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Technical Advice Note²¹ which is used by planners, agents and residents (both internally and externally) to provide some certainty and set expectations in relation to delivery of biodiversity gains. Following on from this, as part of the BAP, we established an internal group to prepare for and progress BNG as a mandatory aspect of the planning process.

Estates and wider council projects

- We published our widely praised Tree Strategy.
- We undertook the "re-roofing and protected species" project to ensure birds and bats were not negatively impacted by the council's re-roofing program. Several bat roosts have been protected through this project, whilst enabling the works to go ahead, avoiding impacts on nesting birds.
- We installed swift boxes in key population areas on council and private homes with the support of Hampshire Swifts.

²¹ [Biodiversity Net Gain - Winchester City Council](#)

Monitoring

We introduced an ecological survey programme and published annual reports²² on key sites.

2.3 BAP Review

The BAP was effective in delivering actions to protect, retain and enhance biodiversity. It considered work across many council teams as well as partnerships and engagement with the public. The action plan was a 'live document' which was used to manage and monitor progress each year, and it was realistic and achievable, focusing on what the council could deliver with existing resources.

This review focuses on what was achieved in the first three years of the BAP. A total of 188 actions were completed (an average of 87% of agreed actions). These actions were spread across various aspects of work as shown below in Figure 2, with Land Management for example accounting for 38% of the actions. The lists of actions can be found on the council website²³ and some success stories are highlighted in section 2.2.

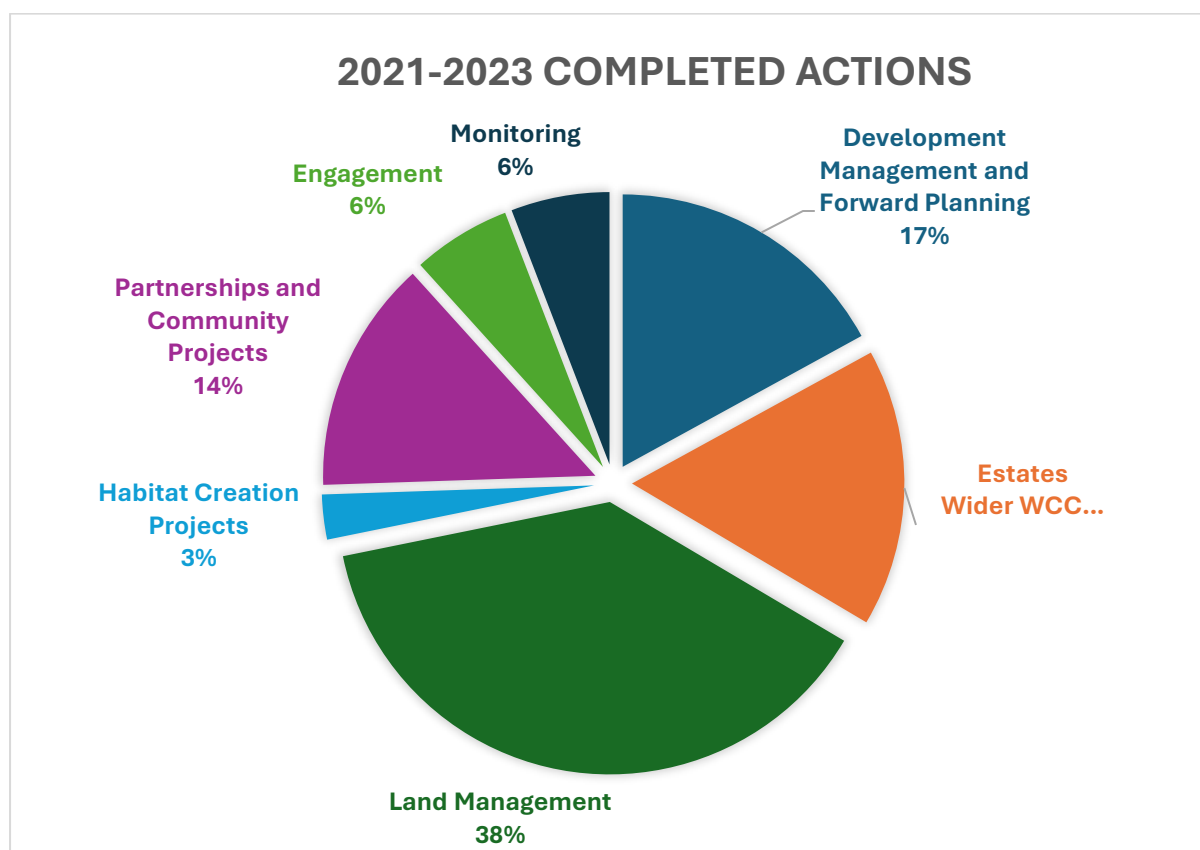


Figure 2 - Pie chart illustrating types of BAP actions completed between 2021 and 2023.

²² [Biodiversity Action Plan - Winchester City Council](#)

²³ [Biodiversity Action Plan - Winchester City Council](#)

The actions benefitted all the key habitats and species identified within the BAP, although more actions focused on species-rich grasslands compared to chalk rivers, as shown in Figure 3 below.

This was influenced by the type of land under the council's control. For example, the council is fortunate to manage Whiteshute Ridge and West Hill Cemetery which are designated as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) because of the priority species-rich grassland habitat present.

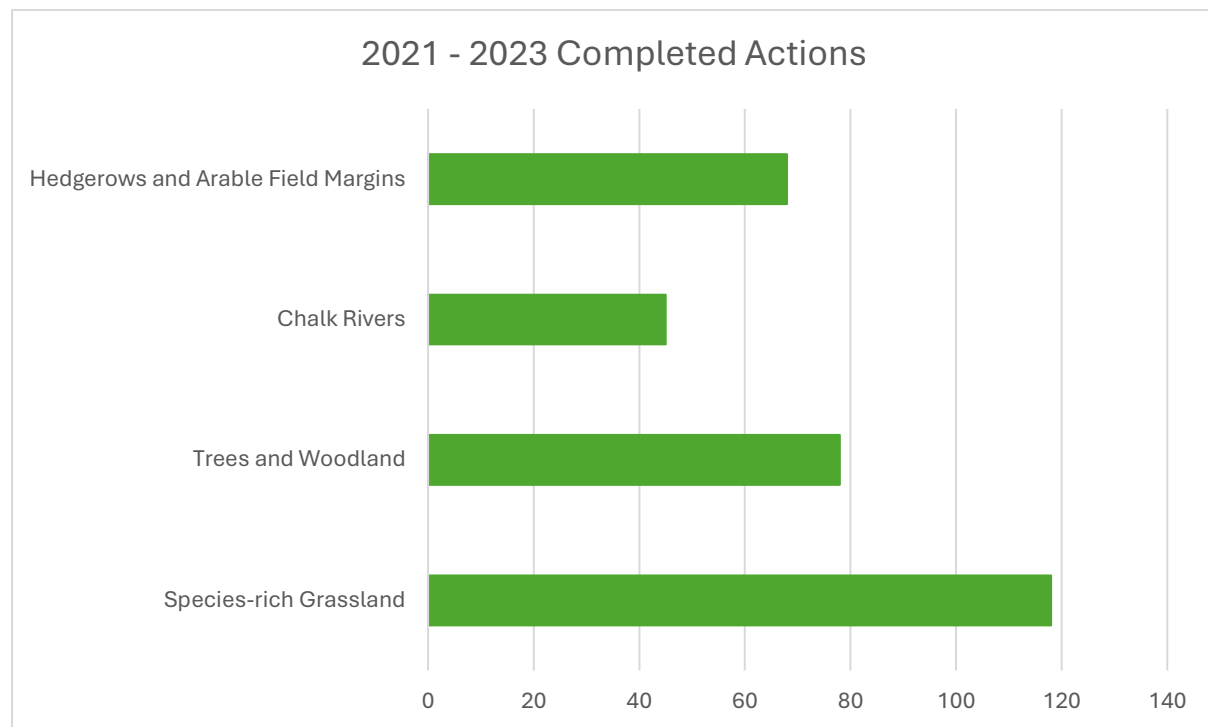


Figure 3 - Bar graph showing the habitats associated with BAP actions completed between 2021 and 2023.

2.4 Measures to improve the BAP

The proposal to update the Biodiversity Action Plan to a Nature Improvement Plan was taken to the Health and Environment Policy Committee on 3 December 2024 (HEP041). The committee was asked to comment on the measures proposed to improve the BAP and the scope and development of the Nature Improvement Plan.

The Nature Improvement Plan 2025-2030 seeks to improve upon and supersede the BAP by:

- Responding to significant national and local changes since 2021
- Setting specific measurable targets where possible
- Strengthening the link between nature improvement and other co-benefits such as carbon sequestration and storage, and health and wellbeing

- Separating out “core business” actions to improve the way we report back on nature improvement.
- Covering district and council actions separately
- Improving the way the council reports back on nature improvement

3. Our District's Biodiversity

The Winchester district has a rich natural environment including internationally important chalk streams, ancient woodlands, priority grassland and wetlands habitats, and an exceptional range of rare and declining species. The council recognises the importance of the district's biodiversity not just for wildlife but also for ecosystem services, nature-based solutions, and health and wellbeing. This section sets out the current **baseline for biodiversity** within the district to track measures set by the council and record any changes to nature at a local level.

3.1 Designated wildlife sites

There is a hierarchy of designated wildlife sites across the district ranging from international and nationally designated sites through to locally designated sites. International and nationally designated sites receive the highest form of legal protection whilst locally designated sites are protected by policies in Local Plans.



3.1.1 International designated sites

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and **Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)** are internationally designated sites which conserve the most valuable and threatened habitats and species across the UK. SPAs are specifically aimed at protecting rare and vulnerable birds, as well as regularly occurring migratory species. SACs on the other hand, are specifically aimed at protecting rare and important animals, plants, and

habitats like rivers or sand dunes. Many SPAs and SACs are also designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) compensatory habitat is a new or restored natural area created to make up for damage or loss to an existing SAC. This is required when a project is allowed to go ahead even though it will harm a protected site. In such cases, the law says that the damage must be balanced by creating or improving habitat elsewhere to ensure that the overall network of protected areas remains strong and effective. The River Meon in the district is being designated as a compensatory habitat for the River Itchen SAC due to Southern Water's increased abstraction from the Itchen during droughts. This means that the River Meon receives the same level of protection as a normally designated Special Area of Conservation site.

A **Ramsar site** is an internationally designated site through the Ramsar Convention which is an international treaty established in 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar. It focuses on the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, recognizing their ecological importance and the vital role they play in supporting biodiversity, especially for waterfowl and other wildlife.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are nationally designated areas in the UK that are important for conserving wildlife, plants, or geology. These sites are chosen because they have rare species, special habitats, or unique land features that are valuable for science and nature. SSSIs can include woodlands, wetlands, grasslands, or even cliffs and rock formations.

Table 1 - The number of designated wildlife sites within the Winchester District in 2025.

International/National Designations	Number of Sites
Special Protection Areas/RAMSAR	1
Special Areas for Conservation	3*
Site of Special Scientific Interest	17
National Nature Reserves	2
	23
*includes Special Area for Conservation compensatory habitat (River Meon)	
Local Designations	Number of Sites
Local Nature Reserves	9
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation	690
Road Verges of Ecological Importance	29
	728

- Solent Maritime SAC

The Solent and its inlets are unique in Britain and Europe for their hydrographic regime of four tides each day, and for the complexity of the marine and estuarine habitats present.

The Solent Maritime SAC is the only site in the UK for smooth cord-grass *Spartina alterniflora*. It also contains the second-largest aggregation of Atlantic salt meadows in south and south-west England. It contains a variety of important habitats such as estuarine mudflats, coastal lagoons and sand and shingle spits.

- Solent and Southampton Water SPA & RAMSAR

Supports internationally important bird populations such as dark-bellied brent goose, ringed plover and little terns. The site is known to be home to assemblages of over 50,000 waterfowl during winter.

- River Itchen SAC

An exceptional chalk river ecosystem, which supports a range of rare and protected species and habitats. These include Pond water-crowfoot, River water-crowfoot Southern damselfly, freshwater crayfish, Atlantic salmon and Otter.

- River Meon SAC compensatory habitat

Another very important chalk river ecosystem which supports similar habitats and species to the River Itchen.

There are also four sites designated for **Solent Waders and Brent Geese (SWBG)** in the district. They are located in the upper reaches of the River Hamble. SWBG sites are categorised by their importance in sustaining brent geese and wading bird species. At present, there are 1 Primary Support Site, 2 Low Use Sites and 1 Candidate Site in the district. There is a dedicated website for further information and a map of the SWBG sites²⁴. The categorisation of these sites is subject to change and therefore sustaining the current area and level of designation is considered an appropriate measure.

3.1.2 National designated sites

The SPA and SACs in the district are also designated as **Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)**. Natural England monitors and reports on the overall condition of SSSIs which also act as an indicator for the overall condition of SPAs and SACs. Table 2 shows the overall condition of SSSIs in the district taken from the Natural England website^{25,26}. Those SSSIs with an asterisk next to them are also an SPA or SAC or both. It should be noted that some of the SSSI's in the district are split up into several 'units'. Units are

²⁴ [Solent Waders & Brent Goose Strategy – coastal bird conservation, waders and brent geese data and mapping](#)

²⁵ [Magic Map Application](#)

²⁶ [Site Search](#)

divisions of SSSIs based on habitat, tenure and management, and are the basis for recording all information on SSSI condition and management. They range in area from 0.004 ha up to 18,000 ha. They are some of the finest sites for wildlife and natural features in England, supporting many characteristic, rare and endangered species, habitats and natural features.

- The River Itchen SSSI

The SSSI designation covers 748 ha divided into 141 units made up of the river itself as well as fen, marsh and swamp, neutral grassland and broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland which is nationally important for a wide range of species including its invertebrate assemblage, breeding bird assemblage, Otter, Water Vole, Bullhead, Brook lamprey and Atlantic Salmon to name a few. Whilst 62% of the entire SSSI is meeting favourable or unfavourable recovering condition, 27% is considered to be Unfavourable No Change and 11% Unfavourable – Declining.

It should be noted that the dates the condition surveys were undertaken by Natural England are very variable, with some sites not being assessed for many years. Local Government, within the Environment Improvement Plan (EIP)²⁷, has set the interim target to undertake an up-to-date condition assessment for all SSSIs and for 50% of SSSIs to have actions on track to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028. The condition of some of the units within the SSSIs differ and, where this occurs the average condition is presented to show the overall state of the SSSI.

Table 2 shows that **88% of SSSIs units in the district are achieving favourable/unfavourable-recovering condition**, which is above the national EIP target of 50% of SSSIs on track to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028. Given the national target, the uncertainty that up-to-date assessments will bring and the limitations the council faces in terms of influencing SSSIs in private or other ownership, sustaining this baseline level is considered an appropriate measure for the district, and essential for halting the decline in nature.

Table 2 – Condition of SSSIs within the Winchester District in 2025.

SSSI Name	Overall Condition
River Itchen*	Unfavourable Recovering
St Catherines Hill	Favourable
Crab Wood	Favourable
Beacon Hill	Favourable
Peake Wood	Favourable

²⁷ [Environmental Improvement Plan](#)

Old Winchester Hill	Favourable
Galley Down Wood	Favourable
The Moors, Bishop's Waltham	Unfavourable Recovering
Waltham Chase Meadows	Favourable
Botley Wood and Everett's and Mushes Copses	Unfavourable - Recovering
Upper Hamble Estuary and Woods*	Favourable
Cheesefoot Head	Favourable
Hook Heath Meadows	Favourable
Micheldever Spoil Heaps	Unfavourable - Recovering
Lye Heath Marsh	Unfavourable - Recovering
Alresford Pond	Unfavourable - Declining
River Test	Unfavourable No Change

3.1.3 Local designated sites

These sites are designated locally for their substantive nature conservation importance, either for wildlife or geology and are referred to as **Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)** in Hampshire. Sites in positive conservation management are defined as those sites which are being managed to conserve their nature conservation interest. Assessing the extent of positive management allows us to identify sites where such management is lacking. This can help to concentrate the efforts of local partnerships in ensuring sites are managed appropriately and their nature conservation value is maintained or enhanced.

Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC), a key partner, has been recording condition on SINCs it has surveyed over the past 10 years. SINCs known to be in poor condition will be included in the LNRS mapping for biodiversity improvements.

Table 3 shows that staggeringly we don't know whether 77% of our SINCs are under positive or negative management. There is real opportunity to increase our understanding of biodiversity in the district by getting SINC landowners on board and collecting this data. Figure 4 shows the location of SINCs across the district. A selection of SINCs are surveyed each year but further resources would be needed to gain a full picture. Based on the SINCs which have been surveyed in the last 10 years, 61% are in positive management. Given the requirement for further surveys, maintaining this figure as a district measure is considered an important part of this plan.

Table 3 – The number of SINC^s under positive, negative or unknown management in the Winchester District in 2025. SINC^s surveyed prior to 2015 are recorded as unknown management.

Management	Number of SINC ^s	Area	% SINC ^s	% SINC ^s where management is known
Positive	96		14%	61%
Negative	61		9%	39%
Unknown	533		77%	
	690	6398ha		

The majority of designated wildlife sites in the district are under private or other ownership which highlights the importance of working with partners such as charities, organisations, companies, landowners, farming clusters and individuals to protect these sites and deliver nature improvement at a district scale.

3.1.4 Land designated for nature

Figure 5 shows that **12.48% of the district is covered by designated wildlife sites** referred to in this plan as ‘**land designated for nature**’. Whilst this is below the national EIP target for 30% of land to be protected, this is specific to certain designations. Inclusion of the South Downs National Park (which is likely to contribute to the national target) was not considered appropriate at the local scale because there are large areas within the national park which are comprised of hardstanding and buildings and are not ‘protected for nature’ in the same way as other designations. The designations included are in line with the Areas of Particular Importance for biodiversity (APIBs) in the LNRS.

This includes **Irreplaceable Habitat** such as Ancient Woodland which are areas of woodland that have persisted since 1600 in England. They are unique and complex communities of plants, fungi, insects and other microorganisms which has accumulated over hundreds of years. Ancient woodlands are afforded protection under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and within Local Plans.

These designations are unlikely to change within a five-year period, therefore the council has set a measure to sustain this baseline figure for land designated for nature.

Figure 4 – Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) in the Winchester District.

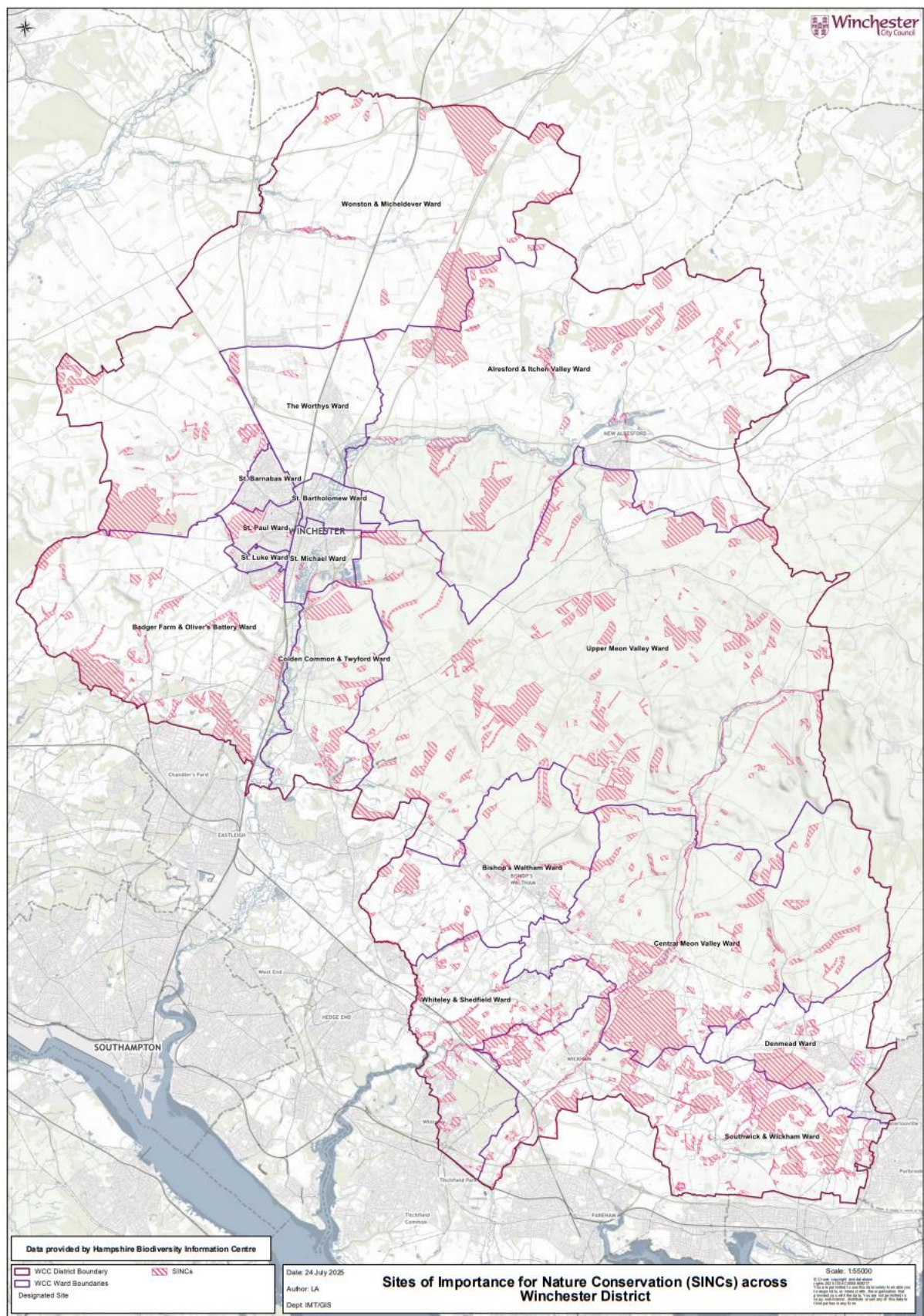
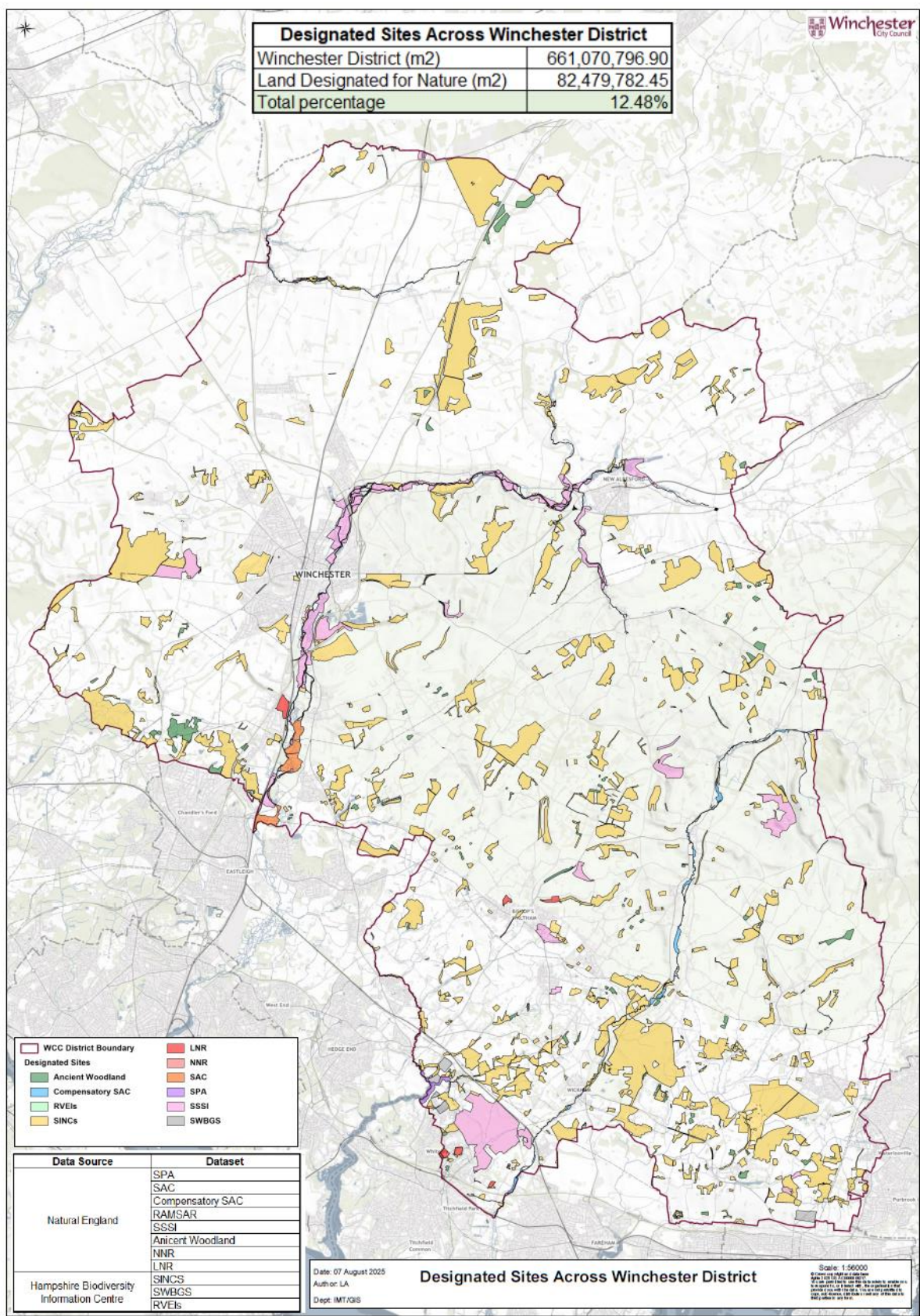


Figure 5 – Designated sites within the Winchester District. This includes SPAs, SACs, compensatory SACs, RAMSAR, SWGBS, SSSIs, NNR, LNR, SINCs, RVEIs and Ancient Woodland.



3.2 Landscape features

Landscape features are a key consideration in this Nature Improvement Plan, helping us understand and focus nature conservation. These features can't be measured in the same way as the condition of designated sites or the coverage of habitats but they demonstrate the diversity of landscapes across the district, and help inform partnership and cross-boundary working.

3.2.1 National Character Areas (NCAs)

These are distinct regions in England that share similar landscape features, wildlife, geology, and cultural history. There are three NCAs in the district as shown in Figure 6, reflecting the district's varied landscapes, from chalk downlands (Hampshire Downs and South Downs) to river valleys (South Coast Plain and Hampshire Lowlands). The boundaries of NCAs are based on natural features rather than administrative lines. The NCAs are used to support conservation including the LNRS, plan development, and promote sustainable land use by providing detailed information about the character and natural value of each area.

3.2.2 River Catchments

There are several main rivers within the Winchester District including the River Itchen, River Hamble, River Meon and River Dever. These make up a patchwork of **river catchments** as shown in Figure 7. There are Catchment Partnerships within the district including Test and Itchen Catchment Partnership, East Hampshire Catchment Partnership and Meon Valley Partnership which deliver a community-led approach to rivers, to engage people and groups at a local level to help improve our precious water environments. The council is a key member of these partnership groups.

The rivers in the district are unique compared to other areas of the UK, because they are **chalk rivers** which are rare and ecologically important freshwater habitats – internationally designated for this reason (as explained in section 3.1). They are fed by underground chalk aquifers, which filter the water and keep it clear, cool, and rich in minerals. This creates ideal conditions for a wide range of wildlife, including species like brown trout, water voles, and mayflies. The chalk rivers also support unique plant life and are important for biodiversity. Because they are so rare globally and sensitive to pollution and overuse, protecting the chalk rivers in the district is vital for both nature and clean water supplies.

Preventing and controlling pollution better is a key part of this plan. This includes the work being undertaken to reduce nitrogen and phosphorous loading within our Rivers, such as the upgrade to council owned Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTWs) to generate nitrogen and phosphorous credits and limiting the use of herbicides, pesticides and fertilisers. Continuing to deliver the council's nutrient mitigation strategy is therefore a measure for delivery of nature improvement across the district.

Figure 6 – Map of the National Character Areas in the Winchester District.

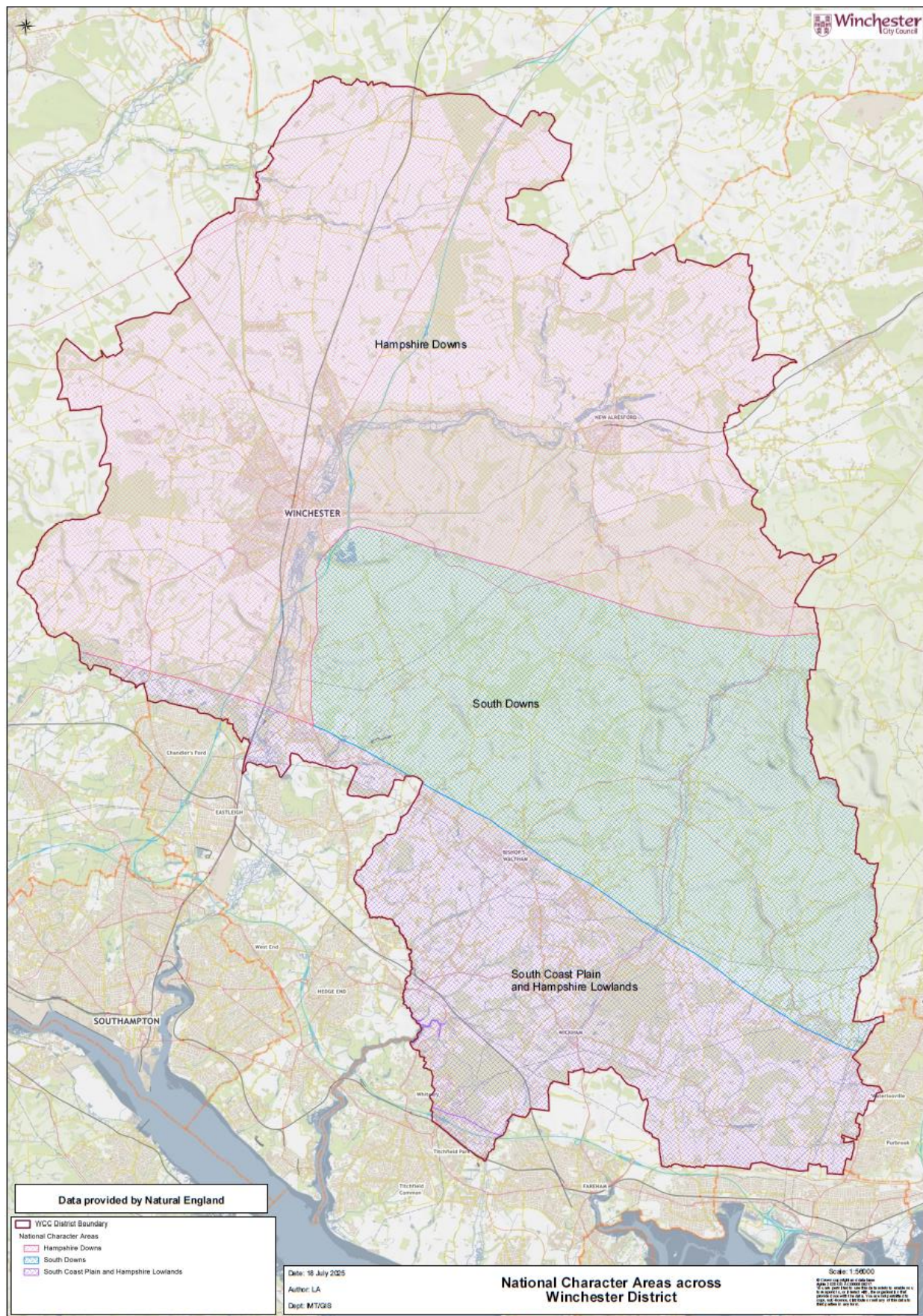
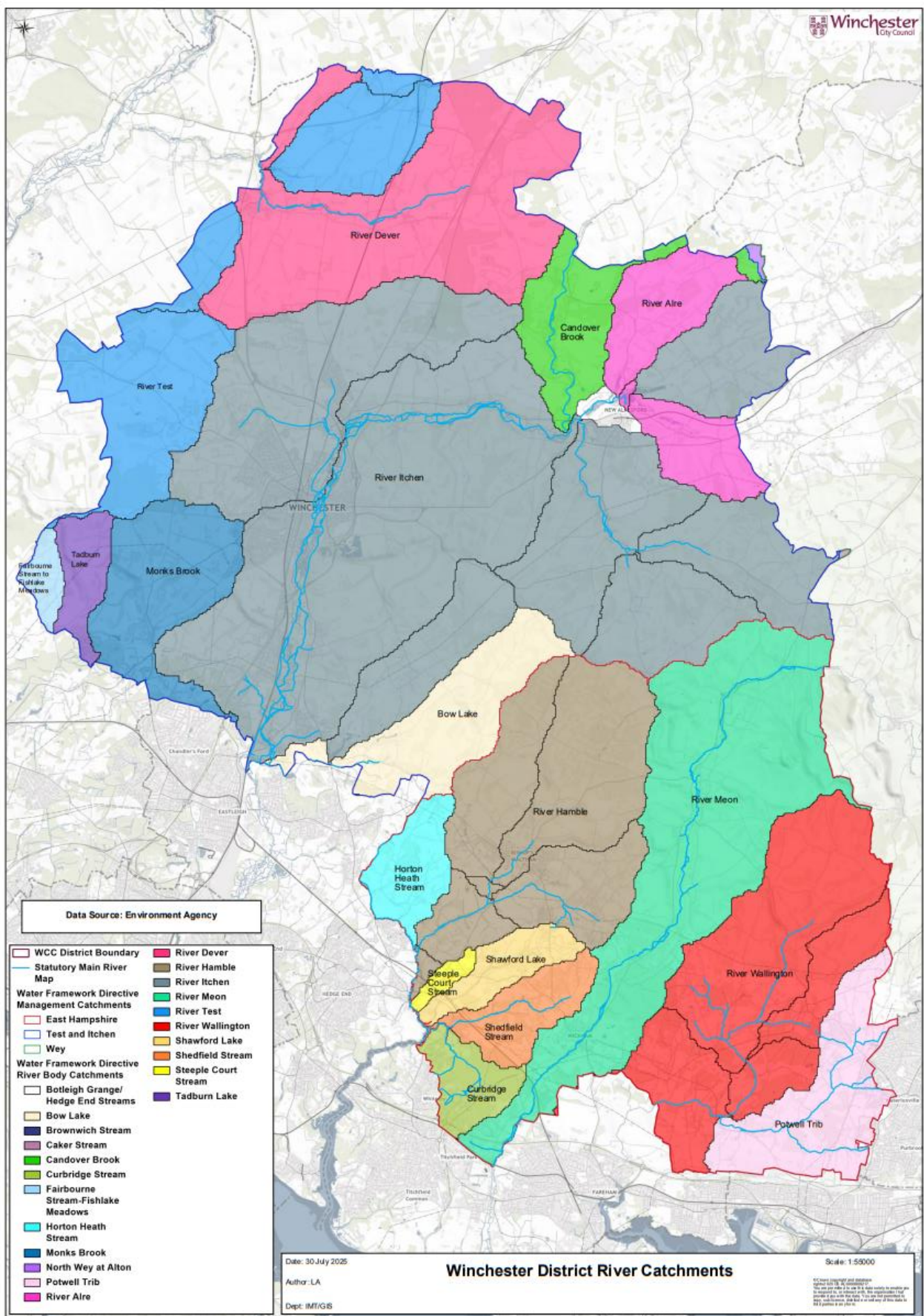


Figure 7 – Map of the main rivers and river catchments within the Winchester District.



3.3 Priority habitats

Priority habitats are those that have been identified by government as being of principal importance for the purpose of conserving or enhancing biodiversity under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006). They are a key part of the ecological network across the district, supporting rare and threatened species and providing valuable wildlife corridors or stepping stones. Many of the priority habitats in the district, as shown in Figure 8, were identified in the council's BAP and will form part of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire. This presents opportunities to restore and recreate lost areas of priority habitat for the benefit of nature, and to improve connectivity between habitats.

Figure 8 also demonstrates the type and number of priority habitats that exist currently in the Winchester District. The full extent of priority habitats is somewhat unknown due to the dynamic state of our countryside and the difficulties of obtaining access to all land. A large extent of priority habitats are also located outside of designated wildlife sites and are therefore afforded no protection. For these reasons no measures have been set relating to the quantity of priority habitat but none the less they are an important part of the district's biodiversity.

3.4 Tree canopy cover

Tree canopy cover or woodland cover is included in the EIP national targets with the aim of having a national coverage of 16.5% by 2050 and therefore forms an important part of this plan and the measures set for both the district and the council. Figure 9 shows that the Winchester District currently has a coverage of **22.991%**. This is substantially higher than the national target and therefore it's an achievement to maintain these high levels of tree canopy/woodland cover. It should be noted that individual trees have not been included because the mapping is area-based and therefore this figure is likely to better reflect woodland cover rather than tree canopy cover. However National Trees Outside of Woodland (TOW) have been mapped by Forest Research's Earth Observation for Trees and Woodlands (EOTW)²⁸.

3.5 Development and Biodiversity Net Gain

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), brought forward by the Environment Act, 2021, is a way of developments contributing to the recovery of nature. This legislation requires most new developments to leave biodiversity in a measurably better state. It is also a mechanism for enabling the delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Hampshire. Further information is provided in Appendix B.

²⁸ [Trees Outside Woodland Public Map](#)

A Statutory Biodiversity Metric is used to calculate the biodiversity value of habitats in 'biodiversity units'. We have a duty to record the number of biodiversity units delivered through developments and therefore this forms another crucial element of this plan. BNG is still a relatively new process and consequently there is a lack of baseline data, however measures are based on the metrics coming forward and the predicted gains which are likely to be delivered.

At present there are no offsite habitat banks in the Winchester District but we endeavour to support potential offsite solutions as these come forward, particularly where these contribute to the LNRS.

The Local Plan also requires new development to provide 1 ha of Natural Green Space for every 1000 new residents. Therefore, a measure has been set for this based on the housing requirements for the district.

3.6 Projects, events and engagement

There are many other landowners, land managers, farmers, groups, charities, partnerships, businesses and developers across the district which play a significant and valuable role in nature improvement. We already work with many partners to deliver nature conservation, for example by providing support and advice, awarding grants and helping run events. As part of this plan, we will endeavour to record and report back on the number of projects, events and partnership work we are directly involved in, whether this be directly or through collaboration or influence.

This Nature Improvement Plan recognises that individuals and groups make a difference to nature's improvement in the district which is why they are an important part of this plan. Unfortunately, it is not practical for the council to be able to record and measure all the work these groups do for improving nature. However, there are other reporting schemes which do measure and record the work undertaken for nature (such as the government's agro-environmental scheme ELMS). There are also many positive campaigns and resources for guiding individuals and groups. Through this plan the council aims to better signpost people to these beneficial schemes by running additional events, regular communications and updating our website.

Figure 8 – Map showing priority habitat coverage across the district.

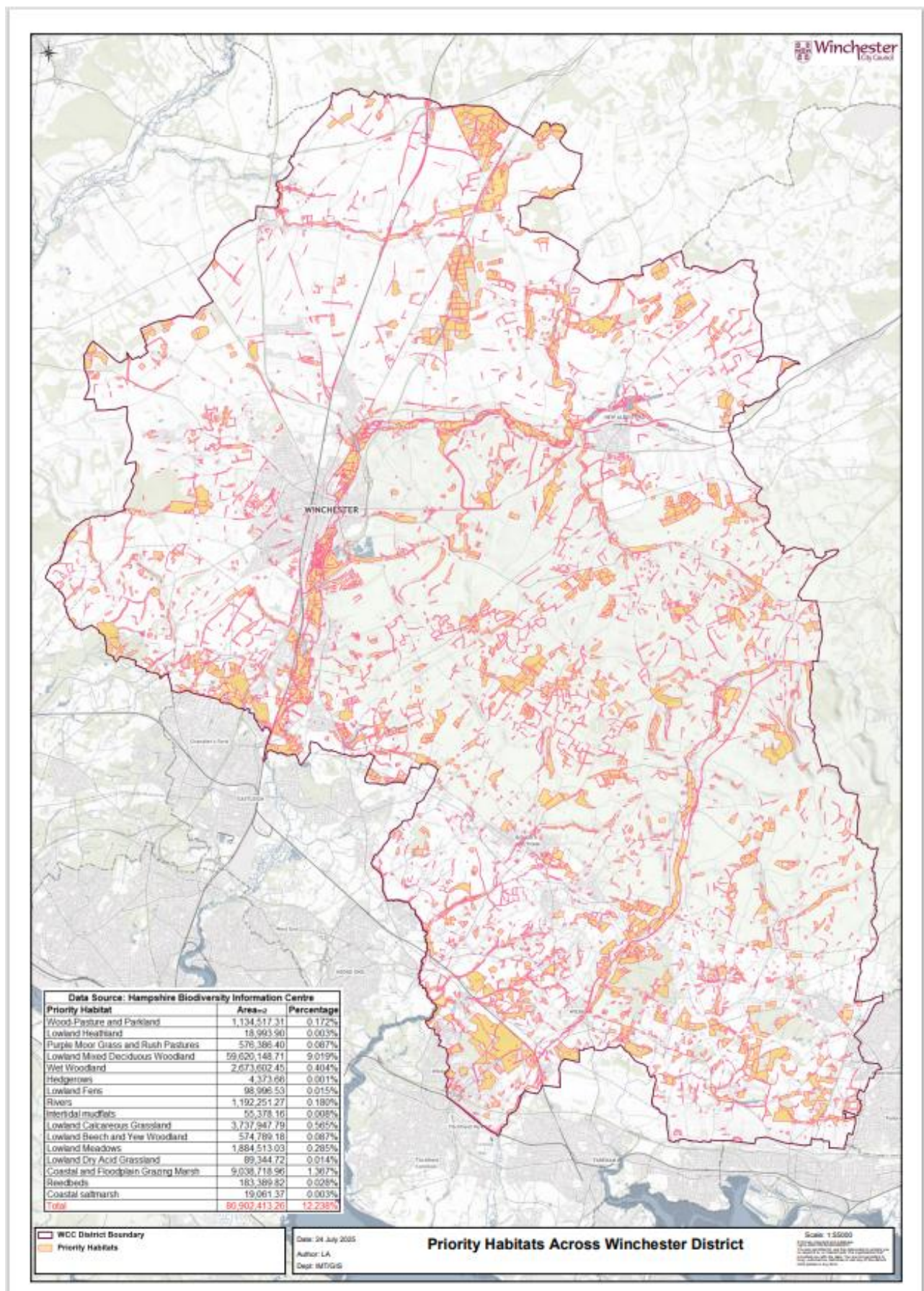
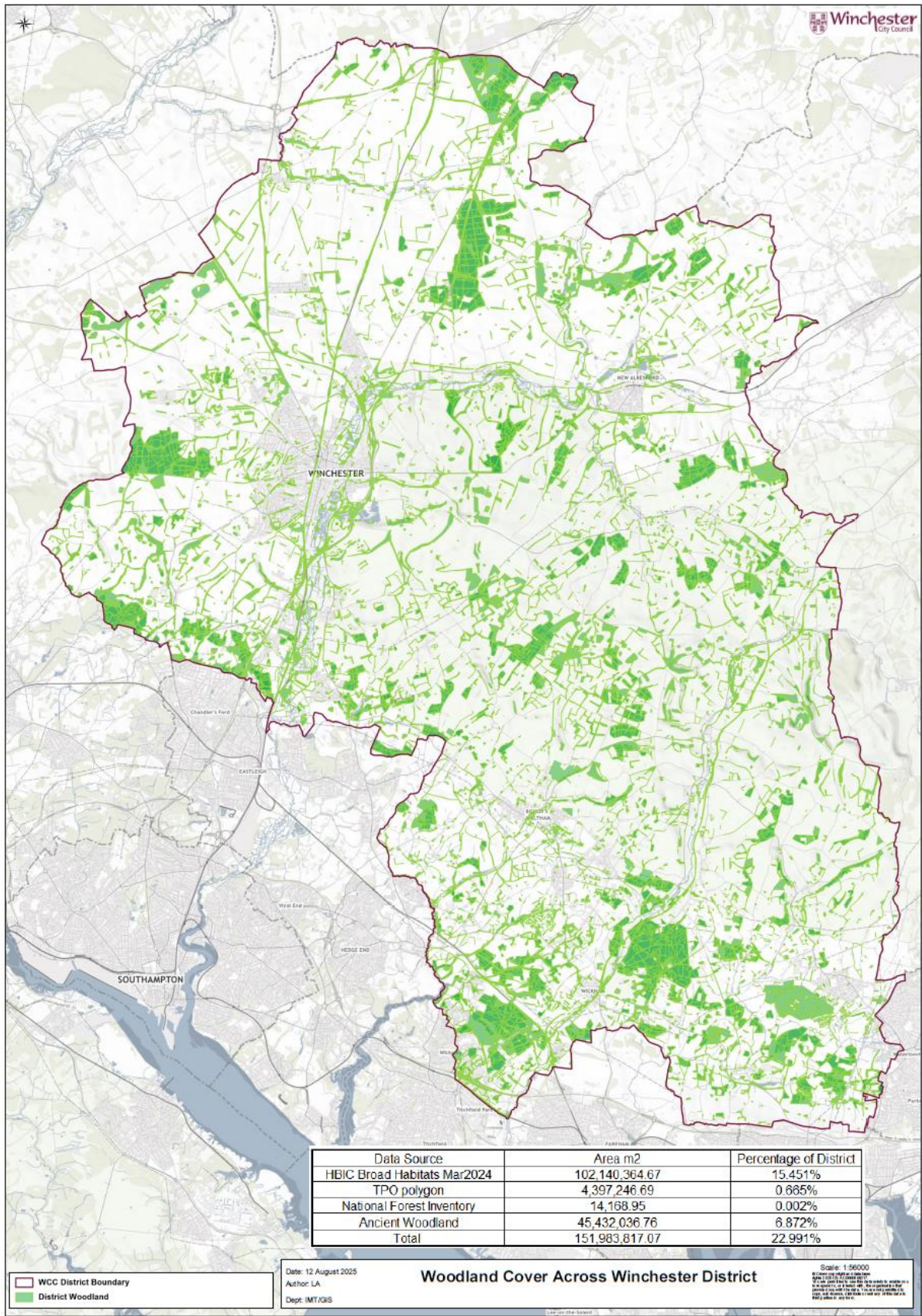


Figure 9 – Map showing tree/woodland canopy cover across the district. This includes data for ancient woodland, TPOs, conifer, broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland habitat layers and the National Forest Inventory England 2023.



4. Biodiversity on Council Land

The council owns and manages a variety of sites from housing and gardens, commercial property, car parks, sports facilities and play areas to natural green space, parks and designated wildlife sites specifically managed for biodiversity, such as Winnall Moors.

4.1 Designated wildlife sites

4.1.1 International and national designated sites

Of the 23 internationally/nationally designated sites, two parcels are within Winchester City Council's ownership. These two sites, **St Faith's Meadow** and **Winnall Moors**, form part of the wider River Itchen Special Area of Conservation and Site of Special Scientific Interest. The condition of these SSSI parcels is listed in the Table 4 below. This shows that 100% of SSSI units on council land are achieving favourable/unfavourable-recovering condition. This is far above the national EIP target of 50% of SSSIs on track to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028. Sustaining this figure at 100% is an important measure for nature improvement on council land.

Table 4 - The condition of SSSIs within the Council's land ownership in 2025.

SSSIs on WCC Land	Overall Condition
St Faith's Meadow (River Itchen)	Unfavourable - Recovering
Winnall Moors (River Itchen)	Unfavourable - Recovering

St Faith's Meadow is a tranquil, former water meadow which forms part of a vital network of floodplain habitats that support a rich diversity of wildlife. Managed by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust on the council's behalf, the site features fen vegetation with species such as marsh marigold, ragged robin, and yellow flag iris, and is home to water voles, swallows, and grasshopper warblers.

Winnall Moors is a 64 ha nature reserve nestled in the heart of Winchester, where the River Itchen meanders through a mosaic of wet grassland, reedbeds, wet woodland, and chalk streams. Managed by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust in partnership with Winchester City Council, the site is a vital refuge for wildlife within the urban landscape. Species such as kingfisher, water vole, roe deer, and Daubenton's bat, as well as a vibrant array of wetland flora like ragged robin, yellow flag iris, and marsh marigold have all been found there.

4.1.2 Local designated sites

Of the 690 SINCs in Winchester, three SINCs are under council ownership and management.

1. **Whiteshute Ridge** is located on the southern edge of Winchester, near Badger Farm. It features extensive areas of lowland calcareous grassland, a habitat of high ecological value that supports a diverse range of plant and animal species. The site is known for its populations of slow worms and common lizards, alongside a rich botanical assemblage including several positive indicator species.

Although last surveyed by HBIC in 2013, it is subject to a management plan and detailed botany surveys in 2015 and 2023 showed that positive management is benefiting the condition of the site.

2. **West Hill Cemetery** is a historic and ecologically significant site located on the western edge of Winchester city centre. We manage the 5.2 ha as a biodiversity-rich chalk downland habitat, supporting wildflowers, pollinators and reptiles such as slow worms.

Recent botany surveys have also been carried out confirming that the management is having a positive impact on the priority grassland habitats present on site.

3. **Bramdean Common** is a historically rich and ecologically diverse area of common land located in the district. Managed by the council, the common is a good example of a Lowland Meadow. It's managed by the council in a beneficial way, however there are other management options such as grazing which could further improve the condition of the site. No detailed botany surveys have been carried out at Bramdean Common in the last 10 years and negative uses such as unauthorised vehicle access, trampling and fly tipping are thought to be having a detrimental impact and as such, the management of this site is recorded as 'unknown' in Table 5 in recognition of an update survey being required.

Ensuring council owned designated sites, including SINC's are in favourable management and condition, is a priority for delivering nature improvement on council owned land. Therefore, the measure for 2025-2030 is to ensure 100% of council owned SINC's are under favourable management.

Table 5 – Management of SINC's under Council ownership in 2025.

SINC on WCC land	Last surveyed by HBIC	Management according to HBIC survey	WCC Management
Whiteshute Ridge	2013	Unknown	Favourable
West Hill Cemetery	2023	Positive	Favourable
Bramdean Common	2005	Unknown	Unknown

4.2 Land managed for nature

Given the council's direct control over its land ownership, baseline data has been used to provide a figure for 'land managed for nature' to inform council measures, rather than 'land designated for nature' used to inform district measures. This includes designated sites: SSSIs, SINCs, RVEIs as well as other council sites managed for biodiversity, TPOs, Natural Green Spaces, Locally Registered Parks and Gardens, and Public Open Spaces (with sports/play/allotments removed). Figure 10 shows that **27.61% of the land under the council's ownership is managed for nature.**

Whilst some open spaces may not necessarily be managed solely for nature, they provide value for wildlife, particularly within an urban setting. These spaces also provide access to nature and the benefits associated with urban greening. This figure of 27.61% is close to the national EIP target for 30% of 'land to be protected' and whilst not all this land is designated or protected, the council has set a measure to at least sustain this level of land as 'managed for nature' which means that it will be maintained over the five-year period to provide value for wildlife and access to nature.

It is considered likely that 'land managed for nature' includes most areas of priority habitat owned by the council, but there is potential for some woodlands, wetlands and other habitats to fall outside of this measure if they are not currently managed for biodiversity or located within parks or open spaces. The council strives to ensure that valuable habitats are managed for biodiversity and will be exploring future opportunities for nature improvement within its land ownership, particularly where these have multiple benefits for other ecosystem services and aid climate resilience.

4.3 Projects, events and engagement

Whilst designated wildlife sites are considered our top priority, we recognise the value of gardens and verges for wildlife. The council has an active road verge project²⁹, and the areas under the council's ownership are included in the 'land managed for nature' figure.

Through the Biodiversity Action Plan the council has created many new habitats for wildlife, including wildflower areas, sustainable flower beds and tree planting as well as installing swift boxes and bat boxes on council properties. We already have a well-established re-roofing and biodiversity procedure which includes installing one swift box for every re-roofed council property. This is done in partnership with Hampshire Swifts and is helping to halt the decline and recover this species locally. The measures set for 'creating new spaces for nature' is based on this existing work and ambitions for future projects such as Miyawaki forests, hedgerow planting and expansion of the verge project.

²⁹ <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/nature-emergency/road-verge-management>

A key part of this plan is also to connect more people with nature, for example by enabling community groups, communications, supporting beneficial campaigns and running events.

The measures we will report back on for ‘connecting more people to nature’ includes volunteer hours on our land to support nature conservation and the number of events which promote connection to nature and green spaces. This includes the vital conservation work done by volunteers, in partnership with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT) at Winnall Moors and St Faith’s Meadow, and in partnership with Friends of St Giles Hill.

4.4 Tree canopy cover

With the current data available it has only been possible to calculate an area-based figure for tree canopy cover on council owned land. This does not include individual trees and is therefore more aligned with woodland cover rather than an accurate reflection of tree canopy cover. It may be possible in future to more accurately map tree coverage on council land through the ongoing tree survey programme. It should also be noted that the council is limited by the type of land under its ownership. For example, important wetland and grassland sites are vital for biodiversity and would not be appropriate for tree planting. Measuring and monitoring tree canopy cover more accurately on our land is a potential future work area coming out of this plan and would provide a better understanding of this valuable ecosystem service.

4.5 Carbon sequestration

A desktop study was undertaken by Arcadian in July 2024 to analyse the carbon storage and sequestration across the land owned by the council.

The existing habitats across council land (excluding built-up areas) have a minimum defensible carbon flux of approximately **-125 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year (tCO₂e y⁻¹)**. The value ‘carbon dioxide equivalent’ enables us to take other greenhouse gases into account in the overall total, based on their impact relative to carbon dioxide. This is seen as the most defensible calculation and is based on recommended figures from an extensive literature review by Thom and Doar (2021) undertaken for the Wildlife Trusts. In terms of the overall amount of carbon stored across these habitats, this has been calculated at 28,322 – 126,926 tCO₂e, equating to 7,646 – 34,270 tonnes of carbon (tC). Going forward, changing management practices to allow habitat transitions would enable greater carbon sequestration and therefore climate mitigation. Sequestering more carbon is an important measure for nature improvement on council land. No numerical figures have been set because it is predicted that changes in management practices will slowly change the levels of carbon sequestered over many years.

4.6 Wastewater Treatment Works

The council is responsible for 42 Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTWs) including cesspools and Package Treatment Plants (PTPs). Management of these sites is done in accordance with legislation and requirements set by the Environment Agency. The council has already upgraded three of these sites to reduce pollution and create nitrate and phosphate credits for development management. The continuation of this work is a key part of this plan and therefore the council has set the measure to upgrade 10 Wastewater Treatment Works by 2030.

WCC Land Managed for Nature	
Winchester owned land (m2)	4,128,486.03
WCC land managed for Nature (m2)	1,139,762.36
Percentage	27.61%

Data source	Dataset	Data source	Dataset
Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre	Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)	Winchester City Council	Public Open Space (sports/play/amenity removed)
	Road Verges of Ecological Importance (RVEIs)		Natural Greenspace
	Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSIs)		Tree Protection Orders (TPO)
			Locality Parks and Gardens
			Wildflower Cuts

Winchester City Council Owned Land Managed for Nature

Date: 23 July 2025
Author: LA
Dept: IMT/GIS

Scale: 1:61000

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5. Vision & Goals - 2025-2030

5.1 Purpose of the Nature Improvement Plan

The Nature Improvement Plan 2025-2030 sets out the council's strategic approach to nature improvement both on council owned land and across the entire district which will be embedded in the whole council ensuring a strong connection with the delivery of the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan (CNAP) and helping to deliver the Council Plan priority of Greener Faster.

The Nature Improvement Plan will align and respond to both the local and national drivers highlighted in Section 1 (and explained further in Appendix B). There will be a strong link between the emerging Hampshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) which will inform the priority locations for habitat creation, restoration and enhancement, so that actions set in the NIP contribute to the delivery of the Hampshire LNRS. The Plan will also provide the mechanism for reporting back on the enhanced biodiversity duty and Biodiversity Net Gain, as required under the Environment Act 2021.

The Plan will encompass and inform the council's approach on its own land for:

- a. Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)
- b. Prioritising and rationalising management of council owned ecological sites
- c. Nature based solutions and carbon sequestration
- d. Mitigation of climate impacts through land management
- e. Council reporting on and assessing risk for impact on biodiversity across its activities.

5.2 Aims and Pathways

Promote and achieve nature improvement and recovery across the Winchester district.

The council has identified five pathways to deliver this:

1. Protect and manage land for nature
2. Create new spaces for nature
3. Deliver more nature-based solutions for tackling climate change
4. Prevent and control pollution better
5. Connect more people to nature

These pathways provide a mechanism for setting guiding principles, measures and prioritising actions. Rather than focusing on specific habitats and species as in the BAP, these pathways have a stronger link to the Council Plan and CNAP and set the parameters for achieving the overarching aim of nature improvement and recovery across the district.

Pathway 1 is crucial for the protection, maintenance and improvement of our international, national and local sites designated for nature conservation. It also includes

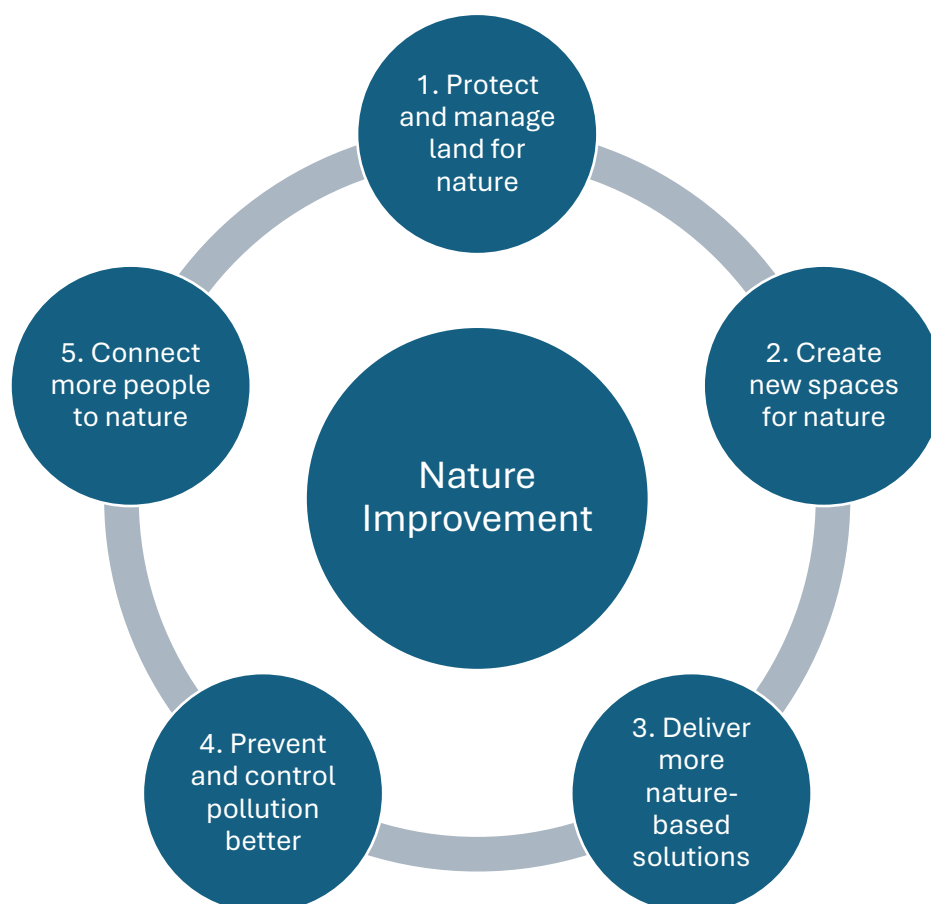
non-designated sites such as open spaces or buildings where we have existing biodiversity projects or features which are valuable to wildlife.

Pathway 2 includes all initiatives which create new areas for wildlife for example wildflower meadow creation, tree planting, installation of bat bricks/bird bricks and bee hotels or on a larger scale the creation of habitat banks and delivery of BNG.

Pathway 3 links directly to pathways 4 and 5 of the CNAP. This ensures that we are considering the co-benefits of nature improvement including ecosystem services and tackling climate change. This incorporates tree canopy cover, urban greening and carbon sequestration.

Pathway 4 includes all initiatives which reduce pollution including upgrades to Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTWs) as well as limiting the use of herbicides, pesticides and fertilisers. Upgrades to WWTWs reduces nitrogen and phosphorous loading which is crucial for the recovery of our rivers and estuaries.

Pathway 5 recognises communication and engagement as crucial parts of the strategy. Ensuring members of the public understand, appreciate and feel connected to their local natural environment is of the utmost importance and is essential for the long-term delivery of nature improvement across the district.



5.3 Principles

A set of guiding biodiversity principles are set out below. They provide clarity on the council's position and standards of working, particularly where it is not possible to apply numerical targets. These will be followed by the council in all its functions. These principles relate to how we behave, our standards, and serve as a foundation for how we act and work.

The principles are all of equal importance and will be applied to council work as appropriate and in accordance with relevant legislation and other policies. The council expects all partners and contractors to follow these guiding principles and actively consider and promote biodiversity in all activities related to council buildings, land or projects.

Achieving these ambitions alongside competing priorities such as ensuring a wide range of services and facilities are available to our residents, is a considerable challenge for the council. These principles are also limited by existing contracts, however the Nature Improvement Plan and associated principles will be referenced in our Sustainable Procurement Guide and Employer's Requirements for future contracts, to ensure they are being followed. The council will also be looking for greater flexibility within new contracts to maximise benefits to nature where possible.

Principles 7, 8, 9 and 10 show how we will adhere to our principles and standards and how we will deliver according to these principles.

PRINCIPLE 1	BIODIVERSITY DUTY
	Consider biodiversity and nature improvement and recovery in all functions and decisions in accordance with the strengthened biodiversity duty in the Environment Act. The council expects all partners and contractors to consider biodiversity in all their actions relating to council buildings, land or projects.
PRINCIPLE 2	HIERARCHY OF SITES
	We will endeavour to follow the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites (as described in section 3.1), and prioritise actions which improve sites of greatest importance. The council will pursue opportunities for nature improvement and recovery on un-designated sites, but the priority will be to protect, maintain and enhance important designated sites.
PRINCIPLE 3	CHEMICAL USE
	Pesticides and herbicides will only be used on biodiversity sites where considered absolutely necessary, for example to remove invasive species. Strive to reduce herbicide, pesticide and non-organic chemical fertiliser use, on all council owned sites by 2030.

PRINCIPLE 4	WATER USE & WATER QUALITY
	<p>Minimise water use and introduce water recycling methods and sustainable drainage solutions where possible, as part of projects, development or land management practices.</p> <p>Recognise the importance of appropriately managing land within buffer zones (5m to ditches and 10m to rivers) and controlling activities within these buffer areas which have the potential to cause pollution to watercourses.</p>
PRINCIPLE 5	BIOSECURITY
	<p>Follow biosecurity best practice guidelines and remove invasive and non-native species (INNS) from council owned land.</p> <p>The removal of other species (not included on the INNS list e.g. Hogweed or nettles) will not be a priority and will only be undertaken where considered a health and safety risk, or their removal is necessary in accordance with the relevant management plan.</p>
PRINCIPLE 6	MULTIPLE BENEFITS
	<p>Consideration will be given to the combination of benefits and ecosystem services, which can be delivered through land management, development or specific projects, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements to biodiversity • Improvements to ecosystem services such as pollination, clean air production, water purification and flood alleviation • Delivery of nature-based solutions for tackling climate change such as increased carbon sequestration and urban greening • Improvements to health and wellbeing • Better access to nature, open space and recreation <p>Where possible these benefits should be stacked to ensure the best outcomes are delivered.</p>
PRINCIPLE 7	PARTNERSHIP WORKING
	The council will work in partnership with external stakeholders and established community groups to meet the 2030 measures.
PRINCIPLE 8	HAMPSHIRE NATURE RECOVERY
	Ensure that all work contributes towards the delivery of the Hampshire Nature Recovery Strategy by prioritising opportunities included within the “measures map”. This will provide a guide for where and how to deliver improvements for nature on a landscape scale and create bigger, better, more joined up spaces for nature. (Local Nature Recovery Strategies are explained further in Appendix B).
PRINCIPLE 9	PROTECTED SPECIES
	Support the delivery of species recovery strategies, referenced in the Environment Act 2021 and LNRS, as they emerge.

	Species will be considered and mitigation and enhancements sought in all areas of relevant work from management of biodiversity sites and open spaces to property maintenance and development management. This will be in accordance with relevant legislation including the Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
PRINCIPLE 10	PLANTING FOR BIODIVERSITY
	<p>Prioritise use of native, fruiting, and pollinator-friendly species for planting schemes.</p> <p>Flower beds will be created using sustainable planting.</p> <p>Soil health will be considered when designing and implementing planting plans and all compost used will be peat-free.</p> <p>Green waste such as wood chippings will be re-used where possible for example for mulch.</p>

Case studies of how these principles have been implemented will be produced over the course of the five-year plan.

5.4 Measures

There will be two sets of measures for 2025-2030, one for council-based actions on council owned and managed land (Table 6), and one for district wide actions (Table 7). The measures and actions delivered on council owned land directly contribute to the district wide measures. The district wide actions will be undertaken by a range of stakeholders, partners and residents, as well as the council.

The council has set measures where possible for each of the identified pathways. The measures are ambitious but achievable and were determined through internal officer engagement and understanding the baseline figures detailed in Section 3 and 4. They are also in accordance with national targets set out in the Environment Improvement Plan 2023. The measures have defined the 2025/2026 action plans provided in Appendix C.

It should be noted that numerical measures are not always applicable or feasible for determining nature improvement, which is why the principles are considered an equally important part of this plan. Five years is also a short time frame when it comes to nature conservation with grassland restoration works and newly created woodlands taking decades to reach their potential in terms of benefits for nature. Nevertheless, the council aims to be transparent and report back on nature improvement and recovery in the Winchester District by 2030 and sets the building blocks for nature improvement in decades to come.

Table 6 – Winchester City Council Measures 2025-2030 for council-based actions on council owned and managed land. These contribute to the district wide measures.

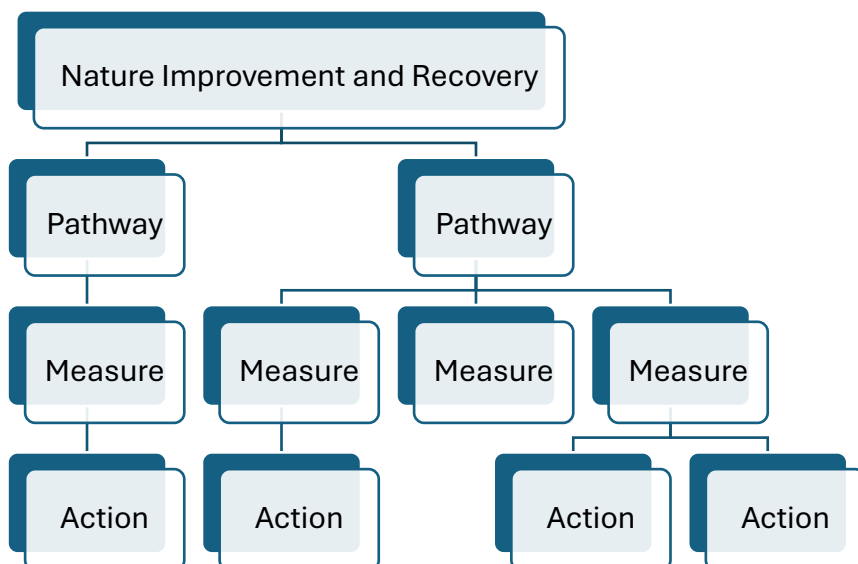
Council Land 2030 Measures			
1	Protect and manage land for nature	1.1	100% of SSSI units achieving “favourable/unfavourable-recovering” condition
		1.2	100% SINCs in favourable management
		1.3	Achieve a minimum of 27.61% of WCC land managed for nature
2	Create new spaces for nature	2.1	1 ha new green or blue habitat created or improved for nature
		2.2	500m hedgerow planted for nature
		2.3	250 swift boxes and 50 bat roost features installed on council properties
3	Deliver more nature-based solutions	3.1	Additional carbon sequestered on 3 sites
4	Prevent and control pollution better	4.1	10 Wastewater Treatment Works on council land upgraded to reduce nitrogen and phosphorous loading
5	Connect more people to nature	5.1	10,000 volunteer hours of nature conservation activities on our land
		5.2	20 events on WCC land which promote connection with nature (health and wellbeing)

Table 7 - Winchester City Council Measures 2025-2030 for the entire Winchester district.

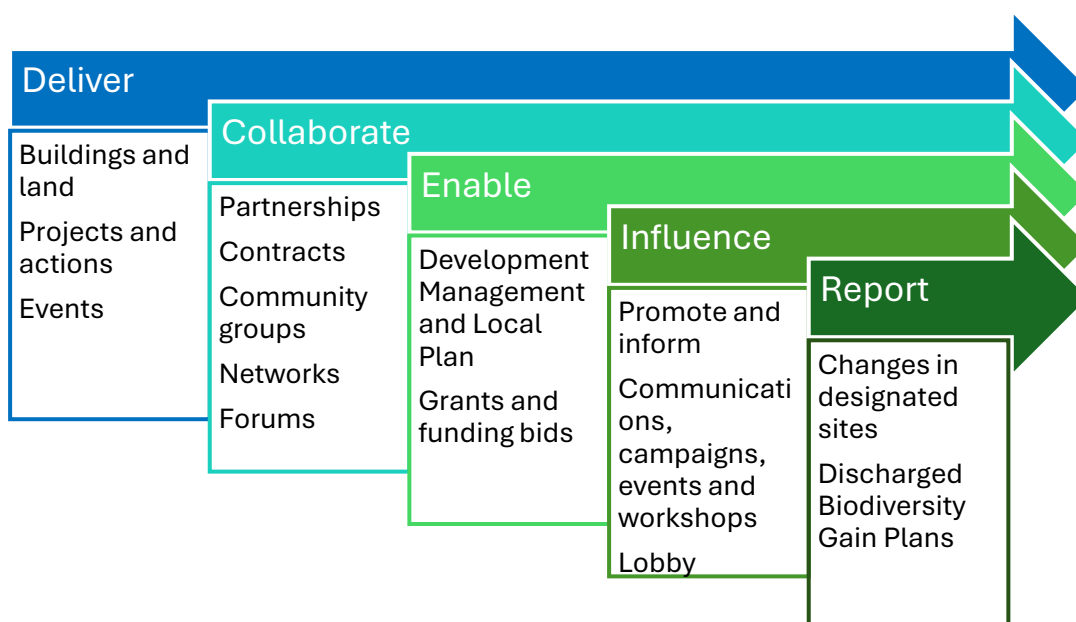
District 2030 Measures			
1	Protect and manage land for nature	1.1	Support the Solent Waders & Brent Goose Strategy and protect the sites included
		1.2	Deliver a minimum of 88% of SSSI units in the district achieving “favourable/unfavourable-recovering” condition
		1.3	Maintain the achievement of a minimum of 61% SINC's (surveyed in last 10 years) under positive management
		1.4	Achieve a minimum of 12.48% land designated for nature
2	Create new spaces for nature	2.1	Discharge Biodiversity Gain Plans via Development Management to deliver habitat creation and enhancement of 500 biodiversity units
		2.2	100 biodiversity units secured through signing agreements with habitat banks
		2.3	10ha of natural green or blue space created
3	Deliver more nature-based solutions	3.1	Sustain Tree canopy/woodland cover above 22.991%
4	Prevent and control pollution better	4.1	Continue to deliver the council's nutrient mitigation strategy.
5	Connect more people to nature	5.1	50 farmers and land managers supported with nature-friendly practices
		5.2	5 businesses supported with nature-based projects
		5.3	6 nature events/forums delivered
		5.4	Grants given to nature conservation groups to create spaces for nature and connect people to nature
		5.5	4 partnerships collaborated with to deliver 5 restoration projects
		5.6	10 community groups collaborated with to deliver nature conservation activities
		5.7	10 event/programmes delivered through partners which promote connection with nature (health and wellbeing)

5.5 Annual Nature Improvement Action Plan

A Council Land Nature Improvement Action Plan and District Nature Improvement Action Plan will be developed each year to track progress against the five-year measures. 2025/2026 versions of the two action plans are provided in Appendix C.



Actions will be planned and prioritised each year to enable proactive delivery of measures. There are five key levers for delivery of the plan. For each particular action the council will either deliver, collaborate, enable, influence or report depending on the council's role and input. Success will be determined by reporting back on the delivery of measures which contribute to identified pathways.



Delivery of nature improvement across the district will involve various stakeholders including landowners, partnerships, businesses, developers, consultants, community groups, and parish councils, and will not solely be dependent on the council. By setting measures and identifying actions we hope that stakeholders will take action, collaborate and be able to demonstrate impact and improvement.

Table 8 gives an indication of potential future work streams and projects coming out of the Nature Improvement Plan which may feed into future annual action plans from 2026/2027 to 2029/2030.

Table 8 – Potential future work areas to come out of the Nature Improvement Plan from 2026 to 2030

Pathway		Future work area
1	Protect and manage land for nature	Project investigating SINC management and opportunities
2	Create new spaces for nature	Assessment of potential Biodiversity Net Gain habitat banks within the district and on council land. Creation of Management Plans to deliver BNG on WCC land.
3	Deliver more nature-based solutions	Assessment of potential for creating carbon credits on WCC land. Creation of Management Plans to deliver CC on WCC land.
		Assess, measure and monitor tree canopy cover to allow continued successful management of existing and new tree stock and woodland
4	Prevent and control pollution better	Assessment of Nutrient Neutrality and potential for creating credits on WCC land. Creation of Management Plans to deliver NN on WCC land
5	Connect more people to nature	Signpost people to relevant opportunities, groups, advice and campaigns

5.6 Reporting

This five-year Nature Improvement Plan and subsequent reports will ensure the council is complying with the enhanced biodiversity duty under the Environment Act 2021 including reporting on the details of approved Biodiversity Gain Plans.

Appendix A – Glossary, abbreviations and data assumptions

i) Glossary

Term	Description
Biodiversity site	An area of land or water that the council recognises for its biodiversity value and therefore implements favourable management.
Open space	An area of green space owned by the council including recreation grounds and sports pitches which have different management priorities to biodiversity sites but provide opportunities for nature improvement.
Habitat bank	A conservation strategy where landowners enhance biodiversity and the resulting habitat creation or improvement is sold as "credits" to developers or other parties needing to offset biodiversity loss from their projects.
Ecosystem services	The benefits that humans receive from natural ecosystems such as food, water, climate regulation, recreation and nutrient cycling.
Nature-based solutions	Actions that protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems to address societal challenges while simultaneously benefiting people and nature.
Carbon sequestration	The process of capturing and storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases and help mitigate climate change. This process can occur naturally through forests, soils, and oceans or artificially via technologies like carbon capture and storage (CCS).

ii) Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
CNAP	Carbon Neutrality Action Plan
EIP	Environment Improvement Plan
ELMs	Environmental Land Management
GEDS	Green Economic Development Strategy
HBIC	Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre
HIWARG	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Amphibian and Reptile Group
HIWWT	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

LNRS	Local Nature Recovery Strategy
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LURA	Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023
NCA	National Character Area
NIP	Nature Improvement Plan
NNR	National Nature Reserve
PfSH	Partnership for South Hampshire
PTP	Package Treatment Plant
RVEI	Road Verge of Ecological Importance
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SDNP	South Downs National Park
SINC	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SWBGS	Solent Wader and Brent Goose Strategy
WwTWs	Wastewater Treatment Works

iii) Data assumptions for measures

Pathway	Metrics to inform measures	Definition and data assumptions
1	SWBG site area and status	Solent Wader Brent Goose (SWBG) site data provided by Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC)
	SSSI units achieving favourable/unfavourable-recovering condition	Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) condition status taken from Natural England. An average condition is presented for SSSIs with multiple units.
	SINCs under positive management	Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINC) positive management data from HBIC.
	SINCs in favourable management	SINCs are considered to be under the most favourable management practices possible for the site and survey data suggests this is benefiting the condition of the site.
	Land designated for nature	Designated sites within the Winchester District. This includes SPAs, SACs, compensatory SACs, RAMSAR, LNR, NNR and Ancient Woodland data from Natural England and SINCs, RVEI and SWBG data from HBIC.
	Land managed for nature	Designated sites data including SSSIs, SINCs and RVEIs from HBIC, as well as council data on sites managed for biodiversity (wildflower cuts), TPOs, Natural Green Spaces, Locally Registered

		Parks and Gardens, and Public Open Spaces (with sports/play/allotments removed).
2	Habitat created or improved for nature	New planting or habitat creation on council land, which is considered beneficial for nature such as tree planting, wildflower planting, sustainable beds and pond creation. It also includes the improved management of existing areas for example reduced cutting of grassland and collection of arisings.
	Hedgerow planted for nature	Native hedgerow planting on council land
	Swift boxes and bat roost features installed on council properties	Any features installed specifically for swifts or bats, including bat access tiles or purposely created gaps in soffits for swifts.
	Biodiversity units secured through habitat creation and enhancement through discharged Biodiversity Gain Plans	Total 'post site intervention' BNG units delivered through the statutory biodiversity metric of any discharged Biodiversity Gain Plans in the district, not just the net change or 10% uplift.
	Biodiversity units secured through signing agreements with habitat banks	Total 'post site intervention' BNG units delivered through the statutory biodiversity metric of any habitat banks the council has a signed legal agreement with.
	Natural green or blue space created	Any new natural green spaces as defined in the Open Space Assessment (including rivers and wetlands) created in the district
3	Tree canopy/woodland cover	Data for ancient woodland from Natural England, council data on TPOs, conifer, broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland habitat layers from HBIC and the National Forest Inventory England 2023.
	Additional carbon sequestered	Changes in management practices on council owned sites which enable greater carbon sequestration and climate mitigation as recommended by Arcadian in the desktop study.
4	Wastewater Treatment Works upgraded to reduce nitrogen and phosphorous loading	Upgrades or changes to council owned Wastewater Treatment Works which reduces pollution levels.
	Deliver the council's nutrient mitigation strategy	Continue to aid the supply of nutrient and phosphorus credits across the district.
5	Volunteer hours of nature conservation activities	Time spent by volunteers doing any activities which are considered beneficial for nature on any council owned sites.

Events which promote connection with nature (health and wellbeing)	Any events on council green space which are either nature themed or provide health and wellbeing benefits including running events, park yoga and bat walks.
Nature events/forums	Events or talks delivered by the council to the public or external partners which are nature themed for example nature engagement at Green Fair and a launch event for the NIP.
Farmers/land managers supported with nature-friendly practices	Advice provided by the Economy/Ecology Team to members of farming clusters on projects related to nature.
Businesses supported with nature-based projects	Advice provided by the Economy/Ecology Team to businesses on nature, for example as part of Employment Skills Plans.
Grants given to nature conservation groups to create spaces for nature and connect people to nature	Any grants provided which aid nature related projects or activities.
Partnerships collaborated with to deliver restoration projects	Projects which aid nature recovery which are delivered by partner organisations of which the council is a stakeholder, anywhere in the district, for example restoration projects delivered by the Solent Forum and River Catchment Partnerships
Community groups collaborated with to deliver nature conservation activities	The number of community groups, which undertake work that is considered to benefit nature, that the council actively supports and/or provides advice to.
Event/programmes delivered through partners which promote connection with nature (health and wellbeing)	Events or programmes delivered by partners, on any green space in the district, which are either nature themed or provide health and wellbeing benefits, for example the Healthy Walk Programme.

Appendix B – Regional and National Driving Documents

i) National Driving Documents and Legislation

Environment Act 2021

The Environment Act 2021 brings in new targets, tools and requirements for nature recovery, some of which are still in development at the time of writing the NIP. The work areas most closely linked to the NIP are, the wider government Nature Improvement Plan, Local Nature Recovery Strategies, Biodiversity Net Gain, Species Conservation and Protected Sites Strategies, and the strengthened biodiversity duty.

Biodiversity Net Gain

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is a way to contribute to the recovery of nature while developing land. New legislation brought forward by the Environment Act. 2021, requires all new developments, that are not covered under specific exemptions, to leave biodiversity in a measurably better state than it was before. Habitats can be created or enhanced on the development site, off-site, or through a combination of both. Biodiversity Net Gain became mandatory for many developments in 2024.

The Statutory Metric

A Statutory Biodiversity Metric is used to calculate the biodiversity value of habitats in ‘biodiversity units’ on a site. It is used as a proxy for nature for the purpose of BNG. The statutory metric can calculate different types of ‘biodiversity units’ and is comprised of three modules. These are:

- Area habitat units,
- Hedgerow units,
- Watercourse units.

It compares proposed changes in the extent, distinctiveness, and condition of habitats on a site before and after development to determine if there is a loss or gain in biodiversity.

There are four key factors that underpin this comparison:

- habitat size
- habitat quality
- habitat location
- habitat type

As set out in the Environment Act, development that is subject to BNG, has to provide as a minimum, a 10% uplift in the existing baseline biodiversity value of a site after it has been developed. This 10% requirement applies to habitats, linear features (trees and

hedgerows) as well as water courses (ditches, rivers and streams) that might be present on a site.

The Government's National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG) provides additional support for all those involved with BNG (Local Authorities, Landowners and developers) to ensure BNG is administered as effectively as possible. There is also a Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide which helps those filling out the biodiversity metric and those reviewing it afterwards to ensure the metric is completed correctly.

As explained earlier, Biodiversity Net Gain and the way it is assessed using the biodiversity metric is only a proxy for nature and therefore it can never be 100% certain that a permitted land use change will result in the predicted 10% uplift in biodiversity. It is also not a substitute for assessing impacts on designated sites or protected species. However, and the additional benefits it brings such as, increased climate resilience and mitigation and improved health and well-being means it is a useful tool to use.

Biodiversity Net Gain is also a mechanism that can enable the delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Hampshire. Providing BNG in areas which have been identified in the LNRS for nature recovery serves to benefit developers and landowners whilst also ensuring the LNRS delivers its aims and objective as well. This is recognised in the Biodiversity Metric used to calculate BNG, where if the specific BNG measure is included within the LNRS, it benefits from an additional uplift in BNG units. This makes it an incentive for landowners who are providing BNG to tie their work closely into that of the LNRS.

Offsite solutions to provide BNG

The council in managing its estate and working in partnerships, has the opportunity to create and facilitate habitat banks for BNG which can provide offsite solutions for council owned and/or private development. Offsite BNG solutions can be delivered through the use of conservation covenants with responsible bodies.

A conservation covenant agreement is a private, voluntary agreement to conserve the natural (or heritage) features land. The parts of a conservation covenant agreement which set out what a landowner and responsible body must or must not do to help conserve the land become legally binding. Importantly, they can be used to secure income and funding for the conservation activities carried out. The responsible body who is party to the Conservation Covenant is an independent organisation who would essentially be responsible for the monitoring and enforcement of the activities covered by the covenant. Therefore, should the council wish to enter into a conservation covenant to sell BNG units on its own land, it will need a separate independent organisation to sign up and be the responsible body.

Local Nature Recovery Strategies

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs) are county-scale spatial strategies to recover nature across England. Together, they will cover the country in a Nature Recovery Network. Hampshire County Council is leading the development of the Hampshire LNRS.

The plan is being developed with input from a wide range of stakeholders including Winchester City Council as a Supporting Authority. The result will be a strategic plan with mapped priorities and actions for nature recovery. It is anticipated it will be published in December 2025.

The actions developed in this Nature Improvement Plan will align as much as possible with the list of measures contained within the LNRS for Hampshire to ensure that nature recovery is central to the work the council undertakes.

The LNRS maps will allow the council to focus where nature improvements should occur.

Species Conservation and Protected Site Strategies

Species Conservation and Protected Site Strategies are designed to provide a more strategic approach to the complex challenge of protecting and restoring species and habitats. Both strategies aim to safeguard the future of species/habitats at greatest risk. They are designed to avoid the need to identify individual specific solutions which can be difficult, time-consuming and costly to implement. The strategies will feed into Local Nature Recovery Strategies, support local planning authorities in discharging their duty in respect of biodiversity. They will also help in developing Local Plans and complement plans for biodiversity net gain. Species Conservation and Protected Site Strategies are still in their development and pilot phases.

Enhanced Biodiversity Duty and Reporting

The Environment Act, 2021 introduces a strengthened ‘biodiversity duty’ which requires public authorities who operate in England to consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity. This means that, as a public authority, you must:

1. Consider what you can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
2. Agree policies and specific objectives based on your consideration.
3. Act to deliver your policies and achieve your objectives.

In addition to the above, the Environment Act also requires Local Authorities to produce a report on what they are doing and how they are complying with this biodiversity duty. By law, the report must include the following:

- a summary of the action taken to comply with the biodiversity duty
- A plan how to comply with the biodiversity duty in the next reporting period

Linked to Biodiversity Net Gain, the report must also include:

- the actions carried out to meet biodiversity net gain obligations
- details of biodiversity net gains resulting, or expected to result, from biodiversity gain plans approved
- Plan how to meet biodiversity net gain obligations in the next reporting period

The Nature Improvement Plan will be the reporting framework which demonstrates how the council is meeting the strengthened Biodiversity Duty, including reporting back on the work the council undertakes for Biodiversity Net Gain.

Environment Improvement Plan

In 2023 the Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP23) was published. In accordance with the Environment Act 2021, the EIP23 represents the first review of the 25 Year Environment Plan (25YEP) which was published in 2018. The EIP continues to use the 10 goals set out in the 25YEP and sets out the progress made against these goals and further plans and targets to deliver on the goals. The ten goals in the 25YEP and EIP23 are:

- Goal 1: Thriving plants and wildlife
- Goal 2: Clean air
- Goal 3: Clean and plentiful water
- Goal 4: Managing exposure to chemicals and pesticides
- Goal 5: Maximise our resources, minimise our waste
- Goal 6: Using resources from nature sustainably
- Goal 7: Mitigating and adapting to climate change
- Goal 8: Reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards
- Goal 9: Enhancing biosecurity
- Goal 10: Enhanced beauty, heritage, and engagement with the natural environment

Example of targets within the Environmental Improvement Plan 2023:

- Halt the decline in species abundance by 2030, and then by the end of 2042 increase abundance so that it is greater than in 2022 and at least 10% greater than in 2030.
- Restore or create more than 500,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitats outside protected sites, compared to 2022 levels, by the end of 2042.
- New interim target to restore or create 140,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitats outside protected sites by 2028, compared to 2022 levels.
- Improve the GB Red List Index for species extinction by 2042 compared to 2022 levels.
- 50% of SSSIs on track to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028.
- Increase tree canopy or woodland cover from 14.5% to 16.5% of total land in England by 2050 (interim target is 0.26% = 34,000ha by 31 January 2028).
- Reduce nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment pollution from agriculture into the water environment by 40% by 31 December 2038, compared to a 2018 baseline.
- Reduce nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment pollution from agriculture into the water environment by at least 40% by 2038 (against a 2018 baseline). Interim Target 1: reduce by 10% by 31 January 2028. Interim Target 2: reduce by 15% in catchments containing protected sites in unfavourable condition due to nutrient pollution by 31 January 2028.

- Reduce phosphorous loadings from treated wastewater by 80% by 31 December 2038, against a 2020 baseline (interim target - reduce by 50% by 31 January 2028, against a 2020 baseline).
- 65% to 80% of landowners and farmers will adopt nature friendly farming on at least 10-15% of their land by 2030.
- Support farmers to create or restore 30,000 miles of hedgerows a year by 2037 and 45,000 miles of hedgerows a year by 2050, returning hedgerow lengths in England to 10% above the 1984 peak (360,000 miles).

The work that Winchester City Council undertakes, can and does contribute towards the achievement of these goals. It is therefore important that this is recognised, quantified and documented which is the purpose of this Nature Improvement Plan.

Environmental Land Management

The government has undertaken a significant reform of agricultural policy and spending in England. Environmental Land Management (ELM) schemes pay farmers and land managers to provide environmental goods and services alongside their principal activities such as food production. Measures that payment can be made for include protecting, restoring and creating wildlife rich habitats, improving water quality, increasing resilience to floods and droughts, increasing tree and woodland cover and storing carbon.

ii) Regional Planning Mitigation Schemes

Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH)

Winchester City Council is a member of the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH). PfSH is a collaboration of twelve local authorities around the Solent region, working together to promote sustainable economic growth, environmental stewardship, and cultural development across South Hampshire. PfSH aims to address shared challenges and opportunities that transcend individual council boundaries. Its key areas of focus include housing and infrastructure planning, environmental initiatives such as nutrient mitigation and flood risk assessment, and support for the creative and digital sectors.

District Level Licence

The council has joined the District Level Licensing (DLL) scheme for great crested newts—a streamlined approach introduced by Natural England to improve species protection while supporting sustainable development.

Traditionally, developers were required to carry out site-specific surveys and apply for individual mitigation licences if their projects affected great crested newts. Under the DLL scheme, developers instead make a conservation payment, which funds the creation, restoration, and long-term management of high-quality newt habitats off-site.

This approach enables a more strategic, landscape-scale method of conservation, ensuring that development and biodiversity enhancement go hand in hand.

Bird Aware Solent

The council is a member of the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership, also known as Bird Aware Solent. This partnership works collaboratively to develop and implement a mitigation strategy that addresses the impacts of increased recreational activity resulting from residential development. The strategy focuses on protecting internationally important coastal sites within the zone of influence, ensuring that wildlife, particularly overwintering birds, can continue to thrive alongside responsible public access.

Nutrient Mitigation

The council has entered into agreements with local landowners to deliver nutrient mitigation through land-use changes that reduce nutrient runoff into sensitive water bodies. This approach typically involves taking agricultural land out of intensive use, thereby significantly lowering nitrogen and phosphorus inputs.

This mitigation helps offset the nutrient pollution associated with increased wastewater and surface runoff from new housing developments. By reducing nutrient loads at a landscape scale, the mitigation schemes play a vital role in protecting freshwater and coastal ecosystems from harmful effects such as algal blooms and biodiversity loss.

Solent Wader and Brent Goose Strategy

The Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy (SW&BGS) is a non-statutory, evidence-based framework designed to protect and manage the network of sites used by overwintering wading birds and brent geese across the Solent coast, particularly within and around Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar wetlands. There are several of these Solent wader and brent goose sites in the district and council has adopted the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy to ensure they are protected from inappropriate development.

Biodiversity Net Gain and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire

The council is also facilitating the roll out of Biodiversity Net Gain and the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire through development management. Biodiversity Net Gain and Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are explained in greater detail above. The LNRS will also enable the council to prioritise locations for habitat creation, restoration and enhancement outside of development management.

Appendix C - Action Plans for 2025/2026

Council Land - Nature Improvement Action Plan 2025/2026					
Pathway		2030 Measure		2025/2026 Actions	Delivery
1	Protect and manage land for nature	1.1	100% of SSSI units achieving favourable/unfavourable-recovering condition	• Deliver the agreed annual actions within the management plan for SSSI land	Collaborate
				• Complete an annual report and rapid condition assessment on SSSI land	Collaborate
		1.2	100% SINC's in favourable management	• Deliver the annual actions within the management plans for SINC's	Deliver
		1.3	Achieve a minimum of 27.61% WCC land managed for nature	• Deliver the annual actions within the management plans for biodiversity sites	Deliver
				• Scope and research the River Management Plan	Collaborate
		• Continue to deliver biodiversity management of 'non biodiversity open spaces'	Deliver		
2	Create new spaces for nature	2.1	1 ha new green or blue habitat created or improved for nature	• Improved management of 0.1 ha of council owned verges/grassland	Deliver
				• 0.1ha of tree planting (according to BNG metric calculator)	Deliver
		2.2	500m hedgerow planted for nature		
		2.3	250 swift boxes and 50 bat roost features installed on council properties	• Install 50 Swift boxes on council properties	Deliver
				• Install 10 bat features on council properties	
3	Deliver more nature-based solutions	3.1	Additional carbon sequestered on 3 sites	• Deliver the Tree Strategy with regards to replacement tree planting	Deliver
				• Explore potential for woodland management to both sequester more carbon and improve biodiversity	Collaborate

4	Prevent and control pollution better	4.1	10 WWTWs on council land upgraded to reduce nitrogen and phosphorous loading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade 2 WWTWs 	Collaborate
5	Connect more people to nature	5.1	10,000 volunteer hours of nature conservation activities on our land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enable 2000 volunteer hours on our land 	Collaborate/Enable
		5.2	20 events on WCC land which promote connection with nature (health and wellbeing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enable 2 nature/health and wellbeing events and deliver 2 reoccurring programmes on council land 	Deliver/ Collaborate/ Enable

Winchester District - Nature Improvement Action Plan 2025/2026

Pathway		2030 Measure		2025/2026 Actions	Delivery
1	Protect and manage land for nature	1.1	Support the SWBG Strategy and protect the sites included	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to apply the SWBG mitigation guidance 	Report
		1.2	Deliver a minimum of 88% of SSSIs units in the district achieving favourable/unfavourable-recovering condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report any degradation concerns to NE and understand when condition assessments will be undertaken 	Report
		1.3	Maintain the achievement of a minimum of 61% SINC's (surveyed in last 10 years) under positive management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to deliver SINC survey programme through HBIC 	Collaborate
		1.4	Achieve a minimum of 12.48% land designated for nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain the existing extent of designated land by ensuring that any development impacts to SINC's are adequately compensated Report back on SINC amendments, creation and deletion Report back on TPO and HRNs served 	Enable Report Report
2	Create new spaces for nature	2.1	Discharge Biodiversity Gain Plans via Development Management to deliver habitat creation and enhancement of 500 biodiversity units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to assess BGPs through Development Management Report back on discharged Biodiversity Gain Plans 	Enable Report
		2.2	100 biodiversity units secured through signing agreements with habitat banks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine council position to habitat banks. Assess 1 habitat bank proposal Report back on amphibian habitat delivered through the District Level Licensing scheme 	Deliver Report
		2.3	10ha of natural green or blue space created	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to deliver the Local Plan and assist with land transfers 	Enable
3	Deliver more nature-based solutions	3.1	Sustain Tree canopy/woodland cover above 22.991%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure appropriate replanting plans for development and TPO applications 	Enable

4	Prevent and control pollution better	4.1	Continue to deliver the council's nutrient mitigation strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report back on the number of credits provided through the council scheme 	Enable
5	Connect more people to nature	5.1	50 farmers and land managers supported with nature-friendly practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with 10 farmers and land managers through cluster work 	Deliver
		5.2	5 businesses supported with nature-based projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support 1 business to deliver a nature-based project 	Enable
		5.3	6 nature events/forums delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver NIP launch event 	Deliver
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver nature engagement as part of Green fair 	Collaborate
		5.4	Grants given to nature conservation groups to create spaces for nature and connect people to nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide grants to appropriate nature conservation groups 	Deliver
		5.5	4 partnerships collaborated with to deliver 5 restoration projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver 1 restoration project through a partnership group 	Collaborate
		5.6	10 community groups collaborated with to deliver nature conservation activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support 2 community groups 	Enable
		5.7	10 event/programmes delivered through partners which promote connection with nature (health and wellbeing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enable 2 nature/ health and wellbeing event/programmes across district 	Enable

Winchester City Council

Equality Impact Assessment Template (EIA)

Section 1 - Data Checklist

When undertaking an EIA for your policy or project, it is important that you take into consideration everything which is associated with the policy or project that is being assessed.

The checklist below is to help you sense check your policy or project before you move to Section 2.

		Yes/No	Please provide details
1	Have there been any complaints data related to the policy or project you are looking to implement?	No	N/A
2	Have all officers who will be responsible for implementing the policy or project been consulted, and given the opportunity to raise concerns about the way the policy or function has or will be implemented?	Yes	Internal consultees included Finance, Legal, Procurement, Estates, Housing, Special Maintenance and Planning teams. External consultees included neighbouring authority ecologists and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT). Other stakeholders will be engaged with following approval.
3	Have previous consultations highlighted any concerns about the policy or project from an equality impact perspective?	No	N/A
4	Do you have any concerns regarding the implementation of this policy or project? <i>(i.e. Have you completed a self-assessment and action plan for the implementation of your policy or project?)</i>	No	This will supersede the Biodiversity Action Plan and will be managed by the existing Ecology Team.
5	Does any accessible data regarding the area which your work will address identify any areas of concern or potential problems which may impact on your policy or project?	No	N/A

		Yes/No	Please provide details
6	Do you have any past experience delivering similar policies or projects which may inform the implementation of your scheme from an equality impact point of view?	Yes	The Ecology Team has previous experience delivering the Biodiversity Action Plan and the wider Sustainability Team deliver the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan (CNAP).
7	Are there any other issues that you think will be relevant?	No	N/A

Section 2 - Your EIA form

Directorate: Place	Your Service Area: Economy & Community	Team: Community & Wellbeing	Officer responsible for this assessment: Zoe Goldsmith	Date of assessment: 30 July 2025
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	Question	Please provide details
1	What is the name of the policy or project that is being assessed?	Nature Improvement Plan 2025 - 2030
2	Is this a new or existing policy?	Update to existing Biodiversity Action Plan
3	Briefly describe the aim and purpose of this work.	To promote and achieve nature improvement and recovery across the Winchester district. This addresses the council's declaration of a nature emergency and the strengthened biodiversity duty in the Environment Act 2021.
4	What are the associated objectives of this work?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect and manage land for nature 2. Create new spaces for nature 3. Deliver more nature-based solutions for tackling climate change 4. Prevent and control pollution better 5. Connect more people to nature
5	Who is intended to benefit from this work and in what way?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This provides a strategic approach to nature improvement including principles and measures for the council to follow • Community groups, partners and individuals will benefit from increased clarity on the council position and associated nature improvements and benefits to health and wellbeing.
6	What are the outcomes sought from this work?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature recovery and biodiversity gains based on national and local measures. • Ability to report on the Biodiversity duty • Responding to significant national and local changes since 2021 • Setting specific measurable targets where possible • Strengthening the link between nature improvement and other co-benefits such as carbon sequestration and storage, and health and wellbeing

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separating out “core business” actions to improve the way we report back on nature improvement. • Covering district and council actions separately • Improving the way the council reports back on nature improvement
7	What factors/forces could contribute or detract from the outcomes?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Government Reorganisation. • Commitment to regular reporting and reviews. <p>Things that can have an impact include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government policy and funding • Climate – extreme weather events • Provision and accessibility of services • Economic shocks and crises •
8	Who are the key individuals and organisations responsible for the implementation of this work?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council in collaboration with partners, community groups, landowners, businesses.
9	Who implements the policy or project and who or what is responsible for it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ecology Team

		Please select your answer in bold . Please provide detail here.		
10a	Could the policy or project have the potential to affect individuals or communities on the basis of race differently in a negative way?	Y	N	The objectives of the plan and the outcomes delivered will benefit all
10b	What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing Biodiversity Action Plan 		
11a	Could the policy or project have the potential to affect individuals or communities on the basis of sex differently in a negative way?	Y	N	The objectives of the plan and the outcomes delivered will benefit all
11b	What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing plan used by various individuals and communities. 		
12a	<p>Could the policy or project have the potential to affect individuals or communities on the basis of disability differently in a negative way?</p> <p><i>you may wish to consider:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Physical access</i> • <i>Format of information</i> 	Y	N	<p>The objectives of the plan and the outcomes delivered will benefit all</p> <p>The objective to connect more people to nature may provide opportunities to improve / increase access and make spaces more inclusive</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Time of interview or consultation event</i> • <i>Personal assistance</i> • <i>Interpreter</i> • <i>Induction loop system</i> • <i>Independent living equipment</i> • <i>Content of interview)</i> 			
12b	What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing plan used by various individuals and communities. 		
13a	Could the policy or project have the potential to affect individuals or communities on the basis of sexual orientation differently in a negative way?	Y	N	The objectives of the plan and the outcomes delivered will benefit all
13b	What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing plan used by various individuals and communities. 		
14a	Could the policy or project have the potential to affect individuals on the basis of age differently in a negative way?	Y	N	<p>The objectives of the plan and the outcomes delivered will benefit all</p> <p>The objective to connect more people to nature may provide opportunities to improve / increase access and make spaces more inclusive</p>
14b	What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing plan used by various individuals and communities. 		
15a	Could the policy or project have the potential to affect individuals or communities on the basis of religious belief differently in a negative way?	Y	N	The objectives of the plan and the outcomes delivered will benefit all
15b	What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing plan used by various individuals and communities. 		
16a	Could this policy or project have the potential to affect individuals on the basis of gender reassignment differently in a negative way?	Y	N	The objectives of the plan and the outcomes delivered will benefit all
16b	What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing plan used by various individuals and communities. 		
17a	Could this policy or project have the potential to affect individuals on the basis of marriage and civil partnership differently in a negative way?	Y	N	The objectives of the plan and the outcomes delivered will benefit all
17b	What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing plan used by various individuals and communities. 		

18a	Could this policy or project have the potential to affect individuals on the basis of pregnancy and maternity differently in a negative way?	Y	N	<p>The objectives of the plan and the outcomes delivered will benefit all</p> <p>The objective to connect more people to nature may provide opportunities to improve / increase access and make spaces more inclusive</p>
18b	What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing plan used by various individuals and communities. 		

19	Could any negative impacts that you identified in questions 10a to 15b create the potential for the policy to discriminate against certain groups on the basis of protected characteristics?	Y	N	The objectives of the plan and the outcomes delivered will benefit all
20	Can this negative impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for certain groups on the basis of protected characteristics? Please provide your answer opposite against the relevant protected characteristic.	Y	N	Race:
				Sex:
				Disability:
				Sexual orientation:
				Age:
				Gender reassignment:
				Pregnancy and maternity:
				Marriage and civil partnership:
Religious belief:				
21	How will you mitigate any potential discrimination that may be brought about by your policy or project that you have identified above?	N/A		
22	Do any negative impacts that you have identified above impact on your service plan?	Y	N	N/A

Signed by completing officer	Zoe Goldsmith
Signed by Service Lead or Corporate Head of Service	Susan Robbins

CAB3518
CABINET

REPORT TITLE: COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

10 SEPTEMBER 2025

REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER: Councillor Jackie Porter, Cabinet Member for Place and Local Plan

Contact Officer: Corinne Phillips Tel No: 07980 732178 Email cphillips@winchester.gov.uk

WARD(S): ST MICHAEL, ST BARTHOLOMEW, WONSTON & MICHELDEVER

PURPOSE

This paper 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.

Subject to this funding being approved by Cabinet, the projects detailed in the report 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).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) Approve funding allocations, capital budget and expenditure as follows from the Winchester City Council CIL receipts ring-fenced to support transport and active travel projects:
 - i) £36,393 to Hampshire County Council in 2025/26 for the upgrade of the existing pedestrian crossing at Friarsgate in Winchester.
 - ii) £282,000 to Hampshire County Council in 2026/27 for the provision of a footway adjacent to Andover Road Micheldever.

- 2) Approve a funding allocation and capital budget of £153,000 in 2026/27 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 Procedure Rule 7.4.
- 3) Note 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.
- 4) Delegate authority 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.
- 5) Delegate authority to the Service Lead Legal to enter into the grant funding agreements in accordance with the council's funding criteria.

IMPLICATIONS:1. COUNCIL PLAN OUTCOME

- 1.1 Community groups and organisations seeking to provide new or improved infrastructure in their local communities can bid each year for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding to help deliver their projects. The ability to facilitate this local investment directly supports our vision, as stated in the Council Plan, that we will make a real difference to the lives of our residents, the strength of our business and the quality of our environment. The infrastructure projects that are recommended for funding in this round contribute to the Council Plan priorities in the following ways.
- 1.2 Healthy Communities
- 1.3 The creation of new and improved pedestrian routes promotes active travel and gives residents easier access to local amenities and community facilities. The improved path at the well-used informal recreation open space will increase year-round accessibility and extend the range of users. This will help to increase participation in physical activity for all ages and abilities, including active travel and will ensure there is strong community infrastructure across the district.
- 1.4 Listening and Learning
- 1.5 Applicants for CIL funding must demonstrate that the proposed scheme has been subject to some local consultation and has received public support and local views have been considered in the project design. This also needs to include all ward members.

2. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONSCapital implications

- 2.1 At the end of March 2025, the council had collected over £25,936,868 of CIL receipts since adopting CIL in April 2014. Deductions are made for regulatory allocations of up to 5% of the CIL collected to administer the fund and 15% of CIL collected to the parish council for the area (rising to 25% where a parish council has an adopted neighbourhood plan). A sum of just over £1.5m was paid to Hampshire County Council (HCC) in 2018 to deliver transport infrastructure works, meaning the total retained by the council for allocation since the scheme began was £19,097,827.
- 2.2 The total amount of CIL funding currently held by the council as of 31 March 2025 was £12,563,188, of which £9,074,196 has been allocated to projects. The total remaining for allocation as of 31 March 2025 was therefore £3,488,992, split into three funds as described in section 12.5, with the financial details of each fund summarised in appendix 2.

- 2.3 The recommendations contained in this report would leave the fund remaining for allocation as follows from a total for these two funds of:

Fund	Grant allocations	Provisional CIL Remaining
Transport & active travel projects	£282,000 for the provision of a footway adjacent to Andover Road Micheldever linking the railway station to the existing over bridge £36,393 for the upgrade of the existing pedestrian crossing at Friarsgate, Winchester to accommodate cyclists	£1,938,767
District / strategic projects	£153,000 for the provision of a perimeter footpath at River Park recreation ground	£672,740
Health / community projects	N/A	£556,092
Total		£3,167,599

- 2.4 CIL receipts have continued to be collected during the early part of 2025/26 but are not reconciled until the end of the financial year. These are reflected in appendix 2 to give a truer representation of the funds that will remain for allocation through 2025 and beyond, which currently total a combined £3,369,177.

- 2.5 A budget of £36,393 will need to be added to the Capital Programme for 2025/26 to fund the Toucan crossing at Friarsgate. Other expenditure will be incurred in 2026/27.

Revenue implications

- 2.6 The revenue implications associated with capital grants to HCC will need to be identified and conditions added to any grant agreement so that, where appropriate, these will be met by HCC.
- 2.7 The revenue implications associated with the River Park perimeter path will need to be clearly understood and included in the project details for scheme approval under the council's normal project governance arrangements and permission to incur expenditure.
- 2.8 An audit of the Developers Contributions (CIL collection and accounting) was undertaken by Southern Internal Audit Partnership in April 2025. It gave a limited assurance and in response a number of management actions were agreed. The most pressing of these have already been completed and other improvements will be implemented throughout this year.

3. LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment) (England) (No.2) Regulations 2019 allow charging authorities to collect funding from qualifying developments in their area, which must be used to support or mitigate the effects of development. It can be used flexibly to fund any infrastructure as defined within the regulations.
- 3.2 To ensure transparency and accountability, a mechanism to identify and prioritise schemes on which spending is required to support development in the district was agreed by Cabinet in June 2016 (CAB2807). This spending protocol was updated in September 2018 (CAB3071) and again in March 2021(CAB3292) to reflect the updated CIL Regulations and Government guidance. A further review of CIL was conducted in 2023, which resulted in a recommendation to ring-fence the district CIL into 3 distinct funds to reflect the priorities of the Council Plan,
- 3.3 Approved council-led schemes will be procured in accordance with the council's Contract Procedure Rules and the Procurement Act 2023 (PA23) with guidance from Procurement, Finance and Legal as required.
- 3.4 The CIL funding which is allocated to Hampshire County Council constitutes a capital grant and as such is not subject to the council's Contract Procedure Rules or PA23.

4. WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The collection and Implementation of CIL receipts is funded using the 5% of CIL which can be used for administration of the scheme under the CIL Regulations. Two posts are currently funded through the CIL administration provision, with the CIL Officer identifying CIL liability and collection of funds and the CIL Implementation Officer monitoring the CIL project programme and the bidding process, liaising with Members regarding funding priorities and updating the annual Infrastructure Funding Statement. Other officers who spend significant time working on CIL can recharge the Levy for their time.
- 4.2 The 5% can only be applied for one financial year, with any surplus retained to fund infrastructure. However, if CIL receipts are low in any particular year and 5% is insufficient to cover the administration costs, this shortfall has to be met from the General Fund.

5. PROPERTY AND ASSET IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None directly from this report.

6. CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

- 6.1 The CIL process was reviewed following a cross-party working group workshop in January 2023. A key part of the work was to ensure that the priorities of the Council Plan and the supporting strategies were being

reflected in the assessment of the bids for CIL funding and subsequent grant allocations. Subsequent changes to the spending protocol were agreed by Cabinet in July 2023 (CAB3385 refers)

- 6.2 Bidders are required to seek the support of elected members for a ward or parish area and to include confirmation of this in their bid. They are also required to confirm whether there has been wider public consultation for a particular project, which helps to gauge the support and wider benefits of the project when assessing the bids for funding.
- 6.3 The three bids reflected in this report were considered by the CIL Informal Panel in a meeting held on 11 August 2025, attended by three Cabinet Members and two directors. The panel discussed the officer assessment of each application, the sums recommended and the impact of the recommendations on overall CIL fund.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The CIL criteria associated with the bidding process align with the priorities of the Council Plan, particularly in relation to carbon reduction and tackling climate change. Projects which can demonstrate a beneficial impact on the reduction of carbon emissions, a mitigating impact on the effects of climate change or improved energy efficiency are favourably considered within the process of CIL allocation.

8. PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

- 8.1 The councils' duty under the Human Rights Act 1988 and the Equalities Act 2010 is considered and an equality impact assessment has been completed. There is no identified adverse impact through the allocation of CIL funding to anyone with protected characteristics under the Equalities Act 2010, or with regards to human rights (See Appendix 1).
- 8.2 Many projects allocated CIL funding seek to improve accessibility to facilities and improved infrastructure for all. These will have a positive impact upon the council's duties under the Human Rights Act 1988 and the Equalities Act 2010. Future funding priorities will continue to provide improved facilities at both a local and district wide level to enable more inclusive communities and better health and well-being for all.

9. DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 The information supplied by the applicants can sometimes contain personal information, but the application forms are not publicly available, and all information is deleted/destroyed in accordance with the council's document retention schedule.

10. RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk	Mitigation	Opportunities
<p><u>Financial Exposure</u> Schemes allocated CIL funding are not complete or exceed the amount requested.</p> <p>Provision of ongoing revenue budget is not made to maintain new infrastructure.</p>	<p>A fixed amount of CIL is allocated and is not paid until the scheme is complete or substantially complete.</p> <p>CIL grant agreements will include the right for the council to withdraw a funding offer for projects that fail to be delivered in the time agreed for the completion of the project.</p> <p>All council schemes must account for impact to revenue within the business case for project approval.</p> <p>Grant Agreements to external third parties include the conditions or clauses that protect the council against future revenue cost associated with the new infrastructure.</p>	<p>The assessment criteria incentivise applicants to lever in funding from other sources.</p>
<p><u>Exposure to challenge</u> The schemes prioritised for CIL funding do not provide the infrastructure required to support development or do not meet the CIL Regulations or Government Guidelines.</p>	<p>Projects are assessed against set criteria that reflect CIL Regulations and Government Guidelines and scored against a scoring matrix.</p> <p>Larger council led schemes will require a business case to be agreed by Cabinet to proceed with a bid for CIL funding.</p>	

Risk	Mitigation	Opportunities
	Legal advice is sought if required.	
<u>Reputation</u> Failure to deliver appropriate schemes using CIL income.	The deliverability of the schemes proposed is scrutinised when assessing the bids received. The CIL programme is regularly reviewed to monitor the progress of the schemes which are allocated funding.	Positive enhancement of reputation through the support of successful schemes.
<u>Achievement of outcome</u> Projects to be funded with CIL are not delivered.	The deliverability of schemes is scrutinised when assessing the bids received. The CIL programme is monitored to review the progress of schemes allocated funding.	Funding offer can be withdrawn and reallocated if a scheme has not been delivered within a reasonable timescale.
<u>Property</u> There may be insufficient funding available to ensure that council owned assets have the capacity to cope with the increased pressure from new developments.	Pipeline of projects is monitored to help understanding of likely demand for CIL funding in the future.	
<u>Community Support</u> The community do not support the schemes that are allocated funding.	Funding is allocated for community and sports facilities in areas which have been impacted by significant development and for which wider impact can be achieved, so both new and existing residents can benefit.	

Risk	Mitigation	Opportunities
	Bidding process prioritises projects with evidence of support from ward members and local community.	
<u>Timescales</u> Projects are not delivered within a reasonable timescale.	The deliverability of schemes is scrutinised when assessing the bids received. The CIL programme is monitored to review the progress of schemes allocated funding.	
<u>Project capacity</u> Lack of resources could hinder the use of CIL funds to support to support infrastructure projects.	CIL Regulations allow up to 5% of the CIL collected to be used to support the administration of CIL.	

11. FUNDING BIDS

Transport / Active Travel Bids

- 11.1 Friarsgate Winchester. Upgrade of existing pedestrian crossing to a Toucan crossing. CIL bid £36,393. The CIL Informal Panel supported the allocation of CIL funding for this project.

a) Project summary

The provision of a toucan crossing on Friarsgate will form part of a cycle route between Kings Barton and the city centre via Abbots Barton, River Park Recreation Ground and the Broadway and will replace the existing pedestrian crossing. It forms part of one of the primary cycle routes included in the Local Cycling and Walking Implementation Plan (LCWIP) for the city, which is a vital element of the Winchester Movement Strategy and seeks to encourage more cycling around the city centre by creating better connections to destinations from the outskirts of the town. There are plans to permit cycling along Middle Brook Street and Silver Hill, and the proposed toucan crossing would allow an unimpeded journey, with no

requirement for cyclists to dismount at the crossing, as is currently required.

- b) As part of the scheme the street furniture will also be relocated, including the benches, bins and signage to create more room for pedestrians and cyclists to mix in a shared use space, and the cycle stands will be renewed. The upgrade of the crossing to enhance the cycle link complements the plans for Central Winchester Regeneration and allows cyclists to avoid the one-way system through the city by providing a safer, quieter route. A plan of the proposal is shown at appendix 3.
- c) This scheme forms part of an important cycling route and would deliver an upgrade at relatively low cost, so is recommended for support.

11.2 Micheldever Station. Provision of a footway adjacent to Andover Road. CIL bid £360,000. The Panel supported an allocation of £282,000 of CIL funding toward the project.

a) Project summary

The proposal to provide a footway on Andover Road, Micheldever Station has been developed by Havant Borough Council on behalf of Hampshire County Council. The proposed footpath would link the existing footpath south of Micheldever Tyres to the railway overbridge that connects the east and west side of Micheldever Station village, which is separated by the railway line.

- b) The bid for £360,000 would provide a footway approximately 225m in length, taking land currently within the curtilage of the property called Station Cottage. The property owner has given their consent to this proposal. A maximum footway width of 1.5m would be provided for most of the length of the new link, However the relocation of the equipment relating to the existing traffic light system for the bridge (which allows alternate traffic movements across the railway bridge) would require a narrower footway to a minimum of 1.1m for a short distance. A plan of the proposal is shown at appendix 4.
- c) A separate bid for funding for Micheldever Station footway was made by Hampshire County Council to South West Trains for £50,000. This bid for funding has not been successful.
- d) The Panel members considered the merits of the scheme and recognised that there was an opportunity to provide a footway because the landowner has agreed to make the land available. If the project was not supported now, the land may not be available if there was a change of ownership of the property. This therefore meant that the scheme needed to be expedited as soon as possible.

- e) Panel members supported a CIL grant offer of £282,000 which is circa 75% of the bid amount. The grant offer should include the following conditions; that the project must commence within one year of the award to ensure that the required land would still be available and to minimise risk that the costs rise further; and that the maintenance of the footway will be the responsibility of the county council.
- 11.3 An application was received from HCC for £300,000 towards the cost of a pedestrian crossing on the High Street at Twyford. However, Twyford falls within South Downs National Park and a bid has also been made to the SDNPA for CIL funding of £300,000, which will be determined by them in September. The Panel supported holding the application to WCC until the outcome of the SDNPA application is known, and alternative options for providing pedestrian facilities are explored and information provided.
- 11.4 WCC Bid
- 11.5 River Park Recreation Ground, Winchester – Perimeter footpath. CIL bid £153,000. The Panel supported the allocation of this funding.
- a) Project Summary

This project would deliver a surfaced footpath around the perimeter of River Park Recreation Ground providing a more suitable all-weather surface for walkers, runners and those with mobility issues and pushchairs to access the site all year round. A plan of the proposal is shown at appendix 5.
 - b) River Park is a well-used facility for sport and recreation, as well as annual events such as the Cheese and Chilli Festival. It is also a through route from Hyde and Abbots Barton to the city centre for pedestrians and cyclists. The grassy perimeter is used regularly by walkers and dog walkers, including for access to Winnall Moors, and is also used twice a week by running groups. The constant use has worn the grass bare in places and during the winter it becomes wet and muddy, making it inaccessible to those with mobility issues.
 - c) The proposed path would prevent erosion of the grass and provide a more accessible surface all year round and be of benefit to many users of the park. This scheme was identified as one of ten key projects in the River Park Park Plan, approved in 2022.
 - d) The Panel considered the proposal and highlighted that the surface treatment needs to be clarified and approved. This needs to be included in the business case for project approval which will also include future revenue implications. The Panel supported the allocation of CIL funds to enable the proposal to proceed.

Previous funding allocations no longer required

- 11.6 A district CIL allocation of £150,000 was made in 2022 for delivery of improvements to KGV recreation ground in Winchester. This will not now be spent because the new pavilion at KGV required the sports pitches to be reconfigured, which reduced the space available to accommodate a perimeter path and made the project impossible to deliver. Therefore, this offer will be withdrawn allowing the funds to be reallocated to other projects.

12. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 12.1 CIL is a mechanism available for local authorities to raise money from qualifying development to fund the provision of new or improved infrastructure required to support or mitigate the impact of new development on existing communities. It is not intended to be used to remedy existing deficiencies unless made more severe by new development. It can be used to fund a wide range of infrastructure including health and social care facilities, flood defences, transport schemes, educational improvements, cultural and sports facilities and parks and open spaces.
- 12.2 The city council adopted CIL in April 2014 and is the charging authority for the part of the district for which it is the local planning authority. The South Downs National Park Authority is the local planning authority for the part of the Winchester district that falls within the National Park area and administers its own charging and spending.
- 12.3 The city council introduced a community bidding scheme in September 2018, which allows community groups and parish councils to bid for CIL funding for specific projects in both the district and town area. Community bids are invited and considered once a year. However, bids are also considered from Hampshire County Council as a major infrastructure provider, and internal bids from different teams within the city council, as all are considered and assessed using the same protocol to ensure spending decisions are fair and transparent.
- 12.4 In July 2023 Cabinet decided to split the district CIL fund retained by the city council into three different ring-fenced funds to reflect the priorities of the Council Plan. The three ring-fenced funds are.
- 60% to support WCC led projects
 - 30% to support active travel and transport projects
 - 10% to support community led and health projects (from bids submitted yearly)
- 12.5 The 30% ring-fenced fund to support active travel and transport projects was agreed by Cabinet to support the delivery of engineering schemes identified in the adopted Winchester Movement Strategy, and the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for both the town and the district area.

The proposed toucan crossing on Friarsgate will form part of a cycle route between Kings Barton and the city centre via Abbotts Barton, River Park Recreation Ground and the Broadway. It forms on one of the primary cycle routes included in the LCWIP for the city, which is a vital element of the Winchester Movement Strategy that seeks to encourage more cycling around the city centre by creating better connections to destinations from the outskirts of the town. Funding this project will directly support the priority of the Council Plan to encourage active travel.

- 12.6 The 60% ring-fenced fund to support WCC led projects has been depleted due to commitments made to support Central Winchester Regeneration. However, the previous bid of £150k to provide a perimeter path as part of the KGV Park plan has not been required (see 11.5). Therefore, any allocation for the River Park Recreation Ground perimeter path would be balanced by the return of the KGV allocation. This project would support the Council Plan priority of encouraging healthy activity and living well.

13. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 13.1 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 collected in future years.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Previous Committee Reports:

CAB3484 - Central Winchester Regeneration; Development Delivery Plan – 13th March 2025

CAB3498 - Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Funding Allocations for 2024 Bids – 13th March 2025

CAB3385 - Community Infrastructure Levy – 18th July 2023

CAB3292 - Community Infrastructure Levy Future Funding Priorities and Monitoring Update – 10th March 2021

CAB3071 - Community Infrastructure Levy Operational Review - 19th September 2018

CAB2807 - Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Spending Protocol – 8th June 2016

Other Background Documents:

[Infrastructure Funding Statement \(2024\) for Winchester City Council](#)

[River Park Park Plan](#)

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Equality impact assessment

Appendix 2 – Financial Summary

Appendix 3 – Scheme plan: Friarsgate Winchester

Appendix 4 – Scheme plan: Micheldever Station

Appendix 5 – Scheme plan: River Park recreation ground, Winchester

Winchester City Council



Equality Impact Assessment Template (EqIA)

Section 1 - Data Checklist

When undertaking an EqIA for your policy or project, it is important that you take into consideration everything which is associated with the policy or project that is being assessed.

The checklist below is to help you sense check your policy or project before you move to Section 2.

		Yes/No	Please provide details
1	Have there been any complaints data related to the policy or project you are looking to implement?	No	
2	Have all officers who will be responsible for implementing the policy or project been consulted, and given the opportunity to raise concerns about the way the policy or function has or will be implemented?	Yes	The policy will be implemented by the Community Infrastructure Levy Implementation Officer and overseen by the Service Lead: Community and Wellbeing, both of whom have been involved with the consultation and formulation of the policy.
3	Have previous consultations highlighted any concerns about the policy or project from an equality impact perspective?	No	
4	Do you have any concerns regarding the implementation of this policy or project? (i.e. Have you completed a self-assessment and action plan for the implementation of your policy or project?)	No	

		Yes/No	Please provide details
5	Does any accessible data regarding the area which your work will address identify any areas of concern or potential problems which may impact on your policy or project?	No	
6	Do you have any past experience delivering similar policies or projects which may inform the implementation of your scheme from an equality impact point of view?	Yes	The previous spending protocol considered projects which were required to maximise equality, accessibility and inclusion.
7	Are there any other issues that you think will be relevant?	No	

Section 2 - Your EqIA form

Directorate: Place	Your Service Area: Economy and Community	Team: Community & Wellbeing	Officer responsible for this assessment: Corinne Phillips	Date of assessment: 20 August 2025
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	Question	Please provide details
1	What is the name of the policy or project that is being assessed?	Community Infrastructure Levy Spending Protocol
2	Is this a new or existing policy?	This is an existing policy, with the criteria for assessing CIL bids having been reviewed with the involvement of a cross-party working group in 2023.
3	Briefly describe the aim and purpose of this work.	To ensure that the CIL funding collected is allocated to projects in line with legislation and which align with Council priorities.
4	What are the associated objectives of this work?	To provide infrastructure required to support or mitigate development.
5	Who is intended to benefit from this work and in what way?	All residents of Winchester district.
6	What are the outcomes sought from this work?	To provide required infrastructure.
7	What factors/forces could contribute or detract from the outcomes?	Development contributes to the outcomes
8	Who are the key individuals and organisations responsible for the implementation of this work?	Community Infrastructure Levy Implementation Officer and Service Lead: Community & Wellbeing within Winchester City Council. Also parish councils, community groups and other

	Question	Please provide details		
		agencies such as Hampshire County Council through funding awarded to them.		
9	Who implements the policy or project and who or what is responsible for it?	Community Infrastructure Levy Implementation Officer, Service Lead: Community & Wellbeing, Cabinet Member for Place and Local Plan.		
10a	Could the policy or project have the potential to affect individuals or communities on the basis of race differently in a negative way?	Y	N	People who don't speak English (or for whom English is not their first language) may have difficulty accessing funding.
10b	What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Census data from 2021 showed that 3.4% of the district population did not speak English as a first language. 		
11a	Could the policy or project have the potential to affect individuals or communities on the basis of sex differently in a negative way?	Y	N	There is no indication that there would be disproportionate impacts on individuals with this protected characteristic.
11b	What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?	N/A		
12a	<p>Could the policy or project have the potential to affect individuals or communities on the basis of disability differently in a negative way?</p> <p><i>you may wish to consider:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Physical access</i> <i>Format of information</i> <i>Time of interview or consultation event</i> <i>Personal assistance</i> <i>Interpreter</i> 	Y	N	Some of the funded projects are for infrastructure that has the potential to be inaccessible for people on the basis of disability, if not designed with those issues in mind.

	Question	Please provide details		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Induction loop system</i> • <i>Independent living equipment</i> • <i>Content of interview)</i> 			
12b	What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Census data from 2021 showed that 15.4% of the district population identify as disabled under the Equality Act. • In these cases, the schemes are specifically designed to improve accessibility. 		
13a	Could the policy or project have the potential to affect individuals or communities on the basis of sexual orientation differently in a negative way?	¥	N	There is no indication that there would be disproportionate impacts on individuals with this protected characteristic.
13b	What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?	N/A		
14a	Could the policy or project have the potential to affect individuals on the basis of age differently in a negative way?	¥	N	Some of the projects funded are for specific age groups (such as playground or skate parks) but this does not specifically exclude other age groups.
14b	What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?	N/A		
15a	Could the policy or project have the potential to affect individuals or communities on the basis of religious belief differently in a negative way?	¥	N	There is no indication that there would be disproportionate impacts on individuals with this protected characteristic.
15b	What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?	N/A		

	Question	Please provide details		
16a	Could this policy or project have the potential to affect individuals on the basis of gender reassignment differently in a negative way?	Y	N	There is no indication that there would be disproportionate negative impacts on individuals with this protected characteristic.
16b	What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?	N/A		
17a	Could this policy or project have the potential to affect individuals on the basis of marriage and civil partnership differently in a negative way?	Y	N	There is no indication that there would be disproportionate impacts on individuals with this protected characteristic.
17b	What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?	N/A		
18a	Could this policy or project have the potential to affect individuals on the basis of pregnancy and maternity differently in a negative way?	Y	N	Some of the funded projects are for infrastructure that has the potential to be inaccessible for parents with small children, if not designed with those issues in mind.
18b	What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In these cases, the schemes are specifically designed to improve accessibility. 		
19	Could any negative impacts that you identified in questions 10a to 15b create the potential for the policy to discriminate against certain groups on the basis of protected characteristics?	Y	N	<p>There is potential for the policy to discriminate in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inability of people who don't speak English (or for whom English is not their first language) to understand the policy and apply for funding.

	Question	Please provide details		
20	Can this negative impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for certain groups on the basis of protected characteristics? Please provide your answer opposite against the relevant protected characteristic.	¥	N	Race:
	Sex:			
	Disability:			
	Sexual orientation:			
	Age:			
	Gender reassignment:			
	Pregnancy and maternity:			
	Marriage and civil partnership:			
	Religious belief:			
21	How will you mitigate any potential discrimination that may be brought about by your policy or project that you have identified above?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on the CIL funding scheme can be made available in a variety of formats on request. Information about CIL funding is published on the council website and people are encouraged to contact the team if they require assistance in making an application. Contact details are provided. Applicants are required to explain how they ensure their activities and services are open and inclusive when they apply for funding and (where appropriate) include a copy of the specification. 		
22	Do any negative impacts that you have identified above impact on your service plan?	¥	N	

Signed by completing officer	Corinne Phillips
Signed by Service Lead or Corporate Head of Service	Steve Lincoln, Service Lead: Community & Wellbeing

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CAB3518 – Appendix 2

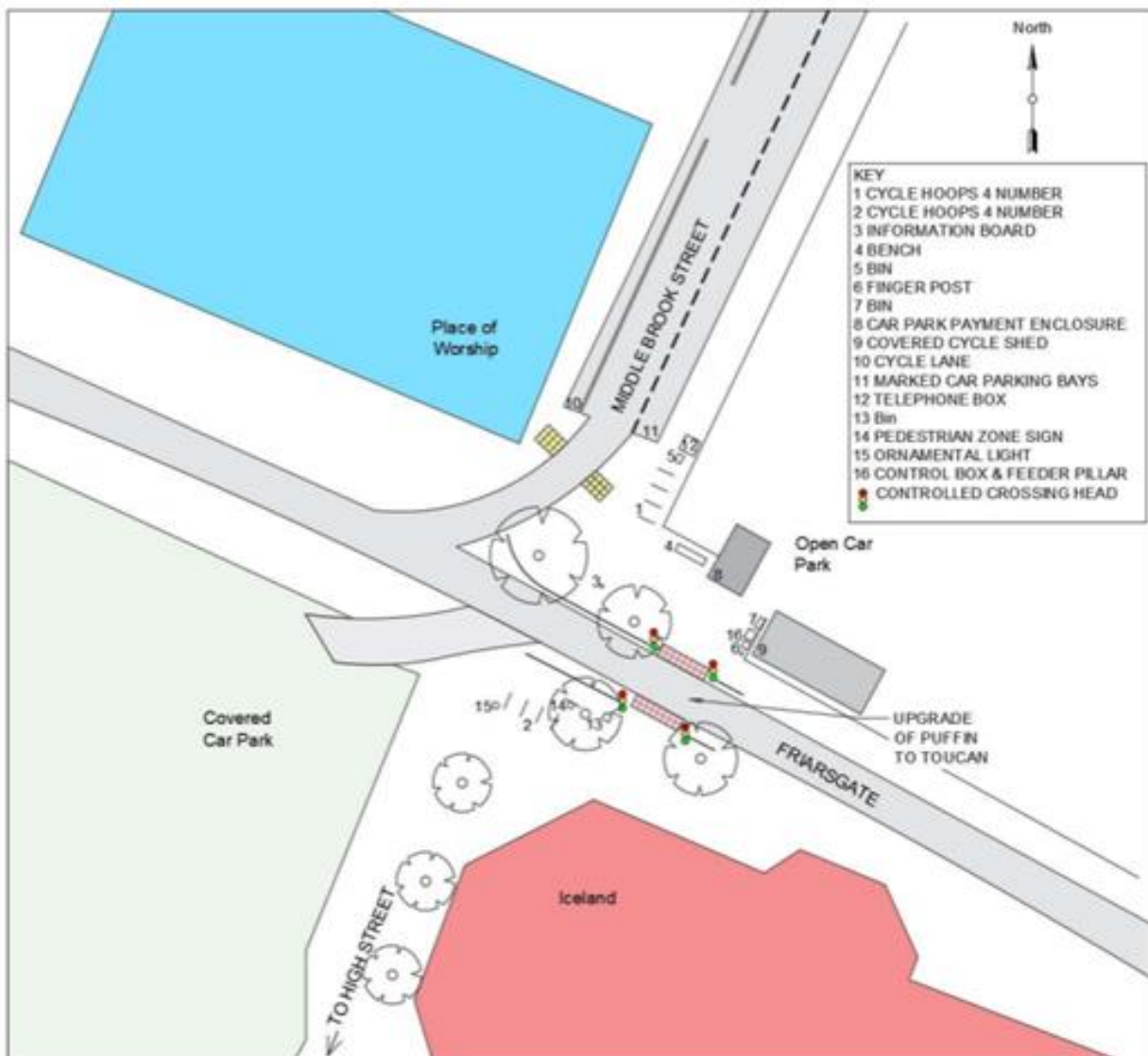
COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) FUNDING ALLOCATIONS – 10 September 2025

Project	Application		Fund			Deferred
	Score	Request	Health & community	Transport & active travel	District / strategic projects	
HCC transport & active travel bids						
Micheldever Station footpath	14	£360,000		£282,000		
Twyford pedestrian crossing	12	£300,000				£300,000
Friarsgate toucan crossing	21	£36,393		£36,393		£0
WCC bids						
River Park perimeter path	19	£153,000			£153,000	
Total		£849,393	£0	£318,393	£153,000	£300,000

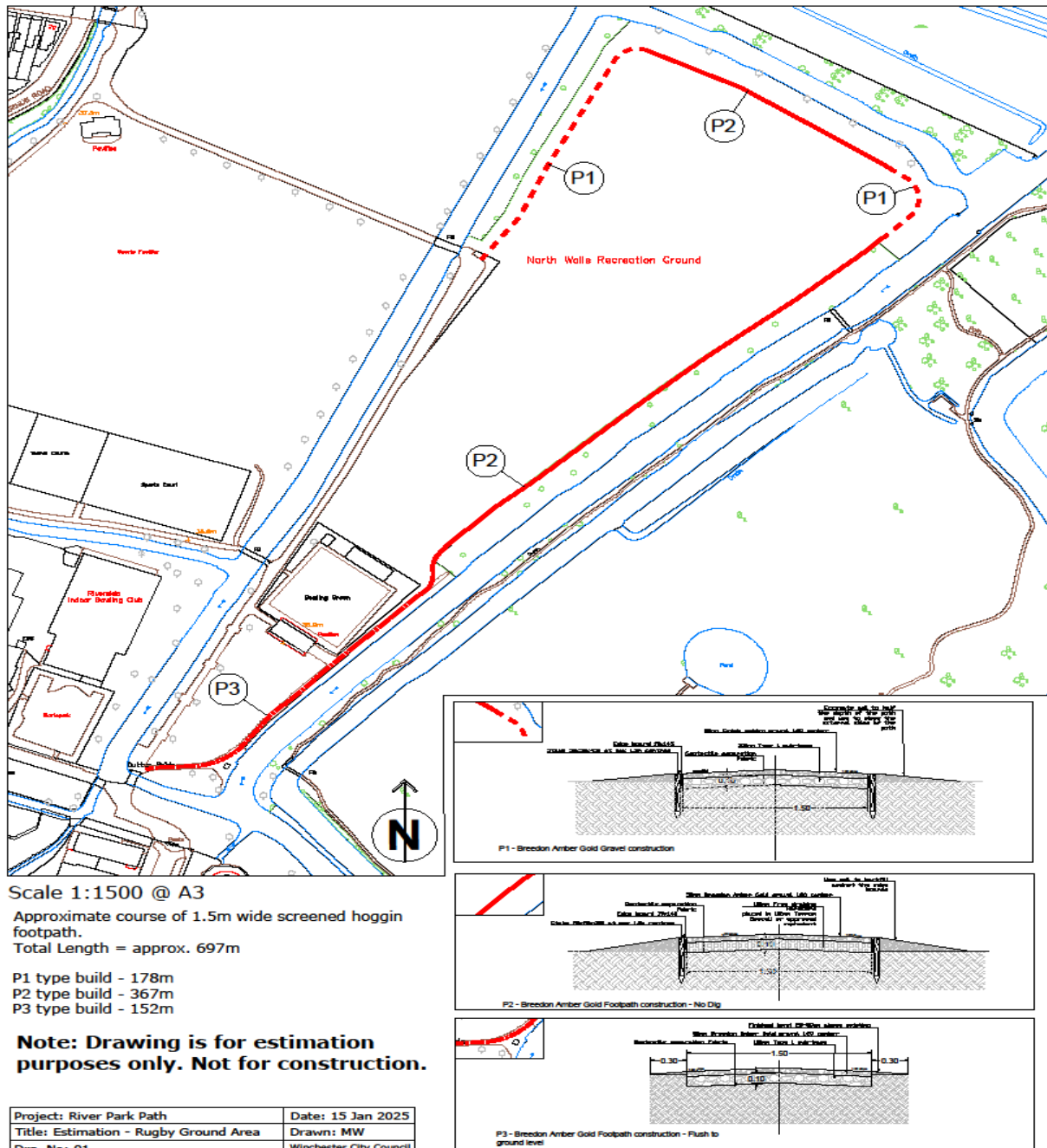
Programme summary:	Health & community fund	Transport & active travel fund	District / strategic projects fund	Total
Actual CIL funds remaining to be allocated	£556,092	£2,257,160	£675,740	£3,488,992
Recommended CIL allocations	£0	-£318,393	-£153,000	
Withdrawal of remaining allocation for delivery of KGV park plan			£150,000	
Provisional CIL funds remaining to be allocated	£556,092	£1,938,767	£672,740	£3,167,599
CIL collected to date during 2025/26	£20,158	£60,473	£120,947	
Forecast CIL funds to carry forward for future allocation	£576,250	£1,999,240	£793,687	£3,369,177

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Friarsgate Winchester



River Park recreation ground, Winchester



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CAB3514
CABINET

REPORT TITLE: GENERAL FUND OUTTURN 2024/25

10 SEPTEMBER 2025

REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER: Councillor Neil Cutler – Deputy Leader and
Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance

Contact Officer: Liz Keys Tel No: 01962 848226 Email lkeys@winchester.gov.uk

WARD(S): ALL

PURPOSE

This report provides an overview of the General Fund Revenue outturn and Capital Programme outturn for 2024/25.

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 and a number of service variances.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the General Fund Revenue Outturn and Capital Programme Outturn as set out in the report.
2. Approve the transfers to and from the Major Investment Reserve as detailed in Appendix 1 and note the reserves and closing balances at 31 March 2025 (as set out in Appendix 2).
3. Approve the revised 2025/26 capital programme as set out in appendix 5 including the following new budgets:
 - a. Special maintenance vehicles replacements - £251,000
 - b. Rural Enterprise Prosperity Fund (additional funding received) - £223,000
 - c. Disabled Facilities Grant (additional funding received) - £185,000
4. Note the revised 2025-2035 capital programme as set out in appendix 6.
5. Approve the proposal to write-off the five individual outstanding Non-Domestic Rate debts totalling £458,213.50, listed in exempt Appendix 7, in accordance with Financial Procedure Rule 12.7(f).

IMPLICATIONS:1 COUNCIL PLAN OUTCOME

- 1.1 The budget approved in February 2024 (CAB3444 refers) directly supported the delivery of all outcomes set out in the Council Plan. This included revenue budget support for Greener Faster and carbon reduction investment proposals and funding to support cost of living through the Council Tax Support Fund and Exceptional Hardship Support Fund.
- 1.2 The council plan outcome focusing on Homes for All is also supported by the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan considered elsewhere on this agenda (CAB3516).

2 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 As set out in the report.

3 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Local authorities are required by law to have a balanced budget. However, what is meant by 'balanced' is not defined in law and Chief Finance Officers are to use their professional judgement to ensure that the local authority's budget is balanced, robust and sustainable.
- 3.2 The Local Government Act 1972 (Section 151) makes the Chief Financial Officer responsible for the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs. The responsibilities of the Chief Finance Officer, including in relation to section 114 notices, are set out primarily in section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 3.3 All Members and officers have a general responsibility which is a fiduciary duty to residents to take reasonable action to provide for the security of the assets under their control and for ensuring that the use of these resources is legal, is properly authorised and achieves value for money. In doing so proper consideration must be given at all times to matters of probity and propriety in managing the assets, income, and expenditure of the Council.

4 WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The council employed 460 permanent and fixed term staff at 31 March 2025 (General Fund and HRA), as reported to Audit and Governance in July (AG163). This is one of the most significant costs to the council and therefore as services change, the staffing requirements also change. This represents a net 14FTE increase during the year.

5 PROPERTY AND ASSET IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Asset Management Strategy (CAB3377 refers) highlights how the Council's non-housing property assets (the Estate) play a significant role in

generating rental income and creating opportunity for social, economic, environmental, and cultural and regeneration interventions.

- 5.2 Overall property income for 2024/25 was £4.8m, including investment and non-investment properties. This is offset by expenditure of £1.2m, leaving a net surplus of £3.6m (excluding the Minimum Revenue Provision and borrowing costs).

6 CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

- 6.1 The 2024/25 budget (CAB3444) and Capital Investment Strategy 2024-34 (CAB3443) were set in February 2024 and this followed consultation with stakeholders, including with parish councils through the parish liaison meetings; with local businesses through discussions with the Chamber of Commerce / BID Business forum; and with the public through an online survey.
- 6.2 Throughout the year, the financial monitoring reports have been to Scrutiny Committee quarterly.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The commitment to carbon neutrality and investment in the Carbon Neutrality Programme is maintained in full. The capital programme also included provision specifically aimed at reducing carbon emissions.

8 PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

- 8.1 The recommendations in this report do not amend budget proposals that have been subject to previous assessment. Officers have regard to the considerations as set out in the Equalities Act 2010 and will assess the Public Sector Equality at the time of decision making and implementation on any specific recommendations for changes to future budgets.

9 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 None required.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 10.1 Significant changes to local council funding from central government are under review as part of the Government's Fair Funding Review 2.0 consultation exercise, with changes expected to take effect from 2026/27. These changes, which have long been expected, will hopefully bring a multi-year settlement to give greater certainty over the medium-term once confirmed. However, until confirmed there remains significant uncertainty over medium-term funding levels. Modelling of sensitivities and scenarios is kept under review and as information becomes available forecasts will be updated.

Risk	Mitigation	Opportunities
<p><i>Financial</i> Budget deficit or unforeseen under or overspends.</p> <p>Financial pressure caused by influences outside the control of the council such as high rates of inflation, high borrowing costs, and uncertainty around local government funding settlements.</p>	<p>Regular monitoring of budgets and financial position including forecasting to year end to avoid unplanned over/underspends.</p> <p>Regular monitoring of macroeconomic situation and recommended establishment of an Exceptional Inflation Pressures reserve.</p>	<p>Early notification of unplanned under / overspends through regular monitoring allows time for plans to be put in place to bring the finances back into line with budget forecast.</p>
<p><i>Legal</i> Risk that external factors, such as high inflation, have an impact on budgets that is so severe that the Council cannot balance the budget and is at risk of needing to issue a s114 notice.</p>	<p>Enhanced monitoring of key at-risk areas (including parking and commercial rent income) and the establishment of an additional risk reserve to cover exceptional inflation pressures.</p>	
<p><i>Team capacity</i> Availability of staff to effectively monitor budgets and produce / report on outturn.</p>	<p>Resources to deliver projects are discussed at the project planning stage and agreed by the project board and monitored by the Programme and Capital Strategy Board. If, at critical budgeting times, resource shortages are identified, funding has been set aside in the budget to fund external support.</p>	<p>Opportunities present themselves for staff to get involved in projects outside their normal role enabling them to expand their knowledge and skills base as well as working with others.</p>
<p><i>Achievement of outcome</i> Risk that the balanced budget and stable finances required by the Your services, your voice Council Plan priority is not achieved or is not perceived to be open and transparent.</p>	<p>Through the quarterly monitoring reports, officers and members can monitor the ongoing financial position.</p>	

11 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

General Fund Revenue

- 11.1 A high quality of service delivery has been maintained during the year. In addition, progress continues to be made in delivering key areas of work and the council's major projects.
- 11.2 The final outturn position in Appendix 1 shows an increased transfer to reserves, compared to budget in February 2024, of just over £1.7m. Whilst regular updated forecasts have been reported throughout the year, the budget is not revised mid-year, so this report highlights all significant variations compared to the original budget (many of which have been reported previously).
- 11.3 Careful management of earmarked reserves has resulted in a £10m increase in overall balances at the end of 2024/25. However, significant commitments are in place against these balances and along with continued uncertainty around funding and interest rates, the council will continue to manage reserves in a prudent manner.

12 Impact on the collection fund

- 12.1 The Council acts as billing authority for the Winchester district and is therefore responsible for the collection of business rates and council tax on behalf of Hampshire County Council, Police and Fire authorities, parish councils and Central Government.
- 12.2 **Council Tax** - In January 2024, the Council forecast a collection rate of 99% based on previous experience of collection rates across the district. The outturn surplus of £1.3m reflected this high collection rate and also higher than forecast rateable properties during the year.
- 12.3 **Business Rates** – The total collectable business rates for 2024/25 were over £60m within the year including significant ongoing and new reliefs. The outturn deficit of £1.1m related mainly to increasing the allowance for doubtful debts and a significant increase in the appeals provision.

13 Revenue Baseline Budget Variances

- 13.1 Total general fund baseline net service expenditure was originally budgeted at £18.9m for 2024/25. A final outturn of £16.1m is £2.8m below budget. However, a number of these variances relate to additional funding received in year such as UK Prosperity Fund and homelessness, with unspent funding transferred to reserves for use in future financial years.
- 13.2 The most significant variances to the original budget are summarised in the table below, with further explanation in paragraphs 13.3 and 13.4 below.

<u>Income Variances</u>	Favourable / (Adverse) Variance £000
a) Local Economy (UKSPF)	373
b) Elections	323
c) Leisure Centre	308
d) Central Winchester	224
e) Homelessness	204
f) Car Parking	113
g) General Fund Property	102
h) Recycling Income	98
i) Private Sector Housing	70
j) Other	211
TOTAL INCOME VARIANCE	<u>2,026</u>
 <u>Expenditure Variances</u>	
a) Leisure Centre Provision Reversal	394
b) Support Service charges to HRA	209
c) Employee underspend	164
d) Other	236
e) Elections	(222)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE VARIANCE	<u>781</u>
TOTAL FAVOURABLE SERVICE VARIANCE	<u>2,807</u>

13.3 The reasons for the “income” variances in the above table can be summarised as:

- a) Local Economy (UKSPF) – additional in-year funding has been received and budget is proposed to be brought forward to 2025/26 to match expenditure plans.
- b) Elections – additional income is matched to additional expenditure relating to non-WCC elections in 2024/25.
- c) Leisure Centre – reduced energy costs from the annual energy benchmarking exercise has reversed previous additional costs from 2023/24 and resulted in a higher management fee being payable to the council.

- d) Central Winchester – unbudgeted contribution towards project management fees which only became payable upon signing of the development agreement in April 2024.
- e) Homelessness – additional in-year funding was received and budget is to be brought forward to 2025/26 to match expenditure plans.
- f) Car Parking Income – additional income of £0.113m over a budget of £7.672m represents a variance of 1.5% and relates to higher than forecast car park usage during the year.
- g) General Fund Property – additional income of £0.102m relates mainly to additional income resulting from the surrender of a lease.
- h) Recycling Income – additional income of £0.098m relates to additional income from glass due to a higher than forecast price per tonne and also higher than forecast 2023/24 materials recycling facility income.
- i) Private sector housing – higher than forecast DFG payments in 2024/25 resulted in a higher than forecast recovery of administrative costs (£0.07m higher than budgeted) which are based on 12% of cost.
- j) Other income variances – various smaller variances relating to higher income from fees and charges.

13.4 Explanations for the “expenditure” variances in the above table are provided below:

- a) Leisure centre provision reversal – a £394k accrual was charged to revenue for a potential liability relating to the construction of the leisure centre. The actual liability was paid via capital and so this variance arises due to the reversal of the not needed revenue accounting adjustment.
- b) Support Service recharges to the HRA – an increase in support service recharges to the HRA as a result of the latest agreed apportionment methodologies. This increase is reflected in the baseline budget from 2025/26.
- c) Employees – net vacancy savings and a slightly lower than budgeted inflationary increase for the year led to lower than budgeted expenditure of £0.164m (total savings of £0.57m including vacancy management target savings achieved).
- d) Other minor savings across numerous service areas across the general fund.
- e) Elections – additional expenditure relates to the additional income shown under ‘income’ variances above.

13.5 An overall income surplus of £0.6m within 'Investment Activity' relates to:

- a) Additional net interest receivable of £1.1m caused by higher than expected balances (specifically s106 balances) and higher than forecast rates of return.
- b) Additional investment property income of £0.2m caused by unused contingency budgets for void properties and rent reviews in 2024/25. Baseline budgets from 2025/26 have been updated to reflect latest forecasts.
- c) An adverse variance of £0.7m relating to the minimum revenue provision, is mainly due to the reclassification of lease budgets between services and investment activity, due to the introduction of the accounting standard IFRS16.

14 "One Off" Budgets

14.1 In addition to the baseline budget to fund core services, a number of "one off" provisions were approved and included in the 2024/25 budget to fund key projects. The original one-off revenue budgets totalled £1.378m and this was revised to £6.166m during the year taking into account of budget brought forwards and in-year approvals. The final outturn of £3.395m was therefore £2.017m below revised budget. There were also a number of additional grants received in-year which increased the budget available to carry forward. The key one-off revenue budgets are listed below:

General Fund One-off Expenditure Budgets	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Outturn	Variance to Revised Budget	Additional Govt. Funding	Budget Brought Forward to 25/26
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
1 Homes for Ukraine	0	980	315	664	99	763
2 Other smaller 'one-off' projects	498	2,215	1,525	690		573
3 Homelessness New Burdens	0	40	489	-449	910	461
4 Central Winchester Regeneration	0	663	222	441		441
5 Monuments	0	437	6	431		431
6 Climate Emergency	0	403	107	296		296
7 Food Waste Implementation	0	232		232		232
8 Car Parks	320	450	117	333		220
9 Future of Waste	0	161	52	109		109
10 Employee project budgets	666	585	743	-158		
	1,484	6,166	3,578	2,588	1,009	3,525

- 1) Homes for Ukraine – additional funding planned to be spent in 2025/26.
- 2) Other smaller 'one-off' projects such as the IMT 10-year plan and community grants.
- 3) Homelessness New Burdens – additional funding planned to be spent in 2025/26.

- 4) Central Winchester Regeneration – approved project budget now planned to be spent in 2025/26.
- 5) Historic Buildings / Monuments budget has been brought forward to 2024/25 to reflect latest spend forecasts.
- 6) Climate Emergency work – this budget supports ongoing climate emergency revenue projects. The underspend has been carried over to 2025/26.
- 7) Food Waste Implementation – to support the implementation of food waste which is due for phased commencement from October 2025.
- 8) Car Parks Maintenance – budget brought forward to reflect the latest spend forecasts from the 2024/25 programme.
- 9) Future of Waste – to support the ongoing future of waste project.
- 10) Employee Project Budgets – relating to various projects such as food waste, planning, homelessness, and homes for Ukraine.

15 Outturn by Council Plan outcome

15.1 The Council Plan outcome summary outturn below shows the full general fund revenue outturn position for 2024/25.

15.2 Out of the final net surplus of £2.437m, £0.711m has been transferred to the General Fund balance, and £1.726m has been transferred to earmarked reserves. The full budget variance analysis is shown in section 13 above and variances in the table below show variations to original budget which may for example be additional expenditure which is fully funded by government grants.

General Fund 2024/25 Outturn	Budget	Actual	Variance
	£000	£000	£000
ENVIRONMENT	6,945	6,851	94
LIVING WELL	3,348	2,669	679
HOMES FOR ALL	2,512	2,364	148
VIBRANT LOCAL ECONOMY	981	1,159	(178)
YOUR SERVICES, YOUR VOICE	6,518	6,470	48
TOTAL	20,304	19,513	791
FUNDING AND OTHER ACTIVITY	23,139	27,866	(4,727)
TRANSFERS TO (FROM) EARMARKED RESERVES	(2,835)	(8,352)	5,518
SURPLUS TRANSFERRED TO GF BALANCE		(711)	
SURPLUS TRANSFERRED TO MAJOR INVESTMENT RESERVE		(1,726)	

15.3 The outturn underspend has enabled the council to increase the general fund balance by £0.7m to £3.5m and also increase the net transfer movement to

earmarked general fund revenue reserves by £1.7m. Funding and other activity outturn of £4.8m higher than budget was largely related to £3.5m of CIL funding billed during the year and additional government funding totalling £1.7m and relating to grants such as Preventing Homelessness, Rough Sleeping, and Simpler Recycling implementation.

16 Funding including Government financial support

16.1 In total, including Council Tax, funding of £22.4m was £1.7m higher than the original budget of £20.7m. All of the additional funding is one-off in nature but there is a distinction between retained business rates which is available for general use and Other Government Grants, significantly new homes bonus, which is available for specific purposes such as Homelessness and Homes for Ukraine.

16.2 The Government distributed a number of specific support packages during the year. The city council has received/claimed during 2024/25:

	<u>£000</u>
a) Preventing Homelessness	0.742
b) Homes for Ukraine	0.365
c) Simpler Recycling Implementation	0.306
d) Rough Sleeping	0.214
e) Asylum Dispersal Grant	0.187
f) Electoral Integrity	0.067
g) Domestic Abuse Grant	0.050
h) Redmond Review Implementation	0.044
if) Housing Benefits	0.037
j) Defra Biodiversity	0.027
k) Tenant Satisfaction measures	0.018
l) Cyber Assessment Framework	0.015
m) Transparency	0.008
n) Neighbourhood planning grant	0.005
TOTAL	2.085

17 Earmarked Reserves

17.1 General Fund earmarked reserve balances have increased from £41.3m at April 2024 to £49.5m at the end of March 2025. This increase was mainly caused by additional funding such as Community Infrastructure Levy, government funding relating to Homes for Ukraine and Homelessness which has been transferred to earmarked reserves for spend in 2025/26, plus general underspends transferred to reserves.

- 17.2 Earmarked reserve balances are set out in appendix 2. The 'operational reserves' balance has increased from £11.5m at the end of 2023/24 to £14.2m at the end of 2024/25. This balance also includes reserves set aside for Homelessness and Future of Waste where budget spending plans will come forward in due course.

18 NNDR Debt Write-off

- 18.1 The Council adopts a robust but supportive approach to managing debt. Formally writing off debt is always only considered a last resort. As a result, some older debts remain in the accounts for as long as it is considered a possibility to recover them (including the completion of administration decisions in the event of business closure). However, there are a small number of debts which should now be written off.
- 18.2 There are five debts included at exempt Appendix 7, for uncollected Non-Domestic Rates (aka Business Rates), for which approval to write-off the debt is sought in accordance with Financial Procedure Rule 12.7(f), due to the lack of options available to the council to recover any payment. The first four debts have already gone through an insolvency process, of one description or another, and the fifth debt is mid-process, but due to the existing nature of the company there remains no avenue of recovery for the council to obtain any payment for this debt.
- 18.3 This is a summary of the debts and further details are contained in exempt Appendix 7:

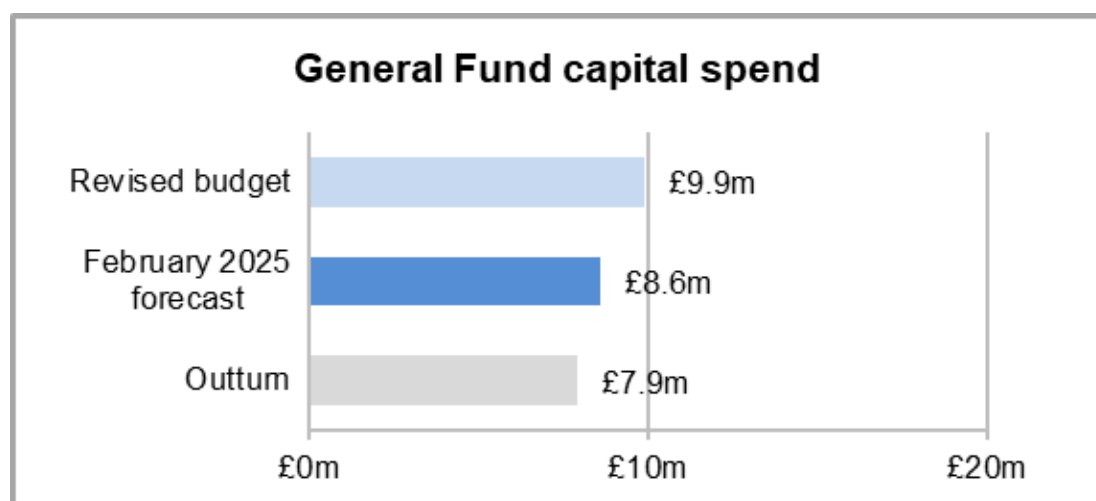
Case	Debt period	Total debt for Write-Off	Insolvency Action
1	1 April 2023 to 3 December 2024	£85,353.17	In Administration (Insolvency)
2	1 March 2022 to 31 August 2024	£74,192.16	Dissolved (Insolvency)
3	1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020	£68,150.00	Creditors Voluntary Liquidation (Insolvency)
4	1 December 2018 to 11 March 2021	£91,090.86	Dissolved (Insolvency)
5	1 July 2021 to 19 November 2023	£139,427.31	To be Dissolved (Insolvency)
		£458,213.50	

19 **General Fund Capital**

- 19.1 Total capital expenditure in year was £21.2m - of which £13.3m relates to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). The detailed HRA outturn is reported separately to Cabinet (CAB3516).
- 19.2 General Fund capital expenditure amounted to £7.9m. Excluding the SAPS scheme (see below), this compares to an original budget of £12.1m, set in February 2024 (CAB3443) and a revised budget of £9.9m (including 'brought forwards' and other revisions) set in September 2024 (CAB3464). Following

subsequent approvals and reprogramming, the forecast expenditure was amended to £8.6m as reported in February 2025 (CAB3495). Further details by project are provided in Appendix 4.

- 19.3 In addition, a budget of £4m in respect of the Strategic Asset Purchase Scheme (SAPS) was allocated. When the scheme was approved by Council a SAPS Board was created which includes members and officers; the board receives recommendations of potential purchases and the s151 officer has delegated authority to make acquisitions up to £4m following discussions with the board, subject to due diligence, or recommend to Cabinet and Council to approve for acquisitions above £4m. During the financial year no suitable purchases were identified.



20 Key items of expenditure

20.1 The following are some of the key items of expenditure in 2024/25:

i. **King George V (KGV) Pavilion**

Total Budget: £3.3m

Exp: Prior years £3.09m

2024/25 £0.33m

Total £3.42m

Work on the new pavilion was completed in spring 2024 and has been available to users since June 2024. It replaces two out-dated, underused, and inaccessible pavilions with a single larger, accessible, modern facility designed with sustainability and carbon saving measures. The new pavilion will benefit communities across the city and district and looks to support the development of 'grass roots' football, with a particular focus on women's, girls', and youth football.

There was a small overspend on the total budget equivalent to roughly 3.5%. This was funded from uncommitted capital receipts.

ii. **Disabled Facilities Grants**

24/25 Budget: £1.23m

Exp: recurring

2024/25 £1.6m

The Private Sector Housing (PSH) Team is responsible for the administration of Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs). Such grants enable residents of private and / or social housing who are disabled or have a mobility or other limiting condition to apply for adaptations to be undertaken in their home. Such adaptations can include the installation of stair lifts, level access showers, kitchen adaptations or ramping etc. and enable residents to remain in their homes rather than having to move, go into hospital or residential care. In 2024/25 the PSH Team approved 100 DFG applications enabling families to be kept together.

The original budget was based on the previous annual grant receivable from government. The actual spend exceeded this but was funded by £298,000 additional grant received, a contribution of £15,000 from Hampshire County Council in respect of one case, and unapplied DFG grant received in prior years of which £0.6m is now remaining.

iii. **River Park Cricket Pavilion**

Total Budget: £2.3m

<i>Exp: Prior years £nil</i>	<i>2024/25 £0.039m</i>	<i>Total £0.039m</i>
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Work on the new pavilion has commenced and is expected to be completed in early 2026. Expenditure in 2024/25 related to preliminary items including design. The new pavilion will be a valuable additional asset in River Park, which is already a hub for sporting, community and social activity and recreation. It will provide the required standard of changing rooms, umpire facilities, toilets, and accessibility to enable a wide and diverse range of people to participate in cricket. By providing high quality facilities, increased community sport outcomes can be achieved across a wider demographic and the pavilion can be used to support users of River Park, not just cricket, by provided changing and club house facilities to support their events or sports.

iv. **Friarsgate – interim open space**

Total Budget: £0.441m

<i>Exp: Prior years £0.114m</i>	<i>2024/25 £0.219m</i>	<i>Total £0.333m</i>
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Following the demolition of the former medical centre, work was completed on the interim open space, Friarsgate Park, which will serve as a meanwhile use while plans are drawn up for the wider Central Winchester Regeneration scheme in the longer term. The park includes benches and planters, as well as a small bridge and beds of wildflowers.

v. **WCFC all-weather 3G pitch**

Total Budget: £1.466m

<i>Exp: Prior years £nil</i>	<i>2024/25 £1.408m</i>	<i>Total £1.408m</i>
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Following a successful grant application which funds almost 90% of the project costs, work has been completed on the installation of a 3G artificial turf pitch at the Winchester City Football Club alongside some stadium improvements. The project will deliver on aims and commitments such as reduced health inequalities, a wide range of physical and cultural activities for

all ages and abilities and supporting communities to extend the range of sports and cultural facilities across the district. In addition to providing opportunities to host inter-school tournaments and skills workshops for under 16s, older adults, and disability football, the new facilities offer new opportunities for female coaches and players through the involvement of Winchester City Flyers FC.

vi. **59 Colebrook St.**

Total Budget: £0.61m

Exp: Prior years £0.003m

2024/25 £0.556m

Total £0.559m

The refurbishment and conversion of 59 Colebrook Street for shared accommodation has been completed and is at the final account stage with the final cost expected to be just under budget. Around 75% of the budget is funded from external grants and initially the property will be used to house those from the Ukrainian Resettlement scheme.

vii. **CIL funded community projects**

24/25 Budget: £0.47m

Exp: recurring

2024/25 £0.23m

Several grants totalling £227,000 were paid over in 2024/25 as part of the ongoing CIL funded community projects programme. As these are external projects, often relying on other funding sources, the exact timing is uncertain and subject to delay. The scheme allows community groups to apply for a share of between £10,000 and £200,000 for essential infrastructure projects. Supported projects included the refurbishments of a community centre and a village hall, a church extension and refurbishment, the installation of solar PV, and the provision of several recreational facilities – play equipment, play area refurbishment, and the installation of a multi-use games area.

viii. **UKSPF & REPF**

24/25 Budget: £0.83m

Exp: recurring

2024/25 £0.83m

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is the UK's replacement of the EU European Structural and Investment Programme and provides local authorities funding for communities, places, businesses, people and skills. Funding is provided for both revenue and capital purposes. In 2024/25, £233,000 of capital grants were made for a number of projects including low carbon technology training bays, EV chargers, a sound system for the Hat Fair, solar infrastructure, and a fleet of e-bikes for local businesses.

The Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) is a top up to UKSPF and is the replacement for the EU funded LEADER Programme used to support the development of rural economies. Capital grants are awarded to small businesses, voluntary organisations, charities, and community groups. In 2024/25 a total of £598,000 in capital grants were paid to help with the installation of solar PV, a community bus replacement, a baby balcony at a nursery, and the purchase of a tuk tuk as well as several other projects.

- 20.2 In addition to the projects detailed above, the following projects were either complete or substantially complete in 2024/25: the purchase of land at the Dean in Alresford for the development of a car park; a number of public convenience refurbishments as part of the ongoing programme; Guildhall Fire Safety works; Chesil multi-storey resurfacing and LED light replacement; The Weirs essential repairs final phase; St Giles Hill stabilising works; KGV play area; the purchase of shares in Venta Living; the installation of bus shelters in Cromwell Road and Andover Road; the purchase of new racking for the bone store relocation to F2; and a capital grant to Bishop's Waltham Parish Council for a footpath and cycle link. Works were also carried on several other schemes – detail of expenditure on all capital projects is provided at Appendix 4.

21 Reforecast of capital programme

- 21.1 The 2025/26 capital programme has been reforecast to include adjustments made for brought forward budgets from 2024/25 and other adjustments such as budget reductions following tender or reforecasting to the subsequent period.
- 21.2 With the exception of budgets funded by external grant or unfinanced (prudential borrowing), reduced budgets result in funding being released back to earmarked reserves or to the capital receipts reserve where it becomes available to fund future projects.
- 21.3 In addition to the reforecast of the programme, the following budgets have been added to the programme in 2025/26 and 2026/27:
- a) Special maintenance vehicles – a budget of £251,000 has been added in 2025/26 for the purchase and conversion of new vehicles including a panel van, two transit tippers, and a heavy-duty tipper subject to approval to spend. These will replace the existing leased vehicles which have reached the end of their useful lives.
 - b) Rural Enterprise Prosperity Fund – since February budget, an allocation of £223,000 of new funding for 2025/26 has been provided to the council.
 - c) Disabled Facilities Grant – MHCLG funding in 2025/26 has been increased by £185,000.
 - d) CIL – additional budgets have been added in respect of new allocations to projects (CAB3518 refers) including: £36,393 to Hampshire County Council (HCC) in 2025/26 for the upgrade of the existing pedestrian crossing at Friarsgate in Winchester; £282,000 to HCC in 2026/27 for the provision of a footway adjacent to Andover Road Micheldever; and £153,000 in 2026/27 for the provision of a perimeter footpath at River Park recreation ground in Winchester (a council led project).

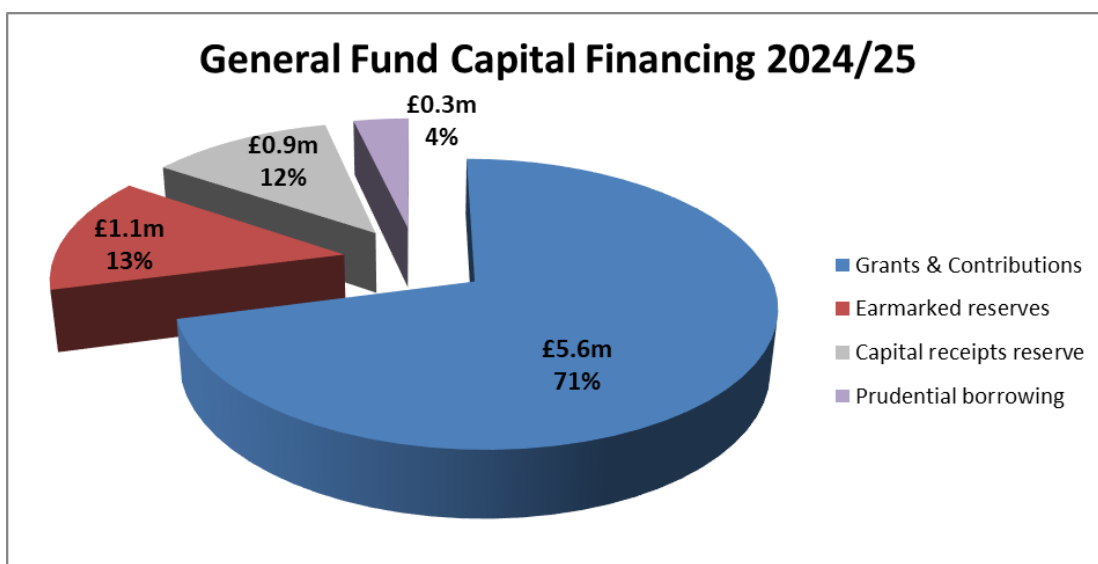
- 21.4 Full details of all changes to the 2025/26 capital programme are provided in Appendix 5 and the impact on the overall 10-year capital programme is provided at Appendix 6.

22 Flexible use of capital receipts

- 22.1 Ordinarily, capital resources such as capital receipts can only be used on capital expenditure (i.e. the creation or enhancement of a capital asset). However, the MHCLG Secretary of State issued a direction to local authorities in order to give them the freedom to use capital receipts from the sale of their own assets (excluding Right to Buy receipts) to help fund the revenue costs of transformation projects and release savings, including through redundancy, for the financial years 2016/17 to 2021/22. The government has since extended this to 2029/30 although redundancy costs must no longer be included unless “necessarily incurred and limited to...statutory payments”. By using capital receipts, the council is able to avoid the negative impact of on its annual revenue budget of one-off costs, but this will reduce the available resources for future capital projects.
- 22.2 In the Capital Investment Strategy approved in February 2021 (CAB3283), £194,000 of eligible capital receipts were set aside for this purpose which were applied to partially fund £266,000 in severance costs in 2020/21. This resulted in ongoing annual savings of circa £700,000 per annum. No further use of capital receipts has been made since then and the council currently has no specific plans to apply further capital receipts to transformation plans through its flexible use of capital receipts strategy (most recently approved in the Capital Investment Strategy in February 2025 (CAB3495)). However, the approved strategy allows it to do so should there be qualifying spend and if sufficient eligible capital receipts are available.

23 Capital financing

- 23.1 The sources of finance available for capital projects include capital receipts, grants and contributions, reserves, revenue contributions, and prudential borrowing or “Capital Financing Requirement” (unfinanced capital expenditure met by future revenue provision). Under the Prudential Code, the council can invest in a capital programme so long as its capital spending plans are “affordable, prudent and sustainable”. The financing of the 2024/25 General Fund capital expenditure is illustrated in the following graph. The single largest source of finance was capital grants and contributions.



23.2 Where capital expenditure is to be financed in future years by charges to revenue, the expenditure results in an increase in the council's borrowing need known as "Capital Financing Requirement" (CFR), a measure of the capital expenditure incurred historically by the council that has yet to be financed. While the council has sufficient cash and investment balances, it is able to internally borrow but as CFR increases, and cash and investment balances decrease, it will need to increase its external borrowing in addition to the £154.5m the council has already borrowed to finance HRA projects including the HRA self-financing settlement. In the General Fund an annual charge called Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) is required to finance prior year unfinanced expenditure; this reduces the CFR over the lives of the related assets. Following the adoption of IFRS 16 (leases) in local government from 1 April 2024, an asset representing the right to use the item over the lease term will be recognised for all leases (except for those that are for low value items or whose term is less than one year). Liabilities are also recognised in the Balance Sheet for the obligations that the council has to pay rents for the rights acquired, discounted to their present value. In accounting terms, this is a form of borrowing and so increases the CFR. This will be reduced over time as the lease liability reduces with each subsequent payment.

Capital Financing Requirement	General Fund £000	Housing Revenue Account £000	Total £000
Capital Financing Requirement at 1 April 2024	70,160	212,546	282,706
Unfinanced capital expenditure - in year	1,383	0	1,383
Introduction of IFRS 16	602	0	602
Minimum revenue provision (MRP)	(1,737)	0	(1,737)
Voluntary provision for the financing of capital	0	0	0
Capital Financing Requirement at 31 March 2025	70,408	212,546	282,954
Made up of:			
External borrowing	0	154,491	154,491
Internal borrowing	70,408	58,055	128,463

24 Commercial activities: property

- 24.1 The council owns an investment property portfolio (assets held solely for rental income or capital appreciation) which was valued at £68.7m as at 31 March 2025 (£69.7m as at 31 March 2024) and generated gross income of £4.16m and net income after costs, including minimum revenue provision, of £2.70m in 2024/25. This income helps contribute to the Council Plan outcomes. This represents an average net yield of 3.9%.
- 24.2 In 2024/25, the council disposed of the remainder its share in a Partnered Home Purchase (PHP) scheme shared property following staircasing. In addition, the council transferred 59 Colebrook St from investment properties to operational assets following its conversion to shared accommodation.

Property held for investment purposes in £000s

1 April 2024	69,667
Acquisitions	0
Enhancements	1
Disposals	(160)
Gains/(losses) in fair value	(605)
Transfer (to)/from PPE (operational assets) *	(168)
31 March 2025	68,735

*An investment property is held for rental income and/or capital appreciation; when the continued purpose of holding the asset changes to meeting a service objective, it is transferred to Property Plant & Equipment or vice versa

25 Proportion of financing costs to net revenue stream

- 25.1 Although capital expenditure is not charged directly to the revenue budget, interest payable on loans, MRP, and any revenue funded reductions in the borrowing need are charged to the General Fund (GF) or Housing Revenue Account (HRA) income and expenditure statements as appropriate. The net annual charge is known as financing costs - this is compared to the net revenue stream: Council Tax, Business Rates, and general government grants in the case of the GF; and rents and other charges in the case of the HRA.
- 25.2 The Council's General Fund capital programme includes a number of unfinanced projects (i.e. funded by prudential borrowing). MRP (equivalent to the repayment of loan principal) is applied annually and commences in the financial year following an asset becoming operational and increases the financing costs.
- 25.3 The General Fund financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream are lower than forecast due to higher than forecast income from council tax, business rates, and non-ringfenced government grants. The HRA financing costs are lower than budgeted as the council had sufficient cash and investment balances to delay additional external borrowing thus reducing the interest cost against forecast.

Prudential Indicator: Proportion of financing costs to net revenue stream

	2023/24 actual	2024/25 forecast	2024/25 actual	2025/26 budget
GF financing costs (£m)	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.7
GF proportion of net revenue stream	7.2%	7.8%	8.1%	8.1%
HRA financing costs (£m)	5.3	7.4	5.2	8.3
HRA proportion of net revenue stream	15.9%	20.0%	13.9%	21.9%

26 Hampshire Community Bank

- 26.1 In November 2024, Hampshire Community Bank went into administration. The council had purchased 188 shares over three tranches totalling £188,000. As a consequence, the shares already purchased have been written out of the council's balance sheet and the fourth tranche purchase of an additional 62 shares at a cost of £62,000 will no longer go ahead.
- 26.2 The bank was started in 2014 to help small firms across the county and was supported by a number of other local authorities and universities. Its aim was

to become a licensed retail bank, but it was unable to do this within the funding and timescales available.

- 26.3 When the council originally made the decision to invest (CAB2630 refers), it recognised that there was considerable risk with this investment and no guarantee that the bank would be successful in its application to become licensed.

27 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 27.1 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.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Previous Committee Reports:

CAB3494 - General Fund Budget 2025/26 dated 12 February 2025

CAB3495 – Capital Investment Strategy 2025-2035 dated 12 February 2025

CAB3483 - General Fund Budget Options and Medium-Term Financial Strategy dated 20 November 2024

Other Background Documents:

None

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – General Fund Summary Outturn

Appendix 2 – General Fund Earmarked Reserves

Appendix 3 – Winchester Town Account Outturn

Appendix 4 – General Fund Capital Expenditure 2024/25 outturn

Appendix 5 – Revised 2025/26 General Fund Capital Programme

Appendix 6 – Revised 2025-2035 General Fund Capital Programme

Appendix 7 (exempt) – Non-domestic rates debts write-off

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General Fund Revenue 2024/25 (£m)	Original		
	Budget	Forecast	Outturn
Funding			
Council Tax (excluding Parish Precepts)	9.830	9.830	9.952
Retained Business Rates	7.459	7.459	7.296
Revenue Support Grant	0.166	0.166	0.166
New Homes Bonus	1.645	1.645	1.645
Services Grant	0.014	0.016	0.016
3% Guarantee	1.182	1.193	1.193
Simpler Recycling Implementation			0.306
Rural Services Delivery Grant	0.063	0.063	0.063
New Burdens Funding	0.335	1.242	1.779
	20.694	21.614	22.415
Investment Activity	2.326	2.326	2.959
Resources available	23.020	23.940	25.375
Baseline Net Expenditure			
Gross Income	17.458	17.358	19.484
Gross Expenditure	-36.383	-35.883	-35.602
Baseline resource requirements	-18.925	-18.525	-16.118
One-off net expenditure	-1.378	-6.166	-3.395
Reserve Related Movements	-2.717	0.750	-5.150
Total net resource requirements	-23.020	-23.940	-24.664
Budget Surplus / (Shortfall)	0.000	0.000	0.711

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GENERAL FUND EARMARKED RESERVES (£000)

OPERATIONAL RESERVES

Major Investment Reserve
Community Grants & Commissions
Cost of Living / Healthy Communities
Digital Transformation
Greener Faster
Flood Support Schemes
Future of Waste
Landscape Mitigation
Local Development Framework (LDF)
New Burdens - Ukraine
New Burdens
Thriving Places
Regeneration

ASSET RESERVES

Property - Asset Management Reserve
Car Parks Property
Information Management and Technology

RESTRICTED RESERVES

S106 (Interest)
Community Infrastructure Levy - General Fund
Community Infrastructure Levy - Winchester Town
Winchester Town Reserve

RISK RESERVES

Municipal Mutual Insurance
Transitional Reserve
Exceptional Inflation Pressures
Homelessness Prevention B&B
Business Rates Retention

Total General Fund Earmarked Reserves

General Fund Balance

2024/25	2024/25	2024/25
Op. Bal.	Forecast	Cl. Bal.
(6,351)	(4,024)	(8,401)
(444)	(322)	(289)
(166)	(166)	(166)
(400)	(400)	(400)
(214)	(214)	(214)
(46)		
(500)	(813)	(889)
(10)	(8)	(8)
(798)	(1,164)	(980)
(1,442)	(657)	(1,276)
(919)	(1,236)	(1,381)
(101)	(91)	(101)
(106)		(52)
(11,497)	(9,095)	(14,157)
(3,995)	(5,048)	(5,548)
(2,039)	(2,123)	(2,647)
(451)	(327)	(693)
(6,485)	(7,498)	(8,887)
(888)	(888)	(510)
(11,695)	(10,432)	(13,429)
(701)	(648)	(827)
(378)	(212)	(310)
(13,662)	(12,180)	(15,075)
(139)	(139)	(139)
(5,620)	(6,990)	(7,408)
(2,902)	(2,000)	(2,000)
(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,838)
(9,661)	(10,129)	(11,385)
(41,305)	(38,901)	(49,504)
(2,789)	(2,789)	(3,500)

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WINCHESTER TOWN ACCOUNT - 2024/25 Outturn

	Budget	Forecast	Outturn	Variance	Budget C/F
<u>Cost of Services</u>					
Recurring Budgets:					
Allotments	(4,000)	(4,000)	(3,879)	(121)	
Bus Shelter Cleaning / Maintenance / New Provision	20,000	20,000	20,683	(683)	
Cemeteries	87,039	87,039	56,652	30,387	
Christmas Lights	7,500	7,500	7,500	0	
Neighbourhood Service Officers (Contribution)	45,000	45,000	45,000	0	
Footway Lighting	33,873	33,873	19,552	14,321	
Grants and Vision Delivery	70,000	70,000	59,490	10,510	
Support Costs for Grant Scheme	2,000	2,000	2,000	0	
Maintenance Work to Council Owned Bridges	5,500	5,500	9,838	(4,338)	
Night Bus Contribution	12,751	12,751	9,347	3,404	
Public Conveniences (Contribution)	50,000	50,000	50,000	0	
Recreation Grounds & Open Spaces	875,607	875,607	822,796	52,811	
Town Forum Support	5,000	17,500	17,500	(12,500)	
Total Cost of Services	1,210,270	1,222,770	1,116,479	93,791	0
<u>Taxation and Non-specific grant income</u>					
Council Tax Income	(1,273,758)	(1,273,758)	(1,273,758)	0	
Interest on Balances	(7,105)	(5,560)	(16,409)	9,303	
Total Taxation and Non-specific grant income	(1,280,862)	(1,279,317)	(1,290,166)	9,303	
<u>Transfers to/(from) Earmarked reserves</u>					
(Surplus added to Reserves) / Deficit taken from Reserves	(70,593)	(56,547)	(173,687)	103,094	
Capital Expenditure funded by Town Reserve	100,000	220,000	241,250	(141,250)	
Release from Town Community Infrastructure Levy Reserve					
Opening Reserve Balance (at 1st April)	(236,821)	(378,239)	(378,239)	141,418	
Closing Reserve Balance (carried forward)	(207,413)	(214,785)	(310,675)	103,262	
Closing Reserves forecast as % of net expenditure	17%	18%	28%		

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General Fund capital expenditure outturn 2024/25

This appendix details the revised budget approved in September 2024 (CAB3464), approved changes since then, and actual expenditure in 2024/25.

	Priority	2024/25					Comments
		Revised budget (CAB3464)	Approved changes and adjts.	Approved budget	Actuals	Under / (over) spend	
		£000	£000	£000			
General Fund							
Approved*							
Disabled Facility Grants	Good Homes for All	1,230	-	1,230	1,643	(413)	Overspend funded from additional grant received and prior year unspent grant
IMT Assets	Effective and Efficient	209	-	209	-	209	£58k equipment spend recoded to revenue as below capital de minimis
Food waste collection	Greener Faster	-	143	143	135	8	Winnall depot fit out costs and EV charger for fleet
WCFC all weather 3G pitch	Healthy Communities	1,466	-	1,466	1,408	58	Project complete
CIL funded community projects	Thriving Places	864	-	864	227	637	Several external projects yet to commence
SAPS - Car Park at the Dean, Alresford	Thriving Places	600	-	600	640	(40)	Purchase of land - £40,000 overspend in year due to fees originally profiled to later year.
59 Colebrook Street - shared accommodation	Good Homes for All	607	-	607	556	51	Project complete - final account stage
Guildhall fire safety improvement works	Effective and Efficient	485	-	485	414	71	Majority of works complete
Car Parks	Thriving Places	603	4	607	257	350	Includes resurfacing at park & ride, CCTV upgrades, and rapid EV charger at WSLP
Car parks - public convenience improvements	Thriving Places	210	-	210	41	169	The refurbishment of Chesil multi-storey public conveniences was completed
Chesil Multi Storey car park - resurfacing	Thriving Places	299	-	299	295	4	Project complete
Chesil Multi Storey car park - replacement lighting	Thriving Places	50	-	50	21	29	Project complete
Public conveniences improvements	Thriving Places	210	100	310	35	275	Works carried out at Market Lane and Jewry St public conveniences
Friar Gate Park	Thriving Places	328	-	328	219	109	Project complete
KGV Park Plan	Healthy Communities	57	-	57	46	11	Gravel footpath, purchase of portable goals, and refurbishment of games area completed
Meadowside Leisure centre - new equipment	Healthy Communities	22	-	22	-	22	No longer required as area at leisure centre has been repurposed
Meadowside Leisure centre - solar PV	Greener Faster	60	-	60	-	60	Now expected to complete in 2025/26
King George V Pavilion replacement	Healthy Communities	218	-	218	330	(112)	Project complete
Housing Company - acquisition of shares	Good Homes for All	150	-	150	150	-	Project complete
Open Spaces & Recreational Facilities - KGV play area	Healthy Communities	120	-	120	114	6	Project complete
Open Spaces & Recreational Facilities - Talvera Road play area	Healthy Communities	100	-	100	90	10	Project complete
Open Spaces & Recreational Facilities - Wickham rec. ground grant	Healthy Communities	-	30	30	-	30	Reforecast to 2025/26
Open Spaces & Recreational Facilities - Abbey Gardens play area	Healthy Communities	-	23	23	22	1	Rubber mulch surface approved via decision notice in November 2024
The Weirs - essential repairs	Thriving Places	200	-	200	150	50	Final phase complete
North Walls - tennis court resurfacing	Healthy Communities	7	-	7	-	7	Remaining budget no longer required
Hampshire Community Bank - share purchase	Thriving Places	62	-	62	-	62	HCB is in administration and the council will therefore make no further investments
Winchester Sport & Leisure Park	Healthy Communities	55	-	55	23	32	
North Walls Park Plan - path improvements	Healthy Communities	50	-	50	50	-	Project complete
St Giles Hill stabilisation works (Town)	Healthy Communities	50	-	50	46	4	Project complete
North Walls Pavilion replacement	Healthy Communities	40	-	40	39	1	Expenditure on preliminary fees - main works commenced in 2025/26
Winchester Town bus shelters	Thriving Places	21	-	21	20	1	Project complete
UK Shared Prosperity Fund - approved projects	Thriving Places	69	164	233	233	0	Additional projects approved for spend via decision notice
Rural Prosperity Fund - approved projects	Thriving Places	157	442	599	598	1	Additional projects approved for spend via decision notice
Jane Austen Statue - capital grant	Thriving Places	10	-	10	-	10	Grant paid over in early 2025/26
Relocation of bone store to F2 - racking	Effective and Efficient	75	-	75	70	5	Project complete
Bishop's Waltham Footpath and Cycleway - capital grant	Healthy Communities	-	73	73	73	0	Approved via decision notice in February 2025
Total Approved*		8,684	979	9,663	7,946	1,717	

General Fund capital expenditure outturn 2024/25

	Priority	2024/25					Comments
		Revised budget (CAB3464)	Approved changes and adjs.	Approved budget	Actuals	Under / (over) spend	
		£000	£000	£000			
<u>Subject to Appraisal*</u>							
Asset Management Plan	Effective and Efficient	150		150	-	150	Provisional budget for reactive capital works not required in year
Energy Management Projects	Greener Faster	250	-	250	-	250	Provisional budget for energy management projects not required in year
Rural Prosperity Fund	Thriving Places	444	(442)	2	-	2	Additional projects approved for spend via decision notice
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	Thriving Places	127	(127)	-	-	-	Additional projects approved for spend via decision notice
Public conveniences improvements (Middlebrook St & Changing Places)	Thriving Places	150	(100)	50	-	50	£100,000 for changing places approved for expenditure
City Offices - additional solar PV	Greener Faster	100	-	100	-	100	
Subject to Appraisal*		1,221	(669)	552	-	552	
Total General Fund		9,905	310	10,215	7,946	2,269	

* Under the Council's Financial Procedure Rule 7.4, the inclusion of a scheme in the capital programme does not constitute authority to incur the expenditure. Such authority is obtained subject to the various conditions and limits as set out in the Constitution.

The Strategic Asset Purchase Scheme (SAPS) is subject to separate governance procedures as outlined in the Capital Investment Strategy

SAPS - unallocated	Thriving Places	4,000	-	4,000	-	4,000	No suitable purchases identified
Total SAPS - unallocated		4,000	-	4,000	-	4,000	

Revised 2025/26 General Fund capital programme

This appendix details the original budget approved in February 2025 (CAB3495), approved changes since then, adjustments for brought forward balances from 2024/25 and other changes

	Priority	2025/26					Comments
		Original budget (CAB3495)	Approved changes	Brought forward from 2024/25	Other changes incl. reforecast	Revised budget	
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
General Fund							
Approved*							
Disabled Facility Grants	Good Homes for All	1,343	-	-	185	1,528	Government announced additional funding in 2025/26 after budget was set
North Walls Pavilion replacement	Healthy Communities	2,260	-	1	-	2,261	
Food waste collection - capital investments incl. vehicles & caddies	Greener Faster	1,816	(18)	6	-	1,804	
IMT Assets	Effective and Efficient	95	-	42	(5)	132	
Car Parks	Thriving Places	840	(20)	69	(6)	883	
CIL funded community projects	Thriving Places	701	291	242	-	1,234	
CIL funded HCC projects	Thriving Places	300	328	-	36	664	Additional projects approved in CAB3498 and CAB3518
Public conveniences improvements	Thriving Places	180	-	97	(40)	237	£40,000 reforecast to 2026/27
Open Spaces & Recreational Facilities - Chaundler Road	Healthy Communities	110	-	-	-	110	
Meadowside Leisure centre - 3G pitch refurbishment	Healthy Communities	82	-	-	-	82	
Meadowside Leisure centre - solar PV	Greener Faster	60	-	-	-	60	
KGV Park Plan	Healthy Communities	47	-	-	(47)	-	
Wickham Recreation Ground - grant of S106 monies to parish	Healthy Communities	160	-	30	-	190	
59 Osprey Street - shared accommodation	Good Homes for All	-	-	51	-	51	
Guthrie Hall fire safety improvement works	Effective and Efficient	-	-	71	-	71	
Car Parks - public convenience improvements	Healthy Communities	-	-	170	-	170	
Relocation of bone store to F2 - racking	Effective and Efficient	-	-	4	-	4	
Winchester Sport & Leisure Park	Healthy Communities	-	-	32	-	32	
Jane Austen Statue - capital grant	Thriving Places	-	-	10	-	10	
Electric animal welfare vans	Effective and Efficient	-	51	-	-	51	Approved via decision record in April 2025
Winchester Football Club clubhouse improvements	Healthy Communities	-	100	-	-	100	Approved via decision record in June 2025
Total Approved*		7,994	732	825	123	9,674	

Revised 2025/26 General Fund capital programme

	Priority	2025/26					Comments
		Original budget (CAB3495)	Approved changes	Brought forward from 2024/25	Other changes incl. reforecast	Revised budget	
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Subject to Appraisal*							
Demolition of former leisure centre at River Park	Healthy Communities	2,000	-	-	(2,000)	-	Not expected in 2025/26 (CAB3466 refers)
Energy Management Projects	Greener Faster	500	-	-	-	500	
Asset Management Plan	Effective and Efficient	150	(100)	-	-	50	£100,000 approved via decision record for expenditure on WCFC clubhouse improvements
North Whiteley Sports Pavilion - grant of S106 monies to parish	Healthy Communities	100	-	-	-	100	
CIL funded community projects - unallocated	Thriving Places	350	(350)	-	-	-	Allocated to approved projects
Guildhall capital repairs to clock tower	Effective and Efficient	250	-	-	(250)	-	Works now expected to proceed in 2025/26
Cipher House roof replacement	Effective and Efficient	160	-	-	-	160	
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	Thriving Places	60	-	-	-	60	
Rural Prosperity Fund	Thriving Places	-	-	-	223	223	The government allocated the council additional funding after February budget
Special maintenance vehicle replacements	Effective and Efficient	-	-	-	251	251	To replace existing vehicles which have come to the end of their useful lives
Subject to Appraisal*		3,570	(450)	-	(1,776)	1,344	
Total General Fund		11,564	282	825	(1,653)	11,018	
* Under the Council's Financial Procedure Rule 7.4, the inclusion of a scheme in the capital programme does not constitute authority to incur the expenditure. Such authority is obtained subject to the various conditions and limits as set out in the Constitution.							
The Strategic Asset Purchase Scheme (SAPS) is subject to separate governance procedures as outlined in the Capital Investment Strategy							
SAPS - unallocated	Thriving Places	4,000	-	-	-	4,000	
Total SAPS - unallocated		4,000	-	-	-	4,000	

Revised 2025-35 General Fund capital programme

		2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	TOTAL
	Priority	Revised budget	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	2025-2035 Forecast
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
General Fund												
Approved*												
Disabled Facility Grants	Good Homes for All	1,528	1,343	1,343	1,343	1,343	1,343	1,343	1,343	1,343	1,343	13,615
North Walls Pavilion replacement	Healthy Communities	2,261	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,261
Food waste collection - capital investments incl. vehicles & caddies	Greener Faster	1,804	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,804
IMT Assets	Effective and Efficient	132	214	285	240	30	65	294	35	210	35	1,540
Car Parks	Thriving Places	883	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	883
CIL funded community projects	Thriving Places	1,234	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,234
SAPS - Car Park at the Dean, Alresford	Thriving Places	-	425	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	425
CIL funded HCC projects	Thriving Places	664	282	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	946
Meadowside Leisure centre - new equipment	Healthy Communities	-	-	-	101	-	-	-	-	-	-	101
Public conveniences improvements	Thriving Places	237	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	277
Open Spaces & Recreational Facilities - Chaundler Road	Healthy Communities	110	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	110
Meadowside Leisure centre - 3G pitch refurbishment	Healthy Communities	82	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	82
Meadowside Leisure centre - solar PV	Greener Faster	60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60
Wickham Recreation Ground - grant of S106 monies to parish	Healthy Communities	190	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	190
59 Cornbrook Street - shared accommodation	Good Homes for All	51	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	51
Guilford fire safety improvement works	Effective and Efficient	71	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	71
Car parks - public convenience improvements	Healthy Communities	170	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	170
Relocation of bone store to F2 - racking	Effective and Efficient	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Winchester Sport & Leisure Park	Healthy Communities	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32
Jane Austen Statue - capital grant	Thriving Places	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Electric animal welfare vans	Effective and Efficient	51	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	51
Winchester Football Club clubhouse improvements	Healthy Communities	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100
Total Approved*		9,674	2,304	1,628	1,684	1,373	1,408	1,637	1,378	1,553	1,378	24,017

Revised 2025-35 General Fund capital programme

		2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	TOTAL
	Priority	Revised budget	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	2025-2035 Forecast
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<i>Subject to Appraisal*</i>												
Demolition of former leisure centre at River Park	Healthy Communities	-	2,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000
Energy Management Projects	Greener Faster	500	500	500	500	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000
Car Parks	Thriving Places	-	305	180	180	180	180	180	180	180	180	1,745
Asset Management Plan	Effective and Efficient	50	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	165	200	1,465
North Whiteley Sports Pavilion - grant of S106 monies to parish	Healthy Communities	100	500	600	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,200
City Offices - refurbishments inc. new lifts, lighting, and heating system	Effective and Efficient	-	670	170	-	-	250	-	-	-	-	1,090
CIL funded community projects - unallocated	Thriving Places	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Chesil Multi Storey car park - replacement lifts	Thriving Places	-	-	500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500
Open Spaces & Recreational Facilities - various sites	Healthy Communities	-	120	50	90	-	-	-	-	-	-	260
Guildhall capital repairs to clock tower	Effective and Efficient	-	250	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	250
Cipher House roof replacement	Effective and Efficient	160	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	160
West Wing refurbishment - replacement lift	Effective and Efficient	-	-	140	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	140
City Offices - additional solar PV	Greener Faster	-	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100
Replacement printers	Effective and Efficient	-	93	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	93
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	Thriving Places	60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60
Rural England Prosperity Fund	Thriving Places	223	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	223
Perimeter footpath at River Park Recreation Ground	Healthy Communities	-	153	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	153
Special maintenance vehicle replacements	Effective and Efficient	251	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	251
Subject to Appraisal*		1,344	4,841	2,290	920	330	580	330	330	345	380	11,690
Total General Fund		11,018	7,145	3,918	2,604	1,703	1,988	1,967	1,708	1,898	1,758	35,707

* Under the Council's Financial Procedure Rule 7.4, the inclusion of a scheme in the capital programme does not constitute authority to incur the expenditure. Such authority is obtained subject to the various conditions and limits as set out in the Constitution.

The Strategic Asset Purchase Scheme (SAPS) is subject to separate governance procedures as outlined in the Capital Investment Strategy

[illegible]

CAB3516
CABINET

REPORT TITLE: HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) OUTTURN 2024/25

10 SEPTEMBER 2025

REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER: CLLR REACH – CABINET MEMBER FOR GOOD HOMES

Contact Officer: Liz Keys Tel No: 01962 848226 Email lkeys@winchester.gov.uk

WARD(S): ALL

PURPOSE

This report 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.

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 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.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Cabinet

1. Notes the HRA Outturn figures for 2024/25 as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2;
2. Notes the Housing capital programme outturn for Major Works and New Build as detailed in Paragraph 10.5 and 10.6 and Appendices 3 & 4;
3. Notes the funding of the 2024/25 HRA capital programme as detailed in Paragraphs 10.7 to 10.10 and Appendix 5; and
4. Approves the reforecast capital programme budget of £48.8m for 2025/26 as detailed in paragraphs 10.11 to 10.15 and Appendix 6 & 7 that takes into account potential programme slippage and the reprofiling of expected spend.

IMPLICATIONS:1 COUNCIL PLAN OUTCOME

1.1 Greener Faster

The capital programme provides for carbon reduction measures across the existing housing stock, included within the design and construction of new properties, and included within the feasibility assessment when considering the purchase of properties. This includes the Council's retrofit programme for existing properties.

1.2 Thriving Places

Delivery of affordable accommodation allows people to live and work in the community and contribute to the local economy.

1.3 Healthy Communities

The wellbeing of residents is considered within the design of new properties, and new homes are designed to be energy efficient and to meet tenants needs. Any substitute properties are assessed according to these criteria.

1.4 Good Homes for All

Providing good quality housing and new affordable homes is a strategic priority for the Council. Effective management of the resources available to the Council enable it to take advantage of new opportunities and ensure that satisfaction levels remain high amongst tenants in relation to their home and community.

1.5 Efficient and Effective

One of the key objectives of the Housing Strategy is to modernise the customer service offer through the development of a digital first customer journey, improving communication and self-service options for tenants/residents, and efficiency of services.

1.6 Listening and Learning

Housing tenants are directly involved in decisions regarding service provision, both through the work of TACT and through regular tenant and leaseholder digital surveys, to capture wider tenant views. The service continues to review options to provide an improved customer experience, increase opportunities for engagement and to ensure satisfaction with services provided by the Council.

2 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

2.1 Full details are included in section 10. In summary, the Council had a net surplus on its HRA revenue account of £1.855m for 2024/25, a favourable

variance on the original deficit budget of £1.704m. This increases the HRA general balance at 31st March 2025 from £14.096m to £15.95m. Current HRA reserves and balances as at 31st March 2025 are shown in Appendix 5, together with current HRA borrowing.

- 2.2 Total expenditure in the Housing capital programme for 2024/25 was £13.237m, which was £9.758m lower than the revised forecast in February of £22.995m. The original budget for the year was £26.295m. The key movements between February and outturn relate to Kings Barton, of which a £3m land transfer was anticipated by March (see 10.6c), and slippage on Climate Change (para 10.5d)
- 2.3 It is proposed to carry forward to 2025/26 £3.382m of capital budget slippage from 2024/25. In addition, the approved budgets for 2025/26 are being re-profiled to realign them with anticipated activity. The ten-year HRA indicative approved capital programme will be amended in the forthcoming business planning process for 2025/26 -2035/36 to reflect these changes in the timing of expected project milestones.

3 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Council, as a local housing authority, is required to maintain a Housing Revenue Account (HRA) with a positive working balance and keep borrowing levels within prudential rule guidelines, in accordance with s74 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 (the “1989 Act”) prohibiting the Council to operate its HRA at a deficit. Effective management of the HRA is necessary to ensure that statutory requirements are met.
- 3.2 HRA capital projects will ensure that approvals required are in compliance with the Council constitution which includes that a project with costs in excess of £0.250m will be subject to a financial appraisal, Financial Procedure Rules and the subject of a Member decision.

4 WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 As at the end of the financial year 2024/25, further changes to the restructure implemented in 2023/24 were being assessed in response to ongoing regulatory requirements. Proposed changes were being consulted on at the time of writing this report.

5 PROPERTY AND ASSET IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 In order to meet one of the key principles of the Council’s strategy, the HRA is required to provide sufficient financial resources to both maintain the Council’s existing housing stock to decent homes standard and to enable new affordable housing to be built to help meet local demands.

6 CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

- 6.1 The Outturn Report will be shared with the TACT Board.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.2 The Housing Service considers environmental and ecological factors when developing new build properties and preparing major works plans including estate improvements, working closely with planning officers and the Council's Landscape Team where appropriate. Additional costs for meeting these responsibilities are included in project appraisals and scheme budgets.
- 6.3 The Council is working towards the goal to achieve energy performance certification (EPC) at C or above on all the housing stock by 2030. During 2024/25, 57 properties previously at an EPC- D rating were certified at EPC-C rating, following works undertaken. As at the end of 2024/25, approximately 64% of the stock is now rated at EPC-C or above

7 PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

- 7.1 Whilst there are no actions which arise directly from this report, officers have regard to the considerations as set out in the Equalities Act 2010 and whether an equality impact assessment will be required to be undertaken at the time of implementation on any specific recommendations.

8 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 None required.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk	Mitigation	Opportunities
Financial Pressures <i>Continuing inflationary pressures affecting materials, labour and energy costs, combined with rises in borrowing costs, the impact of the cost of living crisis impacting on costs of reactive and planned repairs and new build, reducing capacity and viability of the HRA</i>	The annual process of constructing a robust base HRA 30-year business plan and its underlying key assumptions and sensitivity analysis will help to identify and quantify the potential financial consequences and impact	Allowing better informed resource allocation decisions to be made.

Exposure to Challenge <i>The provision of social housing is a statutory requirement, with increased focus on regulation and compliance. Failure to comply with relevant legislation will lead to challenge from Regulator of Social Housing</i>	Statutory legislation is being monitored to identify any new risks or opportunities that they may bring. Policies are being updated. Action plans are in place to address gaps in compliance. Close working relationship with Regulator of Social Housing.	
Reputation <i>Failure to complete major housing projects due to lack of resources would have a direct impact on both customer satisfaction and the Council's reputation.</i>	Business planning tools with regular updates are utilised to make sure resources are available to complete projects. A whole of life approach to developing affordable high quality sustainable housing is considered from the outset	
Achievement of outcome		
Property <i>That council owned dwellings fail to meet decent home standards.</i> <i>Insufficient stock condition data may mean that future capital spend assumptions are inaccurate</i> <i>That changes to Decent Homes standards currently being consulted on add significant cost to the capital programme</i>	Full stock condition surveys are programmed to commence in 2025/26. The outputs will inform the programme of future works within the business plan, taking account of changing requirements. sound financial planning ensures that standards are maintained in future.	Investment in stock will reduce future pressure on reactive repairs costs within the revenue budget,
Community Support	Regular communication and consultation are	Positive consultation brings forward alternative

<i>Lack of consultation will affect tenant satisfaction and cause objections to planning applications for new build developments.</i>	maintained with tenants and leaseholders on a variety of housing issues. The Council consults with local residents and stakeholders on proposed new build schemes.	options that may otherwise not have been considered.
<p>Timescales</p> <p><i>Delays to new build contracts may result in increased costs and lost revenue.</i></p> <p><i>Delays to major works may result in the loss of decent home status for individual properties.</i></p>	<p>New build contracts contain clauses to allow the Council to recover damages if the project is delayed due to contractor actions.</p> <p>Continual updating of asset management plans and major works budgets allows potential issues to be addressed quickly.</p>	
<p>Project capacity</p> <p><i>The HRA can borrow funds in addition to utilising external receipts and reserves, but it must be able to service the loan interest arising and repay debt in the future.</i></p> <p><i>Staffing resources (not always in Housing) reduce the ability to push forward new schemes at the required pace.</i></p>	<p>Regular monitoring of budgets and business plans, together with the use of financial assessment tools enables the Council to manage resources effectively.</p> <p>Staffing resources have been reviewed to support the delivery of the enhanced new build programme.</p>	Recent changes to the guidance for the use of RTB receipts gives more flexibility. Potential Grant funding opportunities
Other		

10 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

HRA Outturn 2024/25

Details of the 2024/25 financial performance are analysed in Appendix 1 (subjective summary) and Appendix 2 (service summary).

- 10.1 Overall, the HRA produced a surplus of £1.855m. The outturn surplus represents a £3.31m favourable variance to the original deficit budget of £1.704m (CAB3445).
- 10.2 Within the subjective summary (Appendix 1), the material variances were:
- a) **Employee costs:** £0.556m favourable variance, representing an underspend against the overall original employee budget of 8.6%. A new structure was implemented in early 2024/25, which delivered a budget saving of £0.3m, which is reflected in this variance and has been baselined into the business plan. The remainder relates to one-off vacancy savings. Vacancies were high in the first half of the year as a result of restructuring.
 - b) **Premises costs:** £0.561m adverse variance. The adverse variance is predominantly due to demand led repairs and maintenance. The Budget Options and 2025/26 budget reports (CAB3478) outlines the step change in repairs costs resulting from high inflation between 2021/22 and 2023/24, set the expectation that there would be a significant adverse variance on repairs in 2024/25 and made provision in budgets for additional costs from 2025/26. The overall adverse variance on repairs in 2024/25 was £1.8m, which includes an underestimate in 2023/24 cost accrual of £0.4m, and additional compliance costs for fire safety works of £0.1m in addition to the expected baseline increase of £1.2m.
- Adverse variances have been offset by a favourable variance of £0.4m on utility costs and cleaning contract costs, for which the budget estimate was significantly increased following spikes in energy costs in 2022/23. The 2025/26 budget report (CAB3490) also set the expectation that energy budgets would be overstated, and energy budgets (and associated service charge income budgets) have been revised accordingly.
- During 2022/23, an Extension of Time claim of £0.835m in respect of Winnall flats was accounted for and has been accrued as a revenue cost each year since, pending settlement. The claim was settled as a capital cost during 2024/25 and as it related to works costs rather than penalties, has generated a favourable variance of £0.8m.
- The quarterly forecast report identified a potential revenue cost of £0.9m for fire safety and asbestos compliance inspections and fire safety works. As at 31st March compliance inspections were well advanced for fire safety, and for asbestos were commencing in April 2025. Inspections were procured below the forecast expectation by £0.3m and likely spend in 2025/26 can be accommodated within the 2025/26 budgets.
- c) **Other costs:** £1.01m Favourable variance. This is made up of a number of variances. The key variance is the investment budget for

repairs procurement contract and upgrades to Housing IT systems, for which £1m was allocated for investment in the 2024/25 original budget. The quarterly monitoring reports and 2025/26 HRA budget report and business plan (CAB3490) identified that this would not be fully spent in 2024/25 and provided for a revised profile of spend between 2025/26 and reprofiled to future years to reflect current expectation.

The budget report also identified a likely underspend on consultancy costs on New Homes as an ongoing saving from 2025/26, which is predominantly due to an increasing focus on acquisitions in the short term. There was a corresponding underspend of £0.12m on the consultancy budget in 2024/25.

The favourable variances have been offset by an increase in disrepair costs. A number of historic disrepair claims are being settled, and the Council continues to receive new claims, in part due to increased awareness of ability to claim. A provision has been set up to provide for the settlement of these claims, which has led to an adverse variance of £0.17m.

The catering provision at Chesil Lodge is run at a significant subsidy, an issue that was identified within 2025/26 budget setting process. Charges have been increased for 2025/26 in order to mitigate cost to the HRA, however for 2024/25 the budget did not reflect the level of subsidy provided and an adverse variance of £0.08m resulted.

- d) End of year depreciation charges were £0.57m over budget. There is a requirement to transfer a sum to the Major Repairs reserve each year, based on the annual depreciation charge. For budgeting purposes, depreciation is an estimate based on the prior year, and actual depreciation is affected by several factors such as the annual valuation of the council's housing stock, and underlying component costs and will therefore vary from forecast. The charge is transferred to the Major repairs Reserve and, from there, used to support the capital programme. There was no new external borrowing in 2024/25, and associated costs were in line with budget. However, internal borrowing costs were higher than forecast by £0.16m as the 3-month PWLB rate used to calculate the internal cost of borrowing averaged 5.45% across the year, compared to a budgeted rate of 5%.
- e) External Income: Favourable variance of £0.565m, of which £0.27m relates to rents on shared ownership properties. Sales of Shared ownership sales of properties at Goatsbeard house commenced during 2024/25. The trend in shares sold so far indicate that the share of property purchased was lower than anticipated, which means that rental income was higher and capital shared ownership receipts lower than originally anticipated. Communal service charges were £0.1m favourable, reflecting increased cost recovery specifically for communal energy costs, dwelling rents was favourable by £0.05m on a £35m

income budget, and bad debt provision contribution was £0.05m lower than budget estimate due to improvements in the debt recovery rate in 2024/25.

- f) **Interest receivable £2.77m:** Interest payable and receivable: Because the capital programme has been significantly underspent against the original budget in 2024/25, cash balances that would otherwise have been used to finance the capital programme have been retained; and the interest rate applicable to internal balances has been much higher than budgeted, resulting in a favourable variance of £2.8m.

10.3 Within the service summary (Appendix 1), the material variances were:

- a) **Estate Management:** The favourable variance of £0.26m relates to staff management savings, of which £0.08m relates to ongoing staff restructure savings that have been baselined from 2025/26, and £0.17m to one-off vacancy savings in year.
- b) **New build programme support:** Favourable variance of £0.278m. Of this variance, £0.12m is due to ongoing vacancies within the programme support team, and £0.12m underspend on consultancy budget. Both of these variances have been crystallised as ongoing savings in the 2025/26 business plan and budgets. In addition, £0.03m income was received from the sale of nutrient credits, which have been set aside to fund appropriate capital expenditure.
- c) **HRA General** – Favourable variance of £1.176m. The key variance is the investment budget, for which £0.6m was allocated for IT investment, and was reprofiled to future years as part of the agreed 2025/26 HRA business plan. Other favourable variances included savings arising from housing restructuring £0.4m, which has been baselined in 2025/26 budgets; one off favourable variance of £0.05m from the closure of a historic insurance provision no longer required, £0.04m unspent training budget as a result of high staff turnover, and £0.08m on service charge income.
- d) **Communal Services:** Favourable variance of £0.11m. This relates to utilities costs and the cleaning contract and is explained in more detail in paragraph 10.2b above. More realistic budget estimates have been put in place for 2025/26
- e) **Estate Improvements:** Favourable variance of £0.121m – The level of reactive grounds works undertaken in 2024/25 was slightly lower than in previous years, which has resulted in a favourable variance to budget.
- f) **Temporary Accommodation:** Favourable variance of £0.16m. Of this variance, £0.06m relates to staff restructure costs, baselined in 2025/26, and the remainder is due to cleaning and utilities costs lower than budgeted.
- g) **Home Ownership:** Favourable variance £0.17m. This is due to higher than budgeted income on shared ownership rents, explained in paragraph 10.2e.

- h) **Sheltered Housing:** Favourable variance of £0.138m. An adverse variance of £0.08m in respect of the cost of catering at Chesil Lodge is offset by lower than budgeted utility costs of £0.2m.
- i) **Responsive repairs, voids and cyclical maintenance:** The adverse variance on repairs costs is explained in paragraph 15.2b.
- j) **Repairs administration:** The overall favourable variance of £0.202m relates to an overall increase in staff resource within restructure of £0.25m, offset by favourable variance of £0.27 on repairs contract procurement, which was funded by the investment budget built into the HRA and reprofiled within the 2024/25 HRA business plan, and one-off vacancy savings of £0.18m.
- k) **Interest receivable:** Favourable variance of £2.77m is explained at paragraph 10.2f

10.4 HRA Revenue Carry Forwards from 2024/25 to 2025/26

The HRA business plan of 2024/25 reprofiled the HRA investment budget from 2025/26 onwards, based on the knowledge that the spend in 2024/25 would be low and that the unspent budget would be returned to the working balance.

HRA Capital Programme Outturn 2024/25

- 10.5 Appendices 3 & 4 detail the expenditure in 2024/25 for both the Housing Services and New Build capital programmes against both the Original Budget and the Revised Budget position.

Overall, within Housing Services (Appendix 3), £9.185m was spent against a Revised Budget of £14.457m, a variance of £5.269m on the year.

The material variances to the revised budget were as follows:

- a) Major repairs £1.68m favourable variance: this variance predominantly relates to mechanical engineering and in particular boiler replacements of £0.5m (to be carried forward to 2025/26), roofing replacements of £0.5m, windows and door replacements £0.4m and kitchens and bathrooms £0.2m. The variance is partially due to key staff vacancies in the first half of the year, which meant that commencement of planned programmes for 2024/25 was delayed and will result in a carry forward of budget into 2025/26 of £0.659m. Reactive capital works, which relates to unplanned major works to properties, was lower than forecast by £1m.
- b) Sheltered housing upgrades £0.174m. The programme to digitise telecare has been delayed, as a result of staff turnover. The budget will be carried forward and reassessed in 2025/26.

- c) Fire Safety provision £0.5m favourable variance. The budget for 2024/25 allowed £0.25m for emergency lighting upgrades, which was under contract and in progress but not complete as at 31st March and will be subject to carry forward.
- d) Climate Change emergency £2.3m favourable variance. This is largely due to delays in procuring the Swedish cottages contract, which went live in Q3 of 2024/25. The budget will therefore require reprofiling to future years.
- e) Sewerage treatment works £0.4m favourable variance. The capital budget was sufficient to undertake upgrade works to four sites and allowed for the purchase of replacement tanker. As at year end, one site was in progress whilst works at other sites were either undergoing feasibility works or were due to start in early 2025/26. This will require reprofiling of budgets to future years.

10.6 For the New Build Capital Programme (Appendix 4), £4.049m was spent against a Revised Budget of £8.538m, a variance of £4.489m

The material variances were as follows:

- a) Winnall Flats £0.9m; The budget forecast for Winnall was amended in the Outturn report for 2023/34 to provide additional contingency, however this was not utilised and therefore created a favourable variance of £0.9m
- b) LAHF £0.25m underspent. The budget assumed a fixed amount per property for repairs. However, anticipated overall repair costs on property acquisitions were lower than budgeted.
- c) Kings Barton acquisition. The initial deposit for land was expected to be paid in late March 2025. However, this was delayed by the developer, resulting in a favourable variance of £3.169m which will require reprofiling to 2025/26.

HRA Capital Programme Funding

- 10.7 Appendix 5 details the actual funding for the capital programme in 2024/25.
- 10.8 The average HRA cost of capital is shown here together with current HRA reserves/resources position. These resources are largely constrained in their use, with the exception of the general reserve, but provide a degree of mitigation against future new homes development and sales risk and provide a cheaper form of internal financing for the capital programme.
- 10.9 The proposed funding of the programme firstly applies 1-4-1 RTB funding of £0.632m to maximise the council's position on these resources. Capital receipts from other retained RTB receipts of £0.532m, new build shared ownership sales and staircasing receipts of £1.984m, and other disposals

£0.025m are then applied. Grant funding of £0.34m, including Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF), Homes England, and Hampshire County Council Ukraine funding are then applied, along with a Community Infrastructure Levy contribution of £0.534m for environmental works at Winnall flats. A contribution of £8.745m was drawn from the Major Repairs Reserve towards Decent Homes capital works.

- 10.10 The capital programme was fully financed in 2024/25. This meant that there was no change to the Capital Financing Requirement of £212.546m, which represents the underlining borrowing requirement for capital purposes.

HRA Capital Programme Re-Forecast for 2024/25

- 10.11 Within the capital programme, there is an increase due to slippage from the 2024/25 programme into the 2025/26 budget of £6.880m, combined with an increase due to reprofiling between 2025/26 and future years, which is proposed in appendices 6 & 7
- 10.12 The proposed Housing Services programme has slippage from 2024/25 of £3.362m and 2025/26 budgets reprofiled to 2026/27 of £4.616m, resulting in a net decrease of £1.254m. This reflects the current anticipated delivery on planned major works programmes and the carry forward of funding for key Council priorities such as climate change and fire safety
- 10.13 The profiling of all the New Homes scheme capital projects has also been reviewed in light of current progress against agreed projects. In particular, the profiling of spend for the acquisition at Kings Barton has been reviewed based on current build progress and updated cash flows received from the developer. The scheme is not expected to overspend but a carry forward of £3.2m from 2024/25 and reprofiling of £13.7m budget from future years back to 2025/26, reflecting the latest cashflow forecasts.
- 10.14 In February 2025, the Council applied for funding for Local Authority Housing Fund round 3. The budget report confirmed that, should the bid be successful, match funding would come from the unallocated pot and delegated decisions to officers with respect to property purchases. The proposed profiling has been adjusted to reflect decisions made as at July 2025.
- 10.15 In July 2025, the Cabinet agreed to the disposal of Cornerhouse, with the allocated budget returning to the unallocated pot. This has been reflected in the revised Capital budget.

11 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 11.1 No other options have been considered. There is a statutory requirement to approve the HRA outturn.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:-Previous Committee Reports:-

CAB3465 HRA Outturn report 2023-24	11 Sept 2024
CAB3432 HRA Budget Options 2024-25	21 Nov 2023
CAB3445 Housing Revenue Account Budget 2024-25	8 Feb 2024
CAB3478 HRA Budget Options 2025-26	20 Nov 2024
CAB3490 Housing Revenue Account Budget 2025-26	12 Feb 2025

Other Background Documents:-

None

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Housing Revenue Account Outturn 2024/25 – Subjective Summary

Appendix 2 – Housing Revenue Account Outturn 2024/25 – Service Summary

Appendix 3 – Housing Capital Programme 2024/25 – Housing Services Outturn

Appendix 4 – Housing Capital Programme 2024/25 – New Build Outturn

Appendix 5 – Housing Capital Programme 2024/25 - Funding, Resources and Debt

Appendix 6 – Housing Capital Programme 2024/25 – Re-forecast Budget Major Works

Appendix 7 – Housing Capital Programme 2024/25 – Re-forecast Budget New Build

APPENDIX 1

HRA OUTTURN 2024/25

	Original Budget	Outturn	Variance Outturn to Original Budget	Report Notes
	£000	£000	£000	
Employees	(6,124)	(5,568)	556	10.2a
Premises	(8,953)	(9,514)	(561)	10.2b
Other Costs	(5,850)	(4,838)	1,012	10.2c
Net Interest and Depreciation	(18,075)	(18,808)	(733)	10.2d
External income	36,882	37,447	566	10.2e
(Deficit) / Surplus for year on HRA Services	(2,120)	(1,281)	840	
Right to Buy Admin Fees	31	17	(14)	
Interest receivable	385	3,157	2,771	10.2f
Assets Funded by HRA	0	0	0	
Net increase/(decrease) in HRA Balance before transfers to or from reserves	(1,704)	1,894	3,598	
Transfer to/from Reserves	0	(39)	(39)	
(Decrease)/Increase in HRA Balance	(1,704)	1,855	3,559	
<u>HRA Working Balance</u>				
Opening Balance	14,096	14,096	0	
Add Projected (Deficit)/Surplus	(1,704)	1,855	3,559	
Projected Balance at Year End	12,392	15,951	3,559	

APPENDIX 2

HRA OUTTURN 2024/25

Original Budget	Outturn	Variance Outturn to Original Budget
£000	£000	£000

Report Notes

Service Summary

Housing Management General

Estate Management	(1,708)	(1,447)	(261)	10.3a
HRA General	(4,329)	(3,153)	(1,176)	10.3c
Tenancy Sustainment	(475)	(385)	(90)	
Downsizing	(70)	(49)	(20)	
Rent Accounting	(79)	(92)	13	
Tenants Involvement	(110)	(44)	(66)	
Vacant Dwellings	(120)	(168)	48	
New Build Programme Support	(1,027)	(749)	(278)	10.3b
	(7,918)	(6,088)	(1,357)	

Housing Management Special

Communal Services	209	319	(110)	10.3d
Disabled Adaptations	(159)	(167)	8	
Estate Improvements	(661)	(539)	(122)	10.3e
Homelessness	(229)	(67)	(161)	10.3f
Home ownership	349	523	(174)	10.3g
Sewage Works	(430)	(383)	(47)	
Sheltered Housing	(1,204)	(1,066)	(138)	10.3h
	(2,125)	(1,380)	(149)	

Repairs

Responsive Maintenance	(3,541)	(3,540)	(1)	
Voids	(1,768)	(2,339)	571	
Cyclic	(1,135)	(1,653)	517	
Sub - total Repairs Works	(6,444)	(7,531)	1,087	10.3i
Repairs Administration	(2,061)	(2,117)	(202)	10.3j
	(8,505)	(9,648)	885	

Debt Management Expenses	(9)	(9)	(0)	
Interest Payable	(8,102)	(8,266)	164	
Depreciation of Fixed Assets	(9,973)	(10,542)	569	
	(18,084)	(18,817)	733	10.2d

Rents and Other Income

Dwelling Rents	33,649	33,742	(92)	
Garage Rents	64	79	(14)	
Other Income	188	192	(4)	
Investment Properties	51	83	(32)	
Sheltered Charges	559	580	(21)	
	34,511	34,676	(723)	

(Deficit) / Surplus for year on HRA Services (2,120) (1,258) (611)

APPENDIX 2

HRA OUTTURN 2024/25

Original Budget	Outturn	Variance Outturn to Revised Budget
£000	£000	£000

Report Notes

Service Summary

Right to Buy Admin Fees	31	17	14	
Interest Receivable	385	3,157	(2,771)	10.3k
Assets financed by HRA	0	(23)	23	
Net increase / (decrease) in HRA Balance before transfers to or from reserves	(1,704)	1,893	(3,346)	

Transfer (to)/from Reserves	0	(38)	38
Increase / (decrease) in HRA Balance	(1,704)	1,855	(3,308)
	0	0	0

HRA Working Balance			
Opening Balance	14,096	14,096	0
Add Projected (Deficit)/Surplus	(1,704)	1,855	(3,308)
Projected Balance at Year End	12,392	15,951	(3,308)

Appendix 3

HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME OUTTURN 2024/25

2024/25 Original Budget	2024/25 Revised Budget	2024/25 Outturn	2024/25 Variance Outturn to Revised Budget
£000	£000	£000	£000

Report Notes

Housing Services Programme**Major Repairs**

External Envelope Works	(277)	(2,053)	(1,527)	(526)
External Ground Works	(2,390)	(100)	(73)	(27)
External Window/Door/Screens	(1,410)	(867)	(375)	(492)
Internal Structure & Finishes	(137)	(137)	(186)	49
Kitchen & Bathroom Renewals	(1,093)	(958)	(798)	(160)
Mechanical & Electrical Services	(850)	(3,068)	(2,538)	(530)
	(6,157)	(7,183)	(5,497)	(1,686)

10.5 a)

Improvements & Conversions

Estate Improvements	(534)	(350)	(174)	(176)
Sheltered Housing Upgrades	(154)	(174)	0	(174)
	(688)	(524)	(174)	(350)

10.5 b)

Other Capital Spending

Disabled Adaptations	(815)	(700)	(660)	(40)
Fire Safety Provision	(1,176)	(750)	(225)	(525)
Climate Change Emergency	(4,906)	(4,636)	(2,357)	(2,279)
Victoria Court sewerage upgrade	0	(15)	(3)	(12)
Sewage Treatment Works	(659)	(650)	(273)	(377)
Total Housing Service Capital Programme	(14,401)	(14,458)	(9,188)	(5,270)

10.5 c)

10.5 d)

10.5 e)

Appendix 4

HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME OUTTURN 2024/25

	2024/25 Original Budget	2024/25 Revised Budget	2024/25 Outturn	2024/25 Variance Outturn to Revised Budget	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	Report Notes
New Build Programme & Other Capital					
Winnall	0	(2,958)	(2,057)	(901)	10.6a
Barton Farm	(189)	0	0	0	
CornerHouse	(986)	0	0	0	
Southbrook Cottages	0	(600)	(594)	(6)	
Woodman Close		(41)	(10)	(31)	
Hazeley Road Twyford	0	(300)	(302)	2	
Kings Barton Acquisition	0	(3,200)	(31)	(3,169)	10.6c
Property Buybacks	0	(380)	(312)	(68)	
Nutrient Mitigation	(600)	0	0	0	
LAHF Property Acquisitions	0	(1,100)	(744)	(356)	10.6b
New Build Major Repairs	(46)	0	0	0	
Unallocated	(13,703)	0	0	0	
	(15,524)	(8,579)	(4,050)	(4,529)	
Total HRA Capital Programme	(29,925)	(23,037)	(13,238)	(9,799)	

Appendix 5

HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME FUNDING 2024/25

	Original Budget £000	Revised Budget £000	Outturn £000	Variance Outturn to Revised Budget £000
Funding Source				
Right to Buy Other Retained receipts	3,360	610	532	(78)
Right to Buy 1-4-1 Receipts	4,475	6,994	635	(6,359)
Shared Ownership Capital Receipts	4,114	3,000	2,257	(743)
Other Capital Receipts	1,042	50	26	(24)
S.106 Contributions	7,878	0	0	0
CIL	0	755	535	(220)
Homes England Grant	0	61	61	0
LAHF Grant	0	300	199	(101)
Other grants	0	521	247	(274)
New Build Sales	0	0	0	0
HRA Borrowing	0	0	0	0
Major Repairs Reserve	13,304	10,704	8,746	(1,958)
TOTAL	34,173	22,995	13,238	(9,757)

HRA Usable Reserves/Resources

	Bal 31.3.2024 £000	Bal 31.3.2025 £000	Change £000
HRA Revenue Reserves	14,096	15,951	1,855
Earmarked Reserves	182	220	38
Major Repairs Reserve	32,323	34,119	1,796
Right to Buy 1-4-1 Receipts	4,830	5,462	632
Right to Buy other retained receipts	155	0	(155)
Shared Ownership capital receipts	163	909	745
Other Capital Receipts	156	48	(108)
S.106 Contributions	10,515	12,840	2,325
TOTAL	62,421	69,549	7,128

HRA Capital Financing Requirement

	Bal 31.3.2024 £000	Bal 31.3.2025 £000	Change £000
CFR (Underlying need to borrow)	212,600	212,600	0
(Expenditure funded by Borrowing)			
Annual Cost of Debt	7,230	8,266	1,036
Average Cost of Capital to HRA	3.40%	3.89%	0.49%
of Which			
[a] PWLB external debt	159,722	154,491	(5,231)
Average cost of debt	5,224	5,223	(1)
Average Cost of Capital	3.27%	3.38%	0.11%
[b] Internal borrowing	52,878	58,109	5,231
Average cost of debt	1,995	3,043	1,037
Average Cost of Capital	3.77%	5.24%	19.83%

Appendix 6

HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME PROPOSED REVISED BUDGETS 2025/26

	2025/26 Original Approved Budget. £000	2025/26 Other Budget Changes £000	2024/25 Proposed C/fwd £000	2024/25 Revised Budget £000
<u>Housing Services Programme</u>				
<u>Major Repairs</u>				
Roofing works	(277)	(12)	(250)	(539)
External Windows & Doors	(1,410)	(17)	(44)	(1,471)
Internal Structure & Finishes	(137)		0	(137)
Kitchen & Bathroom Renewals	(1,093)	176	(115)	(1,032)
Blocks	(2,390)	1,590	0	(800)
Mechanical & Electrical Services	(850)		(250)	(1,100)
Reactive major repairs	(2,000)		0	(2,000)
	(8,157)	1,737	(659)	(7,079)
<u>Improvements & Conversions</u>				
Estate Improvements	(432)	0		(432)
Sheltered Housing Upgrades	(74)		(174)	(248)
	(506)	0	(174)	(680)
<u>Other Capital Spending</u>				
Disabled Adaptations	(719)	0	0	(719)
Fire Safety Provision	(3,301)	0	(250)	(3,551)
Climate Change Emergency	(5,936)	2,879	(2,279)	(5,336)
Sewage Treatment Works	(1,586)			(1,586)
	(11,542)	2,879	(2,529)	(11,192)
Total HS Capital Programme	(20,205)	4,616	(3,362)	(18,951)

Appendix 7

HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME PROPOSED REVISED BUDGETS 2025/26

2025/26 Original Approved Budget. £000	2025/26 Other Budget Changes £000	2025/26 Proposed Bfwd £000	2025/26 Revised Budget £000
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New Build Programme & Other Capital

Approved Schemes

Hazeley Road Twyford	(915)		(915)
Kings Barton Acquisition	(3,360)	(13,471)	(3,169)
Property Buybacks	(980)		(68)
LAHF Property Acquisitions	0	(531)	0
Total New Build Programme	(5,255)	(14,002)	(3,237)

Total Approved Capital Programme

(25,460)	(9,386)	(6,599)	(41,445)
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Unapproved schemes

Woodman Close	(978)		0
CornerHouse	(900)	900	0
Unallocated sites	(6,065)	(369)	0
Total New Build Programme	(7,943)	531	0

Total HRA Capital Programme

(33,403)	(8,855)	(6,599)	(48,857)
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Finance and Performance Report – April to June 2025

Recommendation

That Cabinet notes the progress achieved during Q1 of 2025/26 and endorses the contents of the report.

Index

Performance Report

Section 1 – Greener Faster

Section 2 – Healthy Communities

Section 3 – Thriving Places

Section 4 – Good Homes for All

Section 5 – Efficient and Effective

Section 6 – Listening and Learning

Finance report.

Section 7 - Financial report

Updates since Q4 24/25 report

The Tier 1 programme and project highlight reports have been updated to include the red/amber/green status from previous quarterly reports to show historical trends and provide better context on progress over time.

Red/Amber/Green status

The table below provides a brief explanation of the RAG status used throughout this report to quickly and visually communicate the status of projects and service plan actions.

GREEN	Normal level of attention Project is on track to be delivered on time and within agreed resources
AMBER	Minor concern Some issues, being managed, needs to be closely monitored
RED	Major concern Serious issues, milestone dates being missed, recovery plan required

PERFORMANCE REPORT

Section 1 Greener Faster

Delivery highlights – April to June 2025

- Results from the national Climate Score Cards published, Winchester City Council is the best district council nationally for tackling climate change. The council was awarded a score of 68% overall (an increase of 19% compared to 2023). Press release issued.
- Carried out internal stakeholder engagement of Nature Improvement Plan (NIP), feedback received and reviewed. Work progressed on updating final draft NIP for HEP committee in July.
- Public consultation on Hampshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy, WCC fed into the consultation.
- Launch of UK Shared Prosperity Fund (£327k) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (£223k). A number of submissions are for projects tackling the climate emergency. Reviewing and scoring of applications.
- Government funding for new private sector housing retrofit scheme Warmer Homes: Local Grant has been scaled back significantly (est. 70%), work with Warmer Homes Consortium Members & Affiliated Community Partners has been carried out to review deliverables.
- Launched and collated data from the annual staff travel survey, with 221 respondents. The survey fed into the data required for the council's annual carbon footprint for 24/25. The council's carbon footprint data collection was completed in Q1 and shared with consultants to progress the data analysis and outcomes for the council's annual carbon footprint report for 2024/25.
- From 1 April the ice machine and walk in fridge have been switched off at the Guildhall (use of this equipment is dependent on Guildhall events). It is estimated that this will save 5,160KWh of electricity and 1.06tCO₂e annually.
- Large scale renewable project appointed contractor to work on updating the financial modelling of the scheme. Work progressed on developing an indicative design of the scheme. Prepared an update for PAC board setting out revised timescales for the delivery of the project.
- Itchen View Sewage Treatment Works has been upgraded by Partnership for South Hampshire to generate nutrient credits. A contractor has been appointed to carry out a feasibility review into potential sites to see if they are practically suitable for upgrading after the initial desktop survey indicated they were.

Our Carbon Neutrality Action Plan (Council)

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Kelsie Learney					Project Sponsor: Cheryl Headon							
Programme RAG status*	Timeline				Budget				Carbon			
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
RAG Status update <p>Carbon savings attributed to switching all council fleet to low carbon vehicles has not been achieved due to vehicle availability, internal approval processes and procurement lead time, this means that both carbon and timeline project RAG status are rated amber for this quarter. Energy saving measures to decarbonise Guildhall / City offices are costly and unlikely to be achieved due to devolution. The government have withdrawn all funding for public sector decarbonisation schemes adding a further barrier.</p> <p>*RAG status rating is based on annual progress in year against the identified 2025/26 delivery programme, carbon targets and budget.</p>												
Progress achieved during the last quarter: <p>Work is complete to ensure that CNAP programme 2025/26 aligns with the Council Plan 2025 -2030 and service delivery plans. Progress has been made across all pathways for Q1. The following updates are some of the key highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procured two electric vehicles for Animal Welfare Officers. • Organising the rollout of and upgrade of staff laptops. Launch of staff engagement campaign to facilitate this. • Outcomes received and reviewed from solar desktop feasibility studies for small scale solar PV on council assets this includes both rooftop and canopy sites. Meetings with finance to determine financial viability of proposals. • Delivered communications to support the launch of the staff benefit 'Heat Scheme' to help staff achieve cheaper energy bills and reduce emissions, internal promotion of sustainable staff travel initiatives. • Baseline Arcadian soil carbon analysis completed at Winnall Moors and St Faith's meadow, confirmed that carbon captured by the soil shows is at the lower end of carbon range. Work ongoing to establish next steps. 												
Actions for the next quarter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of two electric vehicles for Animal Welfare Officers. Financial approval to procure replacement panel van for Special Maintenance fleet. • Draft and develop outline business case for small scale solar PV on council assets. • Ongoing promotion of 'Heat Scheme' to help staff achieve cheaper energy bills and reduce emissions. • Final draft of The Nature Improvement Plan to be presented to HEP committee in July and Cabinet in September. • Review of tender returns for solar PV installation works at Meadowside Leisure Centre. 												

Our Carbon Neutrality Action Plan (District)

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Kelsie Learney					Project Sponsor: Cheryl Headon							
Programme RAG status	Timeline				Budget				Carbon			
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
<p>RAG status update</p> <p>Timeline: whilst good progress has been made across the pathways some projects are still in their infancy and will take time to deliver the kilotonnes of CO₂e savings required. This major programme risk is being managed.</p> <p>Carbon: A key challenge for the district CNAP is tracking the carbon saved by the actions/ projects. Where possible, progress is being made on tracking carbon savings from council led actions / projects within the district. However, it is difficult to correlate these savings with government data for district emissions. This is because the government dataset is reported two years in arrears and due to the scale of the emissions and the lag in data reporting it is not possible to directly attribute these CNAP actions to government carbon savings.</p> <p>*RAG status rating is based on annual progress in year against the identified 2025/26 council delivery programme, carbon targets and budget.</p>												
<p>Work is complete to ensure that CNAP programme 2025/26 aligns with the Council Plan 2025 -2030 and service delivery plans. Communications team have delivered sustained comms to support all the projects, grants, campaigns and events in the CNAP. Good progress has been made across all pathways for Q1.</p> <p>Key progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal have reviewed and drafted Power Purchase agreement for solar for business programme and currently reviewing lease agreement. Preplanning application has been drafted and submitted. • Finalised grant acceptance letter for Social Housing Fund for solar PV, ASHP and battery. Procured and appointed contractor to carry energy assessments to identify eligible properties. Cabinet approved the use and maintenance payment proposal to all homes receiving solar panels. • Draft energy baseline has been completed for Winchester district Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP), progressing with modelling scenarios for Net Zero target. Work has commenced on developing workstreams to support the Community-led Energy plan, communities have been assessed based on primary substation areas; Harestock has been selected. 												
<p>Actions for the next quarter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCC Active Travel Grant – identify and work with partners to submit a bid, by mid-September deadline, to deliver an active travel scheme in Winchester district. • Final draft of The Nature Improvement Plan to be presented to HEP committee in July and Cabinet in September. • Anticipated outputs from LASER report on assessing the financial modelling and viability of large-scale renewable energy scheme. 												

Future of Waste and Recycling

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Kelsie Learney / Cllr Steve Cramoysan	Project Sponsor: Cheryl Headon							
Programme RAG status	Timeline				Budget			
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
<p>Progress achieved during the last quarter:</p> <p>Contract amendments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deed of variation to the main Biffa contract for the new food waste service and the vehicle lease agreement are both nearing completion. <p>Grounds Maintenance relocation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The contract team is now fully operational at the Ring Tower depot in Winnall following the completed relocation. Barfield Close Depot is now fully leased to Biffa to provide additional space for the new food waste service. The Ring Tower building has now been handed to Asset Management team as BAU. <p>Preparing the Biffa depot for food waste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some building/ modification works are required in the office building and in the yard to allow for the new food waste service. Works have begun in June and are expected to complete by mid-July. <p>Communal Properties – preparing for food waste recycling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Southampton University, Test Valley BC and Eastleigh BC on a joint research project to improve recycling in communal properties has now concluded. Strategies generated during the project are already being put in place by the project team and WCC housing colleagues. Full results of this research should be available by August 2025. Recruitment for Recycling officer posts has commenced. These officers will be prioritising communal property liaison and bin store signage. Detailed information on the Councils communal properties has been prepared in liaison with Housing team and passed to Biffa. <p>Procurement of food waste containers and vehicles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All containers and liners are on schedule for delivery in July. Vehicle deliveries are on schedule for delivery in August. <p>Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vehicle wrap and calendar artwork designs have been finalised. Work on the remaining communications assets is well underway and expected to be complete by the end of July to allow time for printing and processing. In 								

addition, the Planning guidance document on the Council website is being updated to include food waste

Funding and Budgets

- Details of the New Burdens funding for the transitional element have now been received and are currently being assessed against the allocation made in the Council's budget. In addition, the council has received an indication of pEPR funding which DEFRA have confirmed will need to be allocated to improvements in household recycling. This will likely be allocated to Simpler Recycling Implementation, subject to a spending plan and Cabinet approval.

Timeline & Simpler recycling Implementation

- HCC have confirmed that they will be building a new Materials Recovery Facility to accommodate the full suite of Simpler Recycling materials, which includes pots, tubs, tray, cartons, co-mingled glass and recycling, and separated paper and card. The Project team have started working on a delivery timetable to accommodate these changes by early 2028 when the new MRF is expected to become operational. The programme timeline is now green to reflect this certainty.

Actions for the next quarter:

- Finalise and complete the legal requirements for the new food waste service.
- Work with Biffa to monitor vehicle procurement and delivery.
- Finalise the bin delivery schedule for the phased rollout.
- Complete modification works at the Biffa depot to support the new food waste service.
- Finalise and prepare communications materials for food waste rollout.
- Progress the recruitment of Recycling Officers, with a focus on communal property engagement.
- Send letters to landlords/management companies regarding food waste arrangements.
- Prepare for the delivery of food waste containers and liners scheduled for July.
- Prepare new bin calendars including food waste information and a letter to all residents

Nutrient Mitigation Solution

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Jackie Porter, Cllr Mark Reach	Project Sponsor: Simon Hendey/ Cheryl Headon							
Programme RAG status	Timeline				Budget			
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
<p>Progress achieved against last quarter</p> <p><u>Housing Revenue Account (HRA)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northington credits (Nitrates @ £3,250 and Phosphates @ £50k) are now being sold. Goodens credits are not yet being sold, as doing so would trigger a £40,000 monitoring fee payable to SDNPA. We are waiting for sufficient market interest to offset the cost. Total credits invoiced £ 201k and total paid £ 131k <p><u>Partnership for Southern Hampshire (PfSH)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The upgrade to Itchen View has been completed and signed off by WCC building control. WCC needs to agree process for approving release of credits technical feasibility study including CCTV investigation has been commissioned for nine shortlisted sites to assess their viability. With a view that this then leads into a tender for the completion of the works. Project manager needs to be appointed for a year to manage this piece of work from PfSH funds. 								
<p>Actions for the next quarter:</p> <p><u>Housing Revenue Account (HRA)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No HRA funded upgrades are scheduled to take place in Q2. <p><u>Partnership for Southern Hampshire (PfSH)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The original timelines were ambitious, relying on desk-based research, but detailed site studies, due for completion by the end of 2025, will provide more precise data on site conditions and potential upgrade options. Sites will be prioritised for investigation based on the desk research findings and internal expertise. As each site is completed, reports will be issued, allowing the project to move forward alongside the feasibility study. 								

Greener Faster - Progress against actions in service plans

Ref	Project	Cabinet Member	Delivery Date	Status R/A/G
1	Prepare full business case for a large-scale renewal energy project	Cllr Learney	April 2027	
2	Produce a business case for delivery for phase 1 of the small-scale renewable energy generation	Cllr Learney	October 2025	
3	Deliver the Air Quality Strategy and Action Plan	Cllr Learney/ Cllr Cramoysan	March 2030	
4	Take steps to reduce carbon from council owned occupied estate	Cllr Tod	Ongoing	
5	Develop a Local Area Energy Plan	Cllr Learney	December 2025	
6	Create sustainable travel networks and projects in local areas	Cllr Learney	April 2026	
7	Develop an Electric Vehicle Charging Points framework for the district	Cllr Learney	April 2026	
8	Develop a Nature Improvement Plan	Cllr Learney	March 2026	

Measuring our progress

Long range trackers (Annual – financial year)										
No.	Performance measure	Cabinet member (Cllr)	Lead Director	17/18 (base)	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	Target & Status 24/25	Target 25/26
GF1	Council total market-based emissions (tCO ₂ e) ¹	Learney	Cheryl Headon	4,251.1	4,260.2	3,970.3	4,090.5	tbc	3,700	Set in July 2025
GF1a	Council market-based Scope 1 & 2 emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Learney	Cheryl Headon	1,667.8	595.6	523.4	398.2	tbc		
GF1a	% change relative to 2017/18 baseline year	Learney	Cheryl Headon	n/a	-64%	-69%	-76%	tbc		
GF1b	Council market-based Scope 3 emissions (tCO ₂ e) ¹	Learney	Cheryl Headon	2,583.4	3,664.6	3,446.9	3,692.3	tbc		
GF1b	% change relative to 2017/18 baseline year	Learney	Cheryl Headon	n/a	42%	33%	43%	tbc		
GF3	WCC air quality measure	Learney	Cheryl Headon	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		2030 – NO ₂ 31.1 µg/m ³

- Footnotes:**

¹ Since 2017/18 the council has acquired more assets and reports more activities under scope 3 (this includes WSLP, Chesil Lodge, Home working and staff commuting, council cared for housing schemes); Target of 3,700 is the overall target for GF1 to GF1b as they are sub-sets
 Scope 1 = Direct emissions from our activities e.g. gas, council owned cars and vans; Scope 2 = Indirect emission from energy use e.g. electricity;
 Scope 3 = Indirect emissions from our activities and supply chain e.g. contractor emissions including P&R buses, Winchester Sport & Leisure Park and waste collection.

Long range trackers (Annual – calendar year)										
No.	Performance measure	Cabinet member (Cllr)	Lead Director	2017 (base)	2020	2021	2022	2023	Target 2030	Status
GF2a	District territorial GHG (ktCO ₂ e) ²	Learney	Cheryl Headon	953.7	790.5	828.9	796.8	768.6		
GF2a	% change relative to 2017/18 baseline year	Learney	Cheryl Headon		-17%	-13%	-16%	-19%		
GF2b	District carbon emissions under scope of LA influence (ktCO ₂ e)	Learney	Cheryl Headon	669.9	560.1	591.3	556.7	533.0	520.00	n/a
GF2b	% change relative to 2017 baseline year	Learney	Cheryl Headon		-16%	-12%	-17%	-20%		

Practical real-time measures (Quarterly)										
No.	Performance measure	Cabinet member (Cllr)	Lead Director	Q1 - 24/25	Q2 - 24/25	Q3 - 24/25	Q4 - 24/25	Q1 - 25/26	Target 25/26	Status
GF4	% of household waste sent for reuse, recycling, and composting	Learney	Simon Hendey	42.84%	43.26%	37.79%	35.70%	40.89%	40%	
GF5	Residual household waste per household (kg/hh)	Learney	Simon Hendey	105.36	100.12	103.91	102.42	103.62	<420 kg/hh	
GF6	Energy usage (kWh) – Electricity – City Offices ³	Learney	Simon Hendey	23,396	24,634	41,260	41,002	24,491	Measure only	n/a
GF7	Energy usage (kWh) – Electricity – Guildhall ³	Learney	Simon Hendey	65,707	82,014	77,890	78,998	62,400	Measure only	n/a
GF8	Energy usage (kWh) – Gas – City Offices ³	Learney	Simon Hendey	1,969	24	28,262	62,786	0	Measure only	n/a
GF9	Energy usage (kWh) – Gas – Guildhall ³	Learney	Simon Hendey	49,499	55,920	82,805	89,345	18,010	Measure only	n/a
GF10	Renewable energy generated (kWh) from solar panels ⁴	Learney	Simon Hendey	138,388	113,011	25,842	43,123	140,117	Measure only	n/a
Footnotes: ² Target is the overall target for GF2a and b as they are sub-sets ³ Due to the way metering is set up this includes the whole of each building (less Shoal who are sub-metered) - tenants occupying space including the university (West Wing, Guildhall), CAB and NHS (City Offices) are recharged a percentage for their usage. ⁴ Data reported relates to: WCC Sites (City Offices, Cipher House, Vaultex.), Winchester Sport and Leisure Park, Depot and Marwell Zoo.										

Commentary:

GF8 – Gas is switched off in City Offices due to time of year, however Guildhall retains usage due to public space and occupancy from other tenants which we then recharge for.

Section 2 Healthy Communities

Delivery highlights – April to June 2025

- Work began on a brand-new sports pavilion at River Park in Winchester.
- A new non-turf cricket wicket was installed at KGV recreation ground in Winchester thanks to funding secured from the England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and was officially opened with a celebratory under-16s girls' match.
- New playground opened in Colden Common, thanks to CIL funding of £80,000.
- Winchester Basics Bank has opened a new hub at Badger Farm Community Centre, thanks in part to a council grant of £5,000, and the new small community grants programme for 2025/26 was launched.
- Core grants totalling £389,218 were awarded for 2025/26 to thirteen organisations, delivering a wide range of advice, counselling, one-to-one support, social activities and performances to residents across the district.
- Launched 'Live Longer Better' programme to encourage physical activity in older age and help maintain independence for longer. The first phase saw sessions at three council-run sheltered housing schemes in Winchester & Denmead.
- Football coaching for young people during the May half-term school holiday attracted 105 participants, of which representatives of target groups were 25% girls and 30% claiming free school meals.
- Weekly park yoga sessions started at Winchester and Whiteley, which will run throughout the summer and attracted large numbers, including more than 200 people on a particular Sunday in June.
- The council's Health Priorities Statement for the district was approved at a Cabinet Member Decision Day, setting out the health goals, aims and priorities that will be used to ensure that council services, facilities and support programmes bring the maximum possible health benefits.
- First draft of the new Playing Pitch Strategy and Sports Facilities Assessment was produced by consultants.
- Planning application submitted by the developer Cala Homes, for a new community centre at Kings Barton that has been designed to accord with the specification agreed with the council and set out in the Community Building Strategy for the site.
- Support to Ukrainian guests continued during Q1, including visa hubs in partnership with Citizens Advice that helped 30 Ukrainians to extend their current 3-yr visas. Employment support work included sessions on digital support, job searching & using LinkedIn - 43 completed the employment support survey.
- Activities to mark 80 years since Victory in Europe (VE) Day included dressing of Winchester city centre with bunting, the VE 80 flag raised at the Guildhall and handcrafted poppies on the gates of Abbey House. The Mayor of Winchester hosted members of the local Royal British Legion at Abbey House and attended community-led events across the district.
- Staff recruited for delivery of bike bus project: successful launch and uptake of the scheme at Bishop Waltham Junior School.

Healthy Communities – progress against actions in service plans

Ref	Project	Cabinet Member	Delivery Date	Status R/A/G
1	Review data and agree scope of the work for community facility audit(s)	Cllr Becker	March 2026	
2	Deliver a programme of engagement and activity sessions enabling residents to live longer better (HCC fund)	Cllr Becker	March 2026	
3	Adopt a Winchester District Community Wellbeing and Resilience strategy, supported by a statement of our health priorities	Cllr Becker	October 2025	
4	Complete the construction to replace the River Park cricket pavilion	Cllr Becker	June 2026	
5	Community Integration programme for overseas guests - deliver the HCC funded support for independent living and community integration	Cllr Becker	Ongoing	
6	Deliver a programme of grants to community and voluntary sector organisations	Cllr Becker	February 2026	
7	Active Travel Networks – bike bus programme with schools	Cllr Learney	April 2026	
8	Roll out programme of training for Spaces of Sanctuary scheme	Cllr Becker	June 2025	

Red/Amber Status

3 - Community Wellbeing and Resilience strategy is scheduled for discussion at Housing and Environment Policy Committee in September, which will mean a delay in securing final approval.

River Park Cricket Pavilion

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Kathleen Becker				Project Sponsor: Cheryl Headon							
Project RAG status				Timeline				Budget			
				Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Progress achieved during the last quarter: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Liaison meeting held with key stakeholders the Pavilion Project• Asbestos survey to be completed.• Progress update meeting held with community and members• Ground survey to sample conditions completed.• Site set up and hoarding completed.• Ground piles now completed.• Cage frame for foundations completed.											
Actions for the next quarter: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Foundation pour to commence shortly.• Continue to update key stakeholders at key stages of design• Regular contract meetings with contractor and consultants• Regular liaison meetings with internal team• Monitor progress of works against programme• Review ongoing budget.											

Measuring our performance

Long range trackers (Annual)										
No.	Performance measure	Cabinet member (Cllr)	Lead Director	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	Target & Status 24/25	Target 25/26
HC1	% adults participating in 150+ mins of sport / physical activity per week within the Winchester district ¹	Becker	Cheryl Headon	71.0%	73.7%	73.0%	73.3%	Tbc – Nov 25	Measure only	Measure only

Practical real-time measures (Quarterly)										
No.	Performance measure	Cabinet member (Cllr)	Lead Director	Q1 - 24/25	Q2 - 24/25	Q3 - 24/25	Q4 - 24/25	Q1 - 25/26	Target 25/26	Status
HC2	Winchester Sport and Leisure Park - total number of visits ²	Becker	Cheryl Headon	340,189	340,178	347,038	358,832	356,284	1,455,549 ²	
HC3	Winchester Sport & Leisure Park - number of all concessionary rate visits	Becker	Cheryl Headon	131,095	135,532	136,816	140,036	137,710	570,653	
HC4	Meadowside - total number of visits	Becker	Cheryl Headon	19,506	19,886	18,892	20,977	19,506	83,224	
HC5	Meadowside - number of all concessionary rate visits	Becker	Cheryl Headon	2,552	2,677	2,631	3,481	3,463	11,908	
HC6	Number of housing benefit claimants (rolling total)	Cutler	Liz Keys	2,726	2,553	2,452	2,301	2,154	Measure only	n/a
HC7	Number of Council tax reduction claimants (rolling total)	Cutler	Liz Keys	5,854	5,850	5,805	5,784	5,767	Measure only	n/a
HC8	Average time taken to process new housing benefit claims (days)	Cutler	Liz Keys	20.73	25.95	16.24	21.38	21.39	24 days	
HC9	% Winchester residents claiming out-of-work benefits ³	Thompson	Cheryl Headon	2.10%	2.30%	2.20%	2.10%	2.10%	Measure only	n/a

- Footnotes:**

¹ Data released every November

² Target reflects a 5% increase on the actual figures achieved in 2024/25 and is 11% higher than the projections for 25/26 set out in the original tender proposal.

³ Data provided by ONS – “CC01 Regional labour market: Claimant Count by unitary and local authority”. Published 17th of the month.

Section 3 Thriving Places

Delivery highlights – April to June 2025

- City Street Market Development Programme: New contract for Winchester Street Market and delivery of policies started.
- Delivery of the UK Shared Prosperity (USKP) programme 2025/2026: the government allocation of £550,500 has allowed for an open call for UKSP and Rural England Prosperity Fund to businesses and community organisations to apply for funding. This has resulted in 52 applications totalling £1,421,799 in value.
- Delivery of a programme of green business support: new green business film launched and secured further funding for low carbon business assessment programme
- Employment and skills projects and plans: employment and skills plans secured for Locks Farm Solar project and care home in Colden Common requiring 1,138 hours of green skills training.
- Jane Austen 250 press preview in May launched the programme and included a visit to City Museum, Cathedral and 8 College Street. 14 national and international broadcast and print titles attended resulting in coverage from Visit England PR, Daily Mirror, Visit England, Hampshire Chronicle, and Mail on Sunday. Additional press trips co-ordinated by WCC have resulted in coverage in [Toronto Star](#) (Canada's largest daily newspaper and online news site) and [La Vanguardia](#) (Spain's third national newspaper with an average of 1.6m unique users to the website).
- Initial work on promoting city centre street markets has included specific activity and inclusion in wider city campaigns to encourage footfall and spend. Eleven traders have specifically been name checked over three dedicated social posts which have had a combined reach of over 4.5k across Visit Winchester Facebook and Instagram.
- Hampshire, Southampton and Portsmouth Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP) received accreditation from VisitEngland in May. The LVEP will be delivered by Winchester City Council, Hampshire County Council, Southampton City Council and Portsmouth City Council as members of the Executive Delivery Group, with Tourism South East taking the strategic lead. WCC attended an inception meeting with Visit England, and various other meetings to agree timescales for development of a Hampshire-wide Destination Management Plan and membership of an Advisory Board.
- Achieved 42 pieces of [national coverage](#) from April to June 2025 with a combined reach of 609.5million. Winchester received over 300 brand mentions within this coverage, raising general awareness of the city and its attractions. Highlight coverage included BBC UK online, Country Life, supporting footfall and awareness of the city and district's 2025 events programme.

Bar End Depot

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Martin Tod				Project Sponsor: Simon Hendey				
Programme RAG status	Timeline				Budget			
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
RAG status update The status for the timeline for this project has changed to red for Q1 reflecting the impact of market conditions on preferred bidder proposals. Ongoing negotiations are taking place to secure the preferred bidder which should be concluded one way or another in quarter two.								
Progress achieved during the last quarter: Although head of terms had been agreed with preferred bidder changing market factors in senior living and healthcare sectors prevented entering into contract.								
Actions for the next quarter: Continue negotiations with preferred bidder or seek alternative proposals from second placed offer.								

Central Winchester Regeneration (CWR)

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Martin Tod				Project Sponsor: Simon Hendey / Ken Baikie				
Programme RAG status	Timeline				Budget			
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
RAG status update:								
Timeline - The timeline for stage 1 which ran up to Q4 is Amber due to delayed submission of the Development Delivery Plan (DDP). The submission date was extended by mutual agreement between WCC and Jigsaw to allow for further work on the viability of the scheme and to allow time for any potential new funding sources to be identified following the Autumn Statement by the Chancellor. It is not anticipated this extension to the DDP submission date will cause any delays to the next project stage.								
Stage 2 commenced in Q1, timescales for this quarter are aligned with the project's milestones for this stage and the RAG status is therefore Green.								
Budget – the RAG status remains Green for Q1 as expenditure is aligned with the projected activities for this quarter and is within the agreed budget.								
Progress achieved during the last quarter:								
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Following Cabinet approval of the Development Delivery Plan (DDP) on the 13 March, a public event was held on 2 April 2025 where Jigsaw shared details of the DDP and next steps. The planning and design stage of the project is now underway, and Jigsaw are working with the LPA on the pre-application.Work continues to refine the financial model and further work to establish a suitable solution to reprovide bus infrastructure has also been commissioned.								
Actions for the next quarter:								
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Jigsaw will continue refining the financial model, working up the detailed design for the area and working with the LPA on the pre-application.Public drop in events to take place on 17 and 18 July 2025 to provide an update on progress - the public will have an opportunity to speak to the project team directly and ask any questions.Begin drafting the Full Business Case to be submitted alongside the detailed design.Undertake a bus hub options study to assist in the regeneration of CWR and the longer-term bus strategy for the city.								

Local Plan

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Jackie Porter				Project Sponsor: Cheryl Headon				
Programme RAG status	Timeline				Budget			
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Progress achieved during the last quarter:								
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prepared responses to the Inspector’s Matters Issues and Questions with the assistance of a number of teams from across the city council and a number of specialist consultants• Held briefing sessions with the Local Plan KC to discuss and agree draft responses to matters that were raised in the Regulation 19 representations/the Inspector’s Matters Issues and Questions• Attended and gave evidence at the Local Plan examination hearing sessions which commenced on the 22 April 2025 and concluded on 6 June 2025• Prepared and agreed responses to matters of clarification from the Inspector arising from the Local Plan examination• Ensured that the Local Plan websites are kept up to date with the latest news.								
Actions for the next quarter:								
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There has been an Inspector led public consultation which closed on the 24th July 2025 on the start date of the Local Plan and the phasing policy. The outcome of the public consultation will be reviewed by the Inspector as part of her deliberations on the soundness of the Local Plan that is subject to an examination.• Action any requests from the Inspector following the close of hearing sessions – depending on what the Inspector says, commence work on consulting on the Main Modifications• Start work on the next Local Plan in terms of working out the team responsibilities/initial thoughts on the next steps• Review the briefs for the different commissions that will need to be undertaken for the next Local Plan and review any lessons learnt• Work with the digital planning team in terms of having demonstrations on different public consultation software packages that appear to have more functionality than Citizen Space (which is currently used for the Local Plan public consultation); and• Continue to liaise with neighbouring Local Plan authorities and attend Duty-to-cooperate meetings.								

Station Approach – Stage 2

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Martin Tod					Project Sponsor: Simon Hendey / Ken Baikie			
Programme RAG status	Timeline				Budget			
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Progress achieved against last quarter. Progress achieved against the last quarter includes key engagement activities and milestones around the final CMP. A member briefing was held on June 3rd, followed by an officer briefing on June 4th, helping to ensure both groups were well-informed and aligned. These sessions led up to the Cabinet meeting on June 18th, 2025, where Planning Officers—supported by members of the project team—presented the final version of the CMP and were on hand to respond to any questions. The meeting concluded with Cabinet endorsing the Concept Master Plan. The CMP will now be used as a key material consideration for any planning applications that come forward for the site.								
Actions for the next quarter Over the next quarter, the project team will prepare an end-of-stage report to formally close Stage 2 of the project. The findings will be presented to the PAC Board in August for review and discussion. Additionally, the Station Approach website will be updated to include the final version of the CMP, making it publicly accessible and ensuring the site reflects the current stage of the project.								

Winchester Movement Strategy

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Kelsie Learney				Project Sponsor: Simon Hendey				
Programme RAG status	Timeline				Budget			
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
RAG status update: Funding for transport related schemes will now be via individual CIL applications, and central government bids, therefore development of schemes rely on successful bids.								
Progress achieved during the last quarter: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• City LCWIP updated based on consultation feedback.• Building control requirements being processed, funding agreement for the Micro consolidation Hub Trial prepared alongside licences and contracts.• CIL application for funding for Friarsgate crossing upgrade prepared.• Officer workshop on Fulflood Liveable Neighbourhood Scheme undertaken.								
Actions for the next quarter: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approval of City LCWIP.• Develop potential schemes for Fulflood.• Finalise and sign off Agreements and Licences for the Micro consolidation trial.								

Thriving Places - progress against our actions in service plans

Ref	Project	Cabinet Member	Delivery Date	Status R/A/G
1	Deliver a programme of events to mark the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth	Cllr Thompson	December 2025	
2	Manage the delivery of UKSPF programme	Cllr Thompson	March 2026	
3	Produce a Winchester District Tourism Strategy	Cllr Thompson	October 2025	
4	Deliver a programme of green business support and investment in renewable technologies (Green Economic Development Strategy (GEDS) Carbon Neutrality Action Plan (CNAP))	Cllr Thompson	March 26	
5	Deliver the West of Waterlooville Public Arts programme	Cllr Thompson	March 26	
6	City Street Market Development Programme	Cllr Thompson	December 25	
7	Deliver the actions in year 1 Action Plan of the Cultural Strategy	Cllr Thompson	March 2026	
8	Contribute to and engagement with the creation of a Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP). Deliver the actions in year 1 Action Plan of the Cultural Strategy	Cllr Thompson	March 2026	
9	Future of former Leisure Centre: Market the site for sale and find a new investor	Cllr Tod	September 26	

Measuring our progress

Long range trackers (Annual)										
No.	Performance measure	Cabinet member (Cllr)	Lead Director	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	Target & Status 24/25	Target 25/26
TP1	% of economically active people in employment (aged 16-64)	Thompson	Cheryl Headon	77.4%	83.7%	75.1%	81.5%	83.6%	Measure only	Measure only
TP2	Business counts (micro, small, medium, large enterprises– source: NOMIS)	Thompson	Cheryl Headon	8,035	8,110	8,165	8,225	8,095	Measure only	Measure only
TP3	No. of unemployed (source: ONS)	Thompson	Cheryl Headon	1,800	1,700	1,235	1,900	1,600	Measure only	Measure only
TP4	% of addresses with Gigabit availability	Thompson	Cheryl Headon	n/a n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	62.2	n/a	Measure only

Practical real-time measures (Quarterly)										
No.	Performance measure	Cabinet member (Cllr)	Lead Director	Q1 - 24/25	Q2 - 24/25	Q3 - 24/25	Q4 - 24/25	Q1 - 25/26	Target 25/26	Status
TP5	Number of reported fly-tips (actual incidents) ¹	Cutler	Cheryl Headon	168	158	183	210	102	Measure only	n/a
TP6	% of fly-tips cleared within contract deadlines/days	Cutler	Cheryl Headon	82%	73%	85%	82%	77%	80%	
TP7	Number of reported graffiti incidents (online form totals)	Cutler	Cheryl Headon	26	11	9	12	11	<150	
TP8	"Public Space" issue reports ²	Cutler	Cheryl Headon	143	131	121	163	110	<570	
TP9	% of WCC revenue spend with local suppliers	Cutler	Gareth John	22.00%	22.00%	28.39%	18.80%	23.30%	25%+	
TP10	City centre high street footfall ³	Thompson	Cheryl Headon	2,738,660	2,714,455	2,792,881	2,930,567	2,779,719	Measure only	n/a
TP11	Market Towns high street footfall	Thompson	Cheryl Headon	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	tbc	Measure only	n/a

• **Footnotes:**

¹ Figures are net total of 'actual' reports received (less any that have been identified as duplicates, out of district, private land etc.)

² Figures based on total form reports received for 'Clean my Street' relating to bins/bring sites, street mess – human, syringes, spilt waste, street sweeping, overflowing litter/dog waste bins etc.-- glass, litter, alongside report forms submitted for Park Areas and Public Conveniences.

³ Provided by the Winchester BID Place Informatic reports

Commentary where practical real-time KPI not on target:

TP9 50% of the total revenue expenditure for Q1 was incurred with large organisations based outside of Hampshire such as Biffa and Cardo. However, of the remaining 50%, nearly half of this was spent locally equating to 23.2% of total revenue spend. This is an increase of 4.5% on the previous qtr. The majority of this increase is due to higher expenditure with the councils ground maintenance contractor IDVerde; which is to be expected as we move into Spring/Summer.

TP11 Data not yet available as it would require purchase (and budget funding) to allow us to publish data (cost of £1,800 plus VAT per annum, per town centre)

- Fly-tip clearance breakdown:

	Q1 24/25	Q2 24/25	Q3 24/25	Q4 24/25	Q1 25/26
Total fly tips confirmed cleared	148	148	156	187	83
Fly- tips up to 1 metre cubed in size	32	36	31	27	13
<i>Number of which cleared in time (5 working days submission to clearance)</i>	23	25	21	16	7
<i>Percentage of up to 1 metre cubed cleared in time</i>	72%	70%	68%	59%	54%
Fly-tips size 1 metre cubed and above	116	112	125	160	70
<i>Of which in time (15 working days submission to clearance)</i>	98	83	111	137	57
<i>Percentage of 1 metre cubed and above cleared in time</i>	85%	74%	90%	86%	81%
Average percentage of all fly-tips cleared in time	82%	73%	85%	82%	77%

- The completion targets of 5 and 15 working days include 3 to 5 days for evaluation of fly-tip to assess if any enforcement action can be taken and 2 to 10 days for clearance (depending on size of up to a metre cubed / 1 metre cubed and above).
- The target of 80% was selected as a viable baseline as this is the first time it has been included in the strategic key performance indicators and will be reviewed annually.
- Q1 data is slightly down on target, this is due to April having a disproportionate number of fly-tips over a wider geographical area across the Winchester district impacting clearance times and transit.

Section 4 Good Homes for All

Delivery highlights – April to June 2025

- The draft Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy (2025–2030) is now in draft form and out for consultation inviting stakeholders and service users to share their views and feedback by completing a short digital survey. Feedback from the consultation will be reviewed and incorporated into the final strategy. The revised strategy will be presented to the EHP Committee in September 2025 for comment.
- We have been working to improve how we recognise and respond to domestic abuse situations across our services. The work has involved adopting a comprehensive set of standards from the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance and in June the work was recognised when we received gold accreditation. Only two other local authorities in Hampshire have achieved the gold standard, and it means we are now officially recognised as an organisation that is well placed to support anyone who comes to us that is experiencing a domestic abuse situation.
- The new build affordable units at Hazeley Road, Twyford are now under construction and progressing well. Negotiations are close to concluding on the acquisition of affordable units at Kings Barton, Winchester, and it is anticipated the first units will be available for occupation in autumn 2025.
- Build contractor bids for the development of 5 affordable units in Sparsholt have been received, and the Final Business Case will be brought to Cabinet in October 2025.
- The Local Plan that is subject of a Local Plan examination includes a number of new policies on a range of key issues (energy efficient standards, design of new development and affordable housing etc). The outcome of the Local Plan examination will determine whether the city council can proceed to the next stage (consultation on Main Modifications) and following this, whether the city council can is able to proceed to adoption of the Local Plan and the implementation of these new policies many of which have important implications for Homes for All.

New Homes Programme

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Mark Reach				Project Sponsor: Simon Hendey				
Programme RAG status	Timeline				Budget			
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
RAG status update There is an increase in programme confidence due to the recent S106 acquisition negotiations, but the RAG status remains Amber due to the lack of control over the pace of delivery by the private developer market. Continued commitment to commissioned schemes to mitigate S106 acquisitions risks.								
Progress achieved during the last quarter: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Following completion of the Winnall scheme in Q4 2023/24, new flats and houses continue to be occupied. This includes shared ownership homes and, following the signing of a lease with Venta Living Ltd (the council’s housing company), homes for market rent.• Market engagement with SME and volume housebuilders is ongoing, with the aim of securing new build units for use as council housing.• Discussions continue with Cala regarding the acquisition of 146 S106 units at Kings Barton, Winchester.• Construction commenced on the 10 affordable units at Hazeley Road, Twyford.• Feasibility studies are underway on a number of pipeline council commissioned schemes with the aim of making them financially viable against a challenging economic backdrop.								
Actions for the next quarter: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kings Barton, Winchester - progress detailed contract negotiations for the S106 acquisitions.• Hazeley Road, Twyford – attend site progress meetings alongside Employer’s Agent, and liaise with housing colleagues regarding build progress and handover.• Woodman Close, Sparsholt – analyse bids from building contractors and prepare final business case for Cabinet approval.• Southbrook Cottages, Micheldever – finalise accounts with building contractor and prepare post completion report for Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet review.								

Housing Compliance Improvement Plan

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Mark Reach	Project Sponsor: Simon Hendey			
Programme RAG status	Timeline		Budget	
	Q4	Q1	Q4	Q1
RAG status update <p>Despite some minor slippage against key milestone deliverables linked to resource constraints the status is green reflecting completions of work within the quarter. Timescales are monitored and reviewed regularly and any issues escalated for awareness to Programme and Capital (PAC) Board. Appointment to key roles to strengthen capacity and resource are now in place to ensure delivery is achieved against this plan.</p>				
Progress achieved during the last quarter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project has progressed significantly across this quarter with data validation work to reach a more assured position on all 6 areas of compliance. • Mobilised fire door survey programme. • Mobilised Fire Risk Assessment (FRA) programme. • Appointed multi-disciplinary specialist team to support fire safety work. • Appointed Fire Safety Manager. • Work to progress and appoint a third-party supplier to deliver 100% stock condition programme has been progressed to contract award stage. • Decision made to appoint third party supplier to support with review of compliance policies & procedures. • Appointed Building Safety Officer. • Completed Fire Risk Assessment programme. 				
Actions for the next quarter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appoint and mobilise work with third party supplier to deliver suite of updated compliance policies & procedures. • Mobilise stock condition programme with pilot phase identified to ensure approach, data collation and outputs from survey achieves project objectives linked to accurate stock condition data. • Review and develop compliance reporting to provide accurate position of remedial actions resulting from programmes. • Introduce monthly exception reports across all compliance programmes to ensure internal controls are in place to validate data & reporting. • Scope and plan implementation of Compliance system to strengthen assurance for compliance reporting. • Progress and mobilise asbestos survey programme. • Complete market research and seek approval to procure new Asset system. • Collaborative working with the RSH is in place through regular meetings with the next ones taking place in July and September 2025. 				

Housing procurement of Repairs, Maintenance, Voids, Compliance and Retrofit

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Mark Reach	Project Sponsor: Simon Hendey							
Programme RAG status	Timeline				Budget			
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
<p>Progress achieved during the last quarter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff workshop and 121's with service leads to shape project requirements. • Data validation completed for asbestos and electrical programmes against housing stock list -key information for the tender documentation • Data validation in progress across all compliance areas. • Discussions with market leading compliance data and storage system providers • Procurement in flight of True Compliance to improve data management and control of housing stock compliance data to reduce risk and improve safety of HRA homes and buildings. (with Legal) • Reviewed profiling and priorities of all compliance requirements. Identified and commenced activity as below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Communities and Housing Investment Consortium (CHIC) Framework identified for passive fire and water treatment direct awards approximate go live date on October 25. ○ Compliance policies agreed. 								
<p>Actions for the next quarter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic procurement approach agreed and commenced. • Agree timetable for all activity within the procurement requirements to commence in line with project prioritisation. • Continue to liaise with tenants to ensure data, specifications, policies and procedures are available for the tender documents. • Expand the scope up for the responsive repairs and voids redesign and commence procurement. • Progress discussions with Framework providers for the remaining compliance 'Big 6' to be live by financial year end. • Compliance procedures staff workshops underway. 								

Good Homes for All - Progress against our actions in service plans

Ref	Project	Cabinet Member	Delivery Date	Status
1	Procurement of major repairs and maintenance contract for council homes. Inclusive of tenant engagement.	Cllr Reach	August 2026	
2	Council housing retrofit carbon reduction programme. Focus on lowest EPC properties to achieve more energy efficient homes to meet the carbon neutral 2030 target. Establish a Retrofit Carbon Reduction Strategy	Cllr Reach	Ongoing	
3	Review and refresh the Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy	Cllr Reach	March 2026	
4	Achieve regulatory requirements to address damp and mould cases. Ensuring cases are identified and dealt with promptly / effectively when raised by council and private rented tenants	Cllr Reach	March 2026	

Red/Amber status

- Progress of the council's housing retrofit carbon reduction programme has been held back owing to delays with the Swedish Cottages project. Interim measures are in hand to ensure customers' homes are wind and weather proof before winter sets in and a new procurement will be necessary to complete the retrofit work that was programmed for the remaining properties.

Measuring our progress – Good Homes for All

Long range trackers (Annual)										
No.	Performance measure	Cabinet member (Cllr)	Lead Director	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	Target & Status 24/25	Target 25/26
GH1	% of all WCC homes achieving energy efficiency rating of C or above	Reach	Simon Hendey	62%	63%	65%	70%	70%	70%	74%
GH2	Total new home completions across the district (rolling total)	Reach	Simon Hendey	n/a	121	139	276	308	1,000 by 2032	1,000 by 2032
GH3	Homelessness – numbers recorded as rough sleepers ¹ (as at year end)	Reach	Simon Hendey	n/a	n/a	2	3	5	0	5
Footnote: ¹ Figures are updated from an annual MHCLG rough sleeping count annual snapshot, which takes place every November										

Practical real-time measures (Quarterly)										
No.	Performance measure	Cabinet member (Cllr)	Lead Director	Q1 - 24/25	Q2 - 24/25	Q3 - 24/25	Q4 - 24/25	Q1 - 25/26	Target 25/26	Status
GH4	Avg time for homeless household to receive offer of a permanent home (days)	Reach	Simon Hendey	95	158	332	310	256	365 days	
GH5	Retrofit adjustments – total number of houses (running total)	Reach	Simon Hendey	47	172	223	247	0	308	
GH6	Retrofit adjustments – total number of adjustments made (running total)	Reach	Simon Hendey	81	411	424	486	0	1,335	
GH7	Percentage of planning decisions upheld at appeal (WCC / SDNP)	Porter	Cheryl Headon	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	100% / n/a	70%	

Commentary

GH3 - Several local challenges are currently contributing to an increase in rough sleeping numbers including the reduction in stage 1 supported housing accommodation available for those sleeping rough or at risk of rough sleeping and a lack of suitable accommodation, particularly one-bedroom accommodation. Westview House, previously the district's Stage 1 accommodation provider, closed in April 2025 following A2's termination of their support contract. This decision was prompted by the county council's announcement to withdraw all funding for Stage 1 accommodation from March 2026. The closure resulted in the loss of 29 bed spaces.

In response, the council is actively collaborating with alternative accommodation providers to mitigate the impact. Plans include:

- Increasing capacity at Trinity, The Beacon, and Emmaus House

- Exploring the potential to bring Westgate back into use

The council has secured county funding to establish an in-house Housing First scheme, which will offer 7 beds dedicated to supporting the district's most complex and vulnerable individuals who are homeless or at risk of rough sleeping

We are constantly working with those found rough sleeping through our outreach work. It should be noted that the figure of 5 rough sleepers in the table above is from the annual rough sleeping count which is undertaken in November each year and is not a quarterly figure.

GH5 and GH6 - The appointment of Consultants and Contractors could only be confirmed after Social Housing Decarbonisation funding was confirmed from DESNZ and tenders had been returned, so Q1 is mostly taken up with setting up all the contracts with each of the companies, in addition to needing to wait for cabinet approval on solar panels on 18th June. The team ensures that this period is not critical to the delivery of annual targets due to this necessary and time-consuming milestone.

Measuring our progress – Housing TSM

Practical real-time measures (Quarterly)										
No.	Performance measure	Cabinet member (Cllr)	Lead Director	Q1 - 24/25	Q2 - 24/25	Q3 - 24/25	Q4 - 24/25	Q1 - 25/26	Target 25/26	Status
GH8	Proportion of homes for which all required gas safety checks have been carried out	Reach	Simon Hendey	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	99.91%	100%	
GH9	Proportion of homes for which all Electric Checks have been carried out	Reach	Simon Hendey	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	98.30%	99.84%	
GH10	Asbestos Inspections % of Reg 4 Surveys	Reach	Simon Hendey	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	66.78%	100%	
GH11	Proportion of Lifts with 100% of valid Loler Certificates	Reach	Simon Hendey	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	97.50%	100%	
GH12	Proportion of homes with a 100% of Working Smoke Detector	Reach	Simon Hendey	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	99.70%	100%	
GH13	Proportion of homes with a 100% of Working Carbon Monoxide Detector	Reach	Simon Hendey	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	99.70%	100%	
GH14	Numbers of Damp and Mould Open Cases inspected and resolution agreed within 14 days	Reach	Simon Hendey	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	71%	95%	
GH15	Number of outstanding High Risk Fire Risk Assessment actions	Reach	Simon Hendey	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	0	
GH16	Number of outstanding Fire Risk Assessments	Reach	Simon Hendey	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	76	0	

Commentary

GH10 – Remaining properties scheduled for inspection to be completed in July. So far, no high-risk actions have been identified

GH11 – The lift at Albert Court has been decommissioned and we are consulting our tenants about next steps for this facility.

GH14 - There were 2 damp and mould inspections not completed within the 14-day target date by 2 and 4 days (1 was completed on an agreed appointment date with the resident)

GH15 – The 3 overdue FRA high risks are being resolved; 1 is related to an open door and the other 2 are tenancy related access matters which are being progressed.

GH16 - The remaining 76 FRA's are in progress due to be completed in July, the FRA programme will then be completed.

Section 5 Efficient and Effective

Delivery highlights – April to June 2025

- Developed Service Level Digital & IT Roadmaps for 14 service areas (75%) with the remaining to be completed over the summer to inform the digital action plan.
- Launched CoPilot chat with an article in the council's internal Digital Dispatch, champions workshop and demo included as part of M365 open sessions.
- Digital & Change Champions workshops held focused on 'Web Accessibility and Design' and 'Use of CoPilot'.
- Officer working group established to support with testing and finalisation of My Council Services (MCS) Version 5 web-based forms in the Government Digital Service (GDS) format which will improve user experience and efficiency.

Transformation Challenge (TC25)

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Neil Cutler					Project Sponsor: Liz Keys							
Programme RAG status	Timeline				Budget				Budget Reduction			
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
RAG Status update Progress of circa £1.57m (52%) of the £3m target for baseline budget reductions has been achieved to date as a result of TC25. Not unexpectedly, as we move further into the programme, realising savings becomes more challenging and Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) also brings additional uncertainty and possible implications that are currently unbudgeted. The programme risks are kept under regular review, the next phase of our transformation programme is underway, and the programme is being managed robustly to ensure the £3m target budget reductions is achieved. There has been no change to the 'budget reduction' risk this quarter.												
Progress achieved during the last quarter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During Q1 there has been a total of £3,370 budget reductions achieved <ul style="list-style-type: none"> £870 due to a Transport grants review and £2,500 budget reduction achieved as a result of reviewing the gas supply to the Westgate Museum Review of postage requirements for the Revenues and Benefits team and a change in supplier from Whistl to Royal Mail has realised savings whilst maintaining service levels - Savings will be monitored and included in the corporate postage budget review as part of the MTFS preparation. Review of Local Enforcement Plan - Updated Local Enforcement Plan approved by Cabinet and published as of 1st July 2025. Completion of renovation works bringing 59 Colebrook Street back into use from 2 June 2025 offering 6 one-bedroom flats, generating additional income. Budget impact to be reviewed as part of MTFS preparation. Developed Service Level Digital & IT Roadmaps for 14 services (75%) with the remaining to be completed over the summer, which will inform the digital action plan. Review of how the Insurance Service is delivered has been completed and has been brought back in-house. 												

Actions for the next quarter:

- Next phase of Strategic Reviews ('Preparing for change' meetings') to be held with CHOS' and Cabinet Members to inform future TC25 reviews and priority areas in preparation for LGR.
- Develop and finalise Service Level Digital & IT Roadmaps for remaining services and agree action plan.
- Community and Voluntary Sector Grants Review – assessment of options for 2026/27 Grant Programme including risks to service levels and outcomes to be reviewed by the Transformation Board.
- Strategic review of parking management – options appraisal due to be presented to ELB.
- Future delivery model of Land Charges options appraisal paper to be discussed by ELB.

Efficient and Effective - Progress against actions in service plans

Ref	Project	Cabinet Member	Delivery Date	Status
1	Further promotion of self-serve and digital services including the increased take-up of electronic billing (rollout of “Digital by Default”) and notifications for Council Tax, Business Rates and Housing Benefits services, and the further roll out of SMS for the issue of electronic payment alerts and reminders.	Cllr Cutler	Ongoing	
2	Support the TC25 transformation and digital agenda by supporting digital innovation and digital initiatives across the Council	Cllr Cutler	Ongoing	
3	Digitisation and review of the Planning Service (linked to this, other services that use the IDOX platform)	Cllr Porter	TBC	
4	Review of website to improve digital customer experience	Cllr Cutler	October 2025	
5	Customer focused digital improvements of housing landlord services	Cllr Reach	April 2026	
6	Development of Cyber Security and Resilience Strategy to increase cyber resilience and awareness across the council.	Cllr Cutler	April 2025	Complete
7	Lead on the review and refresh of strategic key performance indicator set that align to the new Council Plan priorities	Cllr Cutler	June 2025	

Measuring our progress

Practical real-time measures (Quarterly)										
No.	Performance measure	Cabinet member (Cllr)	Lead Director	Q1 - 24/25	Q2 - 24/25	Q3 - 24/25	Q4 - 24/25	Q1 - 25/26	Target 25/26	Status
EE1	% complaints responded to within 10 working days	Becker	Liz Keys	79%	92%	86%	90%	88%	90%	
EE2	% of upheld and partially upheld complaints	Becker	Liz Keys	47%	48%	45%	68%	60%	Measure only	n/a
EE3	Number of digital resident interactions with the council (online reports)	Becker	Laura Taylor	8,837	7,294	6,706	16,616	7,564	42,000	
EE4	% of major planning applications decided within time or agreed extension (WCC / SDNP)	Porter	Cheryl Headen	100% / 100%	100% / ~	100% / ~	94.3% / ~	91.67% / ~	80%	
EE5	% of non-major planning applications decided within time or agreed extension (WCC / SDNP)	Porter	Cheryl Headen	97% / 86%	93% / 81%	82% / 81%	93% / 88%	93.67% / 84.67%	80%	

Commentary

EE1 – 64 out of 73 complaints were completed in time, so due to the small volume of complaints even a minor variation will impact the percentage disproportionately; Of those out of time - an average of 3 per month – this is generally due to complexity of housing complaint requests requiring investigations.

Section 6 Listening and Learning

Delivery highlights – April to June 2025

- Launched on the 30 June, engagement through a feedback survey across the Hampshire council areas to gather views to help understand what matters most to people and shape how councils work in the future
- We undertook our annual Employee Survey to hear the views of staff on how they feel about the different aspects of their working lives at the council.
- Invited residents to attend a public engagement event about the next steps for the former leisure centre and to let us know their thoughts about the planned process and potential future uses of the site.
- Tourism Consultancy Blue Sail commissioned to review research and evidence base to inform development of Winchester District Tourism Strategy. To date, 15 one-to-one consultations with key stakeholders have been conducted, over 65 businesses completed the business survey and over 700 visitors and non-visitors have responded to a visitor survey, to understand perceptions of Winchester and leisure behaviour.
- A West Waterlooville community engagement event was held in partnership with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and Dragonfly Arts, writer in residence attended and has produced multiple pieces of writing in response.
- Invited housing tenants, leaseholders and shared owners to comment and provide feedback on four of our key housing policies to ensure they are clear, accessible and reflect the needs of our tenants, leaseholders and shared owners. Their feedback will directly influence how these policies are finalised before being presented to Cabinet for adoption.
- Listened to tenants in an open and informal session where they could discuss their recent repair experiences directly with housing officers and contractors, ask questions about the repairs service and hear about service improvements and updates.
- Established a cross-party members task and finish group to facilitate effective member engagement and provide detailed oversight during the crucial initial phases of the Winchester Town Forum Community Governance Review.
- Invited residents to attend a drop in engagement event on 26 June to find out more and let us know their thoughts about the planned process and potential future uses of the former leisure centre site. Over 100 people attended to let the council know their views on what they would like to see at this site. Including people who were unable to attend, 993 feedback form responses were received.

Listening and Learning – Progress against actions in service plans

Ref	Project	Cabinet Member	Delivery Date	Status
1	Community Governance Review – creation of a Winchester Town Council	Cllr Becker Cllr Cutler	April 2027	
2	Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution	Cllr Tod	2027/28	
3	Transfer of assets to parish councils – public conveniences	Cllr Becker	August 2025	
4	Parish Council engagement – planning	Cllr Porter	September 2025	
5	Review and refresh EDI Policy, Strategy and Action Plan	Cllr Becker	February 2025	Complete
6	Prepare a consultation policy and charter for adoption and use across the council	Cllr Becker	June 2025	

Red/Amber status

3 – Tenders received back in July. These include prices for district toilets cleaning. Once tender solution confirmed can then continue engagement with Parishes.

Measuring our progress

Long range trackers (Annual)										
No.	Performance measure	Cabinet member (Cllr)	Lead Director	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Target & Status 2025	Target 2026
LL1	% of residents satisfied with the way the council runs things (LG Survey) ¹	Becker	Laura Taylor	No survey	75% (SE 62%)	No survey	69% (LG 55%)	N/A	> LGA average	> LGA average
LL2	Resident's satisfaction with local area (LG survey) ¹	Becker	Laura Taylor	No survey	96% (SE 74%)	No survey	87% (LG 75%)	N/A	> LGA average	> LGA average
LL3	Housing Satisfaction survey scores TSM	Reach	Simon Hendey	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	82%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Footnotes: 										
¹ Previous year's data relates to past resident survey responses for equivalent questions										

Practical real-time measures (Quarterly)										
No.	Performance measure	Cabinet member (Cllr)	Lead Director	Q1 - 24/25	Q2 - 24/25	Q3 - 24/25	Q4 - 24/25	Q1 - 25/26	Target 25/26	Status
LL4	Number of respondents to consultations	Becker	Laura Taylor	1,182	540	1,332	112	98	Measure only	n/a

Section 7 Financial Report**Financial Position**

This section presents a summary of the council's financial position as of 30 June 2025 regarding the General Fund (Revenue and Capital) and Housing Revenue Account budgets.

General Fund Revenue**Summary**

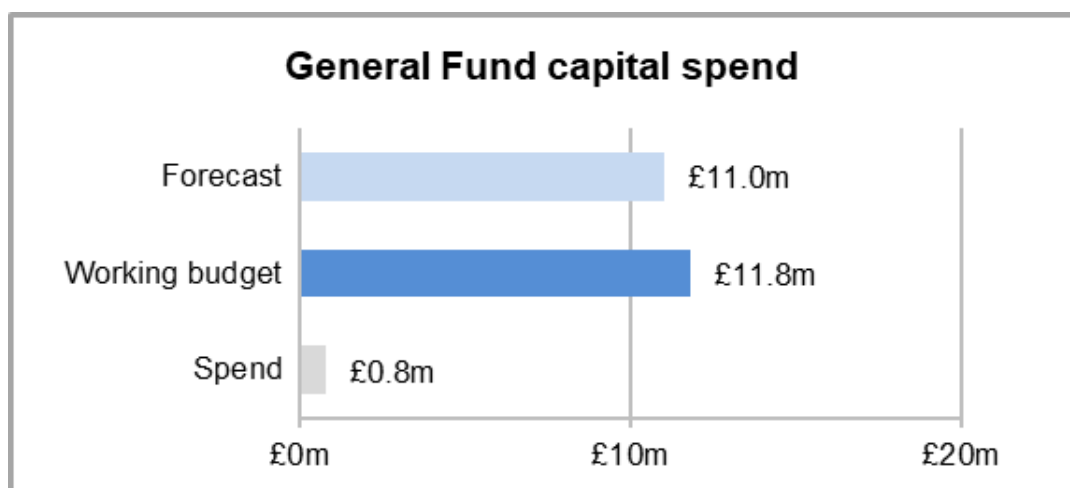
1. A balanced budget was set by Council in February 2025 (CAB3494 refers).
2. Inflation has increased in recent months to 3.6% in June 2025 (CPI). This remains within the original budget forecast.
3. The inflationary uplift budget forecast for salaries was 4.0% for 2025/26. The final pay offer is 3.2% and is slightly offset by lower government support for increased employers NI, leaving a net saving of c£0.1m.
4. Commercial property rents are subject to regular review and an additional £0.1m is currently forecast above the current budget for 2025/26. This is mainly due to rent reviews.
5. The ongoing TC25 project has identified further budget savings of approximately £0.195m per annum in 2025/26. The total budget savings forecast over the medium term are £0.263m.
6. Income is a major risk area and currently forecasts relating to Car Parking, Planning, General Fund Properties are currently in line with the budget set in February.

General Fund Budget Forecast 2025/26

<u>(£000)</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Forecast</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Greener Faster	8,783	8,783	
Healthy Communities	4,108	4,108	
Good Homes for All	1,378	1,378	
Thriving Places	2,920	2,920	
Efficient and Effective	7,209	6,914	295
TOTAL before funding	24,396	24,101	295
TOTAL funding	(24,396)	(24,496)	100
FORECAST BUDGET UNDERSPEND			395

General Fund Capital

1. General Fund capital expenditure to the end of June was £0.8m the majority of which relates to the following projects: CIL funded community projects (£0.23m), Disabled Facilities grants (£0.16m), Resurfacing of St Catherine's car park (£0.1m), Refurbishment of public conveniences (£0.09m), River Park Cricket Pavilion (£0.06m), and the Purchase of EV Animal Welfare vans (£0.05m). There have also been smaller amounts of expenditure on several other projects.
2. Capital budgets for 2025/26 have been revised for brought forward balances and other changes, such as reforecasting, as part of the General Fund 2024/25 outturn reported to September cabinet (CAB3514 refers), and this is reflected in the forecast below. Due to the nature of capital expenditure, there is always a risk of programme slippage particularly in respect of projects that have yet to commence. However, expenditure is expected to accelerate in the remaining quarters as projects such as the Cricket Pavilion and the purchase of food waste vehicles proceed.
3. The full year budget and forecast below excludes £4m in respect of the Strategic Asset Purchase scheme (SAPS). This budget will only be spent if suitable assets are identified. There have been no SAPS purchases to date in 2025/26.



4. Key items of expenditure in Q1 2025/26:

River Park Cricket Pavilion

Total Budget: £2.3m

Exp: Prior years £0.039m Q1 £0.06m Total £0.099m

Work on the new pavilion has commenced and is expected to be completed in early 2026. The new pavilion will be a valuable additional asset in River Park, which is already a hub for sporting, community and social activity and recreation. It will provide the required standard of changing rooms, umpire facilities, toilets and accessibility to enable a wide and diverse range of people to participate in cricket. By providing high quality facilities, increased community sport outcomes can be achieved across a wider demographic and the pavilion can be used to

support users of River Park, not just cricket, by provided changing and club house facilities to support their events or sports.

Disabled Facilities Grants

Total Budget: £1.34m

Expenditure: recurring annually

Q1 £0.16m

During the period 1 April to 30 June £157,000 of grants were paid over. In addition to the grant allocation, the council holds £0.6m of unapplied grant from prior years which can be applied to DFG expenditure should it exceed grant received in year.

Such grants enable residents of private and/or social housing who are disabled or have a mobility or other limiting condition to apply for adaptations to be undertaken in their home. Adaptations can include the installation of stair lifts, level access showers, kitchen adaptations or ramping etc. and enable residents to remain in their homes rather than having to move, go into hospital, or into residential care.

EV Animal Welfare Vans

Total Budget: £51,000

Exp: Prior years £nil

Q1 £45,000

Total £45,000

Two animal welfare vans have been purchased to replace the existing leased vehicles that had reached the end of their lives. The new vans are electric and will therefore contribute to the council's goal of decarbonising its fleet of vehicles and reducing carbon emissions. The remaining budget is to convert the vans to operate as an animal welfare vehicle.

Housing Revenue Account summary**Summary**

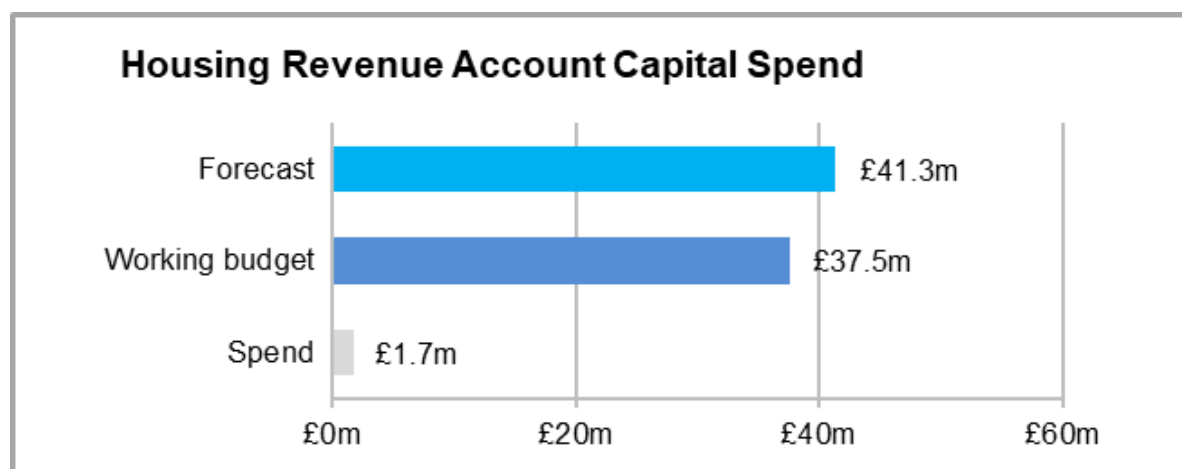
1. A deficit budget of £2.03m was set by Council in February 2025 (CAB3490 refers).
2. The inflationary uplift budget forecast for salaries, as with the General Fund, was 4.0% for 2025/26. The final uplift is yet to be determined but it must also be considered that the government grant for an increase in Employers NI was even lower than expected.
3. An overall deficit of £2.07m is forecast for 2025/26.

Housing Revenue Account Budget Forecast 2025/26 (£000)	Expenditure	Income	NET
Housing Management - General	7,024	(258)	6,766
Housing Management - Special	4,264	(3,258)	1,006
Repairs & Repairs administration	11,111	(182)	10,929
Debt management & interest income	7,165	0	7,165
Contribution to Major Repairs costs (Depreciation)	10,562	0	10,562
TOTAL	40,126	(3,699)	36,427
Rent, Service Charges & Other income			(34,350)
FORECAST NET (SURPLUS)/DEFICIT			2,077
AGREED BUDGET			2,030
Forecast movement:			47
Of which (net):			
Baseline			0
One-off			47

4. In total there is a forecast adverse variance of £47,000 which is made up of a number of variances which offset one another as follows.
5. There were a number of vacancies in the first quarter of 2025/26, giving rise to a favourable forecast variance of £0.21m. Work is ongoing to ensure posts are filled with suitable candidates; however, the vacancy saving forecast may increase if posts continue to remain vacant.
6. The 2025/26 budget included a one-off investment budget for software upgrades, stock condition survey, and repairs procurement. It is expected that £0.15m of the budget set aside for software development will not be spent in 2025/26 and will be returned to the working balance to be reprofiled over future years.
7. The cost of repairs was a significant issue in 2023/24 and 2024/25, and the budget was uplifted in 2025/26 to reflect the baselining of inflation in prior years. However, it remains a high risk spend area and based on current trends, an overspend of £0.2m against a £6.1m budget for reactive repairs and voids is expected. In addition, a waking watch has been in place at Winnall flats while fire safety issues are resolved. This has generated an adverse forecast variance of £0.05m. Compensation payments in respect of complaints and disrepair are also forecast to exceed budget by £0.05m. The remaining adverse variance of £0.1m is an accumulation of minor variances.

Housing Revenue Account Capital Spend

1. Housing capital expenditure to the end of December was £1.711m, of which:
 - £0.827m was on major works.
 - £0.08m improvements & upgrades.
 - £0.249m on the New Build programme; and
 - £0.555m on other schemes.
2. Capital budgets for 2025/26 will be revised for carried forward balances and other changes following the approval of the HRA outturn report in September 2025. (report CAB3465). Due to the nature of capital expenditure, there is always a risk of programme slippage, particularly in respect of the unallocated new builds budget that is largely pending decisions to proceed with specific projects.
3. Capital expenditure in quarter 2, 3 and 4 is expected to include expenditure on the acquisitions at Kings Barton. The initial deposit payments, along with stage payments for units under construction are expected to commence in August and will account for nearly half of the overall capital forecast by March 2026. The budget profile for Kings Barton will be reviewed and updated in the outturn report in September.



4. Key items of expenditure in Q1 2025/26 includes:

- **Major repairs**

Total Budget £8.57m

Exp: Recurring Annually

Q1 £0.827m

The major repairs programme reflects the planned major repairs to the council's housing stock, and includes investment in doors, windows, wall structures, kitchens and bathrooms, roofing and other similar major works. As expected, expenditure against the budget is comparatively low as at the end of quarter 1. This is partly due to staff vacancy in the first quarter of 2025/26, and partly due to the completion of 2024/25 works prior to commencement of the 2025/26 programme. The forecast spend for 2025/26 is currently £7.76m against budget of £8.57m and reflects all works currently committed and in progress. Carry forward from 2024/25 for the

remainder of that year's planned programme will be requested within the outturn report.

- **Climate Emergency**

Total Budget £5.936m

Exp: Recurring annually

Q1: £0.304m

The agreed HRA Business plan agreed a £45m investment into energy efficiency measures across the housing stock over the next 8 years, and includes expenditure on insulation and ventilation measures, and significant energy investment measures at the Swiss Cottages. The current programme for 2025/26 is anticipated at £5.33m. The main variance relates to the termination of the contract at Swiss Cottages, which will be considered by Cabinet at its October meeting.

- **Improvements & Upgrades**

Total budget £0.506m

Exp: Recurring annually

Q1 £0.08m

The budget for improvements and upgrades relates specifically to Sheltered Housing upgrades and Estates improvements. The Estates improvements programme expected spend for 2025/26 is £0.35m, against budget of £0.46m.

New build:

- **Local Authority Housing Fund Round 3**

Total budget: £0.530m

Exp: Prior years None

Q1 £0.000m

The Council was successful in securing £0.9m in Round 3 of the Local Authority Housing fund. No properties were identified in Quarter 1; however two suitable properties were subsequently identified for purchase during July 2025. Further suitable properties are currently being sought prior to delegated decision to release budget.

- **Buyback of former Council Houses**

Total budget: £1.36m

Exp: Prior years £0.312m

Q1 £0.00m

Total £0.312m

In September 2024 the Cabinet approved the spend of up to £1.36m on the repurchase of former Council properties. To date, one property has been purchased at Princes Place. Further properties are currently being sought.

- **Kings Barton Property Acquisition**

Total budget: £33.927m

Exp: Prior years £0.03m

Q1 £0.00m

Total £0.03m

The acquisition of 146 units at Kings Barton was agreed during 2024/25. The deposit, and stage payments for properties are expected to commence in August 2025, with overall spend in 2025/26 expected to reach £20m. Budget carry forward and reprofiling of future year budgets will be reflected in the outturn report to Cabinet in September 2025.

- **Unallocated budgets New Homes**

Total budget: £7.943m

Exp: Prior years £0.00m

Q1 £0.00m

Total £0.00m

The capital programme includes £7.9m of budgets subject to approval of expenditure, of which £6m related to as yet unidentified schemes, £0.9m to Cornerhouse and £0.9m to Woodman Close. Cabinet agreed in July 2025 to dispose of Cornerhouse and return the budget to unallocated. There is currently no forecast to spend against these lines pending future decisions.

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Forward Plan of Key Decisions

1 October 2025 – 31 December 2025

This document sets out key decisions to be taken within the next 28 days, together with any key decision by individual Members of the Cabinet and officers. It also includes potential key decisions beyond that period, though this is not comprehensive and items will be confirmed in the publication of the key decisions document 28 days before a decision is taken.

Key Decisions are those which are financially significant or which have a significant impact. This has been decided, by the Council, to be decisions which involve income or expenditure over £250,000 or which will have a significant effect on people or organisations in two or more wards.

The majority of decisions are taken by Cabinet, together with the individual Cabinet Members, where appropriate. The membership of Cabinet and its meeting dates can be found [via this link](#). Other decisions may be taken by Cabinet Committees, Cabinet Members or Officers in accordance with the Officers' Scheme of Delegation, as agreed by the Council.

Whilst the majority of the Cabinet's business at the meetings listed in this document will be open to the public, there will be occasions when the business to be considered contains confidential, commercially sensitive or personal information. The items of business where this is likely to apply are indicated on the plan.

This is formal notice under The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 that part of the Cabinet meetings listed in this document may be held in private because the agenda and reports for the meeting will contain exempt information under Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

If you have any representations as to why the meeting should be held in private, then please contact the Council via democracy@winchester.gov.uk . [Please follow this link to the Council's Constitution](#) which includes a definition of the **paragraphs** (Access to Information Procedure Rules, Part 4 paragraph 8.4) detailing why a matter may be classed as exempt from publication under the Local Government Acts, and not available to the public.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about any item included in the Plan please contact the Democratic Services Team prior to the meeting to make your request. Copies of documents listed in the Plan for submission to a decision taker are available for inspection on the Council's website. Where the document is a committee report, it will usually be available five days before the meeting. Other documents relevant to the decision may also be submitted to the decision maker and are available on Council's website or via email democracy@winchester.gov.uk.

Please note that the decision dates are indicative and occasionally subject to change.

If you have any queries regarding the operation or content of the Forward Plan please contact David Blakemore (Democratic Services Team Manager) on 01962 848 217.

	Item	Cabinet Member	Key Decision	Wards Affected	Lead Officer	Documents submitted to decision taker	Decision taker (Cabinet, Cabinet Member or Officer)	Date/period decision to be taken	Committee Date (if applicable)	Open/private meeting or document? If private meeting, include relevant exempt paragraph number
Section A Decisions made by Cabinet & Cabinet committees										
1	Completion of Swedish cottages retrofit project	Cabinet Member for Good Homes	Yes	All Wards	Gillian Knight	Cabinet report	Cabinet Council	Oct-25 Nov-25	14-Oct-25 6-Nov-25	Part exempt 3
2	Woodman Close, Sparsholt - Final Business Case	Cabinet Member for Good Homes	Yes	Wonston & Michel-dever	Caroline Egan	Cabinet report	Cabinet	Oct-25	14-Oct-25	Part exempt 3
3	Land transaction	Cabinet Member for Regeneration	Yes	All Wards	Geoff Coe	Cabinet report	Cabinet	Oct-25	14-Oct-25	Part exempt 3
4	<i>Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping</i>	<i>Cabinet Member for Healthy Communities</i>	Yes	<i>All Wards</i>	<i>Karen Thorburn</i>	<i>Cabinet committee report</i>	<i>Cabinet Committee: Housing</i>	<i>Nov-25</i>	<i>4-Nov-25</i>	<i>Open</i>
5	<i>Disabled Facilities Grants: Policy Review</i>	<i>Cabinet Member for Healthy Communities</i>	Yes	<i>All Wards</i>	<i>Karen Thorburn</i>	<i>Cabinet committee report</i>	<i>Cabinet Committee: Housing</i>	<i>Nov-25</i>	<i>4-Nov-25</i>	<i>Open</i>

	Item	Cabinet Member	Key Decision	Wards Affected	Lead Officer	Documents submitted to decision taker	Decision taker (Cabinet, Cabinet Member or Officer)	Date/period decision to be taken	Committee Date (if applicable)	Open/private meeting or document? If private meeting, include relevant exempt paragraph number
6	<i>Retrofit Strategy to 2030 and beyond</i>	<i>Cabinet Member for Good Homes</i>	Yes	<i>All Wards</i>	<i>Preshanta Burbidge</i>	<i>Cabinet committee report</i>	<i>Cabinet Committee: Housing</i>	<i>Nov-25</i>	<i>4-Nov-25</i>	<i>Open</i>
7	<i>Housing Compliance policies</i>	<i>Cabinet Member for Good Homes</i>	Yes	<i>All Wards</i>	<i>Sarah Hobbs</i>	<i>Cabinet committee report</i>	<i>Cabinet Committee: Housing</i>	<i>Nov-25</i>	<i>4-Nov-25</i>	<i>Open</i>
8	<i>Hobbs View, Southbrook Cottages, Micheldever - Lessons Learned</i>	<i>Cabinet Member for Good Homes</i>	No	<i>All Wards</i>	<i>Caroline Egan</i>	<i>Cabinet report</i>	<i>Cabinet</i>	<i>Nov-25</i>	<i>19-Nov-25</i>	<i>Open</i>
9	<i>General Fund Budget Options & Medium Term Financial Strategy</i>	<i>Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation</i>	Yes	<i>All Wards</i>	<i>Liz Keys</i>	<i>Cabinet report</i>	<i>Cabinet</i>	<i>Nov-25</i>	<i>19-Nov-25</i>	<i>Open</i>
10	<i>HRA business plan & budget options</i>	<i>Cabinet Member for Good Homes</i>	Yes	<i>All Wards</i>	<i>Liz Keys</i>	<i>Cabinet report</i>	<i>Cabinet</i>	<i>Nov-25</i>	<i>19-Nov-25</i>	<i>Open</i>
11	<i>Housing Development Strategy</i>	<i>Cabinet Member for Good Homes</i>	Yes	<i>All Wards</i>	<i>Caroline Egan</i>	<i>Cabinet report</i>	<i>Cabinet</i>	<i>Nov-25</i>	<i>19-Nov-25</i>	<i>Open</i>

	Item	Cabinet Member	Key Decision	Wards Affected	Lead Officer	Documents submitted to decision taker	Decision taker (Cabinet, Cabinet Member or Officer)	Date/period decision to be taken	Committee Date (if applicable)	Open/private meeting or document? If private meeting, include relevant exempt paragraph number
12	<i>Q2 Finance & Performance Monitoring</i>	<i>Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation</i>	Yes	<i>All Wards</i>	<i>Simon Howson</i>	<i>Cabinet report</i>	<i>Cabinet</i>	<i>Nov-25</i>	<i>19-Nov-25</i>	<i>Open</i>
Section B Decisions made by individual Cabinet Members										
13	<i>Hampshire Nature Recovery Strategy</i>	<i>Cabinet Member for the Climate Emergency & Nature Emergency</i>	Yes	<i>All Wards</i>	<i>Rick Smith</i>	<i>Cabinet member decision report</i>	<i>Cabinet Member for the Climate and Nature Emergency Decision Day</i>	<i>Nov-25</i>	<i>4-Nov-25</i>	<i>Open</i>
Section C Decisions made by Officers										
14	Treasury Management - decisions in accordance with the Council's approved strategy and policy	Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation	Yes	All Wards	Designated HCC Finance staff, daily	Designated working papers	Designated HCC Finance staff, daily	Oct-25	Oct-25	Open

	Item	Cabinet Member	Key Decision	Wards Affected	Lead Officer	Documents submitted to decision taker	Decision taker (Cabinet, Cabinet Member or Officer)	Date/period decision to be taken	Committee Date (if applicable)	Open/private meeting or document? If private meeting, include relevant exempt paragraph number
Section D <i>Proposed budget timetable 2026/27</i> <i>*Not classed as key decisions as final decision taken by full Council</i>										
15	General Fund Budget 26/27*	Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation	No	All Wards	Liz Keys	Cabinet report	Cabinet Council	Feb-26	12-Feb-26 26-Feb-26	Open
16	Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 26/27*	Cabinet Member for Good Homes	No	All Wards	Liz Keys	Cabinet report	Cabinet Council	Feb-26	12-Feb-26 26-Feb-26	Open
17	Capital Investment Strategy 26-36*	Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation	No	All Wards	Liz Keys	Cabinet report	Cabinet Council	Feb-26	12-Feb-26 26-Feb-26	Open
18	Treasury Management Strategy 26/27*	Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation	No	All Wards	Liz Keys	Cabinet report	Cabinet Council	Feb-26	12-Feb-26 26-Feb-26	Open

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

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