

Meeting of: The Cabinet

Date 18th September 2024

Time: 6.30pm

Venue: Council Chamber, The Business Centre, Futures Park, Bacup, OL13 0BB



The meeting will also be live streamed at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrLsMDOP7AYxik5pNP0gTIA/streams>

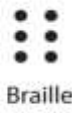
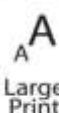
Supported by: Glenda Ashton, Committee and Member Services officer Tel: 01706 252423

Email: glendaashton@rossendalebc.gov.uk

ITEM	Lead Member/Contact Officer	
A.	BUSINESS MATTERS	
A1.	Apologies for Absence	<p>Clare Birtwistle, Monitoring Officer 01706 252438 clarebirtwistle@rossendalebc.gov.uk</p>
A2.	Minutes of the last meeting To approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 th July 2024.	
A3.	Urgent Items of Business To note any items which the Chair has agreed to add to the Agenda on the grounds of urgency.	
A4.	Declarations of Interest <i>Members are advised to contact the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting to seek advice on interest issues if necessary.</i> Members are requested to indicate at this stage, any items on the agenda in which they intend to declare an interest. Members are reminded that, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000 and the Council's Code of Conduct, they must declare the nature of any personal interest and, if the interest is prejudicial, withdraw from the meeting during consideration of the item.	
B.	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	
B1.	Public Question Time Members of the public can register their question by contacting the Committee Officer. Groups with similar questions are advised to appoint and register a spokesperson. This is an opportunity to ask a question about an agenda matter which the Council may be able to assist with. A time limit applies for each	<p>Questions can be submitted in advance of the meeting to democracy@rossendalebc.gov.uk in line with the Cabinet speaking procedure</p>

The agenda and reports are also available for inspection on the Council's website <https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/>. Other formats are available on request. Tel 01706 217777 or contact Rosendale Borough Council, Futures Park, Bacup, OL13 0BB

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ITEM	Lead Member/Contact Officer	
	question and you are only able to address the meeting once. Please begin by giving your name and state whether you are speaking as an individual member of the public or as a representative of a group. (Question time normally lasts up to 30 minutes).	
C.	CHAIR'S UPDATE	
C1.	Update from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Councillor A Barnes
D.	KEY DECISIONS	
D1.	Masterplan/Phasing & Implementation Strategy/Design Codes for Site Allocation reference H66 of the Adopted Rossendale Local Plan	Councillor M Smith/David Smurthwaite Director of Economic Development davidsmurthwaite@rossendalebc.gov.uk
D2.	Approval of updated Validation Checklist document for use when validating applications	Councillor M Smith/David Smurthwaite Director of Economic Development davidsmurthwaite@rossendalebc.gov.uk
D3.	Swimming Pool Support Fund and Marl Pits Air Handling Unit	Councillor A. Barnes/David Smurthwaite Director of Economic Development davidsmurthwaite@rossendalebc.gov.uk
D4.	Improvements to Victoria Park Wheeled Sports facilities	Councillor Lythgoe/Andrew Taylor Head of Environmental Services andrewtaylor@rossendalebc.gov.uk
E.	NON-KEY DECISIONS	
E1.	Victoria Park Masterplan Update	Councillor Lythgoe/Andrew Taylor Head of Environmental Services andrewtaylor@rossendalebc.gov.uk
E2.	Whitaker Park Masterplan Update	Councillor Lythgoe/Andrew Taylor Head of Environmental Services andrewtaylor@rossendalebc.gov.uk
E3.	Edgeside Park Masterplan Update	Councillor Lythgoe/Andrew Taylor Head of Environmental Services andrewtaylor@rossendalebc.gov.uk
E4.	Stubbylee Park Masterplan Update	Councillor Lythgoe/Andrew Taylor Head of Environmental Services andrewtaylor@rossendalebc.gov.uk
F.	PERFORMANCE MATTERS	
F1.	Financial Monitoring Report Q1 2024/25	Councillor Walmsley/Chris Warren Director of Resources / s151 Officer chriswarren@rossendalebc.gov.uk
F2.	Performance Management Dashboard Report Q1 2024/25	Councillor Lythgoe/Clare Law Head of People and Policy 01706 252457 clarelaw@rossendalebc.gov.uk
G.	EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS	
	To consider passing the appropriate resolution under Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business since they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information under Part 1 Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.	

ITEM	Lead Member/Contact Officer	
G1.	Funding contribution for Woodhill viaduct	Councillor A. Barnes/David Smurthwaite Director of Economic Development davidsmurthwaite@rossendalebc.gov.uk



Rob Huntington
Chief Executive

Date Published: 10th September 2024

MINUTES OF: THE CABINET

Date of Meeting: Tuesday 16th July 2024

**Present: Councillor A Barnes (Chair)
Councillors McInnes and Walmsley**

**Rob Huntington, Chief Executive
David Smurthwaite, Director of Economic Development
Damon Lawrenson, Interim Director of Resources
Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal (Monitoring Officer)
Clare Law, Head of People and Policy
Kimberly Haworth, Head of Finance
Andy Taylor, Head of Environmental Services**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Lythgoe and M Smith.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meetings held on 5th and 19th June 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

3. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor McInnes declared a non-pecuniary interest in item E1 as she was a member of the Friends of Whitaker Park group.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

6. UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

An update was provided from the 24th June 2024 Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting. Thanks was expressed to the Chair of the Committee.

7. PRODUCTIVITY PLAN 2024/25

The Lead Member for Economic Development outlined the report which asked Cabinet to endorse the Council's Productivity Plan for 2024/25.

Cabinet were invited to comment on the report:

- The report was succinct which was welcomed.
- A lot of useful information would be fed into central Government.
- Members to receive a regular update on the plan, at least every twelve months.

Resolved:

1. Cabinet endorsed the Council's Productivity Plan for 2024/25.

Reason for Decision:

The Plan was a mandatory requirement.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

8. VALLEY PLAN ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

The Leader of the Council outlined the report, which asked Cabinet to consider and note the annual report and associated achievements for 2023/24.

Cabinet were invited to comment on the report:

- The Head of People and Policy was thanked for preparing the report.
- The level of work undertaken by the Economic Development team was good to see.
- Stubbylee Park had been awarded the Green Flag again.
- 16,000 trees had been planted across the borough.
- It was good to see the plans for the forthcoming year.
- Financial challenges remained but the achievements were clear to see.
- The refurbished tennis courts were worthy of mention.

Resolved:

1. Cabinet considered and noted the Council's Annual Valley Plan Report 2023-24 and associated achievements for 2023-24.

Reason for Decision:

The Valley Plan Annual Report 2023-2024 is a tool used to summarise the Council's key achievements and progress in relation to the priorities outlined within the Valley Plan.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

9. FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT Q4 2023/24 - OUTTURN

The Lead Member for Resources outlined the report which asked Cabinet to note the content of the Q4 Financial Monitoring Report.

Cabinet were invited to comment on the report:

- The Finance Team were thanked for all their hard work.
- The National Non-Domestic Rate (NNDR) position appeared to be a one off and was not expected to be the same this year.
- Need to be working the budget and forecasting was necessary.
- It was suggested that the Council writes to the new Deputy Prime Minister to request the 3 year deal and to also take it forward with our new MP. This would make for a better and stronger position for future planning.
- There remained some challenges on the collection of NNDR.
- Imposition of weekly food waste collection – arrangements had progressed too far to do a complete U-turn. This would be reviewed and there was more discussion to be had.

Resolved:

1. Cabinet noted the content of the Q4 Financial Monitoring Report.

Reason for Decision:

To note the 2023/24 Outturn monitoring report.

Alternative Options Considered:
None.

10. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT Q4 2023/24

The Leader of the Council outlined the report which asked Cabinet to consider and note the Council's performance during Quarter 4 of 2023-24 as detailed in the report and Appendix 1.

Cabinet members were invited to comment on the report:

- The Overview & Scrutiny Committee would review the Performance Management report in detail. Cabinet were keen to receive an executive summary in future.

Resolved:

1. Cabinet considered and noted the Council's performance during Quarter 4 of 2023-24.

Reason for Decision:

Monitoring the Council's performance would enable Cabinet to identify and consider any service actions, projects, performance measures or corporate risks requiring further action.

Alternative Options Considered:
None.

The meeting concluded at 7.01pm

_____ CHAIR _____ DATE

Subject:	Masterplan/Phasing & Implementation Strategy/ Design Codes for Site Allocation reference H66 of the Adopted Rosendale Local Plan	Status:	For Publication		
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	18 th September 2024		
Report of:	Head of Planning & Building Control	Lead Member:	Planning, Licensing and Enforcement		
Key Decision:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception	<input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency	<input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached:	No	
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached:	No	
Contact Officer:	Michael Atherton	Telephone:	01706 217777		
Email:	michaelatherton@rossendalebc.gov.uk				

1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 Cabinet approve the Masterplan, Phasing and Implementation Strategy and Design Codes subject to the receipt of satisfactory consultation responses.
- 1.2 That if any future amendments to the Phasing and Implementation Strategy are required that they are reported back to Cabinet for their agreement.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The site was allocated for residential development of 400 homes when the Rosendale Local Plan was adopted in December 2021.
- The Masterplan, Phasing and Implementation Strategy and Design Codes will co-ordinate development and ensure that the scheme is brought forward in a strategic manner.
- Consultation first commenced in 2022 and since then five versions of the Masterplan, Phasing and Implementation Strategy and the Design Codes have been subject to consultation with neighbouring residents and statutory consultees.
- The Development Control Committee were consulted on the current version at their meeting on 23rd July 2024 and Cabinet were recommended to approve as detailed in the report.

3. BACKGROUND

The site was allocated for residential development of 400 homes when the Rosendale Local Plan was adopted in December 2021. It was given site reference H66 in the Local Plan. The site comprises 5 different land ownerships and therefore it is necessary to prepare a Masterplan, a Phasing and Implementation Strategy and Design Codes to co-ordinate development and ensure that the scheme is brought forward in a strategic manner. Criterion 1 and 2 of the site specific policy (H66) in the Adopted Rosendale Local Plan requires that the comprehensive development of the site is demonstrated through a Masterplan with an agreed programme of phasing and implementation. It also is clear that the development should be implemented in accordance with an agreed design code. Consequently, the Masterplan, the Phasing and Implementation Strategy, and the Design Code are brought before Members for a decision, prior to the determination of any subsequent planning applications.

4. DETAILS

The first iteration of the Masterplan, Phasing and Implementation Strategy and the Design Codes were submitted in November 2022 and subject to consultation with neighbouring

residents and statutory consultees. Following concerns raised by Officers, residents and Consultees, revised versions of the documents have been submitted and consulted upon in:

- June 2023
- September 2023
- May 2024
- June 2024

Therefore, in total, five versions of the Masterplan, Phasing and Implementation Strategy and the Design Codes have been subject to consultation with neighbouring residents and statutory consultees, as your Officers have sought to achieve an acceptable proposal that will guide future development within this residential allocation.

Policy H66 of the Adopted Rossendale Local Plan (ARLP) is a site specific policy for the residential allocation and contains the following criteria:

H66 – Land West of Market Street, Edenfield Development for approximately 400 houses would be supported provided that:

- 1. The comprehensive development of the entire site is demonstrated through a masterplan with an agreed programme of implementation and phasing;*
- 2. The development is implemented in accordance with an agreed design code;*
- 3. A Transport Assessment is provided demonstrating that the site can be safely and suitably accessed by all users, including disabled people, prior to development taking place on site. In particular:*
 - i. safe vehicular access points to the site are achieved from the field adjacent to no. 5 Blackburn Road and from the field opposite nos. 88 – 116 Market Street. Full details of access, including the number of access points, will be determined through the Transport Assessment work and agreed with the Local Highway Authority;*
 - ii. agree suitable mitigation measures in respect of the capacity of Market Street to accommodate additional traffic. Improvements will be needed to the Market Street corridor from Blackburn Road to the mini-roundabout near the Rawstron Arms. Measures to assist pedestrian and vulnerable road users will be required;*
- 4. A Heritage Statement and Impact Assessment is provided and suitable mitigation measures are identified and secured to conserve, and where possible, enhance the setting of the Church, the non-designated heritage assets which include Chatterton Hey (Heaton House), Mushroom House, and the former Vicarage, and the other designated and non-designated heritage assets in the area;*
- 5. Specific criteria for the design and layout needs to take account of:*
 - i. Retention and strengthening of the woodland enclosures to the north and south of the Church*
 - ii. The layout of the housing parcels should be designed to allow views to the Church to continue*
 - iii. The relationship of the new dwellings to the Recreation Ground to ensure safe non-vehicular access is provided*
 - iv. Public open space to be provided along the woodland area south of the brook/Church enclosure*

- v. *Landscaping of an appropriate density and height is implemented throughout the site to 'soften' the overall impact of the development and provide a buffer to the new Green Belt boundary*
 - vi. *Materials and boundary treatments should reflect the local context*
6. *An Ecological Assessment is undertaken which identifies suitable mitigation measures for any adverse impacts particularly on the Woodland Network and stepping stone habitat located within the site.*
 7. *Compensatory improvements must be provided to the Green Belt land in proximity of the site in accordance with Policy SD4*
 8. *Geotechnical investigations will be required to confirm land stability and protection of the A56, and consideration paid to the suitability or not of sustainable drainage systems on the boundary adjoining the A56*
 9. *Provision will be required to expand either Edenfield CE Primary School or Stubbins Primary School from a 1 form entry to a 1.5 form entry primary school, and for a secondary school contribution subject to the Education Authority. Land to the rear of Edenfield CE Primary School which may be suitable is shown on the Policies Map as 'Potential School and Playing Field Extension'. Any proposals to extend the schools into the Green Belt would need to be justified under very special circumstances and the provisions of paragraph 144 of the NPPF;*
 10. *Noise and air quality impacts will need to be investigated and necessary mitigation measures secured;*
 11. *Consideration should be given to any potential future road widening on the amenity of any dwellings facing the A56.*

Each criterion is a standalone requirement and this report only seeks a determination in respect of criterion 1 and 2. This is because the policy requires that those criteria are agreed first and the subsequent development be implemented in accordance with them. The development of the site and the other issues listed in the policy criteria will be dealt with in the usual, appropriate manner, which is through the determination of planning applications.

Therefore, a determination is not being sought on anything at this stage relating to criterion 3, which is the Transport Assessment work and the detailed site access and mitigation measures, stemming from that. Such detailed Assessments are appropriate for submission through the planning application process, rather than via a high level, framework document such as a Masterplan. Indeed two Transport Assessments have already been submitted through Planning Applications at sites within the allocation by Taylor Wimpey (app ref 2022/0451) and Northstone (2023/0396).

The Masterplan does include a plan of off-site highway mitigation measures, this is for information only at this stage and the Developer's Executive Summary submitted with the Masterplan, states the highways/transport work is to be refined as the planning applications progress. Therefore, this matter will be appropriately dealt with, via the planning application process as the final version of the agreed, transport mitigations measures will only be known once the Transport Assessment has been fully assessed - and this will be once the planning applications are ready for determination.

In a similar manner, the other policy criterion such as the Heritage, Ecological, Land Stability, Noise and Air Quality Assessments, as well as education, green belt compensatory measures and design and layout requirements can only be fully appraised and determined as part of the planning application process.

It is also important to note that Members are not at this stage required to determine any planning applications as part of the Masterplan/Phasing Strategy/Design Codes and each application for development within the H66 allocation will be reported separately to the Development Control Committee when they are ready to be determined, at a future date.

SITE

The enquiry relates to a 22.3 hectare parcel of land, located to the west of the built form of Market Street and to the east of the A56, in Edenfield.

To the south of the site there is a recreation ground, which is largely screened by trees. To the south east are the majority of the local shops and amenities in Edenfield.

The site is bound by Market Street and its associated properties to the east. Mushroom House (a residential dwelling) is outside the allocation but is surrounded by it. Access to Mushroom House is via Market Street down a lane of restricted width.

Beyond the northern extremes of the allocation lies Blackburn Road with residential properties and rural areas situated beyond this.

Immediately due west of the site, the A56 dual carriageway forms a barrier to the open land beyond. There are two bridges immediately beyond the western site boundary that provide pedestrian access to the other side of the A56 at Church Lane and also at Chatterton Heys. These are linked to the public footpath network with three designated footpaths, traversing the site, each of them for the most part in an east- west direction.

The majority of the site comprises undeveloped former agricultural land, with hedgerows, patches of woodland and individual trees along the site boundaries.

The site is located within proximity of a variety of amenities including shops and schools. This includes Edenfield Church of England Primary School which is situated in close proximity to the northern part of the allocation, on the opposite site of Market Street, Stubbins Primary School (1.4km) and Haslingden High School (2.4km).

The allocation is also situated in relatively close proximity to community facilities such as the Village Pharmacy, Edenfield Mini Mart and Edenfield Parish Church, the latter which is situated adjacent to the allocation.

There are no European designated sites for nature conservation located within the allocation or within 5km of its boundary. It is also not located within a nationally designated site for nature conservation, however there are three Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSI) within the surrounding area, including:

- Hodge Clough SSSI c. 980m west;
- Lower Red Lees Pasture SSSI c. 1.5km south west; and
- West Pennine Moors SSSI c. 1.8km west.

There is no Ancient Woodland within the site, the closest to the site is Great Hay Clough c. 40m west on the opposite side of the A56.

The allocation is located entirely within Flood Zone 1. There are no main watercourses located within the allocation, there are however several drains with running water within the site. The River Irwell is located c.350m west of the site at its closest point.

There are no designated heritage assets within the allocation, however the closest Listed Building is Edenfield Parish Church which is located adjacent the allocation boundary, which is a Grade II* Listed Building.

The allocation is not located in an area formally designated for its landscape features. The allocation site lies within a landscape character type referred to as 'Settled Valleys' in the Landscape Study, which formed part of the evidence base for the Adopted Rossendale Local Plan.

RELEVANT PLANNING HISTORY

2022/0015 - Land Adjacent 59 Blackburn Road, Edenfield - Outline application (all matters reserved) for up to 6 dwellings – Committee Minded To Approve Subject to a Section 106 Agreement and Conditions. 28th June 2022. This is an application from Mr. Richard Nuttall. The resolution agreed by the Planning Committee was contrary to the officer recommendation which was to refuse the application for not being in accordance with an agreed Masterplan and Design Code.

2022/0451 - Land West of Market Street, Edenfield, Rossendale - Full application for the erection of 238 no. residential dwellings (Use Class C3) and all associated works, including new access, landscaping and public open space. This is an application from Taylor Wimpey Homes and relates to the central parcel of land within the allocation. The application is pending consideration.

2022/0577 – Alderwood Market Street Edenfield - Full: Development of 9 No Detached properties and all associated works plus the construction of an adoptable roadway to serve the properties – The application is on behalf of a Mr. David Warren and is pending consideration.

2023/0396 – Development Adj Pinfold And Blackburn Road, And Development Adj Burnley Road Edenfield - Full application for residential development comprising no. 50 units (Use Class C3) and local infrastructure project including all associated work, landscaping and public open space. This is an application from Northstone and relates to the northern part of the allocation. The application is pending consideration.

PROPOSAL

The Masterplan contain details of, the extent of land ownership with the allocation split into 5 different land ownerships.

This is illustrated as showing:

- land under the ownership of Richard Nuttall at the northern end of the allocation. This is subject to planning application Reference 2022/0015 for 6 houses.
- To the south of the land owned by Mr. Nuttall, a land parcel under the control of Northstone (Peel Land and Property Group) which is subject to planning application reference 2023/0396 from Northstone for 50 houses.
- Beyond this is a small parcel of land under the ownership of David Warren which is subject to planning application 2022/0577.

- In the central portion of the site is the largest area of land and this is subject to application reference 2022/0451 from Taylor Wimpey for 238 houses.
- At the southern end of the allocation is the land under the control of the Methodist Church which is not yet subject to any planning application.
- Whilst not within the site boundary of H66, the Masterplan also shows two areas of land adjacent to Edenfield Primary School which is under the control of Northstone (Peel Land and Property) and is depicted as being available for potential school expansion if required and also for a proposed community car park and an area of public open space. This latter piece of land is also subject to the planning application from Northstone (Peel Land and Property) ref: 2023/0396.

After setting out the context for the development and the site constraints and opportunities, the Masterplan, then sets out a series of Design Principles concerning a series of topic areas, including:

- Green and blue infrastructure
- Land use
- Vehicular movement
- Off site highway improvements
- Pedestrian and cycle connectivity
- Green Belt compensation
- Area types, the Masterplan splits the site into four distinct area types. Namely Edenfield Core and Village Streets towards the centre of the site and Edenfield North and Chatterton South at either end of the allocation.
- Landscape
- Phasing and Implementation.

Following on from this, the document then details a number of site wide design codes, relating to:

- Use
- Identity
- Landscape Design Principles
- Landscape Species
- Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs)
- Foul Drainage
- Biodiversity
- Play Provision
- Public Space
- Movement
- Street character and built form response
- Junction design
- Surface materials
- Access and parking typologies
- General built form and urban design principles

The document then outlines relevant principles which will guide development across each of the area types – Edenfield Core, Village Streets, Edenfield North and Chatterton South.

These include key characteristics, such as:

- Housing density
- Built form
- Massing

- Height
- Building lines /set back
- Building materials
- Boundary treatments
- Key (glimpsed) views to be maintained;

and the rationale and influences which has led to each outcome.

Phasing & Implementation

The submitted Phasing & Implementation Schedule indicates that the primary phase (referred to as Phase 1A) is likely to be delivered by Taylor Wimpey on the land subject to the concurrent planning application 2022/0451 which seeks consent for up to 238 dwellings with a new vehicular access from the west side of Market Street.

Following on from this, the Schedule indicates that the next parcel to be developed may be the land subject to live full planning application for 9 dwellings (ref: 2022/0577) on land under the control of David Warren. This is referred to as Phase 1B.

The subsequent phase is likely to be land towards the northern end of the allocation under the control of Northstone (Peel Land and Property Group), referred to as Phase 2 in the submission. A planning application has been submitted for a development of 50 houses with a new access from the west side of Blackburn Road.

The next phase is likely to be the land at the southern end of the allocation which is under the control of the Methodist Church and is referred to in the submission as Phase 3. A future planning application is likely to seek consent for up to 90 dwellings with a proposed vehicular access from Exchange Street.

The land at the northern extent of the allocation is referred to as Phase 3. This has been the subject of a planning application, reference 2022/0015 and was reported to Planning Committee in May 2022 where the resolution was to grant planning permission for the construction of six dwellings subject to a Section 106 Agreement.

The Phasing and Implementation Strategy also indicates:

- The likely phasing and implementation of the indicative highway mitigation measures, the construction of the site access points, the proposed off site community car park/area of public open space, the management of construction traffic and a likely timetable for the whole allocation coming forward, with estimated completion over a 10 year period from now, hence up to 2034.
- That due to the independent nature of each developer's landholding, each parcel could be delivered independently without prejudicing any other. As a result, the ordering of development phases may be varied, or delivered simultaneously.

Access issues:

The Masterplan illustrates:

- Proposed individual access locations to the development parcels.
- Proposed road links (alignment subject to detailed design)

- Proposed emergency vehicle connection access point between the southern and central parcels close to Chatterton Hey.
- Proposed pedestrian/cycle access
- Potential pedestrian/cycle access and route (indicative alignment)
- Proposed community parking areas

The Masterplan also depicts an illustrative package of off-site highway mitigation measures. As explained in section 1 (Background) of this report, this is indicative only and does not form part of the Masterplan for which approval is sought. The reason being the final package of mitigation measures will only be known once the Transport Assessments (linked to the relevant planning applications) have been fully analysed as part of the planning application process:

The indicative package of off-site highway mitigation measures includes:

- Gateway features at the entrance to the core areas of Edenfield village (design details to be agreed)
- Provision of coloured chippings/aggregate within surface across Market Street at the entrance to the core areas of Edenfield Village (extent to be agreed).
- Provision of off street parking areas at the western extent of Exchange Street; off Market Street towards the centre of the H66 allocation, and to the east of Burnley Road at the northern extent of the village (details to be confirmed through subsequent planning applications).
- Proposed uncontrolled pedestrian crossing adjacent to Edenfield Primary School and adjacent to the central land parcel of the H66 allocation.
- Parking restrictions along Market Street for the benefit of traffic flows.
- Provision of 'Slow,' markings on Market Street at the approach to the pinpoint adjacent to properties 58 and 74 Market Street and the removal of centreline markings along this section.
- Provision of central hatching along Market Street (adjacent to properties 20 to 40)
- Improvements to bus stop along the Market Street corridor (details to be agreed).
- Provision of a traffic calming feature along Exchange Street (details to be agreed).
- Introduction of one way (westbound) operation along Exchange Street.
- Traffic calming along Highfield Road.

Public Open Space and Areas for Play

The Design Code specifies that the minimum level of play provision should be as illustrated within the '*Green Infrastructure and Play Provision Plan*,' within the submitted document. This illustrates the formation of various new play areas including one Locally Equipped Area for Play (LEAP) and two Local Areas for Play (LAPs).

Areas of public open space and landscaping are situated throughout the allocation, in locations surrounding the housing parcels and also interspersed between areas of residential development.

POLICY CONTEXT

National Planning Policy Framework

Section 2	Achieving Sustainable Development
Section 4	Decision Making
Section 5	Delivering a Sufficient Supply of Homes
Section 6	Building a Strong, Competitive Economy
Section 8	Promoting Healthy and Safe Communities
Section 9	Promoting Sustainable Transport
Section 11	Making Effective Use of Land
Section 12	Achieving Well Designed Places
Section 13	Protecting Green Belt Land
Section 14	Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change, Flooding & Coastal Change
Section 15	Conserving and enhancing the natural environment
Section 16	Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment

Development Plan

Local Plan Policies

SS: Spatial Strategy

SD1: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development

SD2: Urban Boundary and Green Belt

SD3: Planning Obligations

SD4: Green Belt Compensatory Measures

H66: Land West of Market Street, Edenfield

HS1: Meeting Rossendale's Housing Requirement

HS2: Housing Site Allocations

HS3: Affordable Housing

HS4: Housing Density

HS5: Housing Standards

HS6: Open Space Requirements in New Housing Developments

HS7: Playing Pitch Requirements in New Housing Developments

HS8: Private Outdoor amenity space

ENV1: High Quality Development in the Borough

ENV2: Historic Environment

ENV3: Landscape Character and Quality

ENV4: Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Ecological Networks

ENV5: Green Infrastructure networks

ENV6: Environmental Protection

ENV9: Surface Water Run-Off, Flood Risk, Sustainable Drainage and Water Quality

ENV10: Trees and Hedgerows

LT2: Community Facilities

TR1: Strategic Transport

TR2: Footpaths, Cycleways and Bridleways

TR3: Road Schemes and Development Access

TR4: Parking

Other material guidance

Edenfield Draft Neighbourhood Plan (at Consultation Stage)
National Planning Practice Guidance
National Model Design Code
National Design Guide
Alterations and Extensions to Residential Properties (Supplementary Planning Document)
SPD
Open Space and Play Equipment Contributions SPD
Climate Change SPD
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
LCC Planning Obligations in Lancashire (2008)
Green Belt Compensation Measures

CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Consultee	Response
ANMOSO - Ancient Monuments Society	No comment
Bury Council	No objection
Cadent Gas	No comment
COAU - The Coal Authority	Comment
ECOL - Greater Manchester Ecology Unit	No objection
Arboriculture (Ecus)	No comment
Electricity North West	No comment
Environment Agency	No objection
Environmental Protection (Contaminated Land)	No comment
Fire Brigade - Planning Liaison	No comment
Growth Lancashire (Heritage)	Comment
Health & Safety Executive	No comment
National Highways	No comment
Historic England	No comment
Lancashire Archaeology	No comment
LCC Development Management	No comment
Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA)	Comment
LCC Minerals & Waste	No comment
LCC Planning Contributions	No comment
LCC Public Health	No comment
LCC Highways	Comment
National Grid	No comment

Consultee	Response
Natural England	No comment
Landscape	Comment
Police Architectural Liaison	Comment
RBC Building Control	No comment
RBC Environmental Health	No comment
RBC Forward Planning	Comment
RBC Strategic Housing	Support
RBC Operations	No comment
RBC Parks And Open Spaces	No comment
United Utilities Water Ltd	Comment
LCC Education	Comment

REPRESENTATIONS

In order to publicise the Masterplan and Design Codes, during each round of consultation, neighbour notification letters were sent to houses in Edenfield and site notices were also posted in the village. .

The number of responses to the various rounds of consultation are itemised below:

MP & Design Code Version	Support	Objection	N/A
1	2	162	8
2	0	117	10
3	0	97	8
4	0	107	10

N/A means stating neither in favour or support.

It should be noted that the Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum (ECNF) and the Edenfield Village Residents Association have submitted letters of objection to each round of the consultation.

With regard to the submission from the ECNF, the Neighbourhood Forum received 650 individual confirmations of support from residents in regard to their comments

The public consultation period on the latest round of notification (the 5th version of the Masterplan & Design Code) does not expire however until 15/07/2023 and to date 20 letters of objection have been received. Should any comments be received following the publication of this report, Members will be updated accordingly.

The issues raised in the neighbour notification responses are as follows:

- uncomprehensive masterplan
- Masterplan for whole of H66 is a policy requirement
- the submission fails to meet the requirements of a Masterplan & Design Code for the allocation.
- the submission is contrary to national planning policy in The Framework, to National Planning Practice Guidance and to Local Plan policy
- lack of affordable homes
- unaffordable housing
- buy-to-let should not be allowed (Note: this sits outside the control of the planning system)
- alternative brownfield sites should be built on instead
- increased traffic/parking issues
- access issues
- vehicle movements
- concerns regarding Exchange St access
- Impact on safety (roads)
- impact on safety (road near school and playground)
- narrow pavements
- cyclist safety on Market St
- inadequate road infrastructure
- Inadequate school parking
- removal of on-street parking (removal of a higher number of existing on street spaces than will be provided as a compensatory measure on site)
- lack of on-street parking/ lack of adequate parking already
- Dependency on car travel due to little infrastructure in Edenfield
- inadequate public transport
- improper transport assessment
- lack of transport assessment
- improper assessment of local transport network
- Road Safety Audit
- street hierarchy
- estate roads
- Eden Avenue traffic will increase
- construction management
- rights of way
- concerns regarding footpaths near Chatterton Hey & Mushroom House will be impacted
- emergency access
- The Masterplan should account for all transport issues
- habitat destruction
- lack of local job creation
- inadequate infrastructure
- disproportionate development
- inadequate school places/ inadequate school infrastructure/ lack of school plan
- lack of commitment to make school extension land available
- playground safety concerns
- school expansion would impact on Green Belt
- concern that school expansion will deplete playing field / garden space
- issues with proposed car park and public open space to the east of Burnley Road.
- removal of Green Belt
- health & wellbeing impact
- impact on quality of life
- human rights
- an Equality Impact assessment should be undertaken

- inconsistencies with agreements from developers
- inadequate amenities
- discrepancies between masterplan & planning applications
- alternative empty properties should be used first
- increased air pollution
- increased noise pollution
- loss of green space
- flood risk
- Sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDs)
- blue and green infrastructure
- impact on identity of Edenfield
- inadequate health infrastructure
- tree removal
- no heating / insulation requirements
- no on-site renewables
- landscape design
- some species on the species palette are not appropriate
- impact on safety & wellbeing
- inadequate medical infrastructure
- eyesore development
- overlooking
- land ownership issues
- lack of Masterplan participation (not a material planning consideration)
- stakeholder engagement
- improper consultation
- no reason to limit weight to the Design Code in the emerging Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan
- inadequate play facilities / pre-war community centre with no parking area
- no Post Office / only one village store
- potential removal of dry stone wall between the road and site
- Edenfield North proposes the removal of mature trees
- the character of Edenfield will change
- maintenance of green spaces on-site
- loss of greenfield land
- walking areas & paths will be removed
- pedestrian and cycle connectivity
- Public Right Of Way Impact – the PROW's and bridleway should be kept as such
- habitat destruction
- Green Belt compensatory improvements
- lack of net zero carbon targets
- the Applicant is ignoring residents views.
- housing design is not in keeping
- land use and density
- environmentally damaging
- proposed change in Government policy
- unsustainable housing
- lack of housing demand
- inadequate retail infrastructure
- design and layout issues
- concern over building parameters in area codes
- heritage impact
- impact on views
- privacy concerns

- the submission contains a number of errors and omissions
- the Masterplan and Design Codes need to go further in certain areas of detail.

ASSESSMENT

Design and Layout

Design Codes

The National Model Design Code (NMDC) suggests that coding is applied as site wide codes and area specific codes. Therefore, the submission has been split into two sections to reflect this.

The site wide design codes should be applied to all aspects of the site. They are grouped according to the relevant characteristics of a well-designed place as set out in the NMDC.

The Design Code submission covers the range of issues set out in the NMDC. It allows sufficient flexibility between the area types to form character groups of dwellings and allows sufficient control for the Local Planning Authority to ensure the ensuing planning applications will result in a development of sufficient quality in terms of the design and layout.

This document sets out the Design Codes for the site in order to allow a consistent quality and tone of development to be brought forward as different parcels of development are established. The aim is to provide clarity over what is acceptable and thereby provide a level of certainty.

Following concerns raised by your officers over the original Masterplan and Design Codes, the Council appointed an independent design panel to review the scheme. The Design Panel is operated by an organisation called 'Places Matter,' and was made up of a number of Architects and Landscape Architects. They reviewed the proposal at a meeting in March 2023.

In terms of the changes requested by your officers and the suggestions by the Design Panel, these have influenced the revised Masterplan and Design Codes, which was amended on behalf of the Developers. It now results in a sufficiently high quality development across the issues which were raised by your Officers and the Design Panel. Those matters include:

- There needs to be a masterplan / design code in place to set out the strategic vision, before a decision is made on the application scheme - and planning applications must take into account whether the scheme has reflected properly the guidance in the masterplan / design code.
- The masterplan / design code is too generic and not place-specific in its recommendations. The current principles behind the development are very generic.
- Strategic Principles are important and the absence of a key structuring plan is a major concern. A key plan should deal with issues of movement, landscape and Public Open Space.
- The masterplan and design codes are vague and many of the sketches and images are generic and not worth including.
- The scheme does not reflect the local area, nor does it recognise the rural character of the site and wider area.

- It should reflect only the positive characteristics of the area, not all of the characteristics of the area.
- Need to articulate what will create a specific sense of place here. The analysis needs to go further to create this.
- Need to create a place that feels distinctive.
- Character areas need to be more distinctive and the documents needs to more clearly articulate the vision for each area.
- Character areas need to be more expressive and ambitious.
- Visual objectives need to be included, so it does not just become another anywhere estate
- What type of place this is going to be should be explained.
- This is a monotonous development with the appearance of a standard volume house builder scheme.
- Standard house types are proposed with poor design quality, poor artificial materials, lacking distinction, the development could be anywhere
- The design of the dwellings require alteration and significant upgrade to reflect the character of the area.
- Should be making landmarks within the development such as a unique building at certain locations, not just 2 storey, monotonous buildings throughout the site
- Changes need to be made to the density - it is very uniform across the development area and doesn't create a sense of place, nor does it reflect the layout of the local area. Lower density areas could be created near the main entrance and around existing buildings, e.g. Mushroom House, with greater density in other areas.
- Needs to include proposed street scenes within the design code to articulate visually what is proposed.
- Orientation of houses and roofs needs to be more organic, less regimented.
- Need to be thinking in a 3 dimensional way to eliminate poor views and allow views of key vantage points.
- Need to look at incorporating key movements within the parcels of development and achieve greater permeability.
- Need to take the opportunity to provide the north / south, cycle / pedestrian links through the site.
- Landscaping and open space needs to be incorporated into and throughout the development area, not just restricted to the western boundary / buffer area

- Development should take into account the landscape typologies of the area.
- Needs to include more commitment to street tree planting. There should be a separate section in the design code dedicated to this,
- The importance of boundary treatments to create positive street scenes needs to be articulated.
- Boundary treatments needs to be high quality and distinct to enhance frontages and define streets; these are lacking and of low quality.
- The proposal does not take opportunities to optimise the interface between the development's southern edge and the surrounding land.
- Drystone walls should be retained and enhanced, and new drystone wall stone walls should be introduced at key points. The use of ornamental hedges should be considered where attractive more formal boundary treatments are required.
- Exemplary design in real stone is required on the site, and the Masterplan / Design Code needs to commit to this (with such a commitment subsequently reflected in full in the planning application documents and drawings). Poor quality materials are not an option. The proposed palette of budget and largely concrete-based materials is unacceptable.
- The proposed selection of surfacing materials is non aspirational and would not result in a high-quality scheme. The palette of materials outlined in the Masterplan / Design Code document is poor quality and does not reflect the best aspects of the local area.
- Higher quality surfacing materials which draw on the local vernacular could be used to highlight selected areas, such as entrances, key junctions and features within or abutting the site.
- Designs should accommodate cycle storage and easy access to that storage.
- Other SUDS features besides the retention pond should be considered - small scale features such as water butts and rain garden planters, using retention structures as green walls, etc with the opportunity to improve biodiversity too.

The revised submission would now enable a development of much improved quality to come forward which fulfils planning policy requirements and enables a characterful development, thereby fulfilling Officers and the Design panel's aspirations.

The Masterplan satisfactorily accounts for the design and layout criteria in the site specific policy and provides a framework to enable subsequent planning applications to achieve a high quality design and layout and maintain the important views through the site.

In terms of urban form and massing, the aim is to animate the street through measures such as street vistas; turning corners; landmark features on nodal points, positioning of dwellings; light and private space; passive surveillance; parks and roads; variety of massing and housing types and a strong vehicular hierarchy.

Particularly, it indicates that each area should have a variety of house types and house sizes. They should all adhere to a similar palette as set out in the character areas section and heights should be in accordance with the Height Parameters set out in the Design Code Document.

In terms of the layout of the development, the residential areas are designed to fit around the proposed green infrastructure network. Residential development is broadly located towards the eastern part of the allocation site to complement the form of the existing built up area, with retention of existing landscaping and proposed new landscaping, situated surrounding and intermixed with the development parcels.

In conclusion, the Design Codes enable a thorough assessment of the proposal to be made and they set a positive framework for a good quality of development.

Landscape

The Council's Landscape Consultant has suggested a number of recommendations around planting, species palette and long views through which have been incorporated into the revised Masterplan.

The Masterplan takes its lead cue from the existing landscape features both within and around the site, vegetation, land form, ecology, drainage and built form, whilst taking into account site constraints and opportunities.

Retention of some of the exiting landscape features helps to create a unique scheme that is responsive to site conditions and character, whilst preserving the best of what is already there and ties the development into the wider setting, providing the foundation for a strong sense of place and local character.

With the retention of existing landscaping where possible and the incorporation of new landscaping the Masterplan will enable the delivery of the development within a strong landscape structure.

Flood Risk/Drainage

In order to ensure that the potential impact of the development on surface water and foul drainage is properly assessed, officers have consulted the Environment Agency, the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) (Lancashire County Council) and United Utilities.

Lancashire County Council in their role as the Lead Local Flood Authority have withdrawn their original objection to the drainage strategy in the Masterplan. They are of the opinion that the revised Masterplan clarifies through the Design Codes that each phase of the allocation will have its own drainage system, with separate outfalls, SUDS components and maintenance arrangements. Therefore, surface water flood risk and surface water drainage considerations can be considered for each phase as part of a site-specific flood risk assessment and sustainable drainage strategy.

United Utilities have raised a number of concerns regarding the proposed drainage strategy set out in the previous version of the Masterplan, as follows:

- The masterplan doesn't set out a clear allocation wide strategy for foul and surface water drainage infrastructure.
- No identification of the outfall points for the management of surface water for each parcel.

- It is not clear whether there will be interconnectivity between phases which will require the upsizing of drainage.
- The identification of any outfall points is critical to determine the drainage strategy and the location of any SUDs. UU's consultation response on planning application ref: 2023/0396 raised concerns over the proposal to discharge to the public sewer. UU have identified a potential watercourse which requires further investigation.
- The proposed drainage arrangements to the noise attenuation bund which shows a filter drain connecting to the public sewer, which is an important matter for the applicant to consider as part of the overall surface water drainage strategy.
- There is a lack of detail of SUDs for the northern parcels within the Masterplan which requires clarifying.
- Further clarity will also be required to demonstrate how Suds will be integrated within the wider site design and landscaping.
- There is no clear strategy for foul water management.

The Applicant has sought to overcome the issues raised by UU by revising the latest version of the Masterplan to include more detail on the surface water and foul drainage strategy in an indicative drainage infrastructure plan.

Therefore, subject to the receipt of a satisfactory consultation response from UU regarding the amended Masterplan, the surface water and foul drainage proposals are considered to comply with policy ENV9 of the Adopted Rossendale Local Plan.

Access, Parking and Highway Safety

The requirements of the site specific planning policy (H66) are:

A Transport Assessment is provided demonstrating that the site can be safely and suitably accessed by all users, including disabled people, prior to development taking place on site. In particular:

- i. Safe vehicular access points to the site are achieved from the field adjacent to no. 5 Blackburn Road and from the field opposite nos. 88 – 116 Market Street. Full details of access, including the number of access points, will be determined through the Transport Assessment work and agreed with the Local Highway Authority.
- ii. Agree suitable mitigation measures in respect of the capacity of Market Street to accommodate additional traffic. Improvements will be needed to the Market Street corridor from Blackburn Road to the mini-roundabout near the Rawstron Arms. Measures to assist pedestrian and vulnerable road users will be required.

Two Transport Assessments have been submitted, one with each of the, Taylor Wimpey and Northstone, planning applications. It is usual for detailed studies such as Transport Assessments to be submitted with planning applications rather than with Masterplans, which typically are documents that set out the broad parameters for development.

However, the Developer has included a package of highway mitigation measures within the Masterplan. This illustrates proposals along the Market Street corridor to assist pedestrian and vulnerable road users and provide some compensatory off street parking.

However, the Local Planning Authority can't determine whether the highway mitigation measures are sufficient as part of the Masterplan as the mitigation measures required may be subject to change and refinement as the Transport Assessment (TA) progresses. The TA's

have been submitted as part of the planning applications. Therefore, the complete package of mitigation measures will not be capable of being agreed until the applications are ready for determination.

Consequently, the plan showing the package of mitigation measures should be treated as indicative only and not agreed as part of any decision on the Masterplan and Design Codes, as it has to be determined separately as part of the planning application process, for all the relevant planning applications within the H66 allocation.

Design Objectives

The Masterplan and Design Codes show the indicative position of the proposed access points to the development parcels, as well as the likely position of the proposed main road link within the allocation and a proposed emergency vehicle connection point between two of the larger land parcels.

The Design Code seeks to maintain the distinctive street hierarchy found within Edenfield and states that future developments should reflect the indicative road network shown on the Masterplan.

It also states the development of H66 will facilitate and promote sustainable and healthy multi-modal travel by public transport, walking and cycling and indicates proposed and potential routes for pedestrian and cycle access.

It also sets out guidelines for street typologies, in order to ensure needs of all users are met and an appropriate quality of development is achieved.

Active Travel

The Design Code indicates that the development will retain existing Public Right of Way (PROW) routes within landscaped corridors and that new pedestrian routes should be provided to reflect those indicated on the Masterplan.

Further to negotiations between officers and the applicants, the masterplan now includes a new multi-user link from north to south through the site, which would enhance active travel possibilities.

The site allocation contains existing pedestrian connectivity into Edenfield and beyond via the established network of PROW routes. The Design Code states that supplementary pedestrian routes should be provided through the residential areas and public open space network to maximise connectivity onto the existing PROW network.

The Design Code indicates that new dwellings will include the provision of secure, convenient cycle storage to encourage cycling. It also explains that existing PROW routes through the site should be made suitable for cycling where viable to act as an informal expansion of the local cycling network.

These active travel proposals are considered a benefit of the scheme and comply with up to date policy guidance, including policy TR2 of the Adopted Rossendale Local Plan.

Land Stability

Policy H66 of the Adopted Rossendale Local Plan contains a criteria requiring a Geotechnical Investigation to confirm the stability of the land and ensure the resulting protection of the A56. The policy also requires that the stability of the land to support Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs) in a location close to the A56 is demonstrated.

The Developers' representatives have submitted a Slope Stability Risk Assessment which has been assessed by the Council's Consultant Geo-technical Advisors, Mott McDonald. Motts have concluded on behalf of the Council that the submitted slope stability analysis demonstrates that there are stability issues associated with the over steepened slopes of the brook area in the northern part of the site which will require stabilisation works to be implemented at detailed design stage. For the remainder of the site, the drained stability analyses demonstrates that the proposed development will not induce instability within or external to the site in drained conditions. The Council's advisors recommend that consideration be given to conditioning the following:

- i) Prior to planning permission being granted it is recommended that an undrained stability analysis is undertaken of the off-site slope (A56 cutting slope) and on-site slope (the slope uphill of the proposed attenuation pond) in the southern area. For the avoidance of doubt this recommendation is intended to refer to analyses of both the off-site and on-site slopes.
- ii) Prior to commencement of construction, a detailed stability design report incorporating proposed stability remedial measures for the slopes of the watercourses in the northern site area is submitted to RBC for approval.
- iii) Prior to commencement of construction an assessment of anticipated water flow and drainage capacity of the A56 outfall culvert will be undertaken for RBC/LLFA and NH approval.
- iv) Prior to commencement of construction a detailed assessment, including the management of risk from accidental leakage from the attenuation pond and demonstration that this does not pose a slope stability risk to the A56, is submitted to RBC for approval.

The Council's advisors believe that for the current stage of design (whilst acknowledging the recommendations for further design stages in the Slope Stability Risk Assessment), the ground models developed are reasonable representations of the conditions encountered; the geotechnical parameters have been derived in accordance with relevant standards; the method of slope analysis adopted is appropriate; and the cross sections analysed are representative of the site including the critical sections.

Through the course of detailed design, it is considered likely that risks associated with land stability can be managed appropriately as recommended by them in their analysis, to enable the proposed development.

The Council's advisors recommend that in advance of a decision on any subsequent planning application, (this is distinct from a decision on the Masterplan), recommendation (i) as outlined above, is undertaken. The Council's advisors are also of the view that recommendations (ii) to (iv) as outlined above, should be addressed as planning conditions prior to the commencement of any on site development. However, given that the final discharge rate into this culvert could be significant to the design of the drainage proposals and the wider site design, your officers feel that it is likely to be more appropriate for the assessment of the drainage capacity of the culvert to be undertaken prior to the grant of any detailed planning

permission rather than prior to, the commencement of development. This relates to recommendation (iii) above.

Therefore, this further assessment is required at planning application stage. All relevant land stability issues in regard to the Masterplan are satisfactory and the proposal complies with policies H66 and ENV1 of the Adopted Rossendale Local Plan.

Phasing & Implementation

The submitted Phasing Plan indicates the extent of each phase, the sequence of development, the approximate number of units proposed within each phase, the key deliverable accruing from each phase and an associated timetable of works.

The Plan also illustrates when any off site highway works and the proposed construction of a new school car park adjacent to Edenfield CofE Primary School is likely to take place and the length of duration.

Details of construction and infrastructure phasing have been provided with an indication that construction traffic will be routed where possible, to avoid the centre of the village.

An Indicative Programme of Implementation has also been outlined which demonstrates that the work is likely to take place over a 10 year time frame up to 2034.

The schedule demonstrates that due to the stand alone nature of each developer's landholding, each parcel can be delivered independently without prejudicing the development of any other land within the allocation.

The Phasing and Implementation Plan now contains much more detail than when it was originally submitted and is consistent with other such examples of plans on other comparable schemes in other boroughs. It is therefore acceptable in planning terms and complies with policy H66 of the ARLP.

Education

The Masterplan identifies the land to the rear of Edenfield CE Primary School for potential expansion and makes a commitment that this land shall be made available by the landowner (at nil charge to the Local Education Authority) should the Local Education Authority identify a need, with detailed arrangements to be agreed through subsequent planning applications.

Therefore, there is no conflict with policy H66 of the Adopted Rossendale Local Plan. It should be noted that the land to the rear of Edenfield CE Primary School which may be suitable for school expansion is shown on the Policies Map as 'Potential School and Playing Field Extension'. Any proposals to extend the school into the Green Belt, via a planning application would need to be justified under very special circumstances and the provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Ecology

The Design Code sets out that development proposals should incorporate biodiversity design principles, e.g. creating and enhancing habitats.

Also that development proposals should follow a hierarchy that first seeks to avoid damaging habitats, then to mitigate any damage, then to seek to replace habitats where mitigation is not possible.

The Design Code objective is that: *'Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) should be achieved through out the development in line with current National and Local Authority requirements at the time of subsequent planning applications.'*

This will include the delivery of biological enhancements on the areas illustrated on the Blue and Green Infrastructure Plan submitted with the Masterplan. The provision of landscaping and tree planting within each development parcel will also provide additional benefits.

The Developers' own initial assessments suggest an overall net gain can be delivered on-site within the allocation, which can then be complemented with off-site contributions to reach the target 10% net gain (as applicable to each individual application).

The 2021 Environment Act requires a 10% net gain from submissions from 12th February 2024 (or 2nd April 2024 for small sites), to be met through on site habitat enhancement; the allocation of registered off-site biodiversity gain; and the purchase of biodiversity credits.

The Council's Consultant Ecological Advisors at the Greater Manchester Ecological Unit have been notified and have raised no objection to the Masterplan proposals. Therefore, it is considered that the Masterplan complies with the requirements of policies ENV1 and ENV4 of the Adopted Rossendale Local Plan.

Green Belt Compensation Measures

The Masterplan outlines that compensatory improvements to the adjacent Green Belt land will be provided where possible and secured via proportionate contributions under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act from individual planning applications.

Examples of what measures could be funded are set out in Rossendale Borough Council's 'Compensation Measures for Green Belt Release' document (January 2023) and include:

- Enhancements to cricket and recreation ground links and enhanced facilities, • Improved signage for PROW,
- Additional tree planting, including woodland planting to the rear of Edenfield C.E. School,
- Dedicated footpath link to Edenfield C.E. School,
- Community amenity and play areas which include gardens focused on food production and edible plants promoting the Incredible Edible Rossendale Scheme,
- Woodland planting to the rear of Edenfield C.E. School,
- Facilitation of improved cycle / pedestrian footpaths from Burnley Road to Blackburn Road and on to the rest of the allocation to reduce pressure and potential conflicts on Market Street'
- Enhanced links between the H66 allocation and Ewood Bridge.

Therefore, the Masterplan provides sufficient clarity that Green Belt compensatory measures to the neighbouring Green Belt land can be provided.

Heritage

The site specific policy requires that heritage issues be taken into account. The proposed Masterplan and Design Codes, including the layout of the development and all relevant heritage considerations, achieve this policy requirement. Historic England and the Council's Consultant Heritage Advisors at Growth Lancashire have been consulted on such matters and have raised no objection.

Comments were raised however, in respect of how the proposal intends to protect the setting of the heritage assets and the significance of those assets should be further elaborated. The Applicant's revised Masterplan and the Heritage Impact Assessment submitted with the planning application (ref 2022/0451) from Taylor Wimpey for 238 houses on the central part of the allocation address the significance of the heritage assets and also how their setting will be protected.

Both the Masterplan and the plans submitted with the concurrent planning application, illustrate sufficient offset distances between the proposed residential development parcels and the setting of the Parish Church and also, the other non-designated heritage assets. In addition, they confirm that where appropriate, there will be adequate space for landscaping proposals, between the proposed development areas and the heritage assets.

The proposals contained within the Masterplan indicate that there will be no impediment to achieving the important viewpoints of the heritage assets, particularly those of the Grade II* Listed Church. Also, the detailed, proposed road layout submitted with the concurrent planning application confirms that this policy requirement will be achieved.

Consequently, there would be no detrimental impact on matters of heritage significance, as such, the scheme complies with the Framework and policies ENV1 & ENV2 of the Adopted Rossendale Local Plan.

Public Open Space and Play Provision

The Design Code specifies that the minimum level of play provision should be as illustrated within the '*Green Infrastructure and Play Provision Plan*,' within the submitted document. This illustrates the formation of various new play areas including one Locally Equipped Area for Play (LEAP) and two Local Areas for Play (LAPs).

Locally Equipped Areas for Play usually constitute natural elements as play features for children to interact with. They are designed for use primarily by children who are beginning to go out and play independently and should be located within 5 minutes walking time or 400 metres of residential properties. They should be of a minimum size of 400 square metres and will offer play equipment and structures in addition to natural elements. Play equipment within LEAP's should be designed to address a broad age range of children with a cross section of abilities.

Local Areas for Play are designed to provide informal open spaces with natural play locations in accessible locations. They should be designed to appeal to all ages as a place for incidental play, social interaction amongst neighbours and a common space for people to enjoy, close to their homes. Play in LAP's should not be overly prescriptive and will typically exclude formal play equipment and boundary fencing, unless required for safety reasons. This is to encourage imaginative free play, with natural elements.

The indicative positions of these are dispersed throughout the allocation and also one LAP is shown in close proximity to Edenfield C of E Primary School. They would supplement the

existing play provision which is a LEAP situated at The Recreation Ground, off Exchange Street and adjacent to the southern part of the allocation.

The proposal shows a network of public open space which is integrated into the development, connected with other parcels of open space and is clearly legible. Therefore, the Masterplan and Design Codes comply with policies HS6 and ENV1 of the Adopted Rossendale Local Plan.

Contaminated Land

No objection has been received from the Council's Contaminated Land Consultant, or the Environment Agency, as the allocation contains previously undeveloped land which does not contain high levels of contaminants. Consequently, if any contaminants are found, they can be dealt with in the prescribed manner, subject to Risk Assessments and Remediation Strategies as part of planning applications. Therefore, the proposed residential development of the site complies with policies ENV1 & ENV6 of the Adopted Rossendale Local Plan.

Coal Authority

The latest consultation response from the Coal Authority received on the 7th of June 2024 states:

'We have previously commented on this document in responses to the LPA, the last of which was dated 1st November 2023. Since this time our records have been updated and they now show coal outcrops running through parts of the site. These features may have been subject to workings at shallow depth and may pose a potential risk to surface stability and public safety. Where built development is proposed in areas where past coal mining activity has taken place we would expect consideration to be given to the risks posed and for any formal application to be supported by a Coal Mining Risk Assessment.'

As such they raise no objection to the Masterplan but require planning applications to be supported by suitable documentation covering risk from Coal Mining legacy. Therefore, the principle of residential development complies with policy ENV1 of the Adopted Rossendale Local Plan.

Noise

No objection has been received from the Council's Environmental Health department on noise grounds. The proposed development is residential and by its nature, is not a significant noise generator compared to other uses such as industrial activity. Similarly, the proposed development parcels are sufficiently offset from the A56 dual carriageway and the B6527 Market Street, so, as not to have a significant adverse impact on residential amenity, subject to any noise mitigation measure that may need to be incorporated in the development. The proposed development will comply with World Health Organisation guidelines on noise levels and also complies with The Framework and policies ENV1 & ENV6 of the Adopted Rossendale Local Plan.

Air Quality

No objection has been received from the Council's Environmental Health department with regard to issues of air quality. The site is not situated in close proximity to any Air Quality Management Areas. Mitigation measures are capable of implementation, if required such as Travel Plans, dust suppression techniques and the incorporation of electric car vehicle

charging points. Therefore, the proposal would not have a significant adverse impact on air quality and complies with policy ENV6 of the Adopted Rossendale Local Plan.

Archaeology

The proposed development of the residential allocation will not have an impact on designated archaeological sites and therefore, the proposal complies with policy ENV2 of the adopted Rossendale Local Plan. The County Council's archaeology team will be able to comment on planning applications if they see a specific need.

Neighbourhood Plans

The Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum has submitted its draft Regulation 16 version of its Neighbourhood Plan for Edenfield to the Council and a 6 week period of consultation with interested parties commenced with regard to this on the 18th of June 2024.

The Draft Neighbourhood Plan contains the following documents:

- The Neighbourhood Plan submission version
- Basic Condition Statement
- Basic Condition Statement – Strategic Environmental Assessment – Screening Opinion
- Policies Map
- Factbook
- Design Code Report
- Local Green Space Report
- Locally Important Views Report
- Consultation Statement
- Glossary

Therefore, the Draft Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan amounts to a material consideration which is to be afforded appropriate weight in the overall planning balance, when the Masterplan and Design Codes are being determined.

Once the consultation has finished, all the comments received from interested parties along with the Council's formal review will be submitted to an independent external examiner. Once the Examiner's Report has been received, it will be known whether the emerging Neighbourhood Plan can go to a public referendum where the local community will have the opportunity to vote on it. Following this, the Council will have to determine whether to adopt the Neighbourhood Plan as part of the Development Plan.

Government guidance with regard to Neighbourhood Plans (NP) is that they should conform with Adopted Local Plans, i.e. the Adopted Rossendale Local Plan 2021. The Draft Edenfield NP does this as it includes the H66 allocation, which is the subject of this report, within the NP.

Planning guidance is also clear, that greater weight in the overall planning balance should be given to issues once they are at an advanced stage. In the instance of Development Plans including Neighbourhood Plans, they should be afforded considerable weight once they are adopted. As the Draft Edenfield NP is currently out to consultation and is then pending external examination, a public referendum and a decision by the Council to adopt it, consequently, it should be afforded, moderate weight in the overall planning balance.

SUMMARY REASON FOR APPROVAL

The Masterplan and Design Codes set the parameters and the framework for subsequent detailed planning applications to achieve a sufficient quality of development. The proposal is therefore, considered to accord with the provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework and the relevant policies of the Adopted Rossendale Local Plan.

5. RISK

All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- If the Masterplan/Design Codes and Phasing Strategy are not agreed, this will lead to reduced housing delivery, significantly below annual targets, which, according to planning policy, will place the Council at risk of having to grant further housing on less sustainable, non-allocated, greenfield sites.
- Failure to agree the Masterplan/Design Codes and Phasing Strategy, will lead to an unfounded delay in the determination of planning applications, leading to a substantial risk of consequent planning appeals with major resource implications and potential costs awards against the Council.

6. FINANCE

No current budget implications. However, if the Masterplan and associated documents are not agreed, this may result in delays to development, which may lead to planning appeals with consequent, increased budgetary pressures and costs awards.

7. LEGAL

No specific legal implications.

8. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

No policy or equalities implications.

9. REASON FOR DECISION

In order to facilitate the delivery of the largest housing allocation within the Adopted Rossendale Local Plan, in accordance with development plan policies.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Item C1. and minutes of the Development Control Committee meeting 23 rd July 2024	https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/1421/development-control-committee

Subject:	Approval of updated Validation Checklist document for use when validating applications	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	18 th September 2024
Report of:	Head of Planning & Building Control	Lead Member:	Planning, Licensing and Enforcement
Key Decision:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required: No	Attached:	No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required: No	Attached:	No
Contact Officer:	James Dalgleish	Telephone:	01706 217777
Email:	jamesdalgleish@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 Cabinet approve the updated Validation Checklist document for immediate use.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The current checklist is out of date and a new updated version has been created to take into account current legislation, policy and best practice guidance
- The document has undergone a six-week public consultation and no objections have been received.
- Many suggestions received have been incorporated into the document.
- The updated Validation Checklist will ensure officers are able to require the full range of supporting documents to accompany planning and related applications.
- The Development Control Committee were consulted on the document at their meeting on 23rd July 2024 and have recommended Cabinet to approve the checklist document for immediate use.

3. BACKGROUND

The purpose of the Council's Validation Checklist document is to set out specifically what type of documents and plans are required to accompany a valid planning-related application.

The Council's current Validation Checklist was adopted in April 2022, and is now out-of-date. Accordingly, officers have created a new updated Validation Checklist document, which takes into account current legislation, policy and best practice guidance.

4. DETAILS

The document includes the national information requirements (the statutory minimum information required to accompany all applications across the country) as well as the Council's own more specific local list of information requirements to validate an application within the Borough.

The document has undergone a six-week public consultation, which started in May 2024 and concluded at the end of June 2024. No objections have been received, but several suggestions were received in relation to the wording of certain sections of the document. Many of the suggestions have been incorporated into the final version of the document where appropriate.

CONSULTATION RESPONSES

The consultation was sent out to around 145 planning agents, developers and consultants, along with every statutory and non-statutory consultee contained within the Council's consultation database. The consultation was also made public on the Council's website.

The following table lists only the responses which were received as a result of the consultation, and highlights where comments have or have not resulted in amendments to the document.

Consultee	Response
Alan Jackson (Agricultural Consultant)	Suggested wording amendments to Appendix D (form to accompany agricultural applications) – Comments Incorporated.
LCC Active Travel Team	Suggested reference to the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan – Comments Incorporated.
Lancashire Constabulary	Incorporated a new section on Crime Impact Statements.
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council	No comments to make.
Peak and Northern Footpaths Society	Incorporated a requirement for site plans to show the route of any proposed diversions to public rights of way.
Coal Authority	No comments to make.
Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum	Suggested a requirement for applications not to be validated where there is a policy requirement for a Masterplan to be submitted but no Masterplan is yet approved / adopted – comments not incorporated as compliance with an approved Masterplan is a policy requirement for certain developments (already contained within the Local Plan) which would be dealt with during the course of determining planning applications, rather than a technical validation requirement to be contained within a Validation Checklist.
Environment Agency	Wording amended in relation to non-mains foul drain connections and flood risk assessments.
Grane Residents Association	Added a requirement in relation to requiring all reports, assessments and documentation to be up to date at the time of the application, and stating that the Council will not accept the submission of out-of-date documentation.
Historic Buildings and Places	Added requirement for a heritage statement for the demolition of buildings within a Conservation Area. Also added wording in relation to the interior features of listed buildings, and curtilage listed structures.

Consultee	Response
Historic England	No comments to make.
LCC Historic Environment Team	Amended text to incorporate suggestions relating to assessment of sites containing potential features of archaeological interest.
LCC Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA)	Wording amended as requested by the LLFA to include reference to non-fluvial flood risk and requirement for drainage information.
Land Contamination Consultant	Amended wording of land contamination section to reflect current best practice guidance.
Natural England	Amended wording to include reference to nationally / internationally designated sites.
LCC Public Rights of Way Team	No objection.
Sport England	Created a new section at the request of Sport England, dealing with requirements to support applications affecting existing sports / playing pitches.

ASSESSMENT

The updated Validation Checklist includes a comprehensive list of requirements to ensure that applicants are aware of the documentation and plans required to support planning and related applications.

At present, the current Validation Checklist document is out of date, meaning that the Council can only request the minimum national statutory requirements in relation to information and plans to support applications.

As such, it is vital that the Council adopts a new up-to-date Validation Checklist to ensure that officers are able to require the full range of supporting documents to accompany applications. Failure to adopt an up-to-date checklist would mean that officers can only request the statutory minimum national information requirements when applications are received – this would not provide adequate information to enable all relevant consultees to provide detailed comments on applications, and would not provide all information which may be required to enable a full assessment to be made. The knock-on effect of this would be that officers would have to request such information once applications are already valid, and once the statutory period for determining an application has already started – meaning that applications are much less likely to be determined during the statutory application period.

The requirements contained in the updated Validation Checklist document will ensure that adequate information accompanies applications so that officers, their consultees, members of the public and elected Members of the Development Control Committee are able to properly and fully assess development proposals prior to applications being determined. It will also facilitate more timely determination of applications within the statutory application period.

The updated Validation Checklist document is fully up to date in relation to current local and national planning policy and legislation, and has been through an appropriate public consultation (which has resulted in several amendments and improvements to the document).

As such, officers recommend that Members approve the adoption of the document for immediate use.

5. RISK

All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- 5.1 Failure to adopt an up-to-date checklist would mean that officers can only request the statutory minimum national information requirements when planning and other applications are received – this would not provide adequate information to enable all relevant consultees to provide detailed comments on applications, and would not provide all information which may be required to enable a full assessment to be made.
- 5.2 The knock-on effect of this would be that officers would have to request such information once applications are already valid, and once the statutory period for determining an application has already started – meaning that applications are much less likely to be determined during the statutory application period. The risk with such an approach is that the Council would fail to determine a greater proportion of applications outside of the statutory application period – adversely affecting customer service / customer satisfaction, significantly adding to officer workload, and adversely affecting the Council’s planning performance figures (which are reported to Government).

6. FINANCE

No direct financial implications currently. If the Validation Checklist is not adopted for use, this may result in additional costs from planning appeals, arising from delays to decision making.

7. LEGAL

No specific legal implications.

8. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

No policy or equalities implications.

9. REASON FOR DECISION

It is vital that the Council adopts a new up-to-date Validation Checklist to ensure that officers are able to require the full range of supporting documents to accompany applications.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Item C2. and minutes of the Development Control Committee meeting 23 rd July 2024	https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/1421/development-control-committee

Subject:	Swimming Pool Support Fund (SPSF) and Marl Pits Air Handling Unit	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	18 th September 2024
Report of:	Climate Change Officer	Lead Member:	Economic Development
Key Decision:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required: No	Attached:	No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required: No	Attached:	No
Contact Officer:	Kwabena Osei Poku	Telephone:	01706252551
Email:	kwabenapoku@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 To note the award of Sport England’s SPSF capital funding of £290,000 to support energy saving interventions at Marl Pits Leisure Centre.
- 1.2 Approve the spend in accordance with the grant application and agree the procurement route for the award of a contract for the installation of an air handling unit.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Rossendale Borough Council (RBC) declared a Climate Change Emergency in September 2019
- In line with our Climate Change Strategy, the Council has prioritised improving energy efficiency and decarbonising council-owned buildings.
- The government has made funding available to local authorities in England as a support package for public leisure facilities with swimming pools
- The Council’s bid to the Swimming Pool Support Fund (SPSF) Phase 2 capital fund was successful and we were awarded the maximum that Sport England was able to allocate to the authority.
- The energy saving measures the fund will support include the installation of swimming pool covers and an air handling unit to a value of £290,000 at Marl Pits Leisure Centre

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council acknowledges that climate change is a key issue. RBC declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and published a Climate Change Strategy in 2020.
- 3.2 In line with our Climate Change Strategy, the Council has prioritised improving energy efficiency and decarbonising council-owned buildings.
- 3.3 The government’s SPSF provided funding to local authorities in England as a support package for public leisure facilities with swimming pools.
- 3.4 Phase 2 of the funding was made available to support capital investment to improve the energy efficiency of public facilities with pools in the medium to long term. In winter 2023, we bid for Phase 2 capital funding for energy saving measures at Marl Pits Leisure Centre.
- 3.5 The bid to the SPSF Phase 2 capital fund was successful and we were awarded the maximum that Sport England was able to allocate to the authority. The energy saving measures the fund will support include the installation of swimming pool covers and an air handling unit to a value of £290,000 at Marl Pits Leisure Centre. A tight turnaround was required in order to receive

the funding and a grant agreement has been signed in order to comply with central government requirements.

4. DETAILS

- 4.1 In 2023, the government approved £40m of Exchequer funding and Sport England committed an additional £20m of lottery funding to be distributed through competitive process of formal application via the SPSF.
- 4.2 The funding is designed to support swimming pool operators to undertake capital interventions that reduce the cost of energy through more economical use of self-generation systems such as, Photo Voltaic (PV) panels, LED lighting systems and high-performance boilers.
- 4.3 As part of RBC's ongoing building decarbonisation programme, an application was made to SPSF to support our programme and to install systems that would reduce energy consumption at Marl Pits Leisure Centre, enabling a reduction in utility costs as well as contributing to our carbon reduction.
- 4.4 Marl Pits Leisure Centre was awarded grant monies of £290,000 that will specifically fund the installation of swimming pool covers and replacement of the air handling unit
- 4.5 In accordance with the Capital grant agreement, all works need to be completed by March 31st 2025

5. RISK

All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- As with any major project, full risk register and strategy will be developed prior to the onset of the program of works. Through this process, the following key risk will be considered in more detail.
- Build costs increase following onset of construction resulting in budget pressures to the program. Contingencies will be built into the costings and tight management will be undertaken to manage to avoid the need of value engineering to maintain financial envelope
- In the unlikely event that the project requires additional funding beyond the contingency, any overspend will be funded from the carbon reduction fund.

6. FINANCE

It is important that spend on the project is closely monitored. There is no budget within the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to support any overspend.

7. LEGAL

As the procurement of the air handling unit will be over £100k, Cabinet is required to authorise the tender under the terms of the Constitution. The procurement of the unit will be carried out in accordance with the Contract Procedure Rules and Sport England grant requirements.

8. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy or equalities implications.

9. REASON FOR DECISION

9.1 Agreement to proceed with procurement requirements will help Marl Pits Leisure Centre reduce its carbon footprint, become more energy efficient and enable the Council to progress towards meeting its carbon reduction targets.

Subject:	Improvements to Victoria Park Wheeled Sports facilities	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	18 th September 2024
Report of:	Head of Environmental Services	Lead Member:	Environment and Corporate Services
Key Decision:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached: N/A
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached: N/A
Contact Officer:	David McChesney	Telephone:	01706 252584
Email:	davidmcchesney@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That Cabinet approves the improvements to the wheeled sports facilities at Victoria Park.
- 1.2 That Cabinet notes and approves the bid to FCC Community Action Fund and grants authority to officers to submit external funding bids relevant to this project.
- 1.3 If successful, delegate the acceptance of the external funding to the Head of Environmental Services in consultation with the Lead Member for Environment and Corporate Services.
- 1.4 In the event that a bid is not successful, authority given to officers to deliver an alternative scheme and to appoint a contractor in line with the Council's Constitution, provided the revised design is of value and provides a greatly improved experience.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Improvements to the wheeled sports area are the priority for development in the Victoria Park Masterplan.
- Public Consultation has been undertaken and there is strong support for the improvements.
- The project will be funded through a combination of external funding and RBC capital.
- In order to comply with grant application requirements a tender process has been completed in line with the Council's Constitution in order to appoint an approved provider subject to receipt of grant.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Victoria Park Masterplan was created by the Council in consultation with residents and park users in 2022.
- 3.2 The Council has been working with the local community and Councillors on the Masterplan since 2022, and this has so far delivered much needed improvements to the roads and footpaths, an increase in number and quality of items of street furniture and a measured route around the park which has since been utilised by Junior Parkrun. The next priority to address is to update and improve the offer of the wheeled sports area.
- 3.3 The current equipment is steel fabricated and is coming towards the end of its life in terms of safety for users. The design is very basic and users have voiced a desire for a park with more interesting flows and a range of features that suit all abilities and types of wheeled equipment.
- 3.4 Specific consultation has taken place with the wider public and in local schools in 2023 to give the team firm ideas around design and features.

3.5 There is a capital sum for use within the park and this will be supplemented by bids to external funders to form the project budget.

4. DETAILS

4.1 Funding applications are proposed to the following sources:

Lancashire Environmental Fund- £40,000
FCC Community Action Fund- £100,000

4.2 The Council approved the addition to the Capital Programme of the Victoria Park Improvements scheme in February 2022. It is proposed that £35,000 from this scheme is used as match funding, along with £20,000 UKSPF capital funding to increase chances of success in the bids mentioned above. This this will give an approximate budget of £195,000 for completion of the works, development costs and third party contributions. The third party contributions are payments that have been made by the Council or community group to the funders to release the grants.

4.3 The scheme is dependent on the success of funding bids and securing the target budget. If one or both funding bids are unsuccessful the project scope will be revised, a bid to an alternative funder will be submitted; or, the project will not go ahead. The project will only be revised and delivered if the design can offer a significantly improved facility for users.

4.4 The outcome of the funding bids to LEF and FCC will be known by the end of September and if successful, the project will progress through the procurement process, ready for delivery in early 2025.

4.5 Due to the budget involved to deliver the improvements, approval is sought from Cabinet to accept the external funding should bids be successful and to award the contract to the proposed contractor.

5. RISK

All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- Failure to invest in the site will risk deterioration leading to increased maintenance liability and health and safety issues.
- Extensive consultation has taken place with local residents who have voiced their desire for the area to be improved. To ignore this would negatively affect the Council's reputation.
- Failure to attract the funding. The risk is mitigated by the Council meeting the grant application criteria. Further funding would be identified in the event that the applications are not successful.

6. FINANCE

6.1 The expenditure and financing for the scheme are set out in the table below:-

Project Budget		£
Expenditure		
Victoria Park Improvements		195,000
Total Expenditure		195,000
Financed By		
RBC Victoria Park Improvements Capital Scheme	Secured	35,000
RBC UKSPF - Victoria Park Capital Scheme	Secured	20,000
Lancashire Environmental Fund	Not Secured	40,000
FCC Community Action Fund	Not Secured	100,000
Total Income		195,000
Surplus/ (-) Deficit		0

6.2 The RBC match will be funded from a combination of the Victoria Park Capital budget and UKSPF. Should the external funding bids be unsuccessful the scheme will be revised accordingly.

7. LEGAL

7.1 Under the Constitution, approval must be obtained from the Corporate Management Team and Cabinet to incur expenditure over £100k. Corporate Management Team has considered this matter and recommends its approval.

7.2 Under the Constitution, acceptance of grant funding over £100k and up to and including £250k may be authorised by Cabinet.

7.3 All works contracts must be carried out in compliance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and the grant funding requirements of each funder.

8. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Community consultation has been carried out in order to inform the bids and meet local demands. There are no other policy or equality implications arising from this report.

9. REASON FOR DECISION

9.1 The development of Victoria Park Play wheeled sports will mean that the Council is investing to ensure the continued delivery. Much needed refurbishments of the existing area will ensure it is safe and remains an asset to residents. In addition, provision of challenging and exciting equipment for wheeled sports enthusiasts will mean the park addresses a shortfall of first class facilities in the west of the borough.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Victoria Park Wheeled Sports	CMT 14.5.24

Subject:	Victoria Park Masterplan Update	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	18 th September 2024
Report of:	Head of Environmental Services	Lead Member:	Environment and Corporate Services
Key Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required: No	Attached:	N/A
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required: No	Attached:	N/A
Contact Officer:	David McChesney	Telephone:	01706 252584
Email:	davidmcchesney@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

1. RECOMMENDATION

1.1 This report is to provide an update on progress made against the Victoria Park Masterplan to date.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The visual Masterplan was finalised in November 2022 after extensive public engagement.
- Projects were prioritised based on views and concerns of park users and information held by Officers.
- Funding for projects is to be obtained from a variety of sources as set out in the report.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Victoria Park is one of the Council's four large Park sites within Rossendale. Following the success of the Masterplan at Stubblelee Park, this approach has been utilised to identify key areas and projects for improvements over the next decade to ensure the Park is an asset to the community.

3.2 The Council has been working with the local community, Councillors and Proffitts on the Masterplan since 2022. The process for this began with a public consultation exercise to gain people's opinions on the Park, its facilities and areas for improvement.

3.3 This initial consultation was used to create a draft visual Masterplan illustrating ideas received. This draft was then put out for further consultation with the Community before being finalised in November 2022. The current Masterplan is attached as Appendix 1.

3.4 The consultation responses were used to create priority projects to pursue, and from this funding plans, where necessary, were created.

3.5 The Council's Communities Team have assisted throughout and worked hard to help local residents create a constituted group for the park that will help with projects and potentially front future funding bids. The group is called Friends of Victoria Park.

4. CONSULTATION RESULTS AND PRIORITIES

4.1 The consultation produced a variety of responses which covered all aspects of the park. The priorities for creation or improvement were as follows:

1. Path improvements- completed
2. Increased seating and bin provision- completed

3. Wheeled sports improvements- in progress
4. Play area improvements- awaiting funding opportunities
5. Woodland walk/ walking trail- to be explored 2024/25
6. Fountain improvements- to be explored 2024/25
7. Entrance improvements- to be explored 2024/25
8. Bandstand/ shelter improvements- to be explored 2024/25
9. Forest school area/ mud kitchen- awaiting funding opportunities
10. MUGA improvements- awaiting funding opportunities
11. Flagpole- unable to implement at present due to resource implications
12. Boundary wall improvements- some completed 2023/24

4.2 The priorities were discussed and the old wheeled sports area has been brought to the Council's attention as being in need of investment. It is constructed from steel and consists of several individual pieces of equipment on tarmac. This has become worn and lacks the flow to keep wheeled sports enthusiasts engaged. It was therefore earmarked as the first major project to take forward.

4.3 In addition to this, the group felt that a few quick wins were needed in the park to show the intentions of raising standards. These improvements consisted of resurfacing of paths and roads, improved seating and picnic facilities, a measured walk and increase capacity for litter.

5. PROGRESS SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE MASTERPLAN

5.1 A survey was carried out of paths and roads in the park and this has led to an area of 300m² being resurfaced. This has eradicated any potholes or deterioration in the surface making the park safer for users.

5.2 The street furniture within the park was also improved with 9 new benches being installed and the creation of a new inclusive picnic area near the clock tower, aimed to allow families to extend their stay in the park. Ten old litter bins have been replaced by new, larger capacity units to reduce issues with litter.

5.3 To help people stay active, a way-marked measured route has been introduced around the paths. This tells users how far they have moved and is designed to increase the number of people using the park for physical activity. The park is now Rossendale's first venue for Junior Parkrun, which began in late 2023. This occurs each Saturday and is a well-attended event for families interested in keeping fit. This has helped to increase the profile of the park.

5.4 Several consultation sessions have been carried out with youths regarding the wheeled sports area over the past 6 months. This has included going in Haslingden High School and holding events at the 'Youth Zone' to share proposals. This has helped to develop a bid for funding from FCC Community Action Fund for £100,000 towards the project.

5.5 A further bid for £40,000 has been submitted to Lancashire Environment Fund (LEF). In March the council was informed that this bid was successful. This will be combined with RBC capital and UKSPF for a project budget of £195,000. If all funding is obtained the project will go ahead later in 2024.

5.6 One issue raised by the public was that some of the boundary walls of the park were deteriorating and needing rebuilding. Due to the size of the wall in total, it was unrealistic to address in one go, therefore an assessment was carried out to determine the areas in worst condition. This led to a 50 metre section at the Park's south being reinforced and straightened

by putting in a concrete fitting and securing the railing in places. The other areas will be addressed in the future through council budgets as necessary.

6. FUTURE PROJECTS

- 6.1 The drainage system is defective at some location above the MUGA and Skate Park and is the main priority to be looked into this year and next. Investigative work is planned for the end of May and this will hopefully determine the cause of the leak which is currently causing surface water issues on the skate park. It is imperative that the drainage is functioning properly before any investment into the Wheeled Sports Area is made. This will ensure any new facility is fit for purpose and users maximise their experience.
- 6.2 Improvements to the play facilities available will be made in June with the installation of a new slide which will provide a type of equipment that was identified as needed in consultation. The slide uses the height of the banking to provide its fall and will provide a play option currently missing in the park.
- 6.3 The shelter or 'band stand' has been identified as a priority so the Team will look into improving access to it and its appearance by painting the structure where necessary and installing a path and possibly seating to bring it more into use; both as a place to sit and as a performance space.
- 6.4 Another small-scale project that will have a big impact are improvement works to the fountain and two entrances to the park from Helmsore Road. This will involve stone cleaning and replacement, planting and restoration and painting of the entrance gates.

7. FUNDING

- 7.1 As with the majority of projects within a park setting, the council strongly relies on being able to draw the majority of the project budget in from external sources. The main sources for Rossendale are from Landfill providers such as Valencia, Lancashire Environmental Fund, and FCC. Each funder has 3 or 4 funding rounds per year, and with many projects being pursued in Parks around the borough, these must be submitted in a manner where Rossendale's Parks are not competing against each other.
- 7.2 Any successful grant application requires a 10% 3rd Party contribution to be paid by the council, which then releases the funding. For larger projects this can eventually amount to a contribution of anything up to £30,000. This is usually sourced from either capital sources or any Section 106 contributions that may be available. Both are finite resources and for this reason the projects within Masterplans can happen only when these come available.
- 7.3 The Green Spaces Team have an excellent track record of obtaining this funding over recent years and have been able to deliver 1 or 2 of the larger projects from each Masterplan each financial year.
- 7.4 The recent availability of UK Shared Prosperity Funding for Whitaker and Victoria Park have helped kick start the Masterplans at both locations. This is due to end at the start of 2025/26, but will have contributed to Play improvements at Whitaker and Wheeled Sports at Victoria, as well as other improvements.
- 7.5 A capital budget for Victoria Park was set up to help deliver projects and this was for a total of £80,000. This budget will be used to address the drainage work as well as other park projects.

8. RISK

8.1 All risks are managed in accordance with the project risk register.

9. FINANCE

9.1 There are no financial implications arising as this is a report for noting by Cabinet.

10. LEGAL

10.1 There are no legal implications arising as this is a report for noting by Cabinet.

11. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no policy implications arising as this is a report for noting by Cabinet.

13. REASON FOR DECISION

13.1 To provide an update to Cabinet members.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Victoria Park Masterplan	Appendix 1

APPENDIX 1

Version Number:	1	Page:	4 of 5
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VICTORIA PARK MASTERPLAN

DIC 2022
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To keep up to date with the project, please search 'Profitts Victoria Park' online. If you have any queries, please email: community@profitts.co.uk

	Project information online
	Follow us on Facebook and Twitter
	Attend a public consultation event
	Contact our team on 01922 654444

Subject:	Whitaker Park Masterplan Update	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	18 th September 2024
Report of:	Head of Environmental Services	Lead Member:	Environment and Corporate Services
Key Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required: No	Attached:	N/A
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required: No	Attached:	N/A
Contact Officer:	David McChesney	Telephone:	01706 252584
Email:	davidmcchesney@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

1. RECOMMENDATION

1.1 This report is to provide an update on progress made against the Whitaker Park Masterplan to date.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The visual Masterplan was finalised in 2023 after extensive public engagement.
- Projects were prioritised based on views and concerns of park users and information held by Officers.
- Funding for projects is to be obtained from a variety of sources as set out in the report.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Whitaker Park is one of the Council’s two Park’s which the Authority is working hard to ensure becomes a destination site, along with Stubblelee Park in Bacup. Like with Stubblelee, the Masterplan approach has been utilised to identify key areas and projects for improvements over the next decade to ensure the Park has the quality facilities that will draw in visitors.

3.2 The Council has been working with the local community, Councillors and Proffitts on the Masterplan since 2022. The steering group have met several times and includes members of Civic Pride Rosendale and Incredible Edible Rosendale, local Councillors, Council Officers and RLT Officers. The process for this began with a public consultation exercise to gain people’s opinions on the Park, its facilities and areas for improvement.

3.3 This initial consultation was used to create a draft visual Masterplan with the realistic ideas received from the Community as well as Officer knowledge. This draft was then put out for further consultation before being finalised in June 2023. This was done through press releases, articles on websites of Proffitts and RBC, letters to schools and drafts being displayed within the park. The current Masterplan is attached as Appendix 1.

3.4 The consultation responses were used to create priority projects to pursue, and from this funding plans, where necessary, were created.

4. CONSULTATION RESULTS AND PRIORITIES

4.1 The consultation produced a variety of responses which covered all aspects of the park. The priorities for creation or improvement were as follows:

1. Better drainage- One area improved May 2024
2. New play for older kids- External funding bid submitted

3. Path improvements- Some key areas completed 2024, further work to be done
4. Woodland walk- This was created by the Team in October 2023
5. Upgrade existing play area- Funding bids submitted
6. New wheeled sports facilities- To be explored 2025/26
7. Tennis court improvements- Completed 2023
8. Car parking improvements- Lower car park improved May 2024
9. MUGA improvements- To be explored 2025/26
10. Entrance improvements- Upper entrance was tidied in October 2023
11. Outdoor education space- To be explored when interest is shown from a group
12. Community storage- In situ early 2024

4.2 These priorities were discussed by the Masterplan Group and it was decided that the first projects to focus on would be improvements to drainage and to offer play facilities for older children whilst refurbishing the current facility. This will build on the improvements made to the two tennis courts through LTA funding in the summer of 2023.

4.3 The park drainage system was installed in the Victorian era and is not sufficient to deal with the surface water. Many drains have collapsed or have been blocked by tree roots. This has forced water up to the surface and it has eroded path surfaces as a result. Current play facilities are 15 years old and are getting tired, whilst there is an obvious lack of things to do for youths in terms of play equipment.

4.4 These projects form the main physical improvements for delivery in 2024/25.

5. PROGRESS 2024/25

5.1 A drainage specialist was consulted regarding the path on the upper west side of the park as this was where some of the worst surface water issues were experienced. This information was used to draw up construction drawings for improvements to the drainage system and lower car park.

5.2 Following a tender exercise, the Council appointed GroundInc to carry out the work, which began on 11th March 2024. The work was completed on 17th May 2024.

5.3 The design will encourage more of the surface water to flow into larger gully or soakaways rather than running down through the park at surface level. This will reduce flooding issues and reduce damage to path surfaces, making the park safer for visitors.

5.4 The play project has been out to consultation with the public and this has helped developed designs and cost estimates for the refurbishment of the current area with additional facilities for youths. The cost estimate for all of the works is £300k and funding bids will be submitted to various external funding bodies to go with UK Shared Prosperity Funding allocated to the Park. If bids are successful, the funding will cover the entire cost of the project.

5.5 The target date for completion of the play improvements is 31st March 2025, to fit in with funding deadlines and to ensure it is ready for the late spring and summer.

5.6 There are also other priorities on the list that have been addressed over the past 12 months. A new Community storage facility has been located in the Park by Friends of Whitaker Park, who are a sub-group of Civic Pride Rossendale, to help with their projects, and the Green Spaces Team have cleared an old route through the woodland at the top of the park to create a walking route which is now well used.

- 5.7 Civic Pride Rossendale and the Green Spaces Team continue to work well together on small projects within the park, And CP Rossendale have taken ownership of the formal beds on the front lawns. This has resulted in imaginative and attractive new displays for visitors, and the presence of Civic Pride is making a real impact on these areas.
- 5.8 The Green Spaces Team focused resources in the Park over the winter to carry out much needed 'big hits' on previously neglected areas. This approach coincides with the introduction of a dedicated Parks Team which focuses on Rossendale's main parks and memorial gardens, with the overall aim of raising standards in our key sites. Work carried out included path clearance, drain and gully clearance, shrub pruning, entrance tidying and extensive tree work which focused on diseased Ash trees.
- 5.9 As a result of working alongside LCC and the Environment Agency (EA) whilst looking at sustainable drainage solutions for the park, Whitaker Park will rehome a garden from Tatton Flower Show commissioned by the Environment Agency. This is due to its links to the work going on within the park to capture surface water naturally and it is due to be installed in August 2024. The maintenance of this feature will be carried out by Civic Pride and the Friends of Whitaker Park.

6. FUTURE PROJECTS

- 6.1 The drainage system is defective in other locations within the parks so this will remain something that will be consistently monitored and where possible improved. Additional gulleys and inspection chambers have been identified as being required below the pump track and around the kiosk area. This will be carried out once an idea on costs has been obtained and budget identified. The drainage will remain a high priority over the next several years.
- 6.2 There is strong support for a new wheeled sports facility in the park that will cater for the needs of BMX, scooters and skates. The old pump track is in a state of disrepair and will at this point be repurposed as a wet garden soakaway area to compliment sustainable drainage plans. The wheeled sports facility is proposed for the grassed area directly above the MUGA. This would be subject to successfully obtaining external funding.
- 6.3 The public toilets within the park are currently not serviced, since the Green Spaces Team were relocated out of the park as part of the Whitaker developments. Park users are strongly in favour of getting these reopened and serviced on a daily basis, so this is being explored. The kiosk is regularly mentioned by visitors and the new caterers in the Whitaker will be opening this in summer which will be an asset to the park.

7. FUNDING

- 7.1 As with the majority of projects within a park setting, the council strongly relies on being able to draw the majority of the project budget in from external sources. The main sources for Rossendale are from Landfill providers such as Valencia, Lancashire Environmental Fund, and FCC. Each funder has 3 or 4 funding rounds per year, and with many projects being pursued in Parks around the borough, these must be submitted in a manner where Rossendale's Parks are not competing against each other.
- 7.2 Any successful grant application requires a 10% 3rd Party contribution to be paid by the council, which then releases the funding. For larger projects this can eventually amount to a contribution of anything up to £30,000. This is usually sourced from either capital sources or any Section 106 contributions that may be available. Both are finite resources and for this reason the projects within Masterplans can happen only when these come available.

7.3 The Green Spaces Team have an excellent track record of obtaining this funding over recent years and have been able to deliver 1 or 2 of the larger projects from each Masterplan each financial year.

7.4 The recent availability of UK Shared Prosperity Funding for Whitaker and Victoria Park have helped kick start the Masterplans at both locations. This is due to end at the start of 2025/26, but will have contributed to Play improvements at Whitaker and Wheeled Sports at Victoria, as well as other improvements. As the drainage works were directly related to Health and Safety of park users and the wider public, this has been funded through the Council's Capital Programme.

8. RISK

8.1 All risks are managed in accordance with the project risk register.

9. FINANCE

9.1 There are no financial implications arising as this is a report for noting by Cabinet.

10. LEGAL

10.1 There are no legal implications arising as this is a report for noting by Cabinet.

11. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no /policy implications arising as this is a report for noting by Cabinet.

13. REASON FOR DECISION

13.1 To provide an update to Cabinet members.

No background papers

Subject:	Edgeside Park Masterplan Update	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	18 th September 2024
Report of:	Head of Environmental Services	Lead Member:	Environment And Corporate Services
Key Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required: No	Attached:	N/A
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required: No	Attached:	N/A
Contact Officer:	David McChesney	Telephone:	01706 252584
Email:	davidmcchesney@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 This report is to provide an update on progress made against the Edgeside Park Masterplan to date.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Masterplan Group was formed in 2021 and aims to improve the standards of the park following the approach taken at Stubblelee.
- Funding for projects is to be obtained from a variety of sources as set out in the report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Edgeside Park is one of the Council's four large Park sites within Rossendale, and a Masterplan has been created to raise standards following a lack of investment in recent years.
- 3.2 The Council has been working with the local community, Councillors, with input from Proffitts CIC, since 2021 on this. The process for this began with a public consultation exercise to gain people's opinions on the Park, its facilities and areas for improvement.
- 3.3 A small number of projects have been delivered in this time, with the addition of an increase in RBC staff presence to attempt to address historic maintenance issues.
- 3.4 Decisions on areas for improvement are made in consultation with the Masterplan Group, which includes prominent community groups and Councillors.

4. PRIORITIES

- 4.1 As with other Masterplans, the starting point was a community engagement exercise in 2022. This dictated the priorities on the plan. The current priorities are listed below:
1. Improvements to the derelict tennis courts. These were removed and returned to green space in 2023. Further developments will occur subject to funding.
 2. Installation of a pump track. This was delivered in 2021.
 3. Wheeled sports improvements- New facility to be installed in 2024.
 4. Additional seating throughout the park. 5 new benches have been installed since 2021.
 5. Improvement of the top play area. This will be removed and made into parking for visitors when funding allows.
 6. Improvements to the MUGA- low priority
 7. Explore usage of the old bowling green- picnic facilities have been installed here in 2023.
 8. Installation of an outdoor gym facility- to be progressed when funding opportunities arise.

9. Improvement of the play facilities in the park- to be explored in 2025
10. Woodland path through trees at the north of the Park- low priority

5. PROGRESS SINCE 2021

- 5.1 A quick win for the Masterplan Group was to procure 5 refurbished benches that were installed at various locations within the park, in 2022.
- 5.2 The second project that was delivered was a brand new cycling pump track. This was installed in December 2021 after obtained funding from Lancashire Environmental Fund, combined with RBC input. This is now the best pump track within Rossendale and attracts numerous cyclists on a daily basis.
- 5.3 The park tennis courts were out of use since the 1970s and had since become overgrown with vegetation. The old fencing posts and broken tarmac surface were a blight on the appearance of the park for years. In 2023, RBC capital funding was used to remove the old courts and replace this with additional green space aimed at attracting visitors to spend more time in the park. This has improved the overall impression greatly for those who visit.
- 5.4 The Green Spaces Team spent 2 weeks over the winter months in the park to carry out much needed maintenance that hasn't been managed in recent years. This included removal of ash trees with dieback disease and clearance of areas of overgrown vegetation, allowing these areas to be utilised again. This is part of an ongoing focus on the 4 main parks in Rossendale.
- 5.5 Local skaters and BMXers have been vocal regarding the current wheeled sports facility and its poor condition. It is past its best and is at the end of life. Therefore, a bid was made to FCC Community Action Fund to improve the area. This was successful in March 2024 and has brought in £100,000 to develop a new area. The procurement process is currently being carried out in order to appoint a contractor to deliver a new concrete wheeled sports facility, which will be ready in the autumn.

6. FUTURE PROJECTS

- 6.1 The main focus this summer will be to work with a contractor to deliver the new wheeled sports area. However, beyond its completion, consideration will be given to removal of the old top play area to create a parking area for visitors. This will ensure families can stay there for longer periods.
- 6.2 The former bowling green is not currently used often by visitors. A stone picnic table was placed there in 2023, therefore it is intended to expand this area. Its location adjacent to the play area means this will become a useful and practical additional for families.
- 6.3 Beyond these, the Masterplan group are keen to look for funding to purchase and install an outdoor gym area to increase opportunities for exercise and keeping fit and healthy.

7. FUNDING

- 7.1 As with the majority of projects within a park setting, the council strongly relies on being able to draw the majority of the project budget in from external sources. The main sources for Rossendale are from Landfill providers such as Valencia, Lancashire Environmental Fund, and FCC. Each funder has 3 or 4 funding rounds per year, and with many project being pursued in Parks around the borough, these must be submitted in a manner where Rossendale's Parks are not competing against each other.
- 7.2 Any successful grant application requires a 10% 3rd Party contribution to be paid by the council, which then releases the funding. For larger projects this can eventually amount to a contribution of anything up to £30,000. This is usually sourced from either capital sources or

any Section 106 contributions that may be available. Both are finite resources and for this reason the projects within Masterplans can happen only when these come available.

7.3 The Green Spaces Team have an excellent track record of obtaining this funding over recent years and have been able to deliver 1 or 2 of the larger projects from each Masterplan each financial year.

7.4 Section 106 contributions from the Dark Lane Housing development has contributed towards the budget for the upcoming wheeled sports improvements.

8. RISK

8.1 All risks are managed in accordance with the project risk register.

9. FINANCE

9.1 There are no financial implications arising as this is a report for noting by Cabinet.

10. LEGAL

10.1 There are no legal implications arising as this is a report for noting by Cabinet.

11. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no policy implications arising as this is a report for noting by Cabinet.

12. REASON FOR DECISION

12.1 To provide an update to Cabinet members.

Subject:	Stubbylee Park Masterplan Update	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	18 th September 2024
Report of:	Head of Environmental Services	Lead Member:	Environment and Corporate Services
Key Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached: N/A
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached: N/A
Contact Officer:	David McChesney	Telephone:	01706 252584
Email:	davidmcchesney@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 This report is to provide an update on progress made against the Stubbylee Park Masterplan to date.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Masterplan Group was formed in 2012 and over this time has instigated numerous improvements in Stubbylee and Moorlands Park that have led to a Green Flag for the park being obtained.
- The Masterplan has been revised in 2016 and 2020 to ensure community engagement is continued and projects are relevant in terms of what residents would like to be improved.
- Funding for projects is to be obtained from a variety of sources as set out in the report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Stubbylee Park is one of the Council's four large Park sites within Rossendale, and due to the many improvements made over the last decade, has become a destination site for users from around the borough and beyond.
- 3.2 The Council has been working with the local community, Councillors, with input from Newground Together, since 2014. The process for this began with a public consultation exercise to gain people's opinions on the Park, its facilities and areas for improvement.
- 3.3 The majority of the major projects to improve facilities from the Masterplan have been delivered. These include improvements to the Duck Pond and Dell, a pump track, new skate park, resurfacing of the tennis courts and paths, and a new children's play area. This represents approximately £600,000 of investment in facilities over the past decade.
- 3.4 The focus now is to improve the basic facilities within the park which are listed in the following section.

4. PRIORITIES

- 4.1 Due to the length of time the group has worked on improving the park and the successes, the priorities for the park have reduced in recent years. Nevertheless, enhancing the facilities remain an ongoing process. The current outstanding or completed priorities are listed below:

1. Path improvements- large sections have been resurfaced in stages. This is an ongoing process as further paths deteriorate. The priority is to surface the rough track on the western boundary of Moorlands Park.

2. Increased seating and bin provision- New picnic area and recycling bins introduced 2022. Further seating to be installed opposite the pump track in 2024
3. Wheeled sports improvements- New skate park installed in 2023
4. Play area improvements- New play area installed in 2018
5. Entrance improvements- Both main entrances were cleaned and repainted in 2015. This is something that will need to be revisited in 2024/25
6. Improvements to the Sunken Garden- new seating installed in 2024 and a heritage interpretation board is planned as funds become available
7. Pump track improvements- the stone to dust surface is worn therefore a conversion to full asphalt is planned when section 106 contributions are paid in 2024.
8. Additional tree planting- carried out in 2023/24
9. Extension of the cycleway through the park to connect 2 other sections- this will be completed by LCC in 2024/25

5. PROGRESS SINCE THE 2021 MASTERPLAN REVISION

- 5.1 Following a public consultation exercise, the council started engagement with a group of local skaters and BMXers to discuss updating the skate park, or wheeled sports area. Viridor gave a grant to produce a new concrete formed facility on the footprint of half of the old site and this was delivered in 2022 at a cost of £120,000. This is now the premier wheeled sports facility in the Borough and is used by people from inside and outside Rossendale.
- 5.2 The consultation exercise was used to create a Management Plan for the Park and an entry for the Green Flag Award was submitted. The Management Plan provides information the history of the site, how it is maintained, and what the plans are for the future. The plan pays special attention to explaining how it hits the Green Flag criteria. The entry was successful meaning Stubblelee and Moorlands Park became Rossendale's first Green Flag accredited site. Since the initial award, the park has achieved a further 3 Green Flags, retaining the status in 2024. This has given the Green Spaces Team a blueprint for rolling this to another site at Library Gardens in Rawtenstall. This has become Rossendale's second Green Flag site in 2024.
- 5.3 As part of the LTA Local Authority Programme, the 3 tennis courts at the park were refurbished in 2023. The surfaces were replaced and repainted, nets and gates replaced, and fencing repaired as part of the scheme. The park now has first class tennis facilities. The scheme was funded by the LTA at a cost of £60,000.
- 5.4 Two separate drainage schemes have been delivered in problematic areas below the Play Area and above the Duck Pond. There were problems with standing water at both places in heavy rainfall and this has seen a marked improvement in conditions, although the Park's location under the moors means excess water is unavoidable at times.
- 5.5 The consultation highlighted that families felt there weren't enough options to sit in the park. In response to this the Team have installed an additional 7 benches at key locations, and utilised the old concrete bases of the animal sheds to create a sheltered accessible picnic area which is located across from the Rose Garden. This has helped families and other park users to prolong their stay in the park and enjoy being there for a day.
- 5.6 Additional tree planting has taken place near to the Skate Park as part of the Rossendale Forest project.
- 5.7 2 recycling litter bins have been installed at the car park and picnic area.

6. FUTURE PROJECTS

- 6.1 The pump track was installed in 2018 with the main track being made from a compacted stone and the berms being asphalt. The stone surface has worn significantly due to heavy use so it is planned to resurface these sections with asphalt similar to more recent tracks at Edgeside Park and Edenfield Recreation Ground. It is intended to fund this using imminent section 106 contributions that are allocated to the Park.
- 6.2 Resurfacing the western boundary path is a high priority for 2024/25. This is currently made up from rough stone and old tarmac and runs from the Sunken Garden down to the entrance and is approximately 100 metres long. Prices are being sought for resurfacing with tarmac. When this is completed it is intended that the Junior Parkrun will then hold a weekly event in the Park which will raise the profile further.
- 6.3 The Cycleway which runs through the valley is due to travel through the park linking up 2 other sections. This is led by LCC but plans have been designed with RBC input. This project is at the stage of delivery and it is anticipated this will be completed in 2024.
- 6.4 The Sunken Garden lies where the cellar of the old Hall stood in Moorlands park and is an area that is enjoyed especially in the better weather. The intention is to obtain funding for a heritage project that will provide information boards to visitors about the history of this particular area of the Park.

7. FUNDING

- 7.1 As with the majority of projects within a park setting, the council strongly relies on being able to draw the majority of the project budget in from external sources. The main sources for Rossendale are from Landfill providers such as Valencia, Lancashire Environmental Fund, and FCC. Each funder has 3 or 4 funding rounds per year, and with many project being pursued in Parks around the borough, these must be submitted in a manner where Rossendale's Parks are not competing against each other.
- 7.2 Any successful grant application requires a 10% 3rd Party contribution to be paid by the council, which then releases the funding. For larger projects this can eventually amount to a contribution of anything up to £30,000. This is usually sourced from either capital sources or any Section 106 contributions that may be available. Both are finite resources and for this reason the projects within Masterplans can happen only when these come available.
- 7.3 The Green Spaces Team have an excellent track record of obtaining this funding over recent years and have been able to deliver 1 or 2 of the larger projects from each Masterplan each financial year.
- 7.4 There is a Section 106 contribution from a development for the park due in 2024 of £30,000. This will be used to address further priorities.

8. RISK

- 8.1 All risks are managed in accordance with the project risk register.

9. FINANCE

- 9.1 There are no financial implications arising as this is a report for noting by Cabinet.

10. LEGAL

- 10.1 There are no legal implications arising as this is a report for noting by Cabinet.

11. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no policy implications arising as this is a report for noting by Cabinet.

12. REASON FOR DECISION

12.1 To provide an update to Cabinet members.

Subject:	Financial Monitoring Report Q1 2024/25	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	18 th September 2024
Report of:	Head of Financial Services	Lead Member:	Resources
Key Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required: No	Attached: No	No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required: No	Attached: No	No
Contact Officer:	Kimberly Haworth	Telephone:	01706 252409
Email:	kimberlyhaworth@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

1.1 That Cabinet note the content of the Q1 financial monitoring report.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This report provides an indicative estimate of the Council's General Fund Revenue outturn, Collection Fund performance and Capital outturn for the year ended 31 March 2025.
- At 30 June 2024, the Council is estimating a favourable variance of £137.9k against an approved net budget for the year of £10,598k.
- The approved Capital Programme for 2024/25 was agreed in the sum of £11,409k, to this was added prior year slippage of £7,166k, plus new additions of £604k making a revised capital programme for 2024/25 of £19,179k. At this early stage of the year the estimated capital outturn for the year is £5,712k. Estimated slippage requirements into 2024/25, including the associated funding sources, currently total £7,770k, this includes £2,794k disabled facility grants.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 In February 2024 the MTFs set a balanced Budget of £10,598k for the year based on the assumptions made at that time and supported by £688k from reserves. The pay award, inflation rates, high vehicle fuel costs and high utility costs resulted in the requirement to use reserves to fund the budget gap.

4. DETAILS

Revenue

4.1 This first monitoring report of the year 2024/25 is forecasting a favourable variance of £137.9k when compared to an original budget of £10,598k.

4.3 The most notable variances are:

- The budget contains a £225k vacancy savings target which is based on potential savings that may be obtained due to additional leave purchase and staff turnover, i.e. the salary saving made between an employee leaving the authority and the new recruit commencing. Staff cost savings are currently estimated to be £57k to the year-end, this is £168k short of the vacancy savings target of £225k. However, the estimates currently assume an extra 6.2% (average) pay award, the actual pay award has not yet been finalised. The consequences of the vacancy target are currently under review by Senior Leadership Team.

- At this stage it is anticipated that there will be an underspend on Empty Homes of approximately £100k
- As at Q1 we anticipate potential interest income of £180k for the year.
- The £33.3k favourable variance within Finance relates to staffing costs. There has been a transfer of staff into different roles within the department which has resulted in savings to two budgeted roles.
- At Q1 there is a predicted overspend of c£169k within the housing team on temporary accommodation. The team are actively working to reduce this overspend. It must be noted that we don't currently have supported accommodation, that provides the necessary service to support people, and which would also allow us to attract full housing benefit. This is not unique to Rossendale and is a national challenge.

4.4 Full details and explanations are included in appendix 1.

CAPITAL

4.5 The current estimate of Capital Receipts brought forward at 1st April 2024 totalled £43k.

4.6 The value of the budgeted capital scheme expenditure for 2024/25 was 11,409k to which £7,166k slippage has been added. New schemes have been added during Q1 totalling £505k as set out on page 29 of appendix 1, this includes £165k of additional DFG funding. The revised capital programme for 2023/24 is £19,179k with an indicative outturn of £5,712k.

4.7 Anticipated slippage into 2025/26 is estimated at £5,712k however we are still very early in the year.

TREASURY

4.8 At the end of June the Council's bank balances were c£13.2m. This is lower than in previous years due to funds being used for internal borrowing for capital schemes and all residual Covid monies being returned to Government in the previous year.

4.9 Increasing interest rates over recent months along with proactive treasury management resulted in the Council increasing its interest income budgets for 2024/25 to £109k from £9k in 2022/23. (also increased in 2023/24 to £120k – slight reduction in 2024/25 due to predicted interest rate reductions). Although it is very early in the year we are optimistic that this budget will be exceeded.

4.10 Details are included in Appendix 1.

COLLECTION FUND

4.11 Council Tax collection statistics have not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels. Whilst Business Rates collection performance appears to have returned to pre-pandemic levels, the rates are distorted by transitional reliefs given to businesses due to the Business Rates revaluation, which kicked in from April 2023. This remains an area of focus into 2024/25 given the 'Cost of Living Crisis' and potential impact on future collection.

4.12 For 2024/25 the Council Tax collection fund is predicting a surplus of £2,171k, with Rossendale Borough Council's share being £294k.

4.13 The NNDR collection fund is predicting a surplus of £241k with the Council's share being £96k.

4.14 Current estimates are that the Council will benefit from a pooling gain of £844k in 2024/25 through being a member of the Lancashire Business Rates Pool.

4.15 Details are included in Appendix 1.

EARMARKED RESERVES

4.17 The total cash-backed earmarked reserves brought forward at 1st April 2024 were £12,021k (after adjustment for Business Rate relief support repayable to government). The Earmarked Reserves closing balance at the 31 March 2025 are estimated to be £11,058k.

5. RISK

All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- The cost of goods and services continue to increase. General inflationary increases are being experienced across all contracts that are linked directly to RPI and CPI. High inflation and interest rates are also impacting on the capital programme. On average vehicle replacement costs are running c20% over and above the estimates included in the capital programme. Rising inflation is also having an impact on the construction industry - pushing up costs, increasing tender prices.
- Financial monitoring of General Fund service departments focuses on the key risk areas of employee costs, income, implementation of agreed budget savings, emerging issues (eg inflationary pressures and rising living costs) and opportunities, in particular service department net expenditure.
- Budget setting for future years is now treated as an integral part of financial monitoring during the current year and the impact of variances being reported will be considered by officers when preparing the detailed 2025/26 budgets.
- The council must explore ways of bridging its forecast annual funding gap. Amongst other things this may include becoming more commercially aware, aiming to grow its resources alongside the challenges to its cost base.
- If the level of Council Tax support claims increase as a result of the current economic climate or the level of Council Tax bad debt increases, this will have an adverse impact on the income the Council receives.
- The level of future Government funding is uncertain. Whilst the incoming Government are suggesting that three year settlements will be introduced, in reality the level of Government funding beyond 2024/25 is unknown.

6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Robust monitoring of the General Fund and MTFs is essential to control risks expressed in section 5 above and the Council continues to undertake this.

6.2 Since 2010 the Council has seen its central government funding reduced by c£6m pa in real terms. Since that time the Council has reduced its budget requirement accordingly and continues to seek efficiencies and grow income where possible. However, the current economic climate, is making it impossible for the Council to balance its in year income and expenditure.

6.3 The Council is continuing its cost reduction programme, however Members are facing increasingly difficult choices in an attempt to balance expenditure with available resources over the medium term, with energy costs, vehicle fuel costs, the inflation rate and the pay award making this more difficult.

6.4 The Finance Settlement for 2024/25 was confirmed in February 2024. The settlement provided an increase in core spending power for 2024/25 of circa 3%, prior to factoring in any council tax increases. The ongoing level of Government funding poses a significant risk to the MTFS.

7. FINANCE

The financial implications are fully set out above and in Appendix 1.

8. LEGAL

Unless specifically commented upon within the report, there are no specific implications for consideration.

9. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

There are no specific implications for consideration. Staffing issues have been discussed with colleagues in the People & Policy team.

10. REASON FOR DECISION

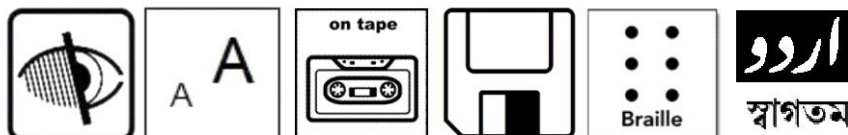
Cabinet are recommended to note the Q1 monitoring report.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Service monitoring statements	Financial Services

Financial Monitoring Report

2024/25 as at end of June 2024

Including a Glossary of terms on page 39



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General Fund Revenue Operations – pages 4 to 21

Despite the current economic climate continuing to have a significant impact on the Council in Q1, the financial performance has been favourable compared to budget. The full year impact is predicted to result in a favourable variance of £137.9k on the General Fund when compared to the original budget of £10,598k. This will reduce the impact on reserves in the year. The significant budget variations are highlighted on page 6.

Earmarked Revenue Reserves – page 22

The total cash-backed Earmarked Reserves brought forward at 1st April 2024 were £10,326k.

The opening balance on the Transitional Reserve was £4,865k. The Council has received funding guarantee of £290k and £85k Services Grant as part of the 2024/25 Local Government Finance Settlement. This funding will be released in full as budgeted, to fund 2024/25 Net Service costs.

The indicative closing balance of earmarked reserves at the 31st March 2025, is estimated at £11,058k. Based on current plans and forecast commitments, and if nothing else changes, at the time of this report, available earmarked reserves are anticipated to run out during 2027/28. The earmarked reserves figure includes ringfenced sums of £2,054, this means that the funding was received for specific projects and may be subject to clawback.

Government Grants Unapplied – page 23

The opening value of Government Grants Unapplied at the 1st April 2024 was £4,183 of which £2,645 related to Disabled Facilities Grants. The balance carried forward into 2024/25 relates to previous years' slippage. The allocation of Better Care funding for DFGs for 2024/25 is £1,265k, giving total DFG resources available of £3,737.1k. The remaining balances related to UK Shared Prosperity Funding and Capital Regeneration Programme monies which are anticipated to be spent in full during 2024/25.

Staff Monitoring – page 24

The table on page 23 shows the forecast staffing variances for the year based on quarter 1 actuals. The forecast underspend for the year is currently £150k. However, consideration needs to be given to the pay award which at the date of publication of this report is anticipated to average 6.2% which equal £118k additional cost, once this has been factored in, the adjusted underspend will be £57k which includes the additional leave (£25k). Therefore, the shortfall will be £168k on the 2024/25 budget of £225k (£200k vacancy savings and £25k leave purchase).

Treasury & Cash Management - page 25 to 29

At the end of June, the bank balances were £13.5m. These resources continue to be relatively high due to various grant funding, ie UKSPF fund, HHSF5 etc. Despite Bank of England base rate increases over the last two years, it is now anticipated that rates will begin to fall. The Council is balancing the use of instant access accounts with shorter-term 'fixed' deposit facilities, to increase investment return within the scope of the approved Treasury Management Strategy. Fixed deposits are being made with high quality counterparties (Central Government, Local Authorities) where risk is considered low and returns are more closely linked to movement in the prevailing Bank Rate. Interest income is currently expected to exceed the budget for the year.

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The provision for doubtful debt at the 1st of April 2024 was £380.6k, plus a further £5.4k set aside for licensing debt, against £481k of doubtful debts. The level of cover for sums outstanding and that risk going unpaid is considered adequate at this time (c84% cover) with no further movement proposed. However given the 'Cost of Living Crisis' dominating the headlines, this position will be kept under review.

Capital Receipts – page 31

The total Capital Receipts rolled forward into financial year 2024/25 is £2,506k, but this is subject to review and may change.

The total value of Capital Grants receivable in the financial year 2024/25 is £9,195k. As all figures are indicative at this point in the reporting cycle, work continues to determine the most effective method of funding the Council's Capital Programme.

On current assumptions, the Capital Receipts Reserve is expected to total £2,545k at the yearend 2024/25, reflecting the most cost effective method of financing the Council's future Capital Programme. Whilst this is considered to be the most cost effective method of financing.

Capital Programme and Funding – page 31 to 35

The original Capital Programme for 2024/25 is £11,409k, including an estimate of £1,000k for DFGs and £740k for replacement operational vehicles. The slippage from 2023/24 was £7,166k, including £2,529k of DFG's. There is also an additional £265k for DFGs

The indicative capital outturn at 31st March 2025 is spend in the sum of £13,467k. The Capital Outturn will be reviewed throughout the year.

Collection Fund 2024/25 (Council Tax & NNDR) - page 36 to 38

Council Tax collection levels are recovering. However, they are still not back to pre-pandemic levels. Business rate collection appears to have returned to typical levels experienced pre-Covid, however there were two major appeals in 2022/23 which have distorted the comparative figures.

The Council Tax account is predicting an early surplus of £137k for Rossendale.

The **business rates** collection fund is predicting a deficit of £581k in 2024/25, the Council's share of the deficit is £581k. The Council has a Business Rate Retention Reserve to provide for any peaks and troughs in business rate income, therefore this deficit will be charged to the reserve. The reserve also contains funds from Government to cover the additional reliefs granted to business during Covid. Due to the complicated accounting process for business rates these funds have been released from the reserve into the collection fund over three years, of which 2023/24 is the final year.

Although it is anticipated the Council will suffer a collection fund loss, a pooling gain of 984k is estimated. The February 2023 MTFs included a pooling gain contribution of £500k, therefore if the current forecast remains at year end, it will result in a £484k surplus against that income budget, thus contributing towards alleviating pressure on the MTFs.

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General Fund Summary - Quarter 1 2024/25

Service Area	2024/25 App Budget £000	2024/25 Q1 Outturn £000	2024/25 Variance (Adv)/Fav £000	Variance last reported £000	Change in Qtr 1 (Adv)/Fav £000
Communities Directorate					
Customer Services and E-Government	1,742.9	1,781.7	(38.6)		(38.6)
Operational Functions	2,251.7	2,372.6	(120.9)		(120.9)
Parks and Cemeteries	945.8	925.9	19.9		19.9
Public Protection Unit	205.9	184.2	21.7		21.7
Environmental Health	212.2	210.7	1.5		1.5
Licensing & Enforcement	54.0	53.8	0.2		0.2
Communities Team	169.0	120.3	48.7		48.7
Economic Development Directorate					
Planning Services	310.1	311.5	(1.4)		(1.4)
Building Control Services	6.6	8.9	(2.3)		(2.3)
Regeneration	272.9	309.3	(37.4)		(37.4)
Property Services	235.4	277.6	(42.2)		(42.2)
Housing	273.5	442.0	(168.5)		(168.5)
Corporate Management Directorate					
Corporate Management	517.8	469.4	48.4		48.4
Legal Services	199.4	194.3	5.1		5.1
Local Land Charges	(4.9)	(15.6)	10.7		10.7
Democratic Services	627.3	539.9	87.3		87.3
Financial Services	769.9	715.6	54.3		54.3
People and Policy	801.14	755.2	46.0		46.0
Non Distributed Costs	106.01	125.6	(19.6)		(19.6)
Capital Financing and Interest	633.30	453.3	180.0		180.0
Leisure Services	(31.6)	23.5	(55.1)		(55.1)
Empty Homes Scheme	300.0	200.0	100.0		100.0
TOTAL Service Cost	10,598.25	10,459.72	137.9	-	137.9
Funded by					
Council Tax	(6,444.0)	(6,444.0)	-	-	-
Retained Business Rates	(2,335.0)	(2,335.0)	-	-	-
Funding Guarantee	(361.0)	(361.0)	-	-	-
Revenue Support Grant	(91.0)	(91.0)	-	-	-
Services Grant	(15.0)	(15.0)	-	-	-
New Homes Bonus	(163.0)	(163.0)	-	-	-
Collection Fund Surplus - Council Tax	(126.0)	(126.0)	-	-	-
Estimated NNDR Pooling/growth Gain	(500.0)	(500.0)	-	-	-
LESS Estimated use of Reserves	(563.2)	(424.7)	(137.9)	-	(137.9)
Net Budget Shortfall	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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The position at Q1 2024/25 shows a favourable variance of £137.9k

The main variances are shown below: -

- Staff cost savings are estimated to be £57k to the year-end position, this is £168k short of the vacancy savings target of £225k. However, the estimates currently assume an extra 6.2% (average) pay award, the actual pay award has not yet been finalised.
- Fuel 'pump prices' continue to be monitored, Budgets for Fuel in 2024/25 remain at substantial levels totalling £480k which still includes the £60k premium for the use of HVO. In 23-24, due to the increasing differential between HVO and Diesel, a decision was taken to switch back to diesel until the two prices were more comparable. During Q1 2024/25 the differential between HVO and Diesel has reduced and HVO has been purchased during the period. As the two fuel types can be mixed, the decision regarding which fuel to use can be made on an order by order basis. At Q1 the surplus budget which includes £60k premium for HVO is £116k. So, if prices do rise due to global challenges there should be enough provision.
- Market income, budgeted at £28k, will not be received due to the refurbishment of Haslingden Market and there is an agreed rent free period with stall holders at Bacup Market until it closes for redevelopment. It is anticipated that this will at least be partially off-set by cost savings generated during market closures due to re-development works.
- The £33.3k favourable variance within Finance relates to staffing costs. There has been a transfer of staff into different roles within the department which has resulted in savings to two budgeted roles.
- In 2024/25 the Council has a total budget for Empty Homes related expenditure in the sum of £800k. This budget is split £300k (Revenue funding) and £500k (Capital funding.) At Q1 the predicted outturn is that the revenue out-turn will show an underspend of £100k and the capital underspend circa £300k. This is largely due to the considerable effort being made by the empty homes team to hand properties back in a timely and correct manner to avoid any future litigation. At the end of Q1, 18 properties remain on scheme.

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Target Efficiency Savings 2024-25

The Council agreed, as part of the 2024/25 Budget processes, a number of Efficiency Targets, including Staffing and Asset Management.

Whilst the indicative outturn position noted above requires a small contribution from reserves to balance the 2024/25 budget, the table below summaries efficiency performance against the individual budget headings.

A simple RAG Status (red, Amber, Green) has been used. Additional commentary is also provided and these areas of performance are considered in more detail in the main body of the report.

Budget Proposals (Efficiency Targets)	2024-25 £000	2024-25 £000	Commentary At Q1
	Target	Q1	
Income & Efficiencies Asset Management			
Business Centre	(5)	(13)	Target Exceeded due to rent review implementation.
Markets	(6)	-	Budgeted Income will not be received due to the refurb of Haslingden Market and an agreed Rent free period for Bacup Market. This will be off-set against savings made due to the refurbishment of the markets.
Corporate Estates	(2)	-	Rent review ongoing. Tenant currently occupying premises on original leases
Council Offices	(13)	-	Full details for plans for Stubylee Hall are currently under review
Public Conveniences	(5)	-	These assets are under review and additional opportunities for use explored
Depots	(11)	10	Ops team still occupying Tup Bridge. Move out date not yet confirmed therefore costs forecast for 12 month occupancy
Sports Grounds	(8)	-	As part of the review of sports and leisure facilities it has become necessary to review utility usage at all sites. We are not predicting any savings until this is complete
Public Halls	(2)	-	As above
	(52)	(3)	
Staffing			
Various Staffing Savings	(71)	(32)	Continue to be reviewed. See separate table
	(123)	(35)	

As we can see in the above table, there is one area which has achieved and exceeded the targets set. Several of the above efficiency measures are dependent on the outcome of the sports and leisure facilities review, once this is completed it is hoped that budgeted savings will be achieved.

The staffing saving will be affected by the outcome of the pay-award for 24-25.

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Additional Narrative to General Fund Summary variances 2024/25	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	
	Fav/(Adv)	Fav/(Adv)	Fav/(Adv)	Fav/(Adv)	Fav/(Adv)	
Communitites Directorate						
Customer Services and e-Government						
Staff costs	0.1				0.1	
Benefits Admin Subsidy shortfall	(71.2)				(71.2)	
Central IT Costs	32.7				32.7	
Other minor variances	0.1				0.1	(38.4)
Operational Functions Including Parks						
Staff costs (including agency and overtime)	(195.1)				(195.1)	
Fuel, Vehicle Maint and Hire	113.9				113.9	
Parks & Open Spaces	2.5				2.5	
Garden Waste Income Less Costs	(13.2)				(13.2)	
Trade Waste & Bulks Net income	(6.6)				(6.6)	
Other minor variances	(2.5)				(2.5)	(101.0)
Communities Team	48.7				48.7	48.7
Env'tal Health, PPU, Licensing and Enforcement						
Staff costs	19.6				19.6	
Income Shortfall	(2.7)				(2.7)	
Other minor variances	6.5				6.5	23.4
Economic Development						
Staff costs (net of grant & fee income)	127.9				127.9	
Economic Development	(8.0)				(8.0)	
Market Income	(28.7)				(28.7)	
Housing	(168.5)				(168.5)	
Planning Consultancy Professional fees	(42.8)				(42.8)	
Planning Application Fee Income	(6.0)				(6.0)	
Advice / consulting on Planning Applications	(24.6)				(24.6)	
Planning Pre-apps	(24.6)				(24.6)	
Building Control Fee Income	(2.4)				(2.4)	
Planning /Building Control misc under/over	(7.2)				(7.2)	
Property Running costs	(14.4)				(14.4)	
Business Rates	16.3				16.3	
Spinning Point bus station	(4.0)				(4.0)	
Estates Income	(30.3)				(30.3)	
Valuation Fees & Professional Fees	(26.2)				(26.2)	
Tree Felling	(20.0)				(20.0)	
Other minor variances	11.5				11.5	(252.0)
Corporate Management						
Staff costs	158.5				158.5	
Legal income	(1.7)				(1.7)	
Legal Professional fees and ref books	2.7				2.7	
Election, Democratic Services and Member costs	45.9				45.9	
Land Charges income	12.6				12.6	
Internal and External Audit - Finance	15.7				15.7	
CIVICA Software update	(7.6)				(7.6)	
Leisure Services	(55.1)				(55.1)	
Bank & Cash Collection Charges	2.7				2.7	
Training	15.2				15.2	
Empty Homes	100.0				100.0	
Other minor variances	7.9				7.9	296.8
Non-Distributed Costs & Capital Financing						
Net Interest	180.0				180.0	
Employee & Pension Costs	(20.0)				(20.0)	
Other minor variances	0.4				0.4	160.4
Favourable/(adverse) variance	137.9	-	-	-	137.9	137.9

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Customer Services & ICT	2024/25 Orig Budget £000	Virements Budget £000	2024/25 App Budget £000	2024/25 Q1 Outturn £000	2024/25 Variance (Adv)/Fav £000	Variance last reported £000	Change in Qtr 1 (Adv)/Fav £000
Customer Services							
Benefits Administration	(117.6)	-	(117.6)	(129.9)	12.4		12.4
Benefits Granted	(23.7)	-	(23.7)	96.7	(120.4)		(120.4)
Local Tax Collection	(378.6)	-	(378.6)	(376.8)	(1.8)		(1.8)
Revenues & Benefits Partnership	1,158.1	-	1,158.1	1,122.2	35.8		35.8
Strategic Functions							
Management and Support	83.4	-	83.4	83.2	0.3		0.3
Service Assurance Team	147.2	-	147.2	161.1	(13.9)		(13.9)
Central Telephones	5.0	-	5.0	5.0	-		-
Central Printing	-	-	-	-	-		-
ICT Support	869.1	-	869.1	820.3	48.8		48.8
Total	1,742.9	-	1,742.9	1,781.7	(38.6)	-	(38.6)

Key changes made during the period to the full year forecast	Variance Bfwd £000	Variance this Qtr £000	Full-Yr Forecast £000
Benefits Admin			
Court fees/fines			-
Benefits Granted			
Benefits Admin Subsidy shortfall		(107.0)	(107.0)
Revenues & Benefits Partnership			
Partnership contracts		35.8	35.8
Management and Support			
Other minor variances		(1.1)	(1.1)
Service Assurance Team			
SAT staffing		1.5	
SAT Team counter fraud work		(4.5)	(4.5)
Other minor variances		(10.8)	(10.8)
ICT Support			
ICT Staff		(1.5)	(1.5)
Other minor variances		0.9	0.9
Central IT Costs			
Annual Licences		48.0	48.0
Telephones			
Other minor variances		-	-
TOTAL	-	(38.6)	(38.6)

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Customer Service & ICT Highlight Report – Q1 (June 2024)

Historic Issues

- None.

Current Quarter's Issues

At Outturn variance is £38.6k adverse, the main changes being: -

- Benefits administration has made a saving of £12k due to additional grant income
- The benefits granted outturn shows an adverse variance of £121k. This is due to the Housing benefits subsidy being less than estimated. This is currently an estimation and will be monitored throughout the year.
- A review of IT professional subscriptions and licences is carried out throughout the year to check for any potential overspends in this area.

Future Issues

- The Council's contract with Capita includes annual indexation increases linked to the higher of CPI or AWE.

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Communities Directorate

Period 3 (Jun)

Operations & Communities	2024/25 Orig Budget £000	Virements Budget £000	2024/25 App Budget £000	2024/25 Q1 Outturn £000	2024/25 Variance (Adv)/Fav £000	Variance last reported £000	Change in Qtr 1 (Adv)/Fav £000
Operational Functions							
Operations Admin & Vehicle Maintenance	421.9	-	421.9	466.9	(45.1)		(45.1)
Refuse & Recycling	1,530.4	-	1,530.4	1,620.1	(89.7)		(89.7)
Street Sweeping	299.3	-	299.3	285.5	13.8		13.8
Parks & Cemeteries							
Parks & Open Spaces	1,070.1	-	1,070.1	1,051.4	18.7		18.7
Cemeteries	(124.3)	-	(124.3)	(125.5)	1.1		1.1
Communities Team							
Area Forums	154.0	-	154.0	105.3	48.7		48.7
	15.0	-	15.0	15.0	-		-
Total	3,366.4	-	3,366.4	3,418.8	(52.3)	-	(52.3)

Key changes made during the period to the full year forecast	Variance Bfwd £000	Variance this Qtr £000	Full-Yr Forecast £000
Operations Admin & Vehicle Maintenance			
Operations Efficiency Saving on Henrietta Street		(87.0)	(87.0)
Henrietta Street Employee Related Costs		59.5	59.5
Fleet Management Vacancy and Agency		(13.5)	(13.5)
Henrietta Street Supplies & Services		(2.0)	(2.0)
Fleet Running Costs MOTs		(2.5)	(2.5)
Refuse & Recycling			
Refuse Salaries and Agency		(160.4)	(160.4)
Fuel Budget Savings		92.4	92.4
Garden Waste under achieved income		(13.2)	(13.2)
Trade Waste & Bulks- income		(6.6)	(6.6)
Other Variances - Supplies & services		(1.6)	(1.6)
Street Sweeping			
Street Sweeping Salaries and Agency		(4.1)	(4.1)
Fuel Budget Savings		18.0	18.0
Parks & Open Spaces			
Parks Salary Variances (Including temporary gardeners)		9.2	9.2
Parks Costs		(7.5)	(7.5)
Fuel Budget Savings		6.0	6.0
Parks & Open Spaces S106 and Other Contributions F		10.0	10.0
Cemeteries			
Cemetery Income & Internment Fees		1.1	1.1
Communities			
Communities staffing		48.7	48.7
Other Variances			
Overtime Budgets (net all areas)		1.2	1.2
TOTAL	-	(52.3)	(52.3)

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Operations Highlight Report – Q1 – 30th June 2024

Historic Issues

- The service last year and prior years have always needed to rely on Agency Support. This need continues into 2024-25. Fuel prices stabilised during 23-24 and so far this trend continues. There is currently sufficient budget to cover the Fuel costs in 24-25 if the fuel prices remain stable.

Current Quarter Issues

- At the end of Q1, Operations and Green Spaces have an adverse variance of £101k. Staffing costs are overspent by £227.8k which includes agency and overtime. A significant contributing factor is the difficulty in recruiting mechanic's for the workshop. The service workshop continues to use Agency which does cost more by around £20k. Additionally, within the refuse service area the forecast out-turn for agency throughout the year is £152k adverse compared to the budget but this is marginally offset by Refuse Salary savings of £8k. Despite making savings on the fuel budgets the efficiency saving expected for the services will not be met which is £87k.

Fleet

- This department currently has 2 vacant posts which are being covered by Agency staff at a higher cost and offsets any vacancy savings which has resulted in an overspend of £20k for the year.

Refuse

- The shortfall in Garden Waste Service Subscriptions at the end of Q1 is £13k. At Q1 Fuel is around 24% under budget, but future fuel prices remain uncertain. The fuel costs forecast outturn is a net saving of £116k across operations but subject to possible change.

Street Sweep

- At Q1 this service area is coming in within the budget as fuel is contributing to the savings that are being made. The only pressure in this area currently is overtime at time and a half and double time which has been incurred in Q1 and will be reviewed.

Parks

- At Q1 Parks are coming in underspent by £19.8k due to savings on fuel and there is one vacant post for the Parks Inspector. Playing Fields are within budget and so are the Play Grounds due to savings on insurance for the year. Within Playgrounds some S106 Funds have been released in Q1 of £10k.

Cemeteries

- Cemeteries income has come in on budget at Q1 but will be monitored over the future quarters. The budgeted running costs for the cemeteries have now been transferred into this area rather than the costs being recorded in Facilities.

The Future

- The Government has stipulated that by March 2026 every household will have a weekly food waste collection. This will be fully funded at least initially and from a capital perspective. The Council has been notified of the amount of capital funding it will receive, and is awaiting the revenue funding notification.
- The Council is now working up plans to deliver the waste transfer station. This will assist in driving through efficiencies in refuse collection operations, which will contribute towards funding the capital expenditure required to build a transfer station.

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Communities Directorate

Period 3 (Jun)

Public Protection	2024/25 Orig Budget £000	Virements Budget £000	2024/25 App Budget £000	2024/25 Q1 Outturn £000	2024/25 Variance (Adv)/Fav £000	Variance last reported £000	Change in Qtr 1 (Adv)/Fav £000
Public Protection Unit	205.9	-	205.9	184.2	21.7		21.7
Environmental Health	212.2	-	212.2	210.7	1.5		1.5
Licensing & Enforcement	54.0	-	54.0	53.8	0.2		0.2
Total	472.1	-	472.1	448.7	23.4	-	23.4

Key changes made during the period to the full year forecast	Variance Bfwd £000	Variance this Qtr £000	Full-Yr £000
PPU			
PPU Staffing		11.3	11.3
Misc Income		1.8	1.8
Other Variance		9.0	9.0
Environmental Health			
Environmental Health - staffing and consultant		6.5	6.5
Income Shortfall Offset by Direct Cost underspend		(4.5)	(4.5)
Licensing & Enforcement			
Licensing & Enforcement - staffing		1.8	1.8
Licensing & Enforcement - Extra Costs for Vet Fees - Less Costs on Licensing		(2.5)	(2.5)
TOTAL	-	23.4	23.4

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Environmental Health, Public Protection Unit and Licensing and Enforcement Service Highlight Report – Q1 – 30th June 2024

Historic Issues

- Nothing reported.

Current Quarter Issues

- At the end of Q1 Environmental Health, Public Protection Unit and the Licensing and Enforcement budgets are underspent by £23.4k primarily due to staffing changes generating saving of £19.6k and below reports the breakdown within the services.

Environmental Health, Licensing and Enforcement

- At Q1 staffing costs are underspent by £8.3k as one member of staff is on reduced hours working 4 days a week and the new staff member has been appointed at the bottom of scale.
- Supplies & services are underspent by £8.5k within Licensing
- Income streams within Licencing at Qtr 1 are on track and within budget.

Public Protection Unit

- The staffing costs are now underspent due to staffing succession - new manager appointed at lower point of scale £11k.
- The cost of dog services are currently within budget at Q1 with an underspend of £5.9k.
- During the year PPU has received contributions totalling £1.8k.

Future Issues

- None

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Economic Development Directorate

Period 3 (Jun)

Economic Development & Regeneration Services	2024/25 Orig Budget £000	Virements Budget £000	2024/25 App Budget £000	2024/25 Q1 Outturn £000	2024/25 Variance (Adv)/Fav £001	Variance last reported £000	Change in Qtr 1 (Adv)/Fav £000
Planning							
Development Control	150.6	-	150.6	152.6	(1.9)		(1.9)
Forward Planning	159.5	-	159.5	159.0	0.5		0.5
Building Control							
Building Control - Fee Earning Account	(30.9)	-	(30.9)	(29.2)	(1.7)		(1.7)
Building Control - Statutory Function	34.5	-	34.5	34.5	0.0		0.0
Building Control - Street Signs	3.0	-	3.0	3.7	(0.7)		(0.7)
Regeneration							
Economic Regeneration	205.9	-	205.9	214.1	(8.2)		(8.2)
Whitaker Park Museum	25.9	-	25.9	26.4	(0.5)		(0.5)
Tourism	20.0	-	20.0	20.0	0.0		0.0
Markets	21.1	-	21.1	49.8	(28.7)		(28.7)
Property Services & Facilities Management							
Property Services	69.4	-	69.4	65.9	3.5		3.5
Corporate Estates	(374.4)	-	(374.4)	(436.9)	62.5		62.5
Non Domestic Estates	(136.3)	-	(136.3)	(147.2)	10.9		10.9
Office Accommodation	(33.0)	-	(33.0)	44.4	(77.4)		(77.4)
Operational Properties	302.5	-	302.5	384.9	(82.4)		(82.4)
Leisure Properties	55.0	-	55.0	45.3	9.6		9.6
Bus Shelters	148.6	-	148.6	130.7	18.0		18.0
Business Centre	203.6	-	203.6	190.4	13.2		13.2
Strategic Housing							
Housing Strategy	42.5	-	42.5	42.5	0.1		0.1
Private Sector Housing Renewals	11.4	-	11.4	(12.2)	23.6		23.6
Homelessness	219.6	-	219.6	411.8	(192.2)		(192.2)
Total	1,098.4	-	1,098.4	1,349.4	(251.9)	-	(251.9)

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Key changes made during the period	Variance Bfwd £000	Variance this Qtr £000	Full-Yr £000
Planning			
Forward Planning staffing		0.8	0.8
Planning staffing		78.5	78.5
Planning Consultancy fees/ Legal fees		(42.8)	(42.8)
Planning Application Fee Income		(6.0)	(6.0)
Pre-App Income		(24.6)	(24.6)
Other Miscellaneous Variances		(4.9)	(4.9)
Building Control			
Building Control staffing		0.0	0.0
Building Control Fees		(2.4)	(2.4)
Building Control - Statutory Function		-	
Building Control - Street Signs		(0.6)	(0.6)
Other Miscellaneous Variances		(1.7)	(1.7)
Regeneration			
Recruitment Advertising		(0.8)	(0.8)
Economic Regenerations Costs and contributions		(7.2)	(7.2)
Markets Income under achieved		(28.7)	(28.7)
Whitaker Park Museum		0.5	0.5
Tourism		-	-
Strategic Housing			
Housing Strategy Staffing		0.1	0.1
Private Sector Housing Renewals staffing		23.6	23.6
Homelessness Staffing and Agency		14.8	14.8
Flexible Homelessness Grant Increase		71.1	71.1
Costs for Resources on Homelessness excluding B&B Costs underspent		52.1	52.1
Recharge from the Collection Fund for Costs associated with Bed & Breakfast Provision		(451.2)	(451.2)
Increase Income from Housing Benefits to Cover direct allocation of Bed & Breakfast		121.0	121.0
Property Services Team			
Property Services staffing / recruitment		31.7	31.7
Pool Car, Emergency Planning, Xmas		4.6	4.6
Corporate Estates			
Corporate Estates rental income		(30.3)	(30.3)
Futures Park rental income		(0.4)	(0.4)
Valuation Fees		(5.9)	(5.9)
Professional Fees		(20.3)	(20.3)
Operational Properties			
Property Running Costs: Repairs & Maintenance		(0.6)	(0.6)
Gas, Electricity, Water		(13.5)	(13.5)
NNDR		16.3	16.3
Tree Felling		(20.0)	(20.0)
Bus Station / Shelters			
Spinning Point Bus Station running costs		1.8	1.8
Spinning Point Bus Station - Departure charges		(5.8)	(5.8)
Bus Shelters			-
Business Centre			
Business Centre Cleaning		(1.0)	(1.0)
Business Centre rentals		(9.9)	(9.9)
Business Centre Fit Tarrif		1.5	1.5
Other Miscellaneous Variances		8.3	8.3
TOTAL	-	(251.9)	(251.9)

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Economic Development & Regeneration Highlight Report – Q1 (June 2024)

Historic Issues

- None

Current Quarter Issues

Planning & Building Control are showing an adverse variance of £3.7k

- Planning/Forward Planning staffing (inc agency/consultancy) costs are showing a favourable variance of £78.5k. Planning have 2 vacant posts
- Building Control staffing costs are projected to be on budget
- The Planning fee income is showing an underachievement of £6k, and pre-application fees have under achieve by £24.6k. This is in part due to a limit on applications being processed
- Building Control income are projecting an adverse variance of £2.4k.

Economic Regeneration has an adverse variance of £36.3k, which is broken down as detailed below: -

- Staff Costs in Economic Regeneration are slightly over budget due to the pay award. Direct Costs for Professional Fees and subscriptions are overspent by £7.2k.
- The Q1 forecast shortfall on Income for Markets is £28.7k as work has begun on Haslingden Market during 24-25 and Bacup Market Traders have been offered a rent free period until works on the site commence
- The Museum has slightly overspend by £0.5k Forecast but will be closely monitored.
- Tourism at Q1 is within Budget.

Housing has an adverse variance of £168.5k which is broken down as detailed below:-

- Private Sector Renewal Team have a current vacancy which has not yet been appointed to at Q1 giving potential savings of £23.6k for the year. This will be reviewed if the position is filled
- Staffing underspends at Q1 generated by the Housing Options Team is £14.8k due to staff being appointed at below budgeted rate generating some savings against the budget.
- RBC are receiving additional funding resources within Housing in addition to the budgeted amount of £71.1k. In addition, RBC are in receipt of additional Housing Benefit from DWP to cover the direct costs charged to the Housing Options Team for Bed & Breakfast charges from the hotels. This covers circa 1/7th of the costs incurred
- Most other budgeted costs at Q1 for resources on Homelessness are projected to underspend by an estimated £61k. With the exception of the costs associated with Bed and Breakfast. Over the last few years these costs have significantly increased and this situation is being closely monitored and other temporary accommodation options are being reviewed. It is anticipated that demand for this service will at best remain static but is likely to increase

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- The forecasted overspend on temporary accommodation costs for 24-25 based on actual within Quarter 1 is £451,1k compared to £321.3k for 23-24 which is an estimated 40% increase in this current financial year. This is because housing benefit can only be recovered at the one bed Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rate for bed & breakfast costs incurred during the year. This is a national issue due to the increase in private rental costs and the fact that the LHA rate hasn't increased since 2020 until 2024 and is still not comparable to the Private Sector rent levels. The Housing Team are actively working to try to reduce this overspend:-
 - Officers are using the additional dispersed accommodation purchased
 - Additional properties have been purchased to reduce the number of families placed within B&B and the authority is looking to purchase additional properties in the year
 - More favourable rates have been negotiated with a B&B if a resident is placed for more than 6 weeks
 - Responsibility for some families has been reallocated to Children's Services

The Council is continuing to receive ring fenced grants during 2024/25 to help fund the increased costs of temporary accommodation. The situation will be closely monitored so decisions can be made as we progress through the year.

Property Services and Facilities Management is currently showing an adverse variance of £42.2k.

- Salary costs are showing a favourable variance of £31.6k. This is due to there being one vacant post
- Facilities running costs are showing a favourable variance of £2.2k
- The estates income is showing an overall adverse variance of £30.3k. The section is seeking new income streams and completing rent reviews to reduce this variance.
- Valuation Fees / professional fees are showing an over spend of £5.9k.
- Professional fees are showing an over spend of £20.3k due to enforcement advisory for evictions of Travellers
- The Business Centre room hire are projecting an under achievement of £9.9k. Property are looking to increase tenant occupancy which will seek to reduce this deficit.
- Spinning point departure charges are projected to under achieve by £5.8k
- Tree Felling across unmaintained land are projected to spend £20k

Future Issues

- Continued high gas and electricity costs are placing a strain on the Council's budget.

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Corporate Services Directorate

Period 3 (Jun)

Corporate Management	2024/25 Orig Budget £000	Virements Budget £000	2024/25 App Budget £000	2024/25 Q1 Outturn £000	2024/25 Variance (Adv)/Fav £000	Variance last reported £000	Change in Qtr 1 (Adv)/Fav £000
Corporate Management							
Executive Office	453.4	-	453.4	403.2	50.2		50.2
Corporate Contingency	30.2	-	30.2	30.2	-		-
Corporate Subscriptions	34.2	-	34.2	36.1	(1.8)		(1.8)
Legal Services	199.4	-	199.4	194.3	5.1		5.1
		-					
Land Charges	(4.9)	-	(4.9)	(15.6)	10.7		10.7
		-					
Democratic Services							
Electoral Registration	94.4	-	94.4	89.3	5.1		5.1
Elections	89.7	-	89.7	89.7	0.0		0.0
Democratic Support	373.0	-	373.0	300.1	72.9		72.9
Mayoralty & Civic Events	67.7	-	67.7	58.4	9.4		9.4
Town Twinning	2.5	-	2.5	2.5	0.0		0.0
Financial Services							
Treasury Management	200.3	-	200.3	197.6	2.7		2.7
Insurance, Risk & Audit Fees	64.7	-	64.7	48.9	15.7		15.7
Financial Services	504.9	-	504.9	469.0	35.9		35.9
People & Policy							
Human Resources	501.3	-	501.3	468.5	32.8		32.8
Corporate Support	295.9	-	295.9	286.7	9.2		9.2
Publicity	4.0	-	4.0	-	4.0		4.0
Leisure Services	(31.6)	-	(31.6)	23.5	(55.1)		(55.1)
Empty Homes Scheme	300.0	-	300.0	200.0	100.0		100.0
Total	3,179.0	-	3,179.0	2,882.3	296.8	-	296.8

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Key changes made during the period to the full year forecast	Variance Bfwd £000	Variance this Qtr £000	Full-Yr £000
Executive Office			
Salary variances		53.6	53.6
Other minor variances		(5.2)	(5.2)
Legal Services			
Salary variances		0.2	0.2
Professional fees		2.7	2.7
Legal Income		(1.7)	(1.7)
Other Legal Misc under/ over		4.0	4.0
Land Charges			
Salary variances		(2.4)	(2.4)
Search Income		12.6	12.6
Other minor variances		0.7	0.7
Democratic Services			
Salary variances Elections		5.0	5.0
Other Election Misc under/ over		(0.1)	(0.1)
Salary variances Democratic Support		41.1	41.1
Members Costs		33.5	33.5
Other Dem Misc under /over		7.5	7.5
Treasury Management			
Bank Charges / Bank interest		2.7	2.7
Insurance, Risk & Audit Fees			
LCC Audit fees		15.7	15.7
Financial Services			
Salary variances - Accountants		23.4	23.4
Salary variances - Exchequer		14.5	14.5
CIVICA test data		(6.8)	(6.8)
Other misc under / (over) spends		5.0	5.0
Human Resources			
Salary variances		14.6	14.6
Authority wide Training		15.2	15.2
Other minor variances		3.5	3.5
Corporate Support			
Salary variances		8.5	8.5
Publicity		4.1	4.1
Empty Homes		100.0	100.0
Leisure		(55.1)	(55.1)
TOTAL	-	296.8	296.8

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Corporate Management Highlight Report – Q1 (June 2024)

Historic Issues

- None

Current Quarter Issues

The Corporate Management outturn is forecast to be a favourable variance of £296.8k, the main movements being: -

- Staffing cost projected variances at quarter 1 are £158.5k favourable:
 - Land Charges – are showing an adverse variance of £2.4k
 - Democratic Services – are showing a favourable variance of £41.1k vacant post and reduced working hours
 - Elections – are showing a favourable variance of £5k
 - Corporate management – savings of £53.6k due to the vacancy of the Director of Communities position.
 - Financial Services – is showing a favourable variance of £33.3k
 - People & Policy – is showing a favourable variance of £23.1k
- Local Land Charges income is showing a favourable variance of £10.7k.
- Members costs are showing an underspend of £33.5k due to reduced number of councillors and cabinet members
- The Empty Homes scheme is estimated to have an underspend of £100k

Future Issues

None

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Corporate Services Directorate

Period 3 (Jun)

Non-Distributed Costs & Capital Financing	2024/25 Orig Budget £000	Virements Budget £000	2024/25 App Budget £000	2024/25 Q1 Outturn £000	2024/25 Variance (Adv)/Fav £000	Variance last reported £000	Change in Qtr2 (Adv)/Fav £000
Non Distributed Costs							
Employee & Pension Costs	95.2	-	95.2	115.2	(20.0)		(20.0)
Other Non-distributed Costs	10.8	-	10.8	10.4	0.4		0.4
Capital Financing							
Minimum Revenue Provision	644.1	-	644.1	644.1	-		-
Interest (net)	(10.8)	-	(10.8)	(190.8)	180.0		180.0
Total	739.3	-	739.3	578.9	160.4	-	160.4

Key changes made during the period to the full year forecast	Variance Bfwd £000	Variance this Qtr £000	Full-Yr Forecast £000
Employee & Pension Costs	-		-
Superann additional years/Contribution to Pension deficit		(20.0)	(20.0)
Other minor variances		0.4	0.4
Capital Financing			
Interest Receivable		180.0	180.0
MRP			-
TOTAL	-	160.4	160.4

Non-Distributed Costs & Capital Financing Highlight Report – Q1 (June 2024)

Historic Issues

- Savings on the pension costs fall into two areas; savings on historical pension costs as former employees pass away and the advance payment of pension costs at a discount, which reduce Council costs.

Current Quarter Issues

- Net interest for the year is a favourable variance of £180k as per the following:
 - Income relating to longer term, high interest, deposits had matured in this period.
 - Officers have been working hard to maximise interest receivable on the Council's cash balances.

Future Issues

The 'Cost of Living Crisis' continues to dominate headlines and continues to impact on the cost of supplies and services.

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Earmarked Reserves

Earmarked Reserves (cash-backed items only)	Local Business Rates Retention Reserve	Transitional Budgetary Support	Response & Recovery Reserve	Rawtenstall Bus Station Commutated sum	Directorate Reserves	MMI	General Reserves	Total Reserves
Balance at 01/04/2024	1,028.0	4,865.0	558.0	486.0	2,160.0	229.0	1,000.0	10,326.0
Funds Received 2024/25								
Collection Fund								0.0
Collection Fund - S31 Grants (NDR3)		878.0						878.0
Collection Fund - Renewable Energy (NDR1/3)		279.0						279.0
Business Rates Pooling net gain								0.0
New Homes Bonus		163.0						163.0
Services Grant		85.0						85.0
Funding Guarantee		290.0						290.0
Other Revenue income received								0.0
Total Funds Available	1,028.0	6,560.0	558.0	486.0	2,160.0	229.0	1,000.0	12,021.0
2024/25 Published Budget Utilisation								
Retained Business Rates								0.0
New Homes Bonus		(163.0)						(163.0)
Services Grant		(85.0)						(85.0)
Funding Guarantee		(290.0)						(290.0)
General budget support		(424.7)						(424.7)
2024/25 Other Utilisation Plans								
Transfers between Reserves		149.0	(149.0)					0.0
Other Commitments								0.0
Total Utilisation Commitment	0.0	(813.7)	(149.0)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	(962.7)
Reserve Estimates 31/3/2025	1,028.0	5,746.3	409.0	486.0	2,160.0	229.0	1,000.0	11,058.3

Current issues

The reserves balances as at 1st April 2024 are £10,326k as shown in the table above, and of this balance c£2,054k is ring-fenced. As noted on page 2, the forecast positive variance at Q1 of £137.9k will reduce the contribution required from the Transitional Reserve to support the budget.

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Grants Unapplied

Grants Unapplied (* denotes a capital grant)	Disabled Facilities Grants *	UK Shared Prosperity Grant (Revenue)	UK Shared Prosperity Grant (Capital) *	Capital Regeneration Programme (CRP)	On-Street Residential Charge Point Scheme (ORCS)	Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF)	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
	AL030132	AL030142	AL030143	AL030143 CB030805	AL030143	AL030143	
Balance at 01/04/2024	2,645.3	30.0	21.0	670.5	128.7	687.8	4,183.3
New Funds Received 2024/25							
Grant due/received	1,265.3	866.0	815.3				2,946.6
Total Funds Available	3,910.6	896.0	836.3	670.5	128.7	687.8	5,642.9
Utilisation in 2024/25							
DFGs Outturn 2024/25	(1,265.0)						(1,265.0)
UKSPF Revenue & Capital Allocations		(896.0)	(836.3)				(1,732.3)
CRP Markets and Gyrotory				(670.5)			(670.5)
On-Street Residential Charge Point Scheme (ORCS)					(128.7)		0.0
Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF)						0.0	0.0
Anticipated Balance 31/03/2025	2,645.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	128.7	687.8	3,462.1
Future Utilisation Plans							
2025/26 plans	(1,380.6)					(687.8)	(2,068.4)
2026/27 plans	(1,265.0)						(1,265.0)
Potential Reserve Balances	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	128.7	0.0	0.0

In addition to the £2,645k of unspent DFG grant brought forward 1st April 2024, the 2024/25 allocation of £1,265k has been confirmed, giving total DFG resources of £3,911k. For the purpose of the above table, future utilisation plans recognise an estimated profile of DFG grants received to date only, and do not include estimation of any future receipts from the Better Care Fund. The Council's approved Medium Term Capital Strategy assumes DFG grant receipts in the sum of £1,000k per year over the plan period and will be updated in due course to reflect the recent confirmation that the DFG allocation for the Council for 2024/25 is £1,265k.

The council has been granted a share of the UK Shared Prosperity Funds between 2022/23 – 2025/26, over 3 years. As at the 1st April 2024 the brought forward balances on the UKSPF for both Revenue and Capital were £30k and £21k respectively. There have been funds received at the start of the year of which have been receipted amounting to £866k on Revenue and £815.3k on Capital. The table above shows how this will be used during 2024/25 as all funding needs to be spent by 31st March 2025.

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Staff Costs, including agency

Net Employment Costs 2024/25 to end Jun 2024	YTD Budget £000	YTD Actual £000	YTD Variance (Adv)/Fav £000	Variance last Qtr (Adv)/Fav £000	Change this Qtr (Adv)/Fav £000	FTE Original Budget 2024/25	FTE Changes during 2024/25	Current Vacant Posts
Communities Directorate								
Customer Services	99	99	0		0	7.8	0.0	0
Operations Service	535	560	(25)		(25)	53.0	0.0	3
Parks & Cemeteries	216	196	20		20	22.0	0.0	0.5
Public Protection Unit	39	43	(5)		(5)	5.0	0.0	0
Environmental Health	69	62	7		7	5.0	0.0	0
Licensing & Enforcement	37	34	3		3	3.0	0.0	0
Communities Team	34	20	14		14	2.0	0.0	1
Economic Development Directorate								
Planning Services	143	131	12		12	11.8	0.0	3
Building Control Services	38	36	1		1	3.0	0.0	0
Regeneration	94	100	(6)		(6)	10.5	0.0	0
Property Services	44	23	21		21	2.9	0.0	0
Housing	100	87	13		13	8.5	0.0	2
Corporate Services								
Corporate Management	114	79	35		35	3.0	0.0	1
Legal Services	48	45	3		3	3.0	0.0	0
Local Land Charges	14	13	1		1	1.5	0.0	0
Democratic Services	70	57	13		13	5.5	0.0	1
Financial Services	131	131	0		0	11.0	0.0	0
People & Policy	197	158	39		39	18.2	0.0	1
Leisure Services	15	15	1		1			
Empty Homes	18	16	1		1	2.0	0.0	0
Total Net Underspend	2,055	1,905	150	-	150	178.7	0.0	12.5
Adjust - Impact of the Payaward			(118)					
Additional Leave			25					
Total Staff Savings			57					
Original Savings Target			225					
Staff Variance			(168)					

The net employee underspend at Q1 is £150k excluding the pay award. Once the pay award (Estimated at £118k) is factored in, this reduces down to £32k. Savings relating to additional leave of £25k makes the total staff saving of £57k. The target for the year is £225k leaving an estimated shortfall of £168k at Q1.

Whilst a saving against budget on salaries is beneficial from a financial perspective, there is a risk that this will have a negative impact on the workforce as workloads increase to cover the vacant posts.

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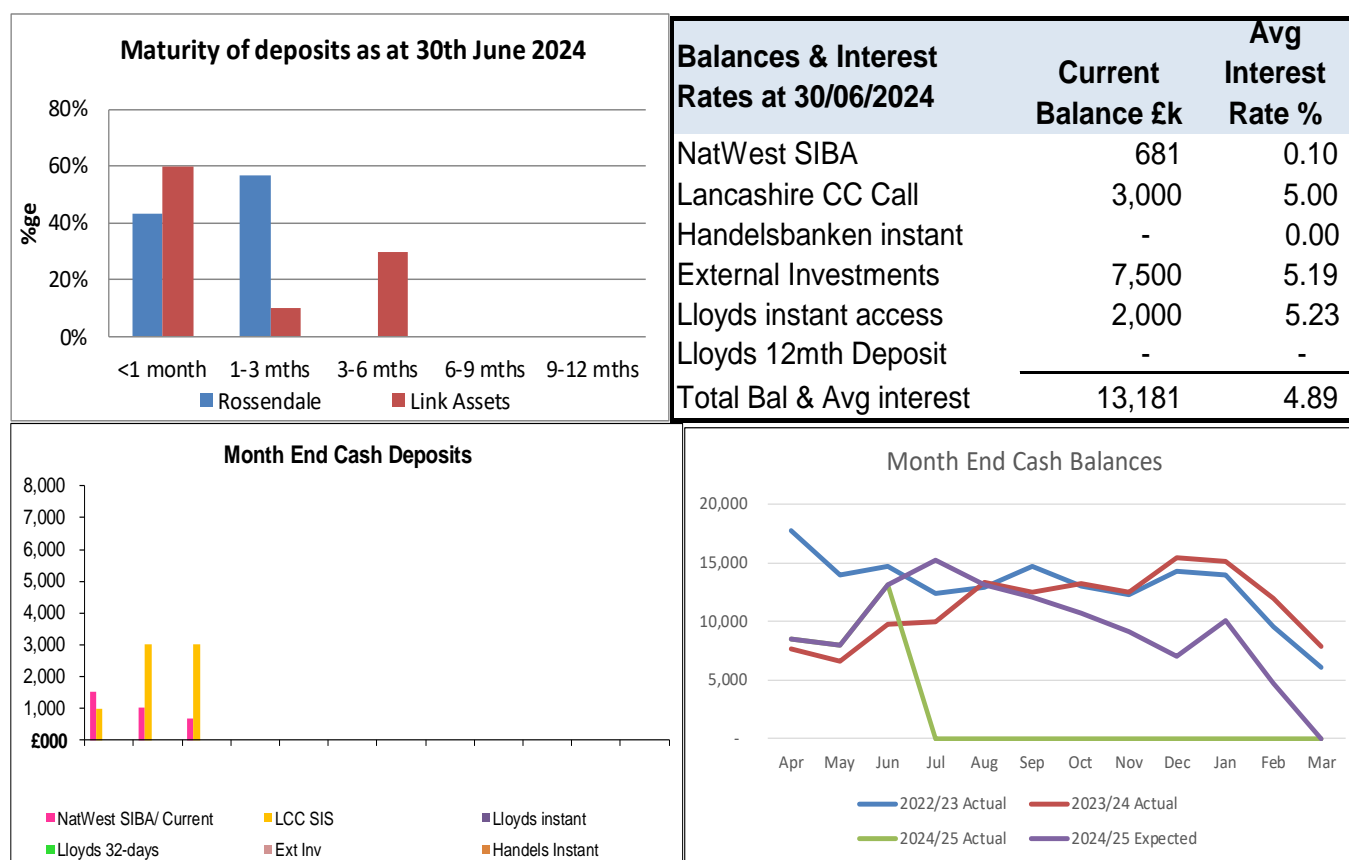
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Treasury Management & Cash Flow Monitoring

At the end of June the bank balances were £13.2m. This is lower than in previous years due to funds being used for internal borrowing for capital schemes and all residual Covid monies being returned to Government in the previous year.

During the period the Council has also held funding for the Household Support Scheme (£0.6m), the majority of this funding will be distributed in Q2.

Given the increase to Bank Rate over the last two years, and the temporary cash balances available to invest, the Council has continued to take a more proactive approach to managing its cash balances in 2024/25 to maximise interest receivable, relative to its budget estimate, and to mitigate the impact of rising costs as far as possible, a result of historically high inflation pressures.



The Bank of England voted to increase the 'Bank Rate' for the final time on 3rd August 2023, increasing from 5.0% to 5.25%. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) then decreased the bank rate in August 2024 by 0.25% back down to 5.0%. It is anticipated that the bank rate will decrease further in 2024. The full impact of the fall in rates is not likely to be felt until later in Q2 onwards.

The Council's strategy remains to retain a significant portion of its balances as liquid funds, to ensure it can respond promptly when required to meet its commitments as they fall due (revenue and capital expenditure).

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Instant access arrangements typically return lower interest rates despite the recent increase in bank rate. In some cases there has been no uplift to interest rates on offer to the Council from its existing relationships. Officers are working to generate the highest level of interest income possible whilst maintaining the ability to access funds when needed.

As per the commentary above, the Council is taking a more proactive approach to fixed and longer-term investments for a smaller proportion of its surplus balances. In accordance with the approved Treasury Management Strategy, these deposits will be placed with high quality Counterparties eg Central Government, Other Local Authorities. The strategy is considered prudent in the context of CIPFA's Prudential Code which prioritises Security and Liquidity over Yield (SLY).

At 30th June 2024, the Council's portfolio mix consists of £3m in an LCC call account, £2m in a Lloyds instant access account, £7.5m on deposit with the DMO for varying periods up to 3 months and liquid funds of £0.7m.

Interest Forecast	Budget 2024/25	Forecast 2024/25	Variance Fav/(Adv)	Change Fav/(Adv)
Revenue				
Interest payable (PWLB)	(109.0)	(109.0)	0.0	0.0
Other interest payable	(1.0)	(1.0)	0.0	0.0
Misc Interest income	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bank Interest income	120.0	300.0	180.0	180.0
Net Interest	10.0	190.0	180.0	180.0

The average effective interest rate at the end of Q1 was 4.89%.

Interest Paid/Received

The budget for interest in 2024/25 is a net income of £3k, current estimates are that the outturn will exceed budget. The current estimated interest income is based on falling interest rates and reduced levels of available cash.

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Economic Outlook

(Released July 2024)

The Consumer Prices Index rose by 2.6% in the 12 months to July 2024, up from just a 0.1% increase in June. The largest upward contributions to the annual CPIH inflation rate in July 2024 came from Restaurants and Hotels, the largest decrease came from clothing and footwear where prices have actually fallen. Core CPIH (excluding energy, food, alcohol and tobacco) rose by 4.2% in the 12 months to June 2024, the same rate as in May; the CPIH goods annual rate fell from negative 1.3% to negative 1.4%, while the CPIH services annual rate rose from 5.9% to 6.0%.

Average petrol prices stood at 144.2 pence per litre in July 2024, compared with 143.5 pence per litre a year earlier. The average price of diesel in July 2024 was 150.16 pence per litre. The 12-month rate for motor fuels and lubricants was 3.5%, down from 6.8% a year previous, which was down from the highest since before the start of the constructed historical series in January 1989 in June 2022.

These increases are likely to impact on the original forward planning assumptions approved when setting the budget for 2025/26 and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), and particularly budgets for utility supplies, fuel for fleet vehicles, any contractual obligations linked to CPI uplifts and potentially future pay award for Council staff.

Work continues to assess and review the MTFS as part of the closure of the Councils accounts for 2024/25.

Borrowing

The Council has an identified a 'prudential' borrowing need to finance its Capital expenditure plans, in the sum of £6.2m, over the plan period to 2024/25 - 2026/27.

The increase to Bank Rate during the last financial year has affected the borrowing rates on offer from PWLB.

Given the updated cashflow forecast above, the Council's Capital plans, and in accordance with the approved Treasury Management Strategy, the Council continues to assess its borrowing options and timing of any external borrowing, given the delay to the repayment of sums to Government, and the positive impact on its working capital.

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Interest rate forward predictions

The Council's treasury management advisors, Link, have reviewed their interest rate forecast over the next 12 months following Bank Rate change at the end of Q1, suggestions of future rate reductions in the short-term and corresponding falling inflation rates.

Link Group Interest Rate View	08.01.24												
	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26	Mar-27
BANK RATE	5.25	5.25	4.75	4.25	3.75	3.25	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
3 month ave earnings	5.30	5.30	5.00	4.50	4.00	3.50	3.30	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
6 month ave earnings	5.20	5.10	4.80	4.30	3.80	3.30	3.20	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10
12 month ave earnings	5.00	4.90	4.60	4.10	3.70	3.20	3.20	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.20	3.20
5 yr PWLB	4.50	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.10	4.00	3.80	3.70	3.60	3.60	3.50	3.50	3.50
10 yr PWLB	4.70	4.50	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.10	4.00	3.90	3.80	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.70
25 yr PWLB	5.20	5.10	4.90	4.80	4.60	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.20	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10
50 yr PWLB	5.00	4.90	4.70	4.60	4.40	4.20	4.10	4.00	4.00	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.90

Link also provide their view of 25 year borrowing rates from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB). This forecast is based on a concessionary rate reduction to the standard rate for new loans, known as the 'Certainty Rate'. This discount is currently equal to a 20 basis point reduction to the standard rate. For clarity, the above table includes the Certainty Rate.

The Council completed the annual application for access to the Certainty rate for 2025/26 to support its Capital borrowing plans on the most favourable terms available.

Treasury Management Practices (TMPs) and Prudential Indicators

The Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2024/25 was approved by Council on 28th February 2024.

Prudential Indicators

The updated Prudential Indicators – taking into account the Q1 Monitoring position are shown below.

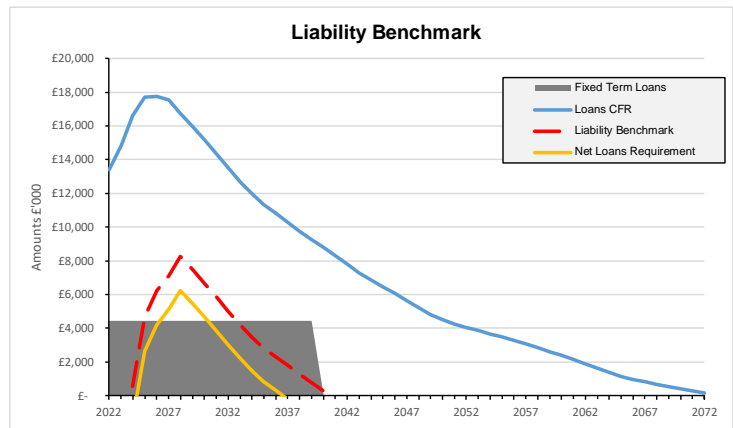
Capital Expenditure	Original 2024/25 £'000	Q1 Revised £'000	Financing of Capital Expenditure	Original 2024/25 £'000	Q1 Revised £'000
Climate Change	1,089	587	Capital Receipts	-	200
Corp Services & Buildings	700	1,063	Capital Grants	7,441	10,460
Housing	1,500	1,521	S106	-	249
Ops & Coms	2,544	3,269	Capital Reserves	-	-
Regeneration	5,576	7,027	Earmarked Reserves	-	-
Total	11,409	13,467	Total in-year resources	7,441	10,909
			Net Financing need for year	3,968	2,558

CFR	Original 2024/25 £'000	2024/25 Actual £'000	Operational Boundary & Authorised Limit	Original 2024/25 £'000	Revised 2024/25 £'000
Total CFR	20,040	19,960	Operational Boundary	21,000	21,000
			Authorised Limit	23,000	23,000

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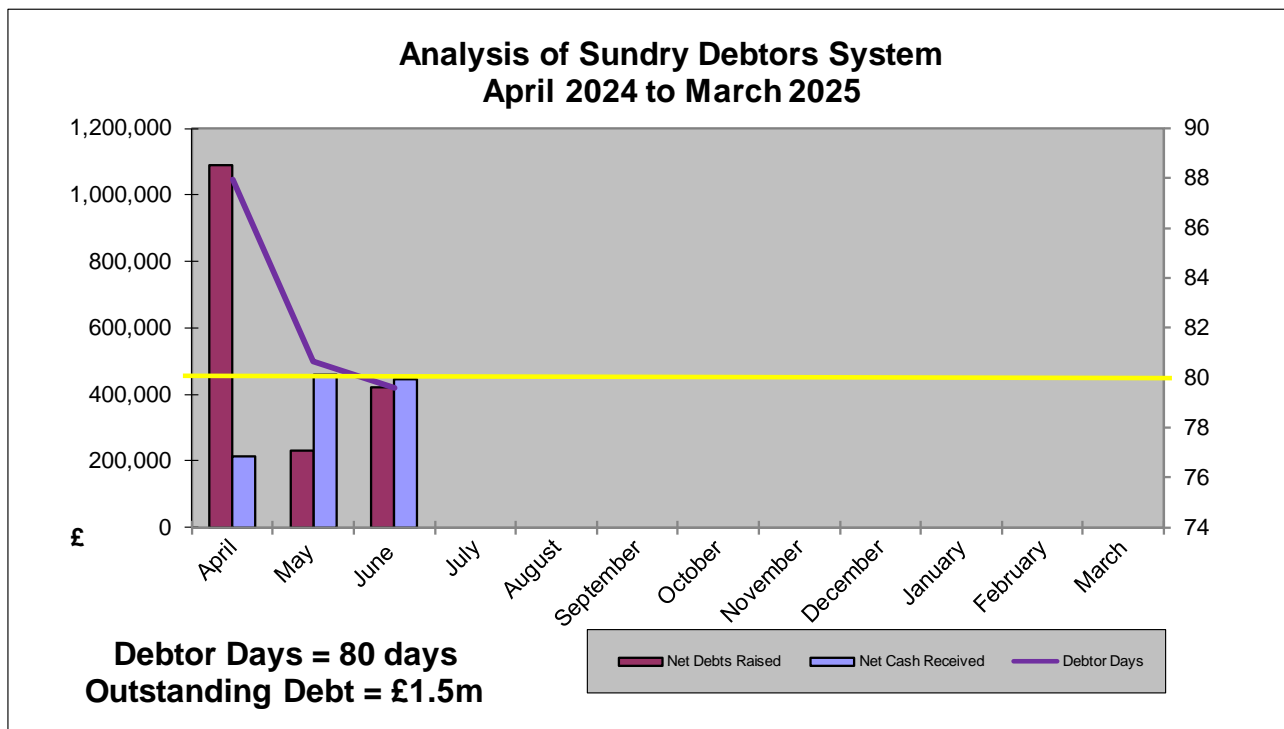
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Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream	Original 2024/25 £'000	Revised 2024/25 £'000
Interest Payable - Services	109	109
Interest Receivable	(120)	(300)
Net cost of capital	(11)	(191)
Net Revenue Stream	10,256	9,361
Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream	-0.11%	-2.04%



Sundry Debts Monitoring

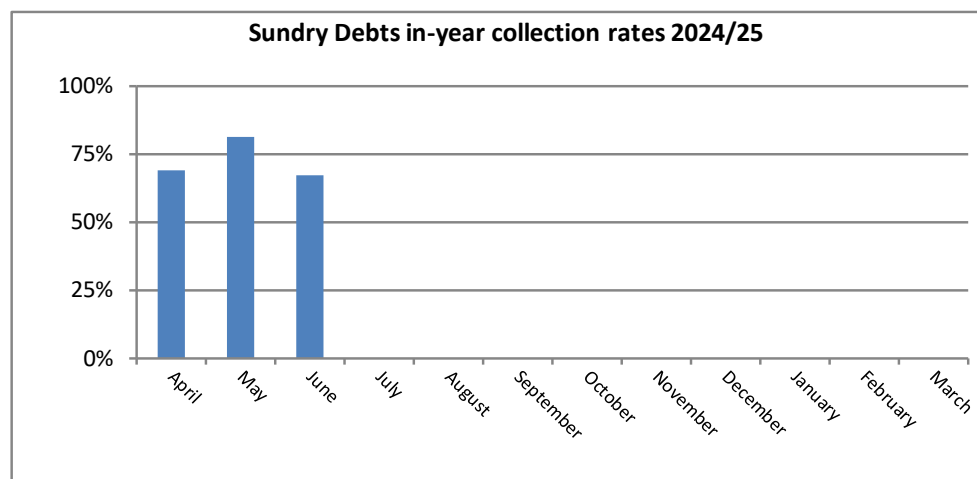
Invoices raised in the year, to the end of Q1 totalled £1,745k. As at June 2024, £521k (30%) of new debts raised in the year were considered outstanding or overdue giving a derived collection rate of 70%.



It should be noted that the high volume of Net Debts raised in April relates to the annual charges for Trade waste and rental of most industrial units.

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Doubtful debts

The debtor days in Q1, based on a rolling 12 month average has increased from 69 days to 80 days, for collection of sums due. This figure matches the target average of 80 days.

The Council has set aside sufficient sums in the event of non-recovery of 'aged' debt. The Council will consider any decision to write-off sums in due course following an analysis of recovery attempts eg Debtor has 'gone away' or sums are considered uneconomical to pursue further. Any such decision will be reported to Cabinet in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

The Council had increased the level of cover for bad and doubtful debts by £300k during 2023/24, the Council has a provision of c83% for debts its considered to be at risk of going unpaid (impairment) and c50% for total debt issued and considered overdue.

Given the subsequent collection performance of Q4 debts into 2024/25, the current level of provision is therefore adequate but will be maintained under review throughout 2024/25, given the ongoing, challenging economic conditions for individuals and businesses.

The general impairment provision carried forward at 31 March 2024 is at £668k. An exercise is underway involving finance and legal to streamline debt recovery processes.

Of the sundry debts below, £35k are held on the Local Land Charges Register. The debts below exclude the Rossendale Leisure Trust Debt which stood at £1,285m as at 30th June 2024.

Debts Outstanding	Mar 2024	Jun 2024	Doubtful Debts at 30 Jun 2024	
	£000	£000	Rate	£000
Earlier Debt	54.5	54.4	100%	54.4
2017/18 Debt	63.6	63.4	100%	63.4
2018/19 Debt	57.5	39.6	100%	39.6
2019/20 Debt	19.8	19.6	100%	19.6
2020/21 Debt	111.7	112.1	100%	112.1
2021/22 Debt	41.5	46.9	75%	35.2
2022/23 Debt	92.7	102.1	50%	51.1
2023/24 Debt :	717.6	345.3	15%	51.8
2024/25 Debt :				
Q1 Apr		338.9	15%	50.8
Q2 May		43.0	15%	6.5
Q3 Jun		139.0	15%	20.9
Total Debt o/s	1,158.9	1,304.3		505.4

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Capital

Capital Resources

Table 1 - 2024/25 receipts

Major Receipts:	Original Budget £000	Year to Date £000	Variance Fav/(Adv) £000
Capital Receipts			
Land & Property Sales	50	39	(11)
Obsolete vehicles and kit	50	4	(46)
Net receipts to table 2	100	43	(57)

Table 2 - Useable Capital Resources

Useable Capital Resources	£ 000
Balance at April 2024	2,503
Capital Grants in 2024/25	9,195
Capital Receipts in 2023/24	43
	11,740
Revenue Contributions	
from Earmarked Reserves	-
from Revenue Operations	-
Total Capital Resources 2024/25	11,740
Capital Prog funding applied	(9,195)
Total Capital Resources March 2025	2,546
Capital Receipts Reserve (housing)	-
Capital Receipts Reserve (Whitworth)	38
Capital Receipts Reserve (Haslingden)	213
Capital Receipts Reserve (unalloc)	2,295

Capital Programme

The Capital Programme for 2024/25 approved in February 2024 was £11,409k

This includes:

- £5,375k for the Capital Regeneration Programme
- £1,066k for projects relating to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund
- £740k for the replacement of Vehicles and Equipment
- £739k for the Food Waste Collection programme
- £627k for projects included in the Carbon Reduction Fund
- A provisional estimate of £1,000k for DFGs.

A further £7,166k (£2,529k DFG's) of slippage has been included in the year, relating to projects which were ongoing at the end of 2023/24 and prior year allocations not yet spent.

Council have approved an increase with regards to the following

- £240k increase relating to the Whitaker Park improvements project, with additional funding from Lancashire Environmental Fund, FCC Community Action fund and Valencia to cover the additional spend.

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The original 2024/25 estimate for DFGs included in the programme was £1,000k. The actual grant received in the year is £1,265k, so an additional £265k has been added to the base programme.

Items of estimated slippage and the associated funding arrangements are shown in the table below.

The revised Capital Programme over the life of the MTFS will be amended to reflect the timing variation as outlined above and finalisation of slippage adjustments

Financing the Capital Programme

The Useable Capital Receipts Reserve holds the balance of the funds generated by the sale of Council assets; the estimated balance brought forward at 1st April 2024 is £2,506k. This represents the most effective method of financing the planned Capital spend in 2024/25. This figure is still subject to any effects of post-audit amendments to the 2018/19 accounts and their impact on subsequent years.

The total grant income expected for the approved capital programme is £8,812k (including DFGs). Current funding for the slippage carried forward into the 2024/25 capital programme consists of a mixture of resources, namely grants, capital receipts and (internal) borrowing. The most effective method of funding the Council's capital programme will be determined by the end of the financial year.

Current issues

The cost of specialised Fleet vehicles continues to rise, putting increased pressure on the budget. It should be noted however that recent vehicle procurements have managed to achieve a saving against budget. This is only likely to be achievable on LGV's and not HGV's.

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Capital Programme Spending

Capital Programme 2023/24	Original Cap Prog	Revised Cap Prog	Spent	Full-Year Forecast	Variance (Adv)/Fav	Estimated Slippage	Adj Variance (Adv)/Fav	Indicative Funding Arrangements			
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	Grants/Contrib'n	Capital Receipts	S106/Reserves/RCCO	RBC Int Borrow
IT Software & Equipment	-	35	4	39	(4)	(4)	-	-	-	-	39
Operations	890	890	981	1,110	(220)	(220)	-	-	200	-	910
Communities	356	1,007	84	1,165	(158)	(158)	-	856	-	176	133
Housing	1,500	4,359	621	1,526	2,833	2,833	-	1,265	-	56	205
Stubbylee Hall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Henrietta Street Depot Improvements	-	97	85	97	-	-	-	-	-	-	97
Futures Park	-	33	-	-	33	33	-	-	-	-	-
Town Square	-	20	-	-	20	20	-	-	-	-	-
Property Repairs & Maint	100	114	17	114	-	-	-	-	-	-	114
Environ Improvement Programme (PRIDE)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Car Parks General 22-26 MTFS	30	131	-	39	92	92	-	-	-	-	39
The Ashworth, Civic Hall Whitworth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stubbylee Skate Park	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bacup Historic England	-	-	(9)	9	(9)	(9)	-	-	-	-	9
Haslingden 2040 NLHF	-	1,762	203	203	1,559	1,559	-	-	-	-	203
Rawtenstall Town Square Public Realm	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Museum Improvements	-	-	4	4	(4)	(4)	-	-	-	-	4
Mechanics Hall, Bacup	-	-	36	36	(36)	(36)	-	-	-	-	36
Haslingden Market (UKSPF)	450	450	429	450	-	-	-	450	-	-	-
Waterfoot (UKSPF)	300	300	30	270	30	30	-	270	-	-	-
Rawtenstall Market Electrical Works	101	101	-	20	81	81	-	20	-	-	-
Rawtenstall Market External Cabins	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stubbylee Tennis Courts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whitaker Park Tennis Courts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hareholme Viaduct	-	110	144	144	(34)	(34)	-	25	-	-	119
Carbon Reduction Fund	627	1,000	168	168	832	832	-	-	-	-	168
Christmas Lighting Catenary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marl Pits - Running Track	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whitaker Park Drainage	-	100	89	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	100
Stubbylee Park Drainage	40	40	-	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	40
Edgeside Pump Track	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trickett's Memorial Ground	129	129	118	129	-	-	-	112	-	17	-
Electric Vehicle Charge Points	172	172	-	129	43	43	-	129	-	-	-
Food Waste Collections	739	739	-	421	318	318	-	421	-	-	-
Waste Transfer Station	130	225	94	225	-	-	-	-	-	-	225
Leisure Various	370	478	47	407	71	71	-	290	-	-	117
Legacy Liabilities	100	265	-	-	265	265	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Regeneration Projects (LUF)	5,375	6,622	431	6,622	-	-	-	6,622	-	-	-
	11,409	19,179	3,575	13,467	5,712	5,712	-	10,460	200	249	2,558

Capital Programme 2024/25	£000	Funded by
Original Capital Programme	11,409	see list
Slippage from 2023/24	7,166	
Increase to capital projects in 2024/25		
Edgeside Park	99	External Grants
Whitaker Park	240	External Grants
DFGs	265	External Grants
Revised Capital Programme	19,179	

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Slippage items bfwd at end of 2024/25	Costs '£000	Indicative Funding Arrangements			
		Grants/ Contrib'n	Capital Receipts	RCCO (reserves or S106)	RBC Int Borrow
Communities Directorate					
Playgrounds Improvements	3				3
Pathways Improvements	18				18
Victoria Park Improvements	59				59
Edgeside Park	34				34
UKSPF	198	198			
Sub-total Communities	312	198	-	-	114
Economic Development Directorate					
Carbon Reduction Fund	373				373
Hareholme Viaduct	110				110
Leisure Facilities upgrade 22-23	108				108
Spinning Point - Build Phase 1 (Bus St	20				20
Haslingden 2040 NLHF	1,762	1,762			
Car Parks General 22-26 MTFS	71				71
Whitaker Parking (Includes Stubblee l	30				30
Whitaker Park (Drainage Project)	100				100
General Building Renovations & Mainte	14				14
Henrietta Street Depot Improvements	97				97
Waste Transfer Station	95				95
Futures Park Infrastructure	33				33
Legacy Liabilities (Various Schemes)	200				200
Sub-total Econ Devmt	3,013	1,762	-	-	1,251
Housing					
DFG'S - Mandatory Grants	2,529	2,529			
Clare House, Rawtenstall (1 Queen St)	9				9
Supported Accommodation	56			56	
Sub-total Housing	2,594	2,529	-	56	9
Levelling Up Fund					
Bacup Market	183	183			
Union Street	185	185			
Rawtenstall Market	210	210			
Gyratory	219	219			
Rawtenstall Connected	250	250			
The Bridge	200	200			
Sub-total Levelling Up Fund	1,247	1,247	-	-	-
Total	7,166	5,736	-	56	1,374

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Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)	MRP Budget 2024/25	Revised MRP Required	(Additions) / Underspen
	£000	£000	£000
Corporate	644	644	0
	644	644	0

MRP is the annual revenue repayment of internal funds used to support capital work. The MRP cost is currently estimated to be on budget.

Section 106 Receipts Monitoring

The value of S106 agreements brought forward on the 1st April was £868.7k. To the end of June 2024, there have been no new S106 deposits and £66.9k of monies held have been applied to fund expenditure.

Section 106 Agreements 2024/25	Third Party Projects	RBC Revenue Projects	RBC Capital projects	Total Held
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance b fwd at 1st April 2024	290.8	74.9	503.1	868.7
Deposits received in 2024/25		(10.0)		(10.0)
Deposits applied in 2024/25			(56.9)	(56.9)
Current Balance	290.8	64.9	446.2	801.8

Section 106 Agreements in detail	Third Party Projects	RBC Revenue Projects	RBC Capital projects	Total Held
Balance b fwd at 1st April 2024	290.8	74.9	503.1	868.7
Douglas Rd		(10.0)		(10.0)
Croft End Mill			(56.9)	(56.9)
	290.8	64.9	446.2	801.8

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Council Tax & NNDR Collection Rates

Cumulative Collection	Council Tax						Business Rates					
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
April	10.51	10.04	10.90	10.44	10.11	10.09	12.22	10.24	8.60	12.78	12.79	12.17
May	19.70	18.96	19.70	19.44	19.48	19.04	21.07	18.89	16.20	31.81	21.29	20.42
June	28.63	27.62	28.70	28.35	28.19	27.89	28.68	25.62	24.30	28.16	28.19	28.00
July	37.86	36.56	37.66	37.21	37.09		37.37	33.92	33.96	35.83	36.52	
August	46.90	45.24	46.71	46.21	46.01		50.82	48.55	47.63	47.86	51.19	
September	56.01	54.29	55.43	55.64	54.92		58.34	57.84	56.05	55.54	58.11	
October	65.23	63.29	71.16	64.55	64.03		67.52	68.97	64.90	64.73	65.99	
November	74.78	72.30	78.43	73.49	72.93		74.26	77.15	73.09	74.88	74.92	
December	83.33	80.90	82.12	82.25	81.50		82.70	85.92	81.41	81.91	81.93	
January	92.48	89.90	90.96	91.22	91.05		90.91	90.17	89.30	94.79	90.27	
February	94.60	92.37	93.43	93.85	93.37		95.00	93.66	95.13	94.73	94.23	
March	96.32	95.72	95.59	95.95	95.75		97.78	94.19	98.15	98.85	98.60	

Collection rates for Council Tax are recovering but are not yet back at pre-pandemic levels with collection performance for 2024/25 slightly below that of 2021/22 (-1.19%). This remains an area of focus into 2024/25 given the 'Cost of Living Crisis' and potential impact on future collection.

For Business Rates however, the situation is harder to gauge as collection rates were distorted in 2022/23 by the Covid relief the Government distributed. 2023/24 were also distorted by the transitional reliefs given to businesses due to the Business Rates revaluation, which kicked in from April 2023. As at end June 2024 the collection rates in 2024/25 are broadly in line with previous years which is positive.

Council Tax Collection Fund

At the time of this report the estimated surplus on the Council Tax collection fund is forecast at £2,171k. This includes a £500k contribution for doubtful debts. It must be noted, we are only a quarter of the way through the year and based on the current economic climate this position could change significantly as the year progresses. This year RBC's share of the Council Tax is 13.56%, equating to £294k of the forecast surplus.

Council Tax Forecast 2024/25	Q1 £'000
Council Tax Collectable (after Discounts & Exemptions)	50,996
less Doubtful Debt Provision	(500)
	50,496
less Precepts for 2023/24	
Lancashire County Council	(34,539)
Police	(5,503)
Fire	(1,770)
Rosendale Borough Council	(6,444)
Whitworth Town Council	(70)
	(48,325)
Surplus / (Deficit)	2,171
RBC Share = 13.56%	294

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Local retention of Business Rates (NNDR)

Under the business rates scheme, variances from the original budgets fall into two categories – those arising from changes to the collection fund and those arising from grants and levies received or charged to the General Fund.

Business Rates Collection Fund 2024/25 (50% Pool)		NNDR1 £000	Q1 £000	The business rates collection fund is now predicting a surplus of £241k in 2024/25, the Council retains a local share of any surplus or deficit arising at year-end from activity on the fund, in the sum of 40%, thus the Council's share of the surplus would be £96k. This is largely due to the rebasing exercise which took place in 2023/24. As a result of this, it is anticipated that there will be an increase in appeals. Whilst
Net Liability Due		14,318	14,275	
Use of Appeals Provision		0	0	
Less Cost of Collection Allowance		(97)	(97)	
Less Doubtful Debt Provision		(500)	(300)	
Less Appeals Provision		(700)	(500)	
Less Renewables 100% to RBC		(279)	(279)	
Net NNDR due	A	12,742	13,099	
Transitional reliefs	B	878	762	
Less Precepts		(13,620)	(13,620)	
Cash Surplus/(Deficit)	C	(0)	241	
RBC Share = C x 40%	D	(0)	96	
Central Government share 50%			120	
LCC and Fire share 10%			24	

there is an appeals provision within the Collection fund to cover the cash refund due on any appeals, the rateable value reduction of any successful valuation appeals will adversely affect the Council's in-year cashflow, because although the net liability due from the businesses has decreased, under existing legislation, the Council is required to make good its payments to major preceptors as originally assumed, despite a reduction in Collection Fund income.

The Council, is part of the Lancashire Business Rates Pool, each year the Council is subject to a levy payment of 50% of calculated business rates growth, above its baseline funding level, as determined annually in the Local Government Finance Settlement. Membership of the Pool restricts this levy to 10% (of the 50% levy) and allows the Council to hold the balance as

RBC General Fund / Pooling gains		NNDR1 £000	Q1 £000	'retained levy' thus reducing the total value of sums paid over to central Government, to apply locally. Therefore in addition to the anticipated surplus the Council will generate as above, a pooling gain is estimated of £844k. The February 2024 MTFS included a contribution of an estimated pooling
Business Rates Income	A+B	13,620	13,861	
RBC Share = 40%		5,448	5,544	
less tariff paid to Lancashire Pool		(3,459)	(3,459)	
add S31 Grants (for Levy calculation)	E	2,840	2,126	
Subtotal		4,829	4,211	
RBC Baseline Funding Level used in Budget		2,335	2,335	
Surplus for Levy Calculations	F	2,494	1,876	
Levy due for non Pool membership 50%		(1,247)	(938)	
Levy payable as Pool member 10% of above	G	(125)	(94)	
Retained Levy through Pool membership		1,122	844	

gain of £500k, whilst we are still early in the year if the current forecast materialises it will result in a £344k surplus against that income budget.

Central government also gives authorities Section 31 grants to cover small business reliefs and other government-backed schemes. In the NNDR1 budget submission in January 2024 the estimate for those grants totalled £2,942k.

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Business Rates Summary		NNDR1	Q1	The table shows the potential impact on the Business Rates Retention Reserve. At the end of Q1 it is anticipated that RBC will achieve an additional £1,783 in overall NNDR Gain. This is primarily due to government awards to cover inflationary pressures which had not been accounted for in the MTFS. This is net of the gain on net renewable energy which RBC have previously taken to the Energy reserve and it is anticipated the same will happen in 2024/25.
		£000	£000	
Business Rates Surplus/(Deficit) 2024/25	F	2,494	1,876	
less Lancashire Pooling Levy	G	(125)	(94)	
Renewable Energy		279	279	
Overall Gain/(loss)	H	2,649	2,062	
Business Rates Retention Reserve Bfwd		1,028	1,028	
Business Rates Cash Surplus/(Deficit) 2023/24				
Business Rates Cash Surplus/(Deficit) 2023/24	H			
Less Budgeted Utilisation		0	0	
Total Retained Business Rates Resources Cfwd		1,028	1,028	

pressures which had not been accounted for in the MTFS. This is net of the gain on net renewable energy which RBC have previously taken to the Energy reserve and it is anticipated the same will happen in 2024/25.

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Glossary

Accrual

An adjustment at year-end to charge costs or income due in the old year, regardless of whether the cash has been paid or received. Accounts are prepared on an accruals basis in order to match the income for each financial year with the costs attributable to the same time period.

Capital expenditure

Spending on the acquisition or maintenance of assets either directly by the Council or indirectly in the form of grants to other persons or bodies. Expenditure that does not fall within the definition must be charged to a revenue account.

Capital Grants Received in Advance

Grants received in cash during the year, but not spent or committed, are held on the Balance Sheet in the Short-term Liabilities area as Capital Grants Received in Advance, acknowledging the potential requirement to pay these grants back should the related project not go ahead or underspend.

Capital Receipts

Proceeds from the sale of fixed assets, such as land or buildings, or the repayment of capital grants or advances. These funds form part of the Council's Useable Reserves, though they are ring-fenced for capital projects rather than revenue costs.

Cash & Cash Equivalents

Cash deposits are those which provide instant access to the funds without significant penalty or loss of interest. For the Council this is the balance on the NatWest accounts and two other instant access accounts with Lloyds and Handelsbanken. This is in comparison to short- and long-term *Investments* in which funds are untouchable during the life of the deposit.

Collection Fund

Rossendale Borough council collects funds on behalf of other precepting bodies, Lancashire County Council, Fire and Police as well as central government and Whitworth Town Council from domestic and commercial properties in the borough. These amounts are formally ring fenced in the Collection Fund and then distributed amongst the precepting bodies in line with their demands as set in the February budget setting meeting. At the end of the year each precepting body has their share of the arrears, the doubtful debt provision or appeals provision and the accumulated surplus or deficit. Rossendale Borough Council accounts for its own share, but holds the other preceptors shares separately on an agency basis. Hence, within the Council Tax and Business Rates monitoring members will see the overall position and the RBC share clearly identified.

Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO)

Compulsory acquisition of key properties in accordance with the Council's regeneration agenda. Compensation must be paid to the property owners, but where they cannot be traced the Council must deposit the funds with the courts for a minimum of 12 years.

Consumer Price Index (CPI)

The consumer price index (CPI) is a measure estimating the average price of consumer goods and services purchased by households. It is a price index determined by measuring the price of a standard group of goods meant to represent the typical market basket of a typical urban consumer and how this changed in the previous 12 months.

Earmarked Reserves

Cash-backed funds identified to fund specific projects in the future.

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Full Time Equivalent (FTE)

Each full-time post within the Council works 37 hours per week. Part-time posts are expressed in relation to this, for example a post working 4 days a week would be 0.8FTE.

General Fund

The main revenue fund of the Council.

Grants Unapplied

Unlike Capital Grants Received in Advance, there is no requirement to repayment of these grants. The unspent balance will be released into capital or revenue in the coming years as projects come online. These funds form part of the Council's Useable Reserves.

Homes and Communities Agency (HCA)

The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) is the non-departmental public body which helps to fund new affordable housing in England. It was established by the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 as one of the successor bodies to the Housing Corporation, and became operational on 1 December 2008. In 2012 the HCA approved the East Lancashire Empty Homes Scheme.

Investments

The Council invests surplus cash in short- and long-term deposits in accordance with the Treasury Management Strategy and Practices revised in February each year. In this context short-term includes anything up to 365 days, and long-term is for more than one year. Funds deposited in such investments are not accessible until the end of the agreed terms.

Link Asset Services (formerly Capita & Sector)

Link Asset Services (formerly Capita & Sector) is the company which provides the Council with Treasury Management advice, including daily market reports and predictions, credit rating updates, interest rate forecasts and annual reviews of our strategy and practices ahead of the February reports to Full Council.

Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)

The Council's financial planning document for the foreseeable future.

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)

The minimum amount which must be charged to the Council's revenue account each year and set aside as provision for credit liabilities, as required by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)

The former Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has been redesignated as the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, or MHCLG.

National non-domestic rates - now Business Rates (NNDR)

National non-domestic rates for commercial premises are set annually by the government and collected by all local authorities. The localisation of business rates in April 2013 meant that the National pool no longer exists, but the acronym NNDR is still widely used in local government circles.

Provision

Cash 'put aside' for expenditure on an intended project which has not commenced or is not complete at the year-end, but which has been contractually committed.

Provisional

Best forecast given current knowledge.

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Public Works Loans Board (PWLB)

The PWLB is a central government statutory body which lends funds to local authorities with advantageous interest rates. Interest rates are published daily and local authorities provide the PWLB with annual estimates of cash requirements in return for certainty on the availability of funds and the interest rates being charged.

Reserve

Amounts included in one financial year's accounts to provide for payment for goods or services, whether revenue or capital, in a future financial year.

Revenue account

An account that records an authority's day-to-day expenditure and income on such items as salaries and wages and other running costs of services.

Section 106 Agreement

Planning agreement whereby developers make a contribution towards specific projects linked to their development as a condition of planning application approval. Deposits may be for revenue or capital schemes, but application of the funds are dependent on firstly the developer, and then the Council, pursuing the projects specified within the agreement.

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Subject:	Performance Management Report Quarter 1 2024/25 (April, May and June)	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	18 th September 2024
Report of:	Head of People and Policy	Lead Member:	Environment and Corporate Services
Key Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached: No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached: No
Contact Officer:	Clare Law	Telephone:	01706 252557
Email:	clarelaw@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 Cabinet to note and consider the Council's performance during Quarter 1 (Q1) 2023-24 as detailed in this report and Appendix 1.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1
- The Q1 Performance Management Report details the Council's performance in relation to the [Valley Plan 2021-25 \(Our Place, Our Plan\)](#) during the months April, May and June 2024.
 - The report provides an update in relation to the Council's performance measures, action summaries and recommendations for improvement, compliments and complaints, and corporate risks.
 - The report concludes 8 performance measures reported as 'red' and 2 corporate risks reported as 'red' on the RAG status.
 - During Q4, the Council received 12 compliments, 38 complaints and 3 Local Government Ombudsman enquiries.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 This report aims to summarise the Council's performance during Q1 2023-24 for Cabinet. Cabinet play a strong role in scrutinising the Council's performance to highlight issues that may require further action.
- 3.2 The Performance Management Report was reviewed at the start of 2024-25 and slight changes were made to the performance measures and action objectives sitting under the four priorities. Reporting managers and the Corporate Management Team were consulted as part of the review to ensure the report effectively evaluates the impact of the delivered actions against the Council's priorities.
- 3.3 The Council continues to use the Red, Amber, Green (RAG) rating status and arrow indicator to monitor performance and demonstrate performance trend in comparison to previous outturns.
- 3.4 The reviewed performance measures continue to be split down into two tiers. Tier 1 measures are high-level strategic targets that constitute the Valley Plan 2021-25 – Our Place,

Our Plan. Tier 2 measures are targets addressing performance within service areas at an operational level. A 'Higher or Lower' column is included to provide clarity to whether the performance should be operating either higher or lower than the target to increase/improve the Council's performance.

- 3.5 Where applicable, performance measures will provide a wider comparison to the 'National Local Authority' (NLA) average and the Council's comparable authorities - 'Family Group' (FG) average. The comparable information is drawn from the LG Inform Platform, which provides the most up to date and accessible information in relation to local authority performance measures.
- 3.6 The Q1 Performance Management Report is attached as Appendix 1.

4. DETAILS

- 4.1 The Council's performance is assessed on a quarterly basis via performance measures, action summaries and recommendations for improvement for each priority. Further details are included within the Q1 Performance Management Report, pages 3-14.
- 4.2 The below provides a summary of the performance measures reported under each priority.

RAG	Green	Amber	Red	N/A
Thriving Local Economy	1	4	1	2
A High Quality Environment	14	3	2	1
Healthy and Proud Communities	7	1	2	4
Effective and Efficient Council	15	5	2	2

*N/A – performance measures reported within a specific quarter/annually, or no information available during the quarter.

4.3 Priority 1 – A Thriving Local Economy

The Council has continued to deliver regeneration projects across Rossendale. The market plans for both Bacup and Rawtenstall have been developed and a new market contractor is being sought to deliver the works to Haslingden Market with limited implications.

The Long-Term Plan for Towns Board and Chair have been established and a Waterfoot Masterplan has been drafted ready for public consultation.

Additional works have been delivered to support Rossendale's thriving local economy. The junction works to Futures Park have been completed. Rossendale's first business expo was attended by over 40 organisations and 43 economically inactive residents have been supported via the Rossendale Works programme.

- 4.4 During Q1, 1 performance measure was reported within the 'green' RAG status and 1 performance measure was reported within the 'red' RAG status.

4.5 Priority 2 – A High Quality Environment

Bartec, the new back-office management system has been rolled out to operational staff to increase service efficiencies and the Parks and Open Spaces team have continued to improve Rossendale's parks and support local community groups.

The aim of reducing Rossendale’s carbon footprint has continued to be addressed through the delivery of multiple projects and initiatives. Environmental crimes continue to be tackled through persecutions and deterrents.

4.6 During Q1, 14 performance measures were reported within the ‘green’ RAG status and 2 performance measures were reported within the ‘red’ RAG status.

4.7 **Priority 3 – Healthy and Proud Communities**

The Council continues to improve Rossendale’s housing support through multiple sources and has been identified actions to support the disabled facilities grant process.

Continued support has been provided to residents to help improve the quality of life within the borough. The Council has continued to develop its relationships with health, leisure, and wellbeing partners to identify opportunities for improvement and expand local support. A Physical Activity and Sports Strategy, and a Better Lives Strategy continues to be drafted to support the delivery of health, leisure and wellbeing improvements across Rossendale.

4.8 During Q1, 7 performance measures were reported within the ‘green’ RAG status and 2 performance measure were reported within the ‘red’ RAG status.

4.9 **Priority 4 – Effective and Efficient Council**

Microsoft Teams and Microsoft Teams Calling have been deployed to staff to improve customer services and internal communication. Income generation and saving opportunities are regularly reviewed and discussed by service managers to ensure the priority remains at the forefront without effecting service delivery.

Two new staff engagement activities have been introduced to ensure staff have access to council-wide updates and the annual health and wellbeing day has been confirmed to take place on 11th September 2024. Annual appraisal and personal development training has been rolled out to all staff and managers to support staff wellbeing and development.

4.10 During Q1, 15 performance measures were reported within the ‘green’ RAG status and 2 performance measures were reported within the ‘red’ RAG status.

4.11 **Compliments and Complaints**

Compliments and complaints are also referred to in the Q4 Performance Management Report, page 15.

4.12

	Q1 2023-24	Q4 2023-24	Q1 2024-25
Number of Compliments	26	20	12
Highest nature of Compliments	92% (24) Staff member/team	80% (16) Staff member/team	100% (12) Staff member/team
Highest Service Area with Compliments	Operations – 11	Operations – 11	Operations – 7

The number of compliments has decreased by eight when compared to the previous quarter and has decreased by 14 when compared to Q1 last year. During Q1, 100% of compliments

were in relation to ‘staff member/team’, seven of these compliments were for the Operations team.

Other compliments received during Q1 relate to Capita, Environmental Health, Housing, and Legal and Democratic Services.

4.13 Examples of compliments received during Q1:

- *‘Thank you to the Council’s Operations Team, they have done a great job of cleaning up the mess left from Travellers are Marl Pits.’*
- *‘Thank you for sending out a Refuge Wagon on a Saturday to empty all our streets bins that were missed due to inconsiderate parking.’*
- *‘Great help and support from Environmental Health Officer with issues with neighbour nuisance.’*

	Q1 2023-24	Q4 2023-24	Q1 2024-25
Number of Complaints	29	31	38
Highest nature of Complaints	21% (6) Bins/bin collection	16% (5) Council Tax Charges/Decision	16% - (6) Bins/bin collection
Highest Service Area with Complaints	Operations – 10	Capita – 10	Operations – 15

The number of complaints received has increased by seven when compared to the previous quarter and has increased by nine when compared to Q1 last year.

4.15 **Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) Enquiries**

During Q1, three new enquiries were received from the LGO concerning Council Tax and Planning. The three enquiries will be carried over into Q2.

4.16 **Corporate Risk Register**

The Council continues to review and monitor the Corporate Risk Register. 2 Corporate Risks were reported within the ‘red’ RAG status during Q1.

- Corporate Risk 1 – Sustainability of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy
- Corporate Risk 9 – Financial Sustainability of Council Owned Leisure Assets.

5. RISK

5.1 The Council’s Corporate Risk Register continues to be monitored by the Corporate Management Team on a regular basis and is referred to within the Q1 Performance Management Report, pages 16-25.

6. FINANCE

6.1 Financial implications and risks arising are identified within this report.

7. LEGAL

7.1 There are no immediate legal considerations attached to the recommendations within this report.

8. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Effective performance management is important to the Council, and the Council is committed to improving its services. In completing this report, consultation has been undertaken with the Corporate Management Team and Portfolio Holder for Resources.

9. REASON FOR DECISION

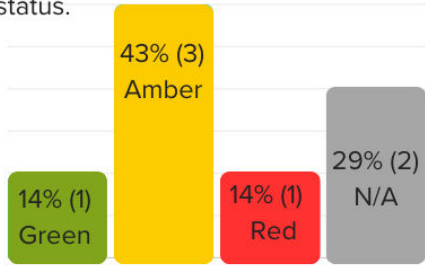
9.1 Monitoring the Council's performance will enable Cabinet to identify and consider any service actions, projects, performance measures or corporate risks requiring further action.

Background Papers	
Q1 Performance Management Report	Appendix 1

Thriving Local Economy

Performance Measures

14% of performance measures were reported in the **green** RAG status, 14% were reported in the **red** RAG status.



Key Achievements

Productivity of Local Businesses
Current revenue per employee has improved by **16%** when compared to 2023-24.

Engagement with Economically Inactive Residents
The Rossendale Works Programme engaged **72%** of its annual target to provide economically inactive residents with employment support.

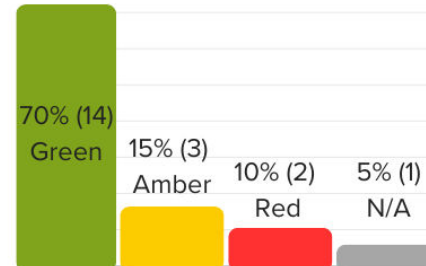
Area for Improvement

Empty shops
The percentage of empty shops has increased by **1.4%** when compared to the previous reporting quarter.

High Quality Environment

Performance Measures

70% of performance measures were reported in the **green** RAG status, 10% were reported in the **red** RAG status.



Key Achievements

Household Waste Recycling Rate
Rossendale's recycling rate has increased by **1.5%** when compared to the previous quarter.

General Waste Bin Collection Service
Performing **5%** above target, **99%** of bins have been collected as per schedule.

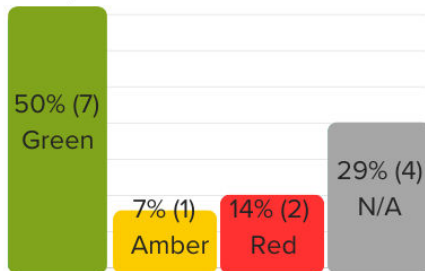
Area for Improvement

Requested bins delivered
The percentage of requested bins delivered within timescale will be addressed via the new Bartec system to monitor and improve the service.

Healthy and Proud Communities

Performance Measures

50% of performance measures were reported in the **green** RAG status, 14% were reported in the **red** RAG status.



Key Achievements

Homeless decisions
15% above target
85% of homeless decisions made within the 57th day for priority cases requiring relief duty.

Determination of Planning Applications
100% of major planning applications are determined within 13 weeks, this **9%** higher than the national average.

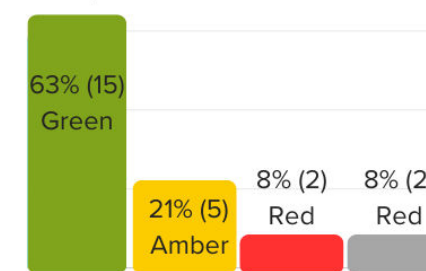
Area for Improvement

Disabled Facilities Grants
The percentage of grants awarded has decreased by **20%** when compared with Q1 last year.

Effective and Efficient Council

Performance Measures

63% of performance measures were reported in the **green** RAG status, 8% were reported in the **red** RAG status.



Key Achievements

Processing of Housing Benefit
The Council processes new Housing Benefit claims **5 days** quicker than the national average.

Employee Turnover
The Council's employee turnover has reduced by **50%** when compared to the previous quarter.

Area for Improvement

Responding to complaints
The percentage of complaints responded to within 10 working days is **32%** below target and will be addressed via a change in process.



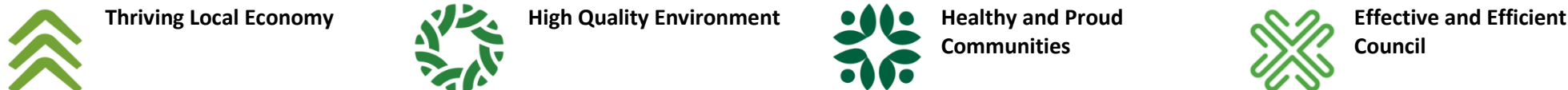
Performance Management Report

Quarter 1 - 2024-25



Performance Management Report – Quarter 1 2024/25

Rossendale Borough Council (the Council) has four priorities within the Valley Plan 2021-25 – Our Place, Our Plan. These priorities represent the Council’s main aims to achieve the Council’s overarching vision.



This report captures the Council’s performance in relation to the outlined priorities and includes; Performance Measures, Performance Summary and Actions for Improvement, Compliments and Complaints and Corporate Risks. To deliver the outlined priorities, the Council revised the objectives within the Council’s annual action plan at the start of 2023/24. The information included within this report relates to Quarter 1 (Q1) 2023/24 – **April, May and June 2024**.

A strong and robust approach to performance management and data quality processes will deliver a high quality service and drive service improvements. This report compiles information from the Council’s different service areas and ensures the information included is accurate, reliable and provided in a timely manner. The Council reviews its performance measures on an annual basis to ensure the targets are appropriate. A Red, Amber, and Green (RAG) rating status is used to monitor overall performance, and an arrow rating status has been introduced to demonstrate the performance trend in comparison to previous outturns.

To provide a clear understanding of how the Council is performing, the performance measures are split into Tier 1 and Tier 2 measures and where available will be compared to the ‘National Local Authority’ (NLA) average and the Council’s comparable authorities - ‘Family Group’ (FG) average. The comparable information is drawn directly from the LG Inform Platform (LGA- id), which provides the most up to date and accessible information in relation to local authority performance measures.

Performance RAG Rating Status		Performance Trend Status	
Indicator	Status	Indicator	Status
GREEN	On track, no substantial issues or risks which require action from the Council.		Performance has increased.
AMBER	Some issues or risks which require action from the Council.		Performance has decreased.
RED	Serious issues or risks needing urgent action.		Performance has continued with no increase or decrease / cannot be measured.
ANNUAL/ UNKNOWN	The status cannot be calculated.		

Tier 1 – A set of high-level strategic measures and targets that constitute the Valley Plan 2021-25 – Our Place, Our Plan.

Tier 2 – A set of performance measures and targets to address key priority areas of performance within Directorates/ Service Areas linked to the business planning process and the Valley Plan 2021-25 – Our Place, Our Plan.

Higher or Lower – Indicating whether the reported performance should be operating either higher or lower than the target to increase/improve the Council’s performance.

Priority 1 - A Thriving Local Economy

Outcomes

- To support Bacup, Haslingden and Rawtenstall town centres as better places to provide their unique offers and a destination for local shoppers and visitors.
- To have secured inward investment in the borough creating a sustainable economy, matching local skills provision with future job and career opportunities.
- Having a thriving visitor economy which is more widely known with enhanced attractions and a much improved accommodation offer.

Performance Measures	2023-24 Outturn	Higher or Lower	2024-25 Target	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Trend	Comparative Performance
Tier 1									
Percentage of empty shops across the borough per annum, cumulative figure	22%	Lower	14%	23.4%	-	-	-	RED ↓	N/A
Increase the attractiveness of Rossendale's main town centres by 5% per annum, reported during Q3 (Resident Survey).	27%	Higher	32%	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Increase the vibrancy of Rossendale's main town centres by 5% per annum, reported during Q3 (Resident Survey).	21%	Higher	26%	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Productivity of local businesses measured through the revenue generated by each employee per annum, reported during Q1 (Office for National Statistics)	£45,685	Higher	£54,500	£52,767	-	-	-	AMBER ↑	N/A
Number of economically inactive residents engaged through the Rossendale Works Programme per annum, cumulative figure	110	Higher	60	43	-	-	-	GREEN ↑	N/A
Reduce the borough's unemployment rate per annum, cumulative figure (LGA – id:5472)	4%	Lower	3%	4%	-	-	-	AMBER ▬	4TH QUARTILE FG – 3% (Q1 2024) NLA – 2.9% (Q1 2024)
Tier 2									
Number of business support referrals per annum, cumulative figure	147	Higher	120	36	-	-	-	AMBER ↓	N/A
Performance Summary									
3									

- Incorporating feedback gathered from public consultation sessions, the planning application for Bacup Market has been submitted for approval. A communications plan has been developed to generate interest for a new market operator and relationships have been maintained with the existing market traders to ensure they are involved and updated on any relevant information.

- The contract with Haslingden Market's contractor was terminated during June 2024 due to the lack of progress within the agreed timescales. The programme of works has been managed with limited implications and a new contractor will be appointed to resume the works during Q2. A mix of both permanent and pop-up market traders have been secured to fill the market and a calendar of events will be developed to draw in footfall and boost local revenue.
- £10k Historic England match funding has been secured to develop Haslingden's public realm. Layer Studio, the same architects who designed the Big Lamp Project, have been appointed to develop the strategy.
- Public feedback has been collated to finalise the Rawtenstall Masterplan. The plan will be submitted for Full Council approval.
- Support has been provided to the management company and traders of Rawtenstall Market. Communication has been maintained to resolve the issues in relation to the proposed market plans in preparation for planning submission.
- A Full Council report has been prepared to accept the Long-Term Plan for Towns funding. A Long-Term Plan for Towns Board has been established and Ian Taylor has been appointed as Chair. The group has met to discuss the programme's scope and will continue to meet during Q2 to identify suitable projects.
- Square Yard have been appointed to develop the Waterfoot Masterplan. The proposals focus on developing the area into an 'art town', and a base for outdoor activities. A conservation appraisal document will be developed for Waterfoot. Growth Lancashire have been appointed to review 143 town centre buildings which will be progressed into a management plan.
- To support the development to Rossendale's key employment sites, Lancashire County Council attended the UK's Real Estate Investment and Infrastructure Forum in Leeds. The employment sites along the A56 corridor were included in their promotion and conversations have been established with various organisations to progress the sites' development.
- The junction works to Futures Park have been completed and new signage has been installed at the Business Centre.
- Rossendale's first business expo was delivered at the Whitaker on 11th June 2024. 'Rossendale Means Business' was organised in partnership with GrowTraffic and was attended by over 40 exhibitors, business and community organisations who showcased their industries and networked with other local organisations. The event is proposed to continue on an annual basis following its success.
- Two employability sessions have been delivered to Tor View Secondary School and Valley College (Tor View 16+) to promote local employment support and opportunities. Rossendale Works have also secured funding to purchase 100 children's bicycles for Whitewell Bottom Community Centre, with the aim of increasing activity and reducing transport barriers.

Actions for Improvement

- The percentage of empty shops has increased when compared to 2023-24. Financial pressures and changes to lease conditions continue to impact businesses. The percentage of empty shops in Bacup (24%), Waterfoot (39%) and Haslingden (22%) continue to impact the overall percentage of empty shops in Rossendale. It is noted that Rawtenstall (4%) has a significantly low percentage of empty shops.
- During Q2, Lancashire County Council will consult residents in relation to their proposed plans for Hall Carr, bus service improvements and designs for Bank Street. Support will be provided to ensure the consultation is promoted locally to residents.

Priority 2 - A High Quality Environment

Outcomes

- A high quality 'clean and green' local environment where people feel proud to live.
- Reduced our carbon footprint.
- Improved waste recycling rate across the borough.

Performance Indicator	2023-24 Outturn	Higher or Lower	2024-25 Target	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Trend	Comparative Performance
Tier 1									
Increase the household waste recycling rate per quarter (LGA id: 46)	32.3%	Higher	34%	33.8%	-	-	-	GREEN ↑	4TH QUARTILE FG – 38.1% (2022/23) NLA – 43.2% (2022/23)
Residual household waste collection rate per annum, cumulative figure (LGA id: 45)	510.6kg	Lower	540kg per household	125.4kg	-	-	-	AMBER ↑	4TH QUARTILE FG – 491kg (2022/23) NLA – 439.2kg (2022/23)
Increase resident satisfaction in relation to the cleanliness of Rosendale's main town centers by 5% per annum, reported during Q3 (Resident Survey)	65%	Higher	70%	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Average removal time of fly-tipping per quarter	4 days	Lower	5 days	4.4 days	-	-	-	GREEN ↓	N/A
Initial investigation of fly-tipping per quarter	4 days	Lower	5 days	4 days	-	-	-	GREEN █	N/A
Initial investigation of abandoned vehicles per quarter	4 days	Lower	5 days	5 days	-	-	-	GREEN ↓	N/A
Initial investigation of trade waste issues per quarter	4 days	Lower	5 days	4 days	-	-	-	GREEN █	N/A
Tier 2									
Percentage of general waste bins collected as per schedule per quarter	99%	Higher	95%	99%	-	-	-	GREEN █	N/A
Percentage of trade waste bins collected as per schedule per quarter	99%	Higher	95%	99%	-	-	-	GREEN █	N/A
Percentage of public litter bins emptied as per schedule per quarter	99%	Higher	95%	100%	-	-	-	GREEN ↑	N/A

Install additional/replacement bin per annum, cumulative figure	80 bins	Higher	60 bins	7 bins	-	-	-	AMBER ↓	N/A
Percentage of main roads swept as per schedule per quarter	98%	Higher	95%	98%	-	-	-	GREEN █	N/A
Percentage of side roads swept as per schedule per quarter	100%	Higher	95%	100%	-	-	-	GREEN █	N/A
Percentage of amenity grass cut as per schedule per quarter	100%	Higher	95%	93%	-	-	-	AMBER ↓	N/A
Percentage of park grass cut as per schedule per quarter	100%	Higher	95%	100%	-	-	-	GREEN █	N/A
Percentage of bowling green, football pitches and memorial gardens cut as per schedule per quarter	100%	Higher	95%	100%	-	-	-	GREEN █	N/A
Percentage of play areas inspected as per schedule per quarter	100%	Higher	80%	100%	-	-	-	GREEN █	N/A
Percentage of cemeteries inspected as per schedule per quarter	100%	Higher	80%	100%	-	-	-	GREEN █	N/A
Percentage of requested bulky waste collections completed within 5 working days per quarter	NEW	Higher	95%	88%	-	-	-	RED █	N/A
Percentage of requested bins delivered within 5 working days per quarter	NEW	Higher	95%	78%	-	-	-	RED █	N/A

Performance Summary

- Caulmert have been appointed to design and consult the initial designs for the proposed waste transfer station at Henrietta Street.
- Bartec, the new back-office management system for Operations has been rolled out and embedded into the Council's website. The new system monitors the service and provides live updates to improve customer service. During Q2, the system will be introduced into to Street Cleansing, and Parks & Open Spaces team.
- The Parks and Open Spaces team have worked to alleviate water seeping at Whitworth Cemetery and 11,000 bedding plants have been planted across the borough.
- A further 9,000 bedding plants have been distributed to local community groups and support has been provided to Rossendale Civic Pride (Rawtenstall) and Bacup Pride (Bacup) in preparation for their RHS Britain in Bloom judging due to take place during Q2.
- Five prosecutions have been enforced and 12 Community Protection Warnings have been issued to tackle environmental crimes during Q1. A further prosecution relating to the 40 tonnes of fly-tipping dumped at Futures Park was successful resulting in 18-month sentences served to the two offenders. To support a robust approach to local enforcement, penalty fines for environmental crimes have increased in line with Government guidance.

- Stubbylee and Moorlands Park has been entered for a Green Flag award for the fourth consecutive year and Rawtenstall Library Gardens has been submitted for the first time. Both areas have been judged and the results will be announced during Q2.
- A tender exercise to appoint a contractor for the new wheeled sports area at Edgeside Park (Waterfoot) has been developed and shared. Further work in Waterfoot has focused on improving the appearance of Trickett's Memorial Garden.
- Developments have continued in Whitaker Park (Rawtenstall). Drains and paths have been re-installed to reduce surface water and improve the park's safety. Further funding is being sought to develop a new toddler and youth play area for the park.
- To tackle fly-tipping in Rossendale, Operations have reintroduced their regular clean up days. During Q1, Healy Dell (Whitworth) and Eastgate (Haslingden) have been targeted. These clean-ups were shared via social media to engage residents of the activity and positively promote the Council.
- Supporting the Council's Climate Change Strategy, phase one of the On-Street Residential Charge Point Scheme has been delivered, involving preparatory work for installing electric vehicle charging points to Council-owned car parks. Additional work is required to complete the installations. To progress the Net-Zero Terraced Streets project, focus has remained on identifying a practical decarbonisation solution for the three demonstrator properties.
- Carbon emission monitoring plans are being developed to reduce the Council's emissions. Initial works to reduce the emissions from Henrietta Street Depot have been delivered, it is hoped that the Council's annual carbon emissions will reduce by 37.5 tonnes following the decarbonisation of the depot.
- New burdens funding for capital expenditure has been provided to support the introduction of food waste collections by 2026. It is proposed to allocate this funding to purchase four food waste vehicles. The new burdens funding for revenue expenditure is yet to be confirmed.

Actions for Improvement

- The percentage of bulky waste collections and requested bins delivered within 5 days is below target. Both services are being monitored via the new Bartec system. The system requires greater time to embed to support effective service delivery and performance monitoring. Throughout the year, the measures will be scrutinised to ensure the service is effective and that targets are appropriate.
- The introduction of food waste collections will support the aim of increasing recycling rates in the borough however, this is not relevant until 2026. Currently, the Council has expanded its recycling campaign to include 'wishcycling'. The team is also visiting schools and is attending events to increase recycling awareness. Preparation for the food waste will continue and the promotion of recycling will be expanded.

Priority 3 – Healthy and Proud Communities

Outcomes

- To have delivered more new homes and a good mix of housing tenures.
- Improved the health of residents through access to better leisure facilities and health services.
- A more joined up approach to physical and mental wellbeing which is more rapidly reducing health inequalities.
- Residents share a sense of pride in their immediate community and the wider borough.

Performance Indicator	2023-24 Outturn	Higher or Lower	2024-25 Target	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Trend	Comparative Performance
Tier 1									
Homeless decisions made within 5 days of the 57 th day, when a case is priority need in the relief duty	NEW	Lower	70%	85%	-	-	-	GREEN █	N/A
Percentage of Disables Facilities Grants completed within 12 months per quarter	96%	Higher	95%	100%	-	-	-	GREEN ↑	N/A
Determine major planning applications within 13 weeks per quarter (LGA id: 17482)	100%	Higher	60%	100%	-	-	-	GREEN ↑	1ST QUARTILE FG – 97% (Q4 2023/24) NLA – 91% (Q4 2023/24)
Determine minor and other planning applications within 8 weeks per quarter (LGA id: 17487)	98%	Higher	75%	98%	-	-	-	GREEN █	1ST QUARTILE FG – 90% (Q4 2023/24) NLA – 88% (Q4 2023/24)
Number of ‘new’ and ‘affordable new’ homes delivered within the Local Plan per annum, reporting in Q2	111	Higher	135	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Initial response to housing complaints per quarter	4 days	Lower	7 days	6 days	-	-	-	GREEN ↓	N/A
Initial response to food hygiene complaints per quarter	6 days	Lower	10 days	6 days	-	-	-	GREEN █	N/A
Increase the percentage of residents feeling safe in their local area during the day by 5% per annum, reported during Q3 (Resident Survey).	92%	Higher	97%	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Increase the percentage of residents feeling safe in their local area after dark by 5% per annum, reported during Q3 (Resident Survey).	70%	Higher	65%	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Prevalence of overweight (including obesity) year 6 children per annum, reported in Q4.	38.1%	Lower	37%	-	-	-	-	-	N/A

Tier 2									
Number of Disabled Facilities Grants awarded per annum, cumulative figure	126	Higher	80	19	-	-	-	RED ↓	N/A
Processing of Disabled Facilities Grants – Referral to Approval days per quarter	51 days	Lower	110 days	49 days	-	-	-	GREEN ↑	N/A
Processing of Disabled Facilities Grants - Approval to Completion days per quarter	131 days	Lower	80 days	121 days	-	-	-	RED ↑	N/A
Number of Food Standards Agency food inspections per annum, cumulative figure	246	Higher	320	51	-	-	-	AMBER ↓	N/A

Performance Summary

- Following the launch of the Council’s Housing Strategy, the number of people requiring temporary accommodation has decreased. Monies from the Local Authority Housing Fund has been allocated to increase Rossendale’s housing stock.
- Biodiversity net gain is an approach to development and land management that aims to improve the natural environment. Following Government legislation, planning applications now require a biodiversity net gain plan. The planning approval process has been developed to ensure applications are determined on the basis that the plans demonstrate a 10% delivery of bio-diversity net gain.
- The Our Place, Our Plan, Our Facilities Strategy is delivered in partnership with Rossendale Leisure Trust and aims to maximise Rossendale’s leisure facilities. Regular communication with Sport England has continued to seek further funding opportunities to deliver this strategy.
- A leisure facilities working group has been established and meets bi-monthly to identify priorities and actions for the community sport provision. A draft recommendation paper has been developed for Marl Pits Leisure Centre (Rawtenstall) and the plans to install a 3G pitch and resurface multi-use games area and grass pitch at the Adrenaline Centre (Haslingden) have been finalised.
- Following consultation with stakeholders and partners, a Physical Activity and Sports Strategy has been developed. The strategy is expected to launch during Q3 following formal approval from the Corporate Management Team, Cabinet and Full Council.
- The 5th round of the Household Support Fund has been delivered through partner referrals and Citizen’s Advice. £50k of this funding has been allocated to support local food banks and the launch of the Haslingden Halo food project.
- Continued support has been provided to Ukraine guests and hosts, with 3 families supported into private accommodation. Rossendale’s Ukraine group continues to meet regularly and a funded refugee and asylum seeker visit to ‘Homefest’ has supported those settling in to the community.

- A 'Better Lives' Strategy aiming to support residents living in poverty will continue to be developed. On 30th May 2024, a 'Better Lives' workshop was held and attended by 19 partner organisations to identify the strategy's scope and support available for vulnerable residents across Rossendale.

Actions for Improvement

- The number of disabled facilities grants awarded has reduced however, 42 applications are currently being processed and awaiting approval. The processing of disabled facilities grants has improved when compared to the previous quarter but still remains below target. Historic projects continue to impact the overall processing performance. To mitigate this, the supplier list has been increased and a review of staffing arrangements has been carried out to provide further capacity.

Priority 4 – Effective and Efficient Council

Outcome

- Provide good quality and responsive services embracing new technologies.
- Be a financially sustainable Council with a commercial outlook whilst always considering social value.
- Provide sound governance to enable key decisions and major projects to be progressed in an efficient and professional way.
- Have a skilled and happy workforce, where we are able to retain and attract good staff.

Performance Indicator	2023-24 Outturn	Higher or Lower	2024-25 Target	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Trend	Comparative Performance
Tier 1									
Time taken to process Housing Benefit new claims per quarter (LGA id: 299)	11 days	Lower	17.5 days	12.9 days	-	-	-	GREEN ↓	1ST QUARTILE FG – 16 (Q4 2023/24) NLA – 18 (Q4 2023/24)
Time taken to process Housing Benefit change in circumstances per quarter (LGA id: 300)	1.7 days	Lower	4 days	4 days	-	-	-	GREEN ↓	2ND QUARTILE FG – 2 (Q1 2023/24) NLA – 3 (Q1 2023/24)
Time taken to process Council Tax benefit new claims per quarter	15.7 days	Lower	15 days	13.9 days	-	-	-	GREEN ↑	N/A
Time taken to process Council Tax benefit change in circumstances per quarter	2.4 days	Lower	4 days	3.2 days	-	-	-	GREEN ↓	N/A
Increase resident satisfaction of the Council’s website by 5% per annum, reported during Q3 (Resident Survey).	25%	Higher	30%	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Payment of undisputed invoices within 30 days per quarter	87%	Higher	92%	94%	-	-	-	GREEN ↑	N/A
Number of Ombudsman Enquiries upheld per annum, cumulative figure	0	Lower	0	0	-	-	-	GREEN █	N/A
Number of employee leavers in line with the national average, 15% per annum (7 employee leavers per quarter)	6	Lower	7	3	-	-	-	GREEN ↑	N/A
Number of days lost due to sickness absence per full time equivalent employee per annum, cumulative figure	13.3 days	Lower	8 days	2.8 days	-	-	-	AMBER ↓	N/A
Percentage of staff who have completed an annual appraisal per annum, cumulative figure.	95%	Higher	100%	24%	-	-	-	AMBER ↓	N/A

Percentage of staff who have completed mandatory training per quarter	91%	Higher	100%	80%	-	-	-	AMBER ↓	N/A
RIDDOR reportable accidents and incidents per annum, cumulative figure	3	Lower	< 5	0	-	-	-	GREEN ↑	N/A
Tier 2									
Percentage of Council Tax collected per annum, cumulative figure (LGA id: 199)	95.8%	Higher	96%	27.9%	-	-	-	GREEN ↓	4TH QUARTILE FG – 97.1% (2023/24) NLA – 97.1% (2023/24)
Percentage of NNDR collected per annum, cumulative figure	98%	Higher	98.4%	28%	-	-	-	GREEN ↑	N/A
Percentage of accurate processing of a Housing Benefit claim per annum, cumulative figure	95.3%	Higher	95%	96%	-	-	-	GREEN ↑	N/A
Secured garden waste subscribers per annum, cumulative figure	7203	Higher	7000	6788	-	-	-	GREEN ↑	N/A
Secured commercial waste subscribers per annum, cumulative figure	409	Higher	440	413	-	-	-	AMBER ↑	N/A
Secured number of bulky waste collection requests per annum, cumulative figure	NEW	Higher	3000	805	-	-	-	GREEN ↓	N/A
Increase the number of electronic service request forms completed by residents by 15% per annum, reported in Q4	10,114	Higher	11,600	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Distribute 12 positive new stories per quarter	20	Higher	12	21	-	-	-	GREEN ↑	N/A
Percentage of FOIs responded to within 20 days per quarter	90%	Higher	95%	90%	-	-	-	AMBER ▬	N/A
Percentage of complaints responded to within 10 working days per quarter	65%	Higher	95%	63%	-	-	-	RED ↓	N/A
Percentage of Member enquiries responded to within 10 working days per quarter	75%	Higher	95%	100%	-	-	-	GREEN ↑	N/A
Percentage of MP enquiries responded to within 10 working days per quarter	70%	Higher	95%	64%	-	-	-	RED ↓	N/A
Number of Health and Safety reports received per annum, cumulative figure	87	Lower	95	27	-	-	-	GREEN ↓	N/A
Performance Summary									

- Microsoft Teams and Microsoft Calling have been deployed to all users with the aim of improving tele-communications, both internally and externally. Further improvements have been made to the Council's network system to ensure staff have the IT support required to work efficiently.
- To improve customer access to Council services, a direct debit system has been embedded into the website to allow customers access to their Council Tax service online.
- An email phishing exercise and mandatory cyber security training have been rolled out to all staff to promote digital awareness and compliance.
- A balanced budget for 2024-25 has been set and approved by Full Council. An officer working group has been established to identify further savings and income generation opportunities to support the budget throughout the year.
- The Health and Wellbeing Champions have continued to prepare for the annual health and wellbeing day, proposed to take place on Wednesday 11th September 2024, and the proposed Health and Wellbeing Strategy continues to be drafted.
- To improve staff morale and inclusion, two monthly staff engagement activities have been introduced. 'Lunchtime Learn' sessions are held once a month as an informal training/information sharing sessions for staff to attend. Sessions during Q1 have focused on dealing with suicide, Microsoft Teams and Microsoft Calling. A monthly 'Chief Exec Huddle' has also been introduced to increase CMT visibility and leadership.
- Appraisal and Performance Development training has been rolled out to all staff. People and policy will continue to chase the outstanding appraisals and personal development reviews to ensure staff training can be developed.

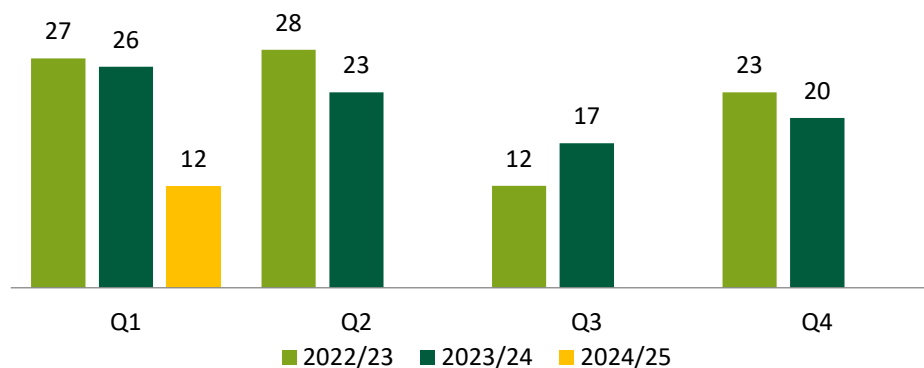
Actions for Improvement

- The response timeline to complaints and MP enquiries is performing below target. 32 complaints had a response deadline during Q1. 63% (20) were closed within the 10 working-day deadline, 34% (11) were closed with a breached deadline and 3% (1) remain open. 35 MP enquiries had a response deadline during Q1. 64% (23) were closed within the 10 working-day deadline and 36% (12) were closed with a breached deadline. To improve the response to all feedback, enquiries and complaints, weekly reminder emails are sent to officers and service managers.

Compliments and Complaints

Compliments

Compliment Trend	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2022-23	27	28	12	23
2023-24	26	23	17	20
2024-25	12	-	-	-
Number of Compliments	Compliment Detail			
12	Staff member/team			



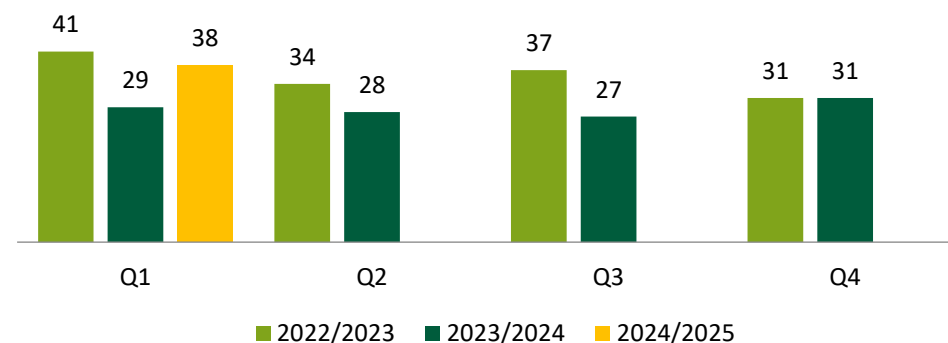
Ombudsman Enquiry

Ombudsman Enquiry	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2022-23	2	3	0	0
2023-24	2	0	1	0
2024-25	3	-	-	-

During Q1, three new enquiries were received from the Local Government Ombudsman relating to Council Tax and Planning. One enquiry was closed after an initial enquiry with no further action. The remaining two enquiries will be progressed during Q2.

Complaints

Complaints Trend	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2022-23	41	34	37	31
2023-24	29	28	27	31
2024-25	38	-	-	-
Number of Complaints	Complaint Detail			
1	Action/response/communication			
1	Advice/information given			
1	Bailiff charges/action			
6	Bins/bin collection			
2	Council decision			
4	Council Tax charges/decision			
2	Customer service			
1	Footpaths			
2	Housing/landlords			
2	Noise nuisance			
11	Other			
1	Quality of service			
1	Property/land			
2	Staff member/team			
1	Trees			



Corporate Risk Register

Risks are those things which might present a barrier to us delivering the things we have undertaken to achieve. Each year the Council reviews the potential risks it is facing and looks at what it might do to minimise the occurrence of such risks. This information is then regularly monitored and reviewed.

We profile our risks using a matrix (shown below) which is based on our making two judgments about each potential risk faced by the Council. The definition of the likelihood and impact can be found in the Council's Risk Management Strategy 2016.

The Council's Risk Matrix

Likelihood	A					
	B					
	C					
	D					
	E					
	F					
		5	4	3	2	1
	Impact					

Likelihood

How likely is it that the risk may occur (rated A-F, A being the most likely)

Impact

How serious might the consequences of the impact be (rated 1-5, 1 being the highest consequence).

Therefore, a risk rated A1 is the highest risk rating and a risk of F5 is the lowest risk rating.

Risk RAG (Red, Amber and Green) rating status indicators

Risk Status	Status description
GREEN	The likelihood and impact of the risk is low
AMBER	The likelihood and impact of the risk is medium
RED	The likelihood and impact of the risk is high

Risk 1 – Sustainability of the Medium Term Financial Strategy

Responsible Officer - Kimberly Haworth

Description

The Council's latest Medium Term Financial Strategy update published February 2022 indicates an underlying funding gap of c£600k per annum from 2023/24 onwards. The Council must take appropriate action in order to balance its annual expenditure against its available annual income and other revenue resources. The Council has a legal obligation to publish an annual balanced budget; this means its budget expenditure must equal its available income and any available reserves. Council reserves are limited and equate to only circa 3 years given the anticipated funding gap. Therefore additional income must be identified or annual costs reduced in future years. The current cost of living crisis may also add to the pressure on the Medium Term Financial Strategy through pay award, utility costs, contract inflation and Council Tax/NNDR collection rates.

Risk Consequence

If the Council is not able to prepare a balanced budget there would be legal ramifications, but would ultimately impact on the level of services the council is able to deliver to Rossendale residents and would result in major reputational damage.

Initial risk assessment RAG status (without mitigation)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
B	2	B2	RED

Mitigation

The Medium Term Financial Strategy does not indicate a significant narrowing of the gap in the next four years. New income generating opportunities will need to be identified to generate additional revenue, along with improved efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery. Departments across the council will need to be challenged to become more effective.

Risk assessment RAG status (after mitigation)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
C	2	C2	AMBER

Q1 Update

The Council's 2023/24 outturn performed better than the estimated position detailed within the February 2023 Medium-Term Financial Strategy. This has slightly improved the Council's reserve balances however, based on the February 2024 Medium-Term Financial Strategy significant savings/income generation are required for the Council to maintain the minimum level of reserves by the end of the current forecast. The Council has a continued freeze on non-essential expenditure and officers continue to review and maximise income generation opportunities. All vacant posts are evaluated by the Corporate Management Team prior to recruitment.

Q1 risk assessment RAG status (current)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
B	1	B1	RED

Risk 2 – Major Disaster affecting the Delivery of Council Services

Responsible Officer - Clare Law

Description

The Council has statutory duties under the Civil Contingencies Act (2004) and to carry out emergency planning and business continuity management activities to minimise the impact of a civil emergency or business interruption on people living, working and visiting the borough.

Risk Consequence

Failure to have robust contingency plans in place could result in the failure to deliver Council services, such as, the collection of residential and trade waste, burial services and payment of suppliers and benefits.

Initial risk assessment RAG status (without mitigation)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
C	1	C1	AMBER

Mitigation

A robust Council Emergency and Business Continuity Plan is in place. Service continuity plans are updated and tested regularly through a quarterly Emergency Planning meeting. The plans are embedded with the Corporate Management Team as critical working documents to support the continued delivery of essential council services. All managers have a copy of the overall plan and their service plan and keep them under review. The Council is a member of Lancashire County Council Local Resilience Forum. Officers attend meetings and undertake regular training exercises. The council plans are available on the Resilience Direct website. Mutual aid agreements are in place with all Local Authorities across Lancashire.

Risk assessment RAG status (after mitigation)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
C	2	C2	AMBER

Q1 Update

The Council's Local Emergency Plans have been reviewed and staff continue to work with Lancashire County Council to update the Lancashire Flood Plan. Work is ongoing to update the rest centre information and contacts in partnership with Lancashire County Council's Emergency Planning Team. The Council is represented at Local Resilience Forum meeting, along with other partners and agencies, to ensure the Lancashire response to major incidents is robust. Staff also participated in multiagency testing of the emergency plan and arrangements for the Council's local control of major accident hazard (Comah) site in Rossendale.

The Council's Emergency Planning Team continue to meet on a quarterly basis to review internal plans and processes in preparation for local emergencies.

Q1 risk assessment RAG status (current)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
C	2	C2	AMBER

Risk 3 – Incident resulting in Death or Serious Injury or HSE Investigation

Responsible Officer - Clare Law

Description

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974), the Council has a duty of care towards the health, safety and wellbeing of its employees and others who may be affected by our work. In the event of a RIDDOR reportable accident, there is a risk of a Health and Safety Executive investigation and potential for a civil claim for damages.

Risk Consequence

Failure to comply with current legislation and demonstrate compliance may result in harm to staff and others, financial loss and enforcement action.

Initial risk assessment RAG status (without mitigation)	Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
	D	2	D2	AMBER

Mitigation

The Council has health and safety policies and procedures including a Health and Safety Incident Reporting Procedure in place along with a safe working culture. Actions need to be completed to address and implement a consistent approach across the Council in order to secure compliance.

Risk assessment RAG status (after mitigation)	Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
	E	2	E2	GREEN

Q1 Update

The Health and Safety Policy has completed its annual review and work has continued to implement the Health and Safety Action Plan, and reducing the risks from premises' compliance requirements. Liaison with insurers and Internal Audit has ensured external scrutiny of health and safety arrangements.

The programme of workplace inspections for 2024/25 has been developed. The Health and Safety Executive have inspected arrangements for pesticides, which were found to be compliant. 27 health and safety reports were received during Q1, none of which were reportable under the RIDDOR Regulations. Incidents are reported via JCC and are discussed within the Operations Health & Safety Committee meetings to evaluate the actions taken and lessons learnt.

Q1 risk assessment RAG status (current)	Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
	D	2	D2	AMBER

Risk 4 – Changes to Government policy on the delivery of the Council’s services

Responsible Officer - Rob Huntington

Description

Like all local authorities the Council is a statutory body that is subject to changes being consulted upon and or implemented by central government that might affect how we operate and serve our residents/businesses.

Risk Consequence

The risk that the Council fails to react and be prepared for any changes being proposed or implemented by central government.

Initial risk assessment RAG status (without mitigation)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
E	2	E2	GREEN

Mitigation

The Council is a member of the Local Government Association and District Councils Network who keep us informed of government policy and consultations and lobby on behalf of councils to mitigate the impact of any change. The Council is also signed up to receive daily emails from Local Government Information Unit who provide daily government news and other Local Government Information Unit policy briefings. The Chief Executive and Leader of the Council meets regularly with our two MPs. The Council’s Corporate Management Team monitor and assess government’s position on funding to be distributed to local authorities and other Government announcements that impact funding.

Risk assessment RAG status (after mitigation)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
E	2	E2	GREEN

Q1 Update

The Council is a member of both the Local Government Association and District Councils Network. The Corporate Management Team and Policy and Performance Officer receive regular policy bulletins and updates in relation to legislation and Government Departments. A weekly policy/horizon scanning bulletin is shared to the Senior Leadership Team and cascaded to officers where relevant.

‘Horizon Scanning and Policy’ is an agenda item on the Corporate Management Team’s weekly meeting to promote ongoing discussions in relation to recent policy announcements, funding opportunities and other relevant information from government departments, to determine if any action required is required.

Staff attend various webinars and meetings in relation to their service area and the Chief Executive regularly attends the North West Chief Executive, and Lancashire Chief Executive meetings, both having representation from the Local Government Association.

Q1 risk assessment RAG status (current)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
E	2	E2	GREEN

Risk 5 – Sustainable Workforce

Responsible Officer - Clare Law

Description

There is a requirement to have a sustainable workforce to deliver the Council services to residents and customers.

Risk Consequence

Failure to have a fully resourced, trained staff could result in the failure to deliver statutory and non-statutory service in a safe and professional manner to residents and customers.

Initial risk assessment RAG status (without mitigation)	Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
	D	3	D3	AMBER

Mitigation

The Council has robust HR policies and procedures, an agreed Authorised Establishment, performance management framework and Service Area Business Continuity Plans in place to mitigate any staffing challenges such as loss of staff due to the impact of an epidemic or pandemic. HR will work with managers to develop workforce succession planning. The Council provides an attractive benefit package including final pension scheme, flexible working, generous annual leave, a purchase leave scheme, free onsite parking, family friendly policies, discounted gym memberships and a cycle scheme to attract and retain staff.

Risk assessment RAG status (after mitigation)	Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
	E	3	E3	GREEN

Q1 Update

The number of employee leavers remains within the 15% national target (equating to 7 employees per reporting quarter). People and Policy continue to work with service managers to recruit to long-term vacant posts.

The level of sickness absence has improved when compared to Q4. Long term sickness in Q1 is at 1.31 days lost per FTE, there are 7 staff on long term sick. The main reason for long term sickness is 'other musculo-skeletal' a total of 101 days lost followed by 'stress, anxiety and depression' which equated to a loss of 67.5 days. Short-term sickness in Q1 is at 1.46 days lost per FTE. The main reason for short term sickness absence is 'stress, anxiety and depression', a total of 64.5 days lost. Followed by 'other musculo-skeletal', a total of 36.5 days lost and 'back and neck problems' 32.5 days lost.

Over 90% of long-term sickness has been in Operations due to 'other musculo skeletal' and 'back and neck problems'. People and Policy continue to work with Operations to monitor sickness and the impacts of an aging workforce in relation to musculo skeletal absences.

The Council has introduced paid physiotherapy sessions to mitigate long-term absence and has increased the number of referrals made to Occupational Health for medical advice to support regular attendance at work.

Both long term and short term sickness is monitored on a monthly basis, regular formal absence review meetings are carried out with staff to review their sickness absence and support their support their return to work and regular attendance at work. The process for staff returning to work has been refreshed and managers are required to complete comprehensive Return to Work Interviews with staff and identify any additional support required to mitigate future absences.

Q1 risk assessment RAG status (current)	Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
	E	3	E3	GREEN

Risk 6 – Insufficient data and cyber security

Responsible Officer - Andrew Buckle

Description

Cyber security presents one of the most challenging areas for both the public and private sectors. With the proliferation and severity of attacks constantly increasing this represents a major threat.

Risk Consequence

Cyber-attack resulting in a complete loss of all systems coupled with malware being spread across the entire network. Data breach resulting in information loss causing reputational damage and resulting in a financial penalty due to non-compliance with statutory requirements such as General Data Protection Regulation, Payment Card Industry Data Security.

Initial risk assessment RAG status (without mitigation)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
C	1	C1	AMBER

Mitigation

To protect against a data breach the Council, host all council data in Tier 3 Data Centres located in different geographical regions and are backed up daily. The Council's Data Centres hold the following accreditations: ISO27001:2013 and the Payment Card Industry Data Security. The Council adopts a Risk Insight approach to determine the treat Landscape and more importantly its evolution. The Council has received notification of meeting the Public Services Network which means the Councils' infrastructure met all the security requirements to allow connection to the Public Services Network. A cyber security training is to be provided for all staff.

Risk assessment RAG status (after mitigation)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
D	1	D1	AMBER

Q1 Update

In preparation of the General Election, The Council added additional security measures to prevent a cyber-attack or disruption.

The Council has worked with Express to ensure the electoral process went ahead with no issues and to prevent any disruption to the electoral process that could undermine confidence in the integrity of an election. As per the National Cyber Security Centre recommendations, the Council implemented the following:

- Strong passwords for all active directory accounts, this greatly reduces the chance that an account is compromised.
- Setting up two-step verification (also known as multi-factor authentication) on an account makes it considerably more secure. It means that even if an attacker knows your password, they cannot access your account.
- Additional backups taken including verification of restore points.
- Dedicated ICT focal point to cover the elections.

Q1 risk assessment RAG status (current)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
D	1	D1	AMBER

Risk 7 – Poor communications and public relations

Responsible Officer - Clare Law

Description

Good communication and public relations is essential to inform, maintain and develop relationships with residents, customers and partners to provide effective and efficient Council services.

Risk Consequence

Failure to communicate and respond to issues as they develop and inadequately or inappropriately communicating could lead to a major loss of reputation for the Council on a local, regional and national level. A loss of reputation can damage staff morale, trust between the Council and residents and impair the relationship between the Council and its partners meaning projects and services delivery is damaged.

Initial risk assessment RAG status (without mitigation)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
B	1	B1	RED

Mitigation

Communication methods are in place to support face to face, mail or electronic communications with a developed website and social media channels to provide 24/7 communication service. The Council has an experienced public relation and communications function to support officers to deal with communications in a timely manner and promote the work of the Council.

Risk assessment RAG status (after mitigation)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
D	1	D1	AMBER

Q1 Update

Viva PR has continued to deliver the agreed communications plan including updates to the Council's website.

The Corporate Management Team receive a weekly update, which includes horizon scanning and potential risks, and a monthly in person update to CMT.

20 positive press releases have been shared, including stories on the regeneration work resulting in over 107 pieces of media coverage. All of these pro-active positive releases help to promote the Council externally.

Viva PR act as first point of contact for the media and always respond in a timely manner ensuring good working relationships with local and regional media.

Communications training has been delivered to officers and a training session on social media and media relations has been delivered to Members.

Q1 risk assessment RAG status (current)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
E	1	E1	GREEN

Risk 8 – Non – Delivery of Corporate Programmes

Responsible Officer - Rob Huntington

Description

The Council has agreed the 6 corporate programmes for 2023/24 to support the delivery of Corporate Plan.

Risk Consequence

Failure to deliver the corporate programmes would have a detrimental impact on the delivery of the Council's Valley Plan 2021-25, Our Place, Our Plan, and result in a reputational risk to the Council's commitment to the residents. The failure to deliver the corporate programmes could potentially have a negative impact on the council's revenue budgets (by failure to deliver income generating projects) and delivery of the medium term financial strategy, and the associated economic and social benefits may not be realised.

Initial risk assessment RAG status (without mitigation)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
C	2	C2	AMBER

Mitigation

Each corporate project has a Project Sponsor (member of the Corporate Management Team), a Project Manager and Finance Officer. Each corporate programme will have a robust project plan and live risk register. The Programme Sponsor will be responsible for the strategic overview of the corporate programme, and the Programme Manager will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the corporate programme. The Council's Programme Board meets quarterly to review the progress of the corporate programmes. The Programme Sponsor will be responsible for highlighting any concerns to the Corporate Management Team throughout the life of the corporate programme.

Risk assessment RAG status (after mitigation)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
E	2	E2	GREEN

Q1 Update

A revised programme to support the delivery of the Valley Plan 2021-25 (Our Place, Our Plan) has been embedded. The Programme Board now reports on the Council's six overarching programmes, individual projects are monitored at an operational level.

The Corporate Management Team, Programme Sponsors and the Policy and Performance Officer attend Programme Board on a quarterly basis. Programme Managers are invited by exception if required by the Programme Sponsor.

The previous meeting was held on 7th May 2024. Two programmes were reported in the 'red' RAG status. The risks within these programmes are monitored regularly and any issues are reported within the weekly Corporate Management Team meeting.

Q1 risk assessment RAG status (current)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
E	2	E2	GREEN

Risk 9 – Financial Sustainability of Council Owned Leisure Assets

Responsible Officer – Rob Huntington

Description

National lockdowns due to Covid-19 resulted in Council owned leisure facilities closing for extended periods. During closure no income was received and outside of lockdown periods, income was significantly reduced. The cost of living crisis will have a significant negative impact on utility and salary costs for the Trust. This has impacted the financial sustainability of the Trust.

Risk Consequence

If the Council owned leisure assets are to be sustained in the longer term, the operators of the facilities have little recourse to additional funding to survive other than through the Council. This financial impact was managed in 2021/22 through additional government grants and Council support, however the real impact is likely to be felt in 2022/23, 2023/24 and continues in 2024/25.

Initial risk assessment RAG status (without mitigation)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
A	2	A2	RED

Mitigation

A report on the impact of all facilities has been produced by KKP and recommendations to minimise impact have been implemented. Senior Council officers are attending the Trust Board to ensure we work together to minimise costs and an intensive monitoring process is in place. Funding through a Covid-19 specific Sport England Fund has been received though this is limited in its amount and did not cover retrospective losses. Constant monitoring of future business plans and work in partnership to maximise income and reduce costs continues.

Risk assessment RAG status (after mitigation)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
A	2	A2	RED

Q1 Update

The Council's Finance team continued to meet with Rossendale Leisure Trust as part of the ongoing financial governance and accountability process put in place to monitor the Trust's finances.

Following the production of the Rossendale Leisure Trust statement of accounts, discussions are ongoing to ensure members understand the current leisure offer. Clarity of the current offer will enable a sustainable medium term financial plan to be developed for Rossendale Leisure Trust by trustees.

It is planned that earlier engagement with Rossendale Leisure Trust will take place ahead of the Council's budget planning process.

Q1 risk assessment RAG status (current)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
A	2	A2	RED