

Finance and Performance Report – October to December 2024

Recommendation

That Cabinet notes the progress achieved during Q3 of 2024/25 and endorses the contents of the report.

Index

Performance Report

Section 1 - Tackling the Climate Emergency and Creating a Greener district.

Section 2 - Living Well

Section 3 - Homes For All

Section 4 - Vibrant Local Economy

Section 5 - Your Services. Your Voice

Section 6 - Regeneration and Growth

Finance report.

Section 7 - Financial report

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 Tackling the Climate Emergency and Creating a Greener District

Delivery highlights – October to December 2024

- The council shared its annual carbon footprint report for 2023/24 and its plans to achieve the council's 2024 carbon neutrality target. It is forecast to achieve an enormous 96% reduction in carbon emissions in our direct control¹ for 2024/25 relative to our baseline year of 2017/18. These savings are from reducing overall energy consumption in all our buildings, switching to 100% renewal energy, generating our own energy by installing solar panels and switching to electric fleet vehicles.
- For emissions in the organisations indirect control², we are forecast to achieve a 40% reduction in carbon emissions relative to 2023/24. This is as a result of switching Park and Ride vehicles, and BIFFA waste collection services to hydrotreated vegetable oil and working with our leisure centres to switch them to a green electricity tariff. This significant achievement is due to officers, senior management and members across the council working together to deliver various projects that has enabled the council to make significant progress on meeting the council's carbon neutrality target.
- Working in partnership with HCC to provide free training on how to retrofit homes to residents, businesses, housebuilders and community groups in the Winchester district. The training has been funded by the Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund. 25 people were trained in quarter 3.
- Presentation to HEP committee on the Winchester District Nature Improvement Plan for 2025-2030 to engage with members on shaping the council's Nature Improvement Plan (NIP) and ensuring it aligns with other strategies and plans.
- 16 trees planted at KGV pavilion and finalised new Tree Framework agreement.
- Greener Faster Grants – eight grants awarded totalling £56K. A range of community groups and businesses in the district have benefited from the grant to install solar PV systems, a solar irrigation system and energy efficiency measures such as LED lighting, insulation, and low carbon heating. These projects will save a minimum estimated 21.1tCO₂e annually.
- Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) this quarter we have progressed with stakeholder mapping and market research to assist with drafting an outline business case to develop a full LAEP for Winchester district. To further assist with the development of the LAEP we are taking part in Scottish and Southern Energy Networks Masterplan workshops using the Local Energy Net Zero Accelerator (LENZA) GIS Tool. We are one of two local authorities involved in this innovative scheme.

¹ scope 1 and 2 market-based emissions

² Scope 3 market-based emissions

Our Carbon Neutrality Action Plan (Council)

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Kelsie Learney		Project Sponsor: Dawn Adey	
Programme RAG status	Timeline	Budget	Carbon
RAG Status Update <u>Carbon – Amber</u> Carbon savings attributed to switching all council fleet to low carbon vehicles by March 2025 will not be achieved due to vehicle availability and procurement lead time.			
Progress achieved during the last quarter: Progress has been made across all pathways for Q3. - Created and delivered a communications campaign to celebrate and promote the news and achievements of the council's Carbon Neutrality 2024 target. Communications developed a film, updated the website, engaged stakeholders via social media and issue press release. - Shared progress on council target and achievements with both internal and external stakeholders via <i>Progress update on Carbon Neutrality Action Plan</i> in an all-member briefing on 7 November and <i>Working towards Carbon Neutrality</i> in the Carbon Neutrality Open Forum on 19 November. - Quotes received for green energy for April 2025/26 to ensure most competitive price. Budget allocation requested in Medium Term Financial strategy to cover the supply of green energy (gas and electricity). - Delivered carbon literacy training for Members and Staff. 40% of WCC staff have been trained and 19% have submitted their action plan form and have been certified. - Successful implementation and rerouting of waste collection services.			
Actions for the next quarter: - LED lighting replacement at Chesil Car Park to be delivered and completed. - Trialling EV Waste truck to assist with household waste collection rounds. - Special Maintenance to move forward with finalising business case for four new low carbon vehicles. - Submit outline business case for small scale solar PV on council assets for approval to commission techno-economic feasibility studies. - Subject to approval of Medium-Term Financial Strategy secure green energy tariffs for 2025/26			

Our Carbon Neutrality Action Plan (District)

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Kelsie Learney		Project Sponsor: Dawn Adey	
Programme RAG status	Timeline	Budget	Carbon
RAG Status Update			
Both Timeline and Carbon are amber. Whilst good progress has been made across the pathways some projects are still in their infancy and will take time to deliver the kilo-tonnes of CO2e savings required. During quarter 3, we did not deliver at sufficient scale or pace to meet the annual ktCO2e target set in the CNAP to achieve the district carbon neutral target of 2030. This major programme risk is being actively managed.			
Progress achieved during the last quarter:			
Good progress has been made across all pathways for Q3.			
Key progress			
• Promotion of Home Upgrade 2 delivery scheme. Total of 31 off gas properties, retrofitted to date, this will achieve an estimated 62.3tCO2e annually. Expression of intent was submitted for Warm Homes Hampshire wide Consortia to access government retrofit funding. WinACC submitted a successful partnership bid for a Hampshire wide housing retrofit advice scheme for all tenures. • Identified a commercial partner for the first commercial solar PV installation within the Solar for Business programme. Research, financial modelling and outline business case progressed for a rooftop solar PV project, based on the Marwell and Biffa model. • Held a Greener Futures Partnership Forum: a face-to-face event for local organisations to learn, network and discuss achieving net zero targets across the district. 18 businesses/organisations attended. • Completion of Southbrook Cottages, with integrated Air Source Heat Pump. Awarded Energy Performance Certificate of A rating. Works commenced on retrofitting Swedish Cottages • Community Solar Support Scheme, funded through UKSPF, saw the completion of five solar PV systems installed at community centres across the district.			
Actions for the next quarter:			
• HCC Active Travel Grant: Bike Bus scheme receipt of grant and initiate the recruitment of staffing resource to lead on the delivery of the scheme. • Launch of City LCWIP public consultation. • Large scale renewable energy scheme - submit pre-planning application, launch stakeholder engagement. • Launch of 'My Home made Better' scheme a Hampshire wide retrofit advice scheme delivered by WinACC, PECAN and the Environment Centre. • Develop proposals for council and district groups for Winchester District Nature Improvement Plan and reviewing Biodiversity Action Plan.			

Future of Waste and Recycling

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Kelsie Learney	Project Sponsor: Simon Hendey	
Programme RAG status	Timeline	Budget
Both timeline and budget are rated amber for the following reasons: The delivery of key elements of the new regulations, such as the introduction of additional plastics recycling, and the separation of paper and card from other dry mixed recycling is dependent on Hampshire County Council providing a new materials recovery facility (MRF). The decision on what type of facility to build has been delayed and will impact all councils in Hampshire. DEFRA have been made aware of the delay. HCC are expected to announce their decision and associated timeline for delivery in February 2025. Although the project budget remains on track, the details of the council's New Burdens funding for the transitional and ongoing service costs for food waste collections were expected from DEFRA in November 2024 but have been pushed back to March 2025. For this reason, the budget RAG rating is set to amber.		
Progress achieved during the last quarter: • An order for nine specialist food waste vehicles has been placed for delivery in August 2025. • On 20th November 2024, Cabinet approved plans to implement a new food waste recycling service and the associated expenditure to support its rollout. This included agreement to relocate the grounds maintenance contractor to a separate depot. • Work with Southampton University, Test Valley BC and Eastleigh BC continues on a joint research project to improve recycling in communal properties. • The council received notification from Government of its indicative EPR funding allocation. • Officers have started the process for procuring bins and caddies, in consultation with the strategic director and Member for climate emergency, through an approved framework. A preferred supplier has been identified and contracts are expected to be awarded in early 2025. • The project has started assessing the impact that devolution may have on the delivery of later stage elements of the project. • New lease acquired for IDV at Ring Tower, Winnall to free up space for BIFFA		
Actions for the next quarter: • Grounds maintenance relocation. • Conclude procurement of bins / caddies. • Continue contract variation process to introduce food waste collections. • Work with Biffa to monitor vehicle procurement and delivery. • Prepare an implementation programme for food waste. • Develop the phasing schedule for the phased rollout.		

Nutrient Mitigation Solution

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Jackie Porter, Cllr Chris Westwood	Project Sponsor: Dawn Adey	
Programme RAG status	Timeline	Budget
Progress achieved against last quarter. • Inter-authority agreement between Partnership for South Hampshire has been signed; allowing the generation and sale of nutrient credits. • 10 sites have received discretionary advice from Natural England agreeing credits so are ready for procurement and work instruction. Procurement for the next plant upgrades is underway at time of writing (January 2025), and it has been agreed that procurement can be individual by site and not required to combine into one open tender. Overall procurement timeframe is therefore longer than expected. • Desk-based and technical reports have been commissioned for the next 5 plant upgrades for phosphorus credits. Technical reports are being reviewed. • Desk-based technical reports have been commissions for 22 plant upgrades for nitrogen credit generation. • Expressions of Interest being confirmed for the first sales of HRA credits from Northington completed upgrade (pilot scheme) • Price of credits has been agreed at £3,250 per Nitrate credit and £50,000 per Phosphate credit (unless upstream of Alresford) – this pricing information can now be communicated to potential purchasers.		
Actions for the next quarter: • Complete procurement and instruction of remaining plants for Phosphorous mitigation. • If technically achievable, procure and instruct work on 5 plants in next phase. • Review and select which of the following 22 plants should be investigated for nitrogen credit generation. • Sell existing credits from the HRA pilot upgrades using Allocation Agreement and Unilateral Undertaking established. • Explore using Conservation Covenants with registered Designated Responsible Bodies in place of S106 legal agreements		

Climate Emergency - Progress against our plans

Ref	Project	Cabinet Member	Delivery Date	Status R/A/G
1	Develop an electric vehicle strategy	Cllr Learney	Apr 25	
2	Install EV rapid chargers where they are needed across the district	Cllr Learney	Aug 24	Complete
3	Complete the final phase of the repairs to the Weirs	Cllr Learney	Jul 24	Complete
4	Deliver programme of retrofit carbon reduction measures to our housing stock	Cllr Westwood	Mar 25	
5	Review and implement nutrient neutrality mitigation measures	Cllr Porter	Aug 25	
6	Adopt an air quality strategy, complying with National Air Quality Standards	Cllr Porter	Dec 24	
7	Introduce doorstep food waste collections and increase recycling	Cllr Learney	Apr 26	
8	Increase our recycling rates by introducing a simpler approach in line with Government programme for waste reforms	Cllr Learney	Apr 26	
9	Switch our buses and waste collection lorries to low or no carbon fuels	Cllr Learney	Jul 24	Complete
10	Adopt and implement an Active Travel Plan	Cllr Learney	Apr 25	Complete
11	Continue to embed sustainable procurement across our contracts and supply chain to support the carbon neutrality programme.	Cllr Cutler	Mar 25	
12	Investigation into provision of a natural burial area at the cemetery	Cllr Becker	Jun 25	

Red/Amber Status

- 1 - Work commenced to deliver an EV strategy in Q3. Engaging with internal stakeholders to refine the scope of the strategy, complete the development of a draft strategy document and begin external engagement on proposals following agreement of scope will be progressed in Q4.

- 4 - The above target is dependent on the results of exploratory and developmental work such as the Asset Strategy which will inform the Retrofit carbon reduction plan. The Retrofit team are also working on a number of SAP calculations that will demonstrate the necessary measures required to ensure significant enough carbon reduction to the housing stock to meet Governmental mandatory requirements. The proposed plan will need to be worked into a financial strategy that the Retrofit Team are currently hoping to bolster with potential funding from a National Government Scheme.
- 5 – The scheme delivery date has been extended to August 2025 because more upgrade sites have now been added, prolonging the final delivery date.
- 6 - The proposed amended AQS will be presented to March 2025 Cabinet with the view to adoption and the commencement and delivery from April 2025.
- 7 - Although the project budget remains on track, the details of the council's New Burdens Funding for the transitional and ongoing service costs for food waste collections were expected from DEFRA in November 2024 but have been pushed back to March 2025.
- 8 - The delivery of key elements of the new regulations, such as the introduction of additional plastics recycling, and the separation of paper and card from other dry mixed recycling is dependent on Hampshire County Council providing a new materials recovery facility (MRF). The decision on what type of facility to build has been delayed and will impact all councils in Hampshire. DEFRA have been made aware of the delay. HCC are expected to announce their decision and associated timeline for delivery in February 2025.
- 12 – This work is on-hold pending consideration of an options appraisal.

Measuring our progress

Long range trackers (Annual)								
No.	Performance measure	Cabinet member (Cllr)	Lead Director	17/18 (base)	21/22	22/23	23/24	Target 24/25
TCE1	Council total market-based emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Learney	Dawn Adey	4,251.1	4,260.2	3,970.3	4,090.5	3,700
TCE1a	Council market-based Scope 1 & 2 emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Learney	Dawn Adey	1,667.8	595.6	523.4	398.2	
	% change relative to 2017/18 baseline year	Learney	Dawn Adey		-64%	-69%	-76%	
TCE1b	Council market-based Scope 3 emissions (tCO ₂ e) ¹	Learney	Dawn Adey	2,583.4	3,664.6	3,446.9	3,692.3	
	% change relative to 2017/18 baseline year	Learney	Dawn Adey		42%	33%	43%	

			Lead Director	2017 (base)	2020	2021	2022	Target 2030	Status
TCE2a	District territorial GHG (ktCO ₂ e)	Learney	Dawn Adey	929.8	763.6	805.5	786.0		
	% change relative to 2017 baseline year	Learney	Dawn Adey		-18%	-13%	-15%		
TCE2b	District carbon emissions under scope of LA influence (ktCO ₂ e)	Learney	Dawn Adey	658.0	545.3	578.3	555.2	520.00	n/a
	% change relative to 2017 baseline year	Learney	Dawn Adey		-17%	-12%	-16%		

TCE1 and 2 -

Reporting on KPIs for carbon targets has been updated and modified for Q3 to show the different scopes for organisation reporting. A reduction of 96% is forecast for the reduction of carbon emissions included in Scope 1 & 2 (TCE1a above).

Under district emissions two datasets have been included. TCE2a captures Greenhouse gas emission in district and includes large industrial sites, railways, motorways, land-use, livestock and soils. TCE2b is carbon emissions within the scope of local authority influence this excludes large industrial sites, railways, motorways, land-use, livestock and soils. District emissions are compiled by the government are reported 2 years in arrears.

Practical real-time measures (Quarterly)										
No.	Performance measure	Cabinet member (Cllr)	Lead Director	Q3 - 23/24	Q4 - 23/24	Q1 - 24/25	Q2 - 24/25	Q3 - 24/25	Target 24/25	Status
TCE3	% of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting	Learney	Simon Hendey	38.53%	36.13%	42.84%	43.26%	37.79%	40%	
TCE4	Residual household waste average kg / household	Learney	Simon Hendey	102.83	102.63	105.36	98.55	103.91	<420 kg/hh	
TCE5	Energy usage (kWh) corporate buildings: Electricity ²	Learney	Simon Hendey	164,739	151,545	116,815	135,277	142,277	Measure only	n/a
TCE6	Energy usage (kWh) corporate buildings: Gas ²	Learney	Simon Hendey	180,191	198,383	59,794	59,211	137,598	Measure only	n/a
TCE7	Retrofit adjustments – total number of houses completed (running total for financial year) ³	Westwood	Simon Hendey	226	358	47	172	223	265	
TCE8	Retrofit adjustments – total number of measures completed across the houses in TCE7 (running total for financial year) ³	Westwood	Simon Hendey	301	543	81	411	424	890	
TCE9	Renewable energy generated (kWh) from solar panels ⁴	Learney	Simon Hendey	33,138	43,197	138,388	113,011	25,842	Measure only	n/a

Commentary:

TCE3 – Q3 historically falls slightly below the 40% target due to the impact of the season weather, particularly in reducing the garden waste recycling.

TCE8 - A contractor under performance and quality delivery issue has delayed progress in Q3. A review of the programme of works with the contractor is taking place to ensure they can deliver, at pace and with quality.

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).

² *Relates to electricity and gas usage at the City Offices campus (City Offices, main Guildhall plus West Wing); Due to the way metering is set up this includes the whole of each building - so university, CAB and NHS offices are recharged a percentage for their use.*

³ *Figures from 23/24 relate to that year's different set of properties and measures; 24/25 begins a new set of properties and measures. The two KPI work together, so the total number of properties targeted (265) have multiple measures targets (890) against them.*

⁴ *Data reported relates to: WCC Sites (City Offices, Cipher House, Vaultex), Winchester Sport and Leisure Park, Biffa and Marwell Zoo.*

Section 2 Living Well

Delivery highlights – October to December 2024

- The new community 3G artificial pitch at Winchester City Football Club was officially opened in October.
- Funding for the replacement of the cricket pavilion at River Park was approved by Cabinet at its October meeting.
- First meeting of the new Stanmore Community Network, involving representatives of 11 partner organisations across statutory and voluntary sectors. This work has been funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
- Engagement with 57 local sports clubs (representing 16 different sports), 23 national governing bodies of sport and 71% of parish/town councils, as part of the development of a new Playing Pitch Strategy that is due for publication in mid-2025.
- A half-term football project in Winchester and Whiteley during October attracted 90 children, of which 12% were girls, 24% on free school meals and 12% deemed 'inactive' by their parents.
- The Homes for Ukraine support programme continued with the launch of a wellbeing support group for teenagers and young people in partnership with Winchester Youth Counselling, which supported 40 young people during Q3. There was also a half-term holiday camp in Stanmore, Alresford and Swanmore attended by 59 young people, a 3-week series of employability workshops and a workshop on legal and finance foundations for business start-ups.
- 22 community grants awarded totalling £44,259. These included, £5,000 to Winchester Basics Bank for equipment to establish a new hub at Badger Farm Community Centre; £2,700 to Team Wickham to establish Wickham parkrun; and £1,000 to Whiteley Town Council to create a community garden outside the new temporary community centre and run gardening activities.
- 11 applications for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding received and assessed, with decisions scheduled for Cabinet in March 2025.
- The Bucks Head public house in Meonstoke was reconfirmed as an asset of community value (ACV) and retained on the list of ACVs in December 2024 following renomination after the expiry of the previous listing after five years.

Living Well - progress against our plans

Ref	Project	Cabinet Member	Delivery Date	Status R/A/G
1	Work closely with local charities and voluntary organisations to review our Integration Programme for Ukrainian guests	Cllr Becker	Dec 25	
2	Develop a network of private and public sector spaces throughout the district to support a Spaces of Sanctuary scheme	Cllr Becker	Sept 24	Completed
3	Work with developers at each major development area to provide public facilities, green spaces and areas to play	Cllr Becker	Ongoing	
4	Develop a Community and Wellbeing Strategy	Cllr Becker	Mar 25	
5	Deliver a wide range of physical activities through school and community sports coaching programmes	Cllr Becker	Feb 25	
6	Enable, engage and empower young, disadvantaged people to fulfil their potential through participation in sport and outdoor activities	Cllr Becker	Ongoing	
7	Support for residents with the cost-of-living crisis with the roll out of Council Tax Hardship Grants	Cllr Cutler	Mar 24	Completed
8	Deliver a programme supporting residents to live longer better	Cllr Becker	Mar 25	

Red/Amber Status

8 – A delay in securing approval from Hampshire County Council for the funding to deliver this programme means that the commencement date is likely to slip slightly from March to April 2025. Date will be adjusted and show as 'on track' for next quarter.

Measuring our progress

Long range trackers (Annual)								
No.	Performance measure	Cabinet member (Cllr)	Lead Director	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	Target 24/25
LW1	% of adults participating in 150+ mins of sport or physical activity per week within the Winchester district	Becker	Dawn Adey	n/a	73.7%	73.0%	73.3%	Measure only
LW2	Number of unemployed (source: Economic Activity data)	Thompson	Dawn Adey	1,800	1,700	1,235	1,900	Measure only

Practical real-time measures (Quarterly)										
No.	Performance measure	Cabinet member (Cllr)	Lead Director	Q3 - 23/24	Q4 - 23/24	Q1 - 24/25	Q2 - 24/25	Q3 - 24/25	Target 24/25	Status
LW3	Winchester Sport and Leisure Park - total number of visits	Becker	Dawn Adey	287,617	304,205	340,189	340,178	347,038	1,233,094	
LW4	Winchester Sport & Leisure Park – total number of all concessionary rate visits	Becker	Dawn Adey	105,824	128,983	131,095	135,532	136,816	442,798	
LW5	Meadowside - total number of visits	Becker	Dawn Adey	18,296	21,410	19,506	19,886	18,892	73,050	
LW6	Meadowside - total number of all concessionary rate visits	Becker	Dawn Adey	644	444	2,552	2,677	2,631	10,242	
LW7	Number of housing benefit claimants (rolling total)	Cutler	Liz Keys	2,865	2,811	2,726	2,553	2,452	Measure only	n/a
LW8	Number of Council tax reduction claimants (rolling total)	Cutler	Liz Keys	5,839	5,898	5,854	5,850	5,805	Measure only	n/a
LW9	Average time taken to process new housing benefit claims (days)	Cutler	Liz Keys	21	19.4	20.73	25.95	16.24	24 days	
LW10	Number of reported fly-tips (actual incidents) ⁴	Cutler	Simon Hendey	181	244	168	158	185	<1,100	
LW11	% of fly-tips cleared within contract deadlines/days	Cutler	Simon Hendey	n/a	n/a	81%	72%	85%	80%	

No.	Performance measure	Cabinet member (Cllr)	Lead Director	Q3 - 23/24	Q4 - 23/24	Q1 - 24/25	Q2 - 24/25	Q3 - 24/25	Target 24/25	Status
LW12	Number of reported graffiti incidents (online form totals)	Cutler	Simon Hendey	9	15	26	11	9	<169	
LW13	Number of "Public Space" issues reported (online form totals inc. litter, bins, etc.) ⁵	Cutler	Simon Hendey	85	199	143	131	121	<600	

Commentary:

LW11 – The table and notes below provide further information relating to the percentage of reported fly-tips cleared within KPI.

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

- The completion targets of 5 and 15 working days include 3 to 5 days for evaluation of fly-tip for any enforcement action 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.
- Compared to the same periods for 23/24 (Q1 to Q3), total fly-tip numbers reported have decreased from 636 to 514 over the period.

Footnotes:

⁴ Figures are net total of 'actual' reports received (less any that have been identified as duplicates, out of district, private land etc.)

⁵ 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. The previous kpi for 23/24 – 'litter' line was only one item from the form, not inclusive of the wider set of 'street mess' issues.

Section 3 Homes for All

Delivery highlights – October to December 2024

- A housing service self-assessment has been carried out in line with the Social Housing Regulation Act 2023. The Act introduced new powers that require social housing providers to prepare a performance improvement plan against the consumer standards. The self-assessment work included commissioning external service reviews to support and inform the housing landlord improvement plan.
- The commitment continues to improve the SAP rating across council homes and as of December 2024, 70% of council homes met SAP rating C.
- 35 properties have been let out of the 41 privately rented apartments within the Winnall flats development by Venta Living Ltd with a further 3 properties currently under offer.
- A Temporary Accommodation and Pathways Plan was adopted by Cabinet Committee Housing in November 2024 (CAB3472 (H)), the plan set out predicted demand and supply and 8 housing pathways to support the plan.
- Working towards achieving the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation to improve the lives of those subject to domestic abuse. Whilst an ambitious target for December 2025 had been set to reach DAHA accreditation, it has been identified that the current case management system needs further refinement. As a result, it has been agreed with DAHA to extend the timeline, with a new target date to be agreed for this year.
- The council has 15 internal Domestic Abuse Ambassadors in place to support both staff and residents. Worked in partnership with Hampshire County Council and all the other Hampshire district and boroughs to provide 15 units of accommodation for survivors of domestic abuse across Hampshire and increased the provision of safe places within the Winchester district for survivors of Domestic Abuse.

New Homes Programme

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Chris Westwood	Project Sponsor: Simon Hendey	
Programme RAG status	Timeline	Budget
RAG Status Update There is an increase in programme confidence due to the recent S106 acquisition negotiations, but 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: • Six units were completed and occupied at Southbrook Cottages in Micheldever. These were built to the Passivhaus standard, a high-performance building standard over and above UK Building Regulations. The Passivhaus design means the flats have a continuous and well-insulated thermal envelope that keeps the building warm during winter months and the heat out during summer. The design is estimated to reduce overall CO2 emissions by 70% compared to the UK average for buildings of a similar type and tenants will enjoy reduced energy bills. • 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. The acquisition of 156 S106 units at Kings Barton, Winchester and Hazeley Road, Twyford was approved by Cabinet, and there are ongoing discussions on several other sites. • 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: • Progress detailed contract negotiations for the S106 acquisitions at Twyford and Kings Barton. • Cornerhouse, Winchester – commence outline business case • Woodman Close, Sparsholt – commence final business case • Southbrook Cottages, Micheldever – commence post completion		

Homes for All – progress against our plans

Ref	Project	Cabinet Member	Delivery Date	Status R/A/G
1	Review HRA Business Plan in light of the economic circumstances and review current planned services and programmes.	Cllr Westwood	Nov 24	Complete
	Deliver the outcomes and expectations of the standards set by the Regulator of Social Housing	Cllr Westwood	Mar 25	
3	Review of Hampshire Home Choice Framework	Cllr Westwood	Mar 26	
4	Deliver council housing retrofit carbon reduction programme	Cllr Westwood	Mar 25	
5	Develop and implement an Older Persons Accommodation Strategy	Cllr Westwood	Mar 26	
6	Seek opportunities for homes to be offered across the district by Venta Living Ltd	Cllr Westwood	Ongoing	
7	Collaborate with partners to deliver the aims set out in the Winchester Community Safety Delivery Plan 24/25	Cllr Westwood	Mar 25	
8	Review and refresh the Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy	Cllr Westwood	Mar 26	
9	Develop a Temporary Accommodation Strategy	Cllr Westwood	Mar 26	Complete
10	Complete the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation and embed new policies and processes across the organisation	Cllr Westwood	Dec 24	

Red/Amber status

- 10** - Whilst an ambitious target for December 2024 had been set to reach DAHA accreditation, it has been identified that our current case management system needs further development. As a result, it has been agreed with DAHA to extend the timeline, with a new target date to be agreed for 2025/26.

Measuring our performance

Long range trackers (Annual)										
No.	Performance measure	Cabinet member (Cllr)	Lead Director	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	Target 23/24	23/24 Status	Target 24/25
HFA1	% of all WCC homes achieving energy efficiency rating of C or above	Westwood	Simon Hendey	62%	63%	65%	70%	70%		70%
HFA2	Net total new home completions across the district (rolling total)	Westwood	Simon Hendey	n/a	121	139	276	1,000 by 2030		1,000 by 2032
HFA3	Homelessness – numbers recorded as rough sleepers (as at year end)	Westwood	Simon Hendey	n/a	n/a	2	3	0	Annual Count	0

Practical real-time measures (Quarterly)										
No.	Performance measure	Cabinet member (Cllr)	Lead Director	Q3 - 23/24	Q4 - 23/24	Q1 - 24/25	Q2 - 24/25	Q3 - 24/25	Target 24/25	Status
HFA4	Average time for homeless household to receive offer of a permanent home (days – as at quarter end)	Westwood	Simon Hendey	n/a	n/a	95	158	332	365 days	
HFA5	Numbers on housing waiting list	Westwood	Simon Hendey	1,504	1,538	1,592	1,575	1,623	Measure only	n/a
HFA6	Voids cumulative re-let time (general needs and older persons) (calendar days)	Westwood	Simon Hendey	14.37	15.63	22.59	19.81	20.52	13	

Comments from CHOS on quarter where status is amber or red:

HFA6: Performance of void turnaround in quarter 3 suffered for the following reasons: need for specialist cleaning for one property, high number of refusals for less popular older persons sheltered accommodation, need for support and time for a customer to transition from temporary accommodation to a permanent home in a sustainable way and delay from one contractor in completing works. Whilst contractor performance has been addressed the need to support an increasing number of vulnerable customers and letting of property where demand is low will require a more strategic approach which will be achieved by the homeless strategy and older person strategy development in 2025/6. In the light of changing customer demographics and demand it may be necessary to revise the void target in 2025/6.

Section 4 Vibrant Local Economy

Delivery highlights – October to December 2024

- All £1.7m of UK Shared Prosperity and Rural England Prosperity funds are allocated and on track to deliver and claim funding by end of February 2025. These projects have leveraged an additional £1.7 million in funding.
- 60 businesses completed commercialisation, business incubation, acceleration support or SME Digital Productivity training as part of the Business Growth Programme funded through the UK Shared Prosperity programme.
- 176 residents have signed up to an essential digital skills training programme resulting in 17 workshops and 80 one to one tutoring sessions which have taken place throughout the district.
- A new document has been produced and published which provides guidance for anyone involved in repurposing vacant shops including developers, landlords and potential tenants.
- Three low carbon business audits carried out. Three applications for Green Business Grants have been received. Retrofit skills training for residents and businesses was launched with seven learners completing Retrofit 101 courses and 18 completing Understanding Domestic Retrofit Level 2.
- 137,572 Visit Winchester website users for Q3 2024, up 12% in Nov – Dec 2024 compared with Nov Dec 2023. Promoted content included features on Eco stays and autumnal breaks, supporting independent businesses and attractions with their events and activities.
- Press release announcing key Winchester Jane Austen 250 activity issued to media database in November. Events and activities also featured in Visit Hampshire's press release which was released in October.
- 26 pieces of press coverage (including [Frommer's Travel Guide 'Best Places to Go in 2025'](#), The Independent, Metro, Evening Standard and Best), with a reach of 155.9 million as a direct result of Visit Winchester and Jane Austen 250-related press and PR campaigns,
- Visit Winchester attendance at Great West Way Marketplace and one-to-one meetings in October resulted in pitching Winchester Jane Austen itineraries to over 20 domestic and international travel trade tour operators.
- Contracts awarded to Arts Partners, Designer and Evaluator to support delivery of West of Waterlooville Public Art Programme.
- Terms of reference developed, tested and agreed by Winchester Cultural Strategy Stakeholder Group.

Vibrant Local Economy - Progress against our Plans

Ref	Project	Cabinet Member	Delivery Date	Status
1	Produce event toolkit and associated event management guidance	Cllr Thompson	June 24	Complete
2	Installation of new information boards with maps and wayfinding information	Cllr Thompson	June 24	Complete
3	Undertake consumer marketing activity including production of a public art trail leaflet	Cllr Thomoson	Sep 24	Complete
4	Support independent business (food and drink, retail) and market towns across the district	Cllr Thomspson	ongoing	
5	Support employment and skills projects and plans	Cllr Thompson	Mar 25	
6	Develop a Sustainable Tourism Tactical Plan	Cllr Thompson	Mar 25	
7	Develop and deliver a programme of Jane Austen 2025 PR and marketing	Cllr Thomspson	Jan 25	
8	Support local investment through both the UK Shared Prosperity and Rural Prosperity Funding programme	Cllr Thompson	Mar 25	
9	Deliver the Green Economic Development Strategy Action Plan 2024 - 2027	Cllr Thompson	Ongoing	
10	Deliver Digital Growth Factory (UK Shared Prosperity 24/25 funded project)	Cllr Thompson	Mar 25	
11	Explore future uses of the Guildhall and Abbey House	Cllr Tod	Spring 25	
12	Review of Concessionary Rental Policy	Cllr Tod	Jan 24	Complete
13	Implementation of a new Business Rates exemption and relief to support green technologies.	Cllr Cutler	Mar 24	Complete

Red/Amber status

6 – Reduced recourse has delayed the project, however evidence, baseline data and sector trends / insight will be collated in Q4 to underpin the plan's development which is carried forward into the 2025/26 service plan

11 – Essential repair and refurbishment work has delayed work to consider the future use of the Guildhall and Abbey House

Measuring our progress

Long range trackers (Annual)								
No.	Performance measure	Cabinet member (Cllr)	Lead Director	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	Target 24/25
VLE1	% of economically active people in employment (aged 16-64 - source: NOMIS)	Thompson	Dawn Adey	77.4%	83.7%	75.1%	80.5%	Measure only
VLE2	Business counts (micro, small, medium, large – source: NOMIS)	Thompson	Dawn Adey	8,035	8,110	8,165	8,225	Measure only

Practical real-time measures (Quarterly)										
No.	Performance measure	Cabinet member (Cllr)	Lead Director	Q3 - 23/24	Q4 - 23/24	Q1 - 24/25	Q2 - 24/25	Q3 - 24/25	Target 24/25	Status
VLE3	% of WCC revenue spend with local suppliers	Cutler	Liz Keys	22.28%	31.18%	22.00%	22.00%	28.39%	25%	
VLE4	% residents claiming out-of-work benefits ⁶	Thompson	Dawn Adey	2.00%	2.00%	2.10%	2.30%	2.20%	Measure only	n/a
VLE5	City centre high street footfall – total number of unique visitor count ⁷	Thompson	Dawn Adey	408,811	431,393	429,807	402,943	410,475	Measure only	n/a

Footnotes:

⁶ Data provided by ONS – “CC01 Regional labour market: Claimant Count by unitary and local authority”. Published 17th of the month.

⁷ Data provided by the Winchester BID Place from their Informatic reports – in April 2024 a new way for collecting data on unique visits was introduced therefore data previously reported for 2023/24 cannot be compared. For comparison, reprofiled data for Q3 and Q4 23/24 has been included in the table above.

Throughout the year each month can see the footfall levels go up or down. This is a result of positive impacts such as events and festivals and negative impacts like weather especially storms – such as the ones in December that closed the Christmas market for two weekends.

Section 5 Your Services. Your Voice

Delivery highlights – October to December 2024

- Draft Local Plan which sets out the council's vision and objectives for the future development of Winchester city, the market towns, villages and countryside, was submitted to the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government for examination. All responses from the six-week consultation have been included as part of the submission documents.
- Following the Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Challenge team in July the Feedback report and Action Plan was considered by Cabinet on 15 October. The Action Plan will be used as a valuable tool to ensure the council strives to continually improve service delivery and meet the needs of its residents.
- A new regular digital drop-in session run by the council is now being held on the first Friday of every month at Makins Court in Alresford. Alresford residents will be provided with support with their digital issues by one of the council's digital champions.
- As part of TC25, a Digital and Change champions network has been established. The group will meet monthly and guide and support colleagues in using new technology while playing a vital role in shaping and embedding Digital Transformation across the organisation.
- Consideration of a new look quarterly Finance and Performance report at Scrutiny and Cabinet in a streamlined, clear and concise format.
- Engagement and consultation undertaken with stakeholders, members and staff on the priorities and areas of focus for the new Council Plan
- Established an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion officer group with the first meeting held in December.
- Annual Tenant Satisfaction Measures survey for council tenant residents completed in December with a survey response rate of 45%.

Transformation Challenge (TC25)

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Neil Cutler		Project Sponsor: Liz Keys	
Programme RAG status	Timeline	Budget	Budget Reduction
Progress of circa £1.33m (45%) 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. Recent Government announcements around Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) also means that there is additional uncertainty and possible implications that are currently unbudgeted. This is all reflected in the budget reduction RAG status. This will be kept under constant review and planning for the next phase of transformation and savings, including the HRA, is underway.			
Progress achieved during the last quarter: • Total budget reductions to date totalling £1.33m • City Offices and Guildhall cleaning contract - tender issued based on reviewed cleaning specification. • Piloted reduction of reception opening hours, increasing capacity to answer telephone calls at the busiest periods. • Cash and back-office systems (Parking) – phase 1 underway with new machines and systems installed. • Strategic review of parking management - inflationary tariff increases commenced 1 October resulting in increased income. • Conditional freehold sale of Bar End depot approved by Cabinet which will achieve a capital receipt. • Use of Planning Performance Agreements (PPA) has created additional income of £76k for 24/25 to date. • A review of Building Control budgets as part of the budget setting process resulted in an on-going reduction of £25k from 25/26. • A review of temporary road closure fees forecast to achieve additional £11k income from 25/26. • Review of Legal Services complete which will improve the performance, resilience, and succession planning of the team. • Digital Vision and Strategy adopted, and Digital and Change Champions network established across the organisation.			
Actions for the next quarter: • City Offices and Guildhall cleaning contract to be awarded. • Review of the success of the pilot reduction of reception opening hours and longer-term options. • Work to commence, in collaboration with service areas, on digital roadmaps. • Implementation of new in-house Emergency Planning arrangements • Review of our grant's programmes. • Review of the Guildhall booking system. • Next phase of our transformation journey to be scoped (mindful of the impact of potential devolution and Local Government Reorganisation).			

Your Services. Your Voice - Progress against actions in business plans

Ref	Project	Cabinet Member	Delivery Date	Status
1	Undertake a district wide Residents' and Young Persons' survey	Cllr Becker	Aug 24	Complete
2	Development of a corporate digital strategy that drives innovation across the council	Cllr Cutler	Sep-24	
3	Modernise the contact channels our residents and businesses use to contact and do business with the council to improve the customer journey	Cllr Cutler	2025	
4	Adoption of a Council Plan 2025-30 that is fit for the future	Cllr Tod	Jan 25	Complete
5	Review and improve our approach to consultation and engagement, by adopting a new Consultation and Engagement Policy and Charter	Cllr Becker	Dec 24	
6	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. This will lead to more efficient process and a reduce in printing and postage costs with the additional benefit of reduced carbon.	Cllr Cutler	2025/26	
7	Review our complaints policy and processes and demonstrate learning from complaints to drive service improvements	Cllr Cutler	Jun 25	
8	Establish and introduce new tenant/leaseholder engagement programme	Cllr Westwood	May 24	Complete
9	Deliver customer focussed digital transformation of housing services	Cllr Westwood	Mar 26	
10	Install improvements to the audio/visual systems for public facing meetings	Cllr Cutler	Apr 24	Complete
11	Increase subscription take up to the Your Council News email newsletter	Cllr Tod	Jun 24	Complete

Red/Amber status

2 - Digital Vision agreed, and the Strategy is being finalised for publication in Q4.

5 – Documents are in draft and due to finalised during Q4.

Measuring our progress

Long range trackers (Annual)									
No.	Performance measure	Cabinet member (Cllr)	Lead Director	2021	2022	2023	2024	Target 2024	Status
YSYV1	Residents' satisfaction with the way the council runs things (Residents' Survey)	Becker	Laura Taylor	No survey	75% (SE 62%)	No survey	69% (compared to LG survey of 55%)	> LGA average	
YSYV2	% of Residents' Survey respondents that feel the council involves residents when making decisions	Becker	Laura Taylor	No survey	58%	No survey	55%	60%	

Practical real-time measures (Quarterly)										
No.	Performance measure	Cabinet member (Cllr)	Lead Director	Q3 - 23/24	Q4 - 23/24	Q1 - 24/25	Q2 - 24/25	Q3 - 24/25	Target 24/25	Status
YSYV3	% complaints responded to within 10 working days	Becker	Liz Keys	71%	79%	79%	92%	89%	90%	
YSYV4	% of upheld and partially upheld complaints	Becker	Liz Keys	63%	68%	47%	48%	45%	Measure only	n/a
YSYV5	Number of residents digitally interacting with the council (number of online reports submitted through online forms platforms)	Becker	Liz Keys	4,972	15,513	8,837	7,294	6,706	42,000	
YSYV6	Number of respondents to consultations	Becker	Laura Taylor	9,672	1,182	1,182	540	1,332	Measure only	n/a
YSYV7	% of major planning applications decided within time or agreed extension (WCC / SDNP)	Porter	Dawn Adey	78% / ~	100% / ~	100% / 100%	100% / ~	100% / ~	80%	
YSYV8	% of non-major planning applications decided within time or agreed extension (WCC / SDNP)	Porter	Dawn Adey	95% / 81%	96% / 94%	97% / 86%	93% / 81%	82% / 81%	80%	

Comments from CHOS on quarter where status is amber or red:

YSYV2: For context, whilst this result is below the target, across the board in comparable LG surveys there has been a drop in all areas of around 10-20%, so we are still in line with the general trend from the LGA polling (and above their scores by around 10-15% each time).

Section 6 Regeneration and Growth

Bar End Depot

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Martin Tod		Project Sponsor: Dawn Adey/ Simon Hendey	
Programme RAG status	Timeline	Budget	
Progress achieved during the last quarter: Cabinet approval to HOTs and sale to McCarthy & Stone. Lawyers instructed and draft documentation issued.			
Actions for the next quarter: Exchange contracts			

Central Winchester Regeneration (CWR)

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Martin Tod		Project Sponsor: Dawn Adey/Ken Baikie	
Programme RAG status	Timeline	Budget	
The timeline is amber as the Development Delivery Plan was initially scheduled for submission within this quarter; however, an extension to the deadline has been granted to enable further development of the financial model.			
Progress achieved during the last quarter: • Cabinet Committee Regeneration took place, where the project team presented the completion of Friarsgate Park and then gave a summary of the Archaeological open day event that took place at the end of the summer. • Kings Walk leases have been completed by all tenants, which gives them a 3-year extension.			
Actions for the next quarter: • The Development Delivery Plan will be submitted to the Council in February, with the document being presented to Cabinet for evaluation in March. • During this period, a CIL application will be submitted to the panel for consideration, with the aim of designating a specified sum for earmarked purposes.			

Local Plan

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Jackie Porter		Project Sponsor: Dawn Adey	
Programme RAG status	Timeline	Budget	
Progress achieved during the last quarter:			
• Strategic Planning team have finalised their analysis of the representations from the Regulation 18 Local Plan consultation. • Completed and published a summary of the main issues arising from the representations that were submitted on the Regulation 19 Local Plan along with finalising all of the necessary Local Plan evidence base. • Officers submitted the Regulation 19 Local Plan, and the evidence base to the Planning Inspectorate on the 15 November 2024. This is now all available on the Local Plan website Local Plan Examination - Winchester District Local Plan. • The Secretary of State has now appointed an Inspector to conduct the Local Plan examination. We are currently awaiting the dates for the examination.			
Actions for the next quarter:			
• Answer the Inspector’s initial questions and Matters and Issues by the deadlines that will be set by the Planning Inspector. • Update the Statement of Common Ground with Natural England, and the Habitat Regulations Assessment. • Ensure that Consultants and other Officers from within the city council are lined up to assist Officers from the Strategic Planning team at the Local Plan examination. • Agree a Local Development Scheme (the timetable for the preparation of the new Local Plan 2040 and the next Local Plan) at a Cabinet meeting on the 12 February 2025.			

Station Approach

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Martin Tod		Project Sponsor: Dawn Adey/ Ken Baikie	
Programme RAG status	Timeline	Budget	
Progress achieved against last quarter. • The consultation period ended on 27th October. All multiple-choice responses have been analysed and pulled together in a report. • This report was presented to the board and reference group in November. • Analysis has begun of all written response; this work will run into the next quarter. • The consultant has used the consultation report to produce a first draft of the final concept masterplan, this was shared with the board and reference group at the end of the quarter for feedback in the New Year.			
<u>Actions for the next quarter</u> • The first draft will be reviewed by all and feedback with suggested changes will be shared with the consultant. • A final draft is due to be available at the end of March. The final report is scheduled to go to cabinet in Summer 2025.			

Winchester Movement Strategy

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Kelsie Learney		Project Sponsor: Simon Hendey	
Programme RAG status	Timeline	Budget	
RAG Status Update.			
Current WMS schemes progressing, The City LCWIP had been delayed but progressing on time. The micro-consolidation centre is delayed as the licence and procurement is discussed further. Additional CIL funding towards transport schemes being developed through the WMS will be requested and this will help to a certain extent but the current lack of central Government active travel / public transport funding limits what can be achieved at the moment. This means that, in effect, the delivery of the overall strategy will take longer, and the timescales associated are uncertain as this is dependent upon future Government funding sources.			
Progress achieved during the last quarter:			
• City Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) Draft Plan prepared for online public consultation. • District Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) Plan approved by HCC in December Decision Day. • Micro-Consolidation Trial – Discussion on licence and contract continued. Application to Building Control made. • A number of LCWIP active travel schemes are still being progressed or have been installed by HCC in the city including: ○ A modal filter on Hyde Church Lane, ○ TRO to permit cycling on the pedestrianised section of Middle Brook Street and, ○ The trial of a puffin crossing on Romsey Road ○ Upgrading the crossing at Friarsgate / Middle Brook Street • Worthy Road Active Travel Improvements - Works on the walking and cycling improvements on Worthy Road at Dyson Drive and Stoke Road commenced. • Fulflood Liveable Neighbourhood Pilot Officer workshop to be set up to review next steps. • CIL Funding Transport schemes requiring CIL funding reviewed.			
Actions for the next quarter:			
• Draft City LCWIP out for online public consultation. • Publish Fulflood Liveable Neighbourhood Pilot Co-Design Report and undertake a review of the next steps. • Completion of the Worthy Road Phase 1 scheme. • Agree contract / licence for the micro-consolidation trial, appointment by Solent Transport of an operator and prepare for launch of the trial.			

FINANCE REPORT

Section 7 - Financial Position

This section presents a summary of the council's financial position as of 31 December regarding the General Fund (Revenue and Capital) and Housing Revenue Account budgets.

General Fund Revenue

Summary

1. A balanced 2024/25 budget was set by Council in February 2024 (CAB3444 refers).
2. Retained Business Rates – the final outturn for 2023/24 (NNDR3 return) resulted in an end of year surplus of £3.7m, with Winchester receiving a share of £1.5m. This £1.5m surplus will be distributed over 2024/25 (£1.06m) and 2025/26 (£0.44m). The cause of this variance is a significant reduction in the provision for appeals now that the 2017 rating appeals have all been determined. Whilst these decisions are incorporated into estimates from 2024/25 the forecasting of appeals remains a highly complex process, often with little information to go on, and so it is likely that further releases will take place.
3. Income forecasts
 - i) Planning Fees- £0.2m adverse in Q3. Despite government set fee increases, volume has further reduced in 2024/25 leading to an adverse budget variance. Work is ongoing to re-forecast income for the full year, particularly large applications which make up a large proportion of total income.
 - ii) Garden Waste Income – a further £0.03m is now expected in 2024/25 due to continued increase in usage of the scheme.
 - iii) Car Parking - £0.1m favourable full year forecast. Income in 2024/25 has been higher than expected due to higher usage levels across central car parks.
4. A baseline budget growth of £0.4m was approved from 2023/24 in relation to increased energy costs at Winchester Sport and Leisure Park. The 2023/24 energy benchmarking resulted in a net payment of £0.36m to Everyone Active but early indications are that this could significantly reduce from 2024/25, by around £0.3m compared to budget.
5. Homelessness Prevention budgets are under review in order to determine medium-term forecast additional costs relating to B&B accommodation. An additional £0.03m of expenditure is forecast in 2024/25 and rising to around £0.3m per annum in future years.
6. Employees pay inflation for 2024/25 was lower than the budgeted 4% and this has resulted in baseline savings of £0.2m.

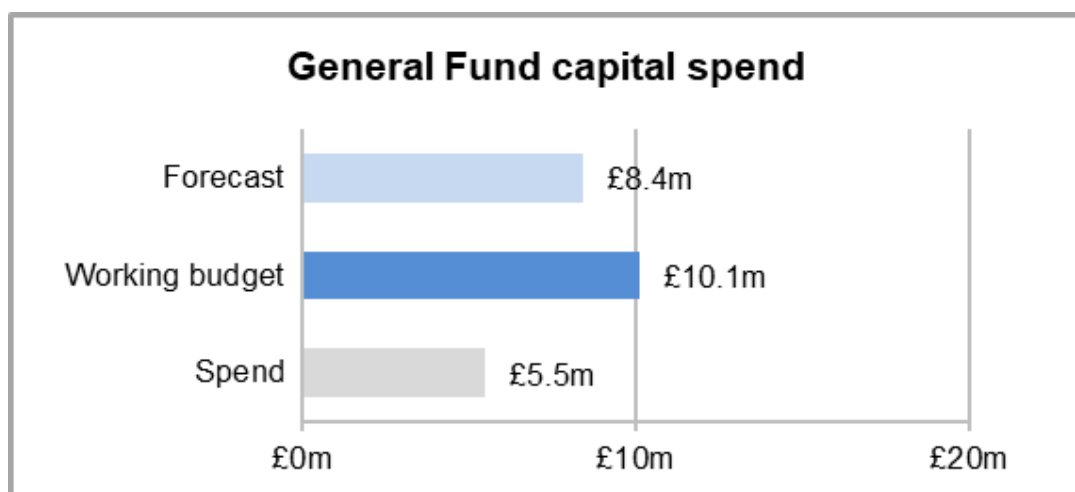
7. The above updated forecasts give a total forecast 2024/25 favourable budget variance of £0.40m relating to net service expenditure, plus £1.06m relating to retained business rates. These estimates will be considered as part of the 2025/26 budget process in order to determine whether any ongoing impact is expected.

General Fund Budget Forecast 2024/25

	Budget	Forecast	Variance FAV/(ADV)
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Environment	7,256	7,326	(70)
Living Well	3,984	3,684	300
Homes for All	2,512	2,542	(30)
Vibrant Local Economy	991	991	
Your Services. Your Voice	7,269	7,069	200
TOTAL before funding	22,012	21,612	400
TOTAL funding	(22,012)	(23,072)	1,060
FORECAST BUDGET UNDERSPEND			1,460

General Fund Capital

1. General Fund capital expenditure to the end of December was £5.5m the majority of which relates to the following projects: WCFC all-weather 3G pitch (£1.39m), Disabled Facilities grants (£1.29m), Car Parks (£0.56m), Rural England Prosperity Fund & UK Shared Prosperity Fund (£0.48m), KGV Pavilion (£0.25m), Guildhall fire safety works (£0.23m), and Friarsgate Park (£0.22m). There have also been smaller amounts of expenditure on several other projects.
2. Capital budgets for 2024/25 were revised for brought forward balances and other changes, such as reforecasting, as part of the General Fund 2023/24 outturn reported to September cabinet (CAB3464 refers), and this is reflected in the working budget 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.
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 2024/25.



4. Key items of expenditure in Q1-Q3 2024/25:

King George V (KGV) Pavilion

Total Budget: £3.3m

Exp: Prior years £3.09m

Q1-Q3 £0.25m

Total £3.34m

Work on the new pavilion has been completed and it was officially opened on 1 August although users have been able to enjoy its facilities since June. It is now in the final account stage. 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.

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

Total Budget: £1.466m

Exp: Prior years £0

Q1-Q3 £1.39m

Total £1.39m

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.

- **Disabled Facilities Grants**

Total Budget: £1.23m

Expenditure: recurring annually

Q1-Q3 £1.29m

During the period 1 April to 31 December £1,290,000 of grants were paid over. Since the budget was set the council was allocated a further £123,000 grant from MHCLG; in addition, the council holds £0.7m 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.

- **59 Colebrook St.**

Total Budget: £0.61m

Exp: Prior years £0.003m

Q1-Q3 £0.159m

Total £0.162m

The refurbishment and conversion of 59 Colebrook Street for shared accommodation is well underway. 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.

- **Housing Company**

Total Budget: £0.15m

Exp: Prior years £0

Q1-Q3 £0.15m

Total £0.15m

£150,000 has been spent on the purchase of share capital in the council's wholly owned subsidiary, Venta Living. This is based on a leasing model whereby the council's HRA has leased a total of 41 flats recently completed as part of the

HRA new build programme. It enables the council to provide alternative tenure and support those who may be unable to easily access the private sector rental market.

Housing Revenue Account

Housing Revenue Account Budget Forecast 2024/25 (£000)	Expenditure	Income	NET
Housing Management - General	6,829	(172)	6,657
Housing Management - Special	3,944	(2,114)	1,830
Repairs & Repairs administration	9,751	(87)	9,664
Debt management & interest income	5,624	0	5,624
Contribution to Major Repairs costs (Depreciation)	10,418	0	10,418
TOTAL	36,566	(2,373)	34,193
Rent, Service Charges & Other income			(34,444)
FORECAST BUDGET SURPLUS			(251)
AGREED BUDGET DEFICIT			1,706
Forecast movement:			(1,957)
Of which (net):			
Baseline			1,174
One-off			(2,878)

Housing Revenue Account summary

1. A deficit 2024/25 HRA budget of £1.7m was set by Council in February 2024 (CAB3445 refers).
2. The current end of year forecast is an overall surplus of £0.25m, a favourable movement of £0.714m since Quarter 2. This includes the impact of capitalising the extension of time claim at Winnall Flats following agreement in June of £0.83m. It also includes the remaining balance of £0.62m out of the £1m investment included in the 2024/25 budget, which will be carried forward in the Business Plan to 2025/26, and the likely impact of additional costs arising from the compliance improvement plan. The main movement since Quarter 2 is the proposed carry forward of £0.62m of investment budget from 2024/25 into future year. The key variances in the forecast are as follows:
 - i) The Outturn report CAB3445 outlines a significant overspend on repairs & maintenance costs, which is a result of a combination of increases in the volume of works being undertaken, and increased costs due to materials inflation. This continued into the 2024/25 financial year, with materials costs remaining at a high level. This is driving a forecast adverse variance on cyclical and voids costs of £1.1m. Measures to address the high cost of maintenance works, including prioritisation of work, recharge policy etc are currently being reviewed.
 - ii) Budgeted depreciation for HRA assets is an estimate based on prior year data, adjusted for inflation. Actual depreciation is affected by several factors such as

the annual valuation of the council's housing stock and underlying component costs. The budgeted depreciation for 2024/25 was based on the 2022/23 data available at the time of budget setting. Levels of actual depreciation for 2023/24 indicate that the budget for 2024/25 may be insufficient, and an adverse variance of £0.44m is currently forecast. The depreciation calculation is used as a proxy for calculating the annual transfer to the Major Repairs Reserve. The adverse variance arises because the resource is no longer available to support day to day revenue expenditure but instead is set aside for current and future capital expenditure. This ultimately benefits the HRA in the longer term through reduced borrowing costs associated with the capital programme.

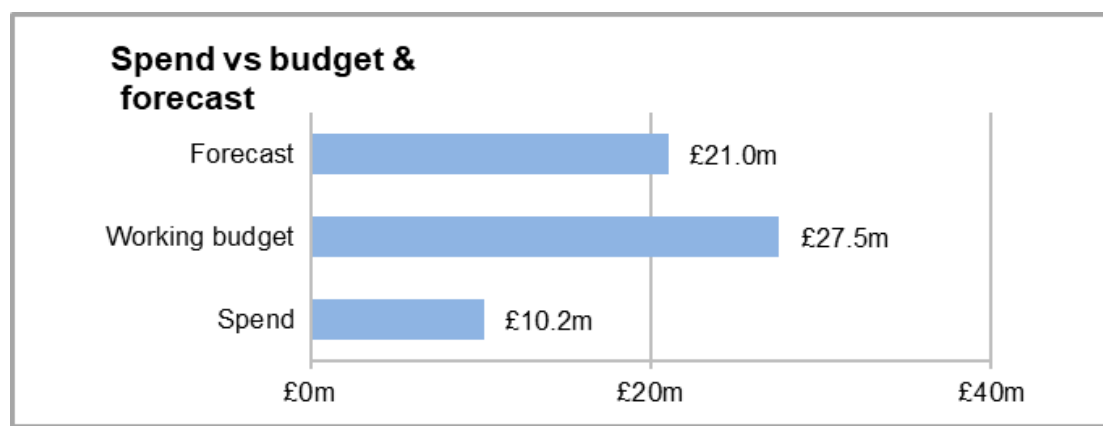
- iii) The budgeted cost of external interest is currently £8.1m, which is sufficient to fund all current borrowing at 5%. The capital forecast indicates that a significant proportion of the unallocated new build budget will not be spent in this financial year, which will allow current unfinanced debt to continue to be internally borrowed, generating a one-off favourable variance of £2.1m in 2024/25.
- iv) The HRA budget approved by Council included budget savings of £0.4m to be achieved by 2024/25. The business plan set in February 2024 included £0.2m of identified savings, with a further £0.2m to be identified during the 2024/25 financial year. This has been achieved through staff restructuring during the first quarter of 2024/25 and is reflected as a favourable variance of £0.2m in the forecast.
- v) The HRA is recharged by the General Fund for support services provided by the GF to the HRA, for example, HR, IT etc. The outturn in 2023/24 against budgeted recharges was approximately £0.15m, which is expected to be ongoing. This has been accounted for in the HRA business plan 2024/25.
- vi) The council has a number of disrepairs claims outstanding. It is proposed to set up provision against the current value of claims, which will create a one-off adverse variance of £0.07m, a reduction of £0.05m since Q2 estimate as claims have progressed. If claims are successfully defended, the provision will be returned to the HRA working balance. The process for dealing with disrepair claims has been revised to ensure claims are managed effectively in future.
- vii) In addition to the planned restructuring savings, there was a high level of vacancies in the first half of 2024/25. Most of these posts have now been filled, however, the anticipated vacancy saving arising to 31 March is forecast at £0.56m, of which £0.12m will be ongoing as part of the savings for 2025/26.
- viii) The budget for 2024/25 included £1m set aside for investment in the procurement of the repairs contract and for the review of existing housing management IT systems. Forecasts spend against this investment provision is £0.38m, creating a favourable variance of £0.62m. It is proposed that this is carried forward through the working balance to future years and this is reflected in the proposed budget for 2025/26.
- ix) The 2024/25 budget included income of £0.22m in respect of the lease arrangement with Venta Living Ltd. The properties were handed over to Venta in July 2024, against an expectation of April 2024. As at the end of December 2024,

8 units were vacant. Income from Venta is dependent on the level of occupancy at Foxglove House and as a result, the lease income will reduce by £0.09m in 2024/25 and will not be ongoing in 2025/26 if full occupation can be achieved.

- x) Leaseholder charges were calculated in September. The recovery of income was £0.15m over the budget estimate, which was largely driven by increasing costs of repairs.

Housing Revenue Account Capital Spend

1. Housing capital expenditure to the end of December was £10.2m, of which:
 - £4.01m was on major works.
 - £0.17m improvements & upgrades.
 - £3.56m on the New Build programme; and
 - £2.46m on other schemes.
2. Capital budgets for 2024/25 have been revised for carried forward balances and other changes following the approval of the HRA outturn report (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 4 is expected to include expenditure on the acquisitions at Kings Barton and Hazeley Road of £3.3m, the application of £0.8m EOT claim at Winnall and the commencement of Swedish Cottages works contract and continuing insulation work within retrofit estimated at £1.5m by the end of March. These major items, alongside current run rate of major repairs, inform the year end spend estimate of £21m.



4. Key items of expenditure between Q1 and Q3 2024/25 includes:

- **Major repairs**

Total Budget £7.182m

Exp: Recurring Annually

Q3 £4.01m

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. Although expenditure against the budget is comparatively low as at the end of quarter 2, contracts were set up over the course of the summer, and therefore the expectation is that spend will increase over the final two quarters.

- **Climate Emergency**

Total Budget £6.402m

Exp: Recurring annually

Q3: £1.599m

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 2024/25 is anticipated at £5.47m, the increase a result of final tender costs and high cost works to non-traditional properties, with a further cost of work commencing in 2023/24 and completing in 2024/25 totalling £1m.

- **Improvements & Upgrades**

Total budget £0.393m

Exp: Recurring Annually

Q3 £0.17m

The budget for improvements and upgrades relates specifically to Sheltered Housing upgrades and Estates improvements. The Estates improvements programme expected spend for 2024/25 is £0.35m, against budget of £0.53m. Carry forward from prior years is proposed to be slipped to future years within the HRA business plan to facilitate future works.

New build:

- **Nutrient Mitigation**

Total budget £0.4m

Exp: Prior years – None

Q3: £0

At its July meeting, Cabinet agreed to proceed with £0.4m projects in 2024/25. The forecast has been amended to £0.4m to reflect this decision. Detailed work on developing the approach to implementation has already commenced with a detailed programme likely to be developed in Q3 2024/25, following which the capital budget will be profiled accordingly.

- **Winnall flats**

Total budget £19.5m

Exp Prior years: £16.873m

Q3: £2.102m

Total £18.975m

The development at Winnall was handed over in 2024/25, with a forecast overall cost of £19.9m. Overall costs to be incurred in 2024/25 is expected to be £2.9m, and budget carry forward of £2.1m from 2024/25 was agreed in September.

- **Southbrook Cottages**

Total budget £1.99m

Exp Prior years: £1.86m

Q3: £0.581m

Total £2.441m

The development of six Passivhaus units at Southbrook Cottages completed at the end of October 2024. There is cost overrun on the scheme, partly as a result of rectification works required to the properties and partly due to cost overrun. A more detailed report on the scheme will be brought to a future Scrutiny and Cabinet meeting.

- **Local Authority Housing Fund**

Total budget: £12.145m

Exp: Prior years £10.306m

Q3 £0.541m

Total £10.847m

The Local Authority Housing fund is specific government grant funding awarded to the council to support the resettlement of Ukrainian refugees via acquisition or new build of properties. The council agreed to acquire a number of properties into the HRA in 2023/24, of which at the 2023/24 year end a small number of properties were still awaiting final completion. These properties completed during July and are now undergoing refurbishment works where necessary.

- **Buyback of former Council Houses**

Total budget: £1.36m

Exp: Prior years £0m

Q3 £0.31m

Total £0.31m

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 and is undergoing refurbishment. A second purchase has been delayed due to the personal circumstances of the seller. The remaining budget will need to be reprofiled to 2025/26 and this has been reflected in the 2025/26 HRA budget report.