

Meeting of: The Council

Wednesday 5th March 2025 at 6.30pm or at the conclusion of Question Time and Public Engagement whichever is the later.

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: Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager Tel: 01706 252422

Email: democracy@rossendalebc.gov.uk

ITEM		Lead Member/Contact Officer
A.	BUSINESS MATTERS	
A1.	Apologies for Absence	
A2.	To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting on 11 th December 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.	Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal/ Monitoring Officer (01706) 252438 clarebirtwistle@rossendalebc.gov.uk
B.	Communications from the Mayor, the Leader or Head of Paid Service To receive any communications from the Mayor, the Leader, or the Head of the Paid Service that they may wish to lay before the Council.	The Mayor, Councillor Driver, The Leader, Councillor A.Barnes and Rob Huntington, Chief Executive 01706 252447 robhuntington@rossendalebc.gov.uk

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 Rossendale Borough Council, Futures Park, Bacup, OL13 0BB

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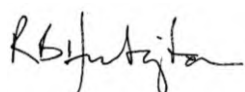


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C.	POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK ITEMS	
C1.	2025/26 Council Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy To consider the recommendations of the Cabinet on 12 th February 2025 in respect of the 2025/26 Council Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy.	Councillor Walmsley/ Chris Warren, Director of Resources 01706 252428 chriswarren@rossendalebc.gov.uk
C2.	Capital Programme 2025/26 – 2028/29 and Capital Strategy 2025/26 To consider the recommendations of the Cabinet on 12 th February 2025 in respect of the Capital Programme and Capital Strategy.	Councillor Walmsley/ Chris Warren, Director of Resources 01706 252428 chriswarren@rossendalebc.gov.uk
C3.	Treasury Management Strategy & Treasury Management Practises To consider the recommendations of the Cabinet on 12 th February 2025 in respect of the Treasury Management Strategy & Treasury Management Practises	Councillor Walmsley/ Chris Warren, Director of Resources 01706 252428 chriswarren@rossendalebc.gov.uk
D.	ORDINARY BUSINESS	
D1.	Council Tax Support Scheme 2025/26 To consider the Council Tax Support Scheme 2025/26	Councillor Walmsley/ Chris Warren, Director of Resources 01706 252428 chriswarren@rossendalebc.gov.uk
D2.	Council Pay Policy Statement To consider the Council Pay Policy Statement	Councillor Lythgoe/ Clare Law, Head of People and Policy 01706 252457 clarelaw@rossendalebc.gov.uk
D3.	UK Shared Prosperity Funding 2025-26 To consider the UK Shared Prosperity Funding 2025-26 report	Councillor Harris/ David Smurthwaite, Director of Economic Development 01706 252429 davidsmurthwaite@rossendalebc.gov.uk
D4.	Acceptance of grants in relation to the prevention of Homelessness To consider the acceptance of grants	Councillor McInnes/ David Smurthwaite, Director of Economic Development 01706 252429 davidsmurthwaite@rossendalebc.gov.uk
D5.	Urgent decisions To note any urgent key decisions that have been taken by the Cabinet since the last meeting of the Council.	Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal/ Monitoring Officer (01706) 252438 clarebirtwistle@rossendalebc.gov.uk
E.	RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET AND OTHER COMMITTEES	
E1.	Recommendation of the Governance Working Group Constitution Review	Councillor Lythgoe/ Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal/ Monitoring Officer 01706 252438 clarebirtwistle@rossendalebc.gov.uk
E2.	Recommendation of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Climate Change Strategy Update	Councillor Lythgoe/ David Smurthwaite, Director of Economic Development 01706 252429 davidsmurthwaite@rossendalebc.gov.uk



Rob Huntington
Chief Executive

Date Published: 25th February 2025

COUNCILLOR MICHELLE SMITH, DEPUTY MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

DATE OF MEETING: 11th December 2024

PRESENT: The Deputy Mayor Councillor M. Smith (in the Chair)
Councillors Adshead, Ashworth, A. Barnes, Bauld, Belli, Cheetham, Eaton, Gill, Hancock, Harris, Harrison, Hodgkiss, Holland, Kenyon, Lythgoe, McInnes, Neal, Norton, Payne, Procter, Royds, Walmsley and Woods.

IN ATTENDANCE: Rob Huntington, Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service
Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer
Phillip Veevers, Mayor's Attendant

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: 5 members of the public
Chris Warren, Director of Resources/s151 Officer
Kimberly Haworth, Head of Finance
David Smurthwaite, Director of Economic Development
Anne Storah, Principal Planner – Forward Planning
Alastair Newall – Forvis Mazars
Katie Kingston – Forvis Mazars

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors S. Barnes, Bleakley, Driver, McMahon, Looker and S. Smith.

2. Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 2nd October 2024 be signed by the Deputy Mayor as a correct record.

3. Urgent Items of Business

There were no urgent items of business.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Communications from the Mayor, the Leader or Head of Paid Service

There were no communications from the Mayor or Head of Paid Service.

The Leader of the Council provided the following communication:

The Leader of the Council congratulated Councillor Alan Neal on being made an Honorary Townsman of Whitworth. Alan's dedication to the people of Whitworth and his service as a Whitworth Town Councillor for over 37 years was an outstanding achievement, and he was deserving of the award.

ORDINARY BUSINESS

6. Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan referendum

The Council considered the Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan referendum report.

In response to questions from members the following was noted:

- Thanks was given to the Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum.
- Timescales would be published for the referendum so residents could have their say.
- Thanks was particularly given to Anne Storah for her work throughout the process and also Mr Freeman for his independent examination.
- The Tatton garden at Whitaker Park demonstrates how we can use permeable surfaces.
- There was a legal responsibility to prepare a local plan, which was very challenging.

Resolved:

1. To agree the Regulation 18 Decision Statement for the Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan (Appendix 1).
2. To agree to the modifications proposed by the Examiner to the draft Neighbourhood Plan as set out in the Regulation 18 Decision Statement.
3. To agree that the Neighbourhood Plan proceeds to a referendum, subject to the modifications set out in the Regulation 18 Decision Statement) with a voting area to be the same as designated for the Neighbourhood Area.

Reason for Decision

The Council has considered the Examiner's Report in detail and the recommended modifications set out in the report, as has Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum. The Council agrees with the modifications, and therefore considers that the draft Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan, subject to modification, meets the Basic Conditions and other legal requirements and can therefore proceed to Referendum.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

7. Review of Public Space Protection Orders for Alcohol, Nitrous Oxide and Off Road Bikes

The Council considered the review of Public Space Protection Orders for Alcohol, Nitrous Oxide and Off Road Bikes.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- Illegal off-road bikes had been tackled with Fixed penalty Notices being issued.
- Thanks was given to the officers.
- The off-road bikes cause hazards to legal visitors of our outside spaces.

Resolved:

That the attached Public Spaces Protection Order as amended be formally varied and extended for a further 3 year period.

Reason for Decision

The facilities and enjoyment of our towns, parks and open spaces should be open to everyone without fear, intimidation or harassment, and these measures will ensure that this is the case for the foreseeable future.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

8. Response to recommendations under paragraph 2 of Schedule 7 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014

The Council considered the response to the Auditors recommendations as detailed in the report.

In response to questions from members the following was noted:

- Thanks was given to officers and Forvis Mazars for their work.
- There was a shortage of local authority auditors and it was a fundamental problem nationally.
- Treatment of the sale of bus company had been an issue resulting in delay.
- There was a need to focus on the present and to look forward.
- Auditors were signing the accounts under backstop arrangements.
- There was a need to work collaboratively.

Resolved:

1. That Council notes the report and actions taken to date.
2. That Council accepts the recommendations in the auditors' letter of 27th November 2024.

Reason for Decision

As required by Schedule 7 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 the Council is required to consider the recommendations of the Auditors made under paragraph 2 and confirm its acceptance of the same with action to be taken as necessary.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

9. Public Meeting Schedule

The Council considered the Public Meeting Schedule report.

Resolved:

That Council agree the Public Meeting Schedule containing dates of public meetings for 2025/2026 as detailed at Appendix A.

Reason for Decision

To agree a committee schedule in order to ensure that the Council can effectively conduct its business.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

10. Urgent decisions

Council noted the Special Urgency Decision taken 15th October 2024 regarding the acceptance of the Household Support Fund 6 grant (HSF6) and to approve funding to partner organisations to enable them to support the most financially vulnerable Rossendale Residents.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET AND OTHER COMMITTEES

11. Recommendation of the Governance Working Group

The Council considered the Dispensations report.

Resolved:

To agree to update the Council's Constitution in relation to the granting of a general dispensation to all members of the Council for a period of 4 years from 14th December 2024.

Reason for Decision

To enable councillors to participate in any discussion and vote taken in relation to the Council's budget and the setting of Council Tax. The Council is required by law to implement a Constitution and it is in the interests of the Council to regularly review and update the document.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

(The meeting commenced at 7.12pm and concluded at 8.06pm)

Signed.....
(Chair)

Date

Subject:	2025/26 Council Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Council	Date:	5 th March 2025
Report of:	Director of Resources	Lead Member:	Resources
Key Decision:	X Forward Plan X	General Exception	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required:	Yes/No	Attached: Yes/No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required:	Yes/No	Attached: Yes/No
Contact Officer:	Chris Warren	Telephone:	01706 252409
Email:	chriswarren@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

Cabinet recommend that council approve:

- 1.1. A revenue budget for 2025/26 of £11.535m, as detailed in this report
- 1.2. A Council Tax increase of 2.99%, increasing the Council Tax rate for a Band D property from £308.44 to £317.66, an increase of £9.22 pa.
- 1.3. Use of £574k from the reserves to support the 2025/26 revenue budget.
- 1.4. The proposed fees and charges attached as Appendix 1
- 1.5. The technical resolution necessary to give effect to these budget proposals attached as Appendix 3

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The purpose of the report is to enable the Cabinet to recommend to Council the proposed revenue budget and level of Council Tax for 2025/26, together with implications for the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The budget process is a key element of the council's strategic planning process. It is part of the service and financial planning approach adopted by the council, is a means of ensuring that resources are best placed to enable the council to deliver its corporate priorities expressed in the Corporate Plan.
- 3.2 In this year's budget preparation the council has taken the opportunity to investigate and realign its expenditure budget in collaboration with its budget holders to match the historic areas of expenditure which accord with the aims of the council.
- 3.3 Previous budget reports have set out the level of uncertainty associated with any forward projections with Government funding. This uncertainty remains given the one-year funding settlement for 2025/26. However the government plans to empower local authorities by providing a multi-year funding settlement starting in 2026/27, reducing the number of funding pots for more flexibility, and working as equal partners to give councils greater autonomy.
- 3.4 The government set out its aims in its 2025/26 Finance Policy Statement to empower local authorities to drive economic growth and improve public services through devolution and targeted funding. This effort relies on economic growth, which is seen as crucial for improving public services.

Key points include:

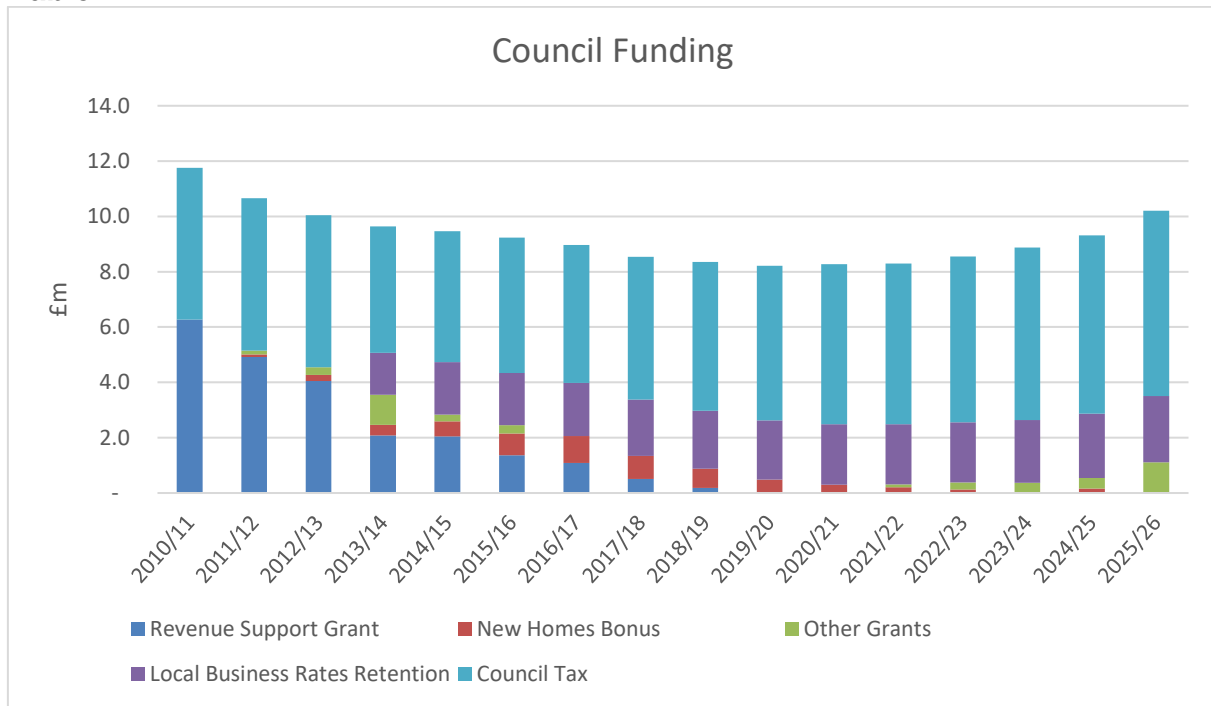
Devolution: Giving local leaders the tools to drive growth through combined authorities, tailored to local needs.

Collaboration: Involving local leaders in policy-making through councils and the upcoming English Devolution White Paper.

Simplification: Moving towards simpler, more accountable local government structures, such as unitary councils, to improve efficiency and service delivery.

- 3.5 The simplification noted above and resultant local government reorganisation necessary to achieve it, means that the council is likely to be part of a different size and shape organisation by the end of this MTFS period. At the time of writing there are no details available to allow a view of what that may look like so the council has planned on the basis of the status quo until such detail becomes available.
- 3.6 The government plans to reform the local government finance system with key features including:
The introduction of a £600 million 'Recovery Grant' in 2025-26 to target funding towards areas with greater need and less ability to raise income locally. The council will receive somewhere in the region of £297k from this grant. From 2026-27, government is aiming to fund councils more equitably based on updated assessments of need and local resources. Part of this process will include resetting the business rates retention system to better match funding with needs.
- 3.7 A new funding stream from Extended Producer Responsibility funds has meant that the council will receive £649k for 2025/26. The long-term future of this funding is at present unclear.
- 3.8 For a number of years the council has continued to reduce its net revenue expenditure in line with its own efficiency agenda, and the Government's changes to local government financing over both recent years and the changes proposed for the future. This has resulted in all borough councils now being heavily reliant on the income they generate from their own locality, be it from residents, visitors, property, and/or businesses. The graph below demonstrates how Government funding for Rossendale has reduced over the period 2016/17 to 2025/26, with the traditional Revenue Support Grant ceasing in 2018/19.

Table 1



4. 2025/26 Provisional Finance Settlement

4.1 The provisional Settlement Funding Assessment for 2025/26 was announced on 19th December 2024. The key messages from the settlement are:

- a. Up to 2.99% maximum annual increase for Council Tax without triggering a local referendum. It needs to be noted that the Governments 'Core Spending Power' calculations assume all council's increase their Council Tax by the maximum allowed.
- b. The NNDR baseline funding has been increased. The government has committed to compensating local authorities for the under indexing of the business rates multiplier.
- c. New Homes Bonus payments will be made in 2025/26 for one year only. It's long term existence remains uncertain but may become clearer as government drives through its aims to deliver a simpler and more targeted funding system for local authorities.
- d. The 'Services Grant' has been removed for 2025/26, as has the funding guarantee however as mentioned earlier in this report the council has received a share of the new Extended Producer Responsibility Grant £648k and Recovery Grant £297k. The long-term future of these grants remains uncertain at the time of writing.

4.2 The Government announcement indicates that Local Government Core Spending Power will rise by an average 6.0% in 2025/26. However as a shire district, Rossendale will see an increase in Core Spending Power of 1.63%. This is after the recovery grant but before the impact of the Extended Producer Responsibility Funding. Whilst the additional funding is welcomed, following years of austerity and with the 2024/25 pay award average increase being 4.62%, and indications that 2025/26 could be above inflation, this still leaves this Council with a significant funding gap.

5. The Medium Term Financial Strategy

5.1 Taking into account the impact of the finance settlement, including an annual increase in Council Tax of 2.99% per annum, the 2025/26 net budget estimates, resources and future forecasts are as follows:

Table 2

	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Original Budget - February 2025	10,722	11,714	12,241	12,707	12,961
Additional in year pressures					
Savings Proposals	(123)	(179)	(441)	(671)	(931)
Savings/Income growth required*			(250)	(375)	(375)
Revised Budget Estimates	10,599	11,535	11,550	11,661	11,655
Estimated Funding:					
Council Tax (+2.99%)	6,444	6,637	6,835	7,039	7,249
Council Tax - growth in base		82	85	88	91
Collection Fund Surplus - CTax	126	126	100	50	-
Retained Business Rates	2,335	2,436	2,436	2,436	2,436
Revenue Support Grant**	91	93	95	97	99
Funding Guarantee	361	-	-	-	-
Services Grant	15	-	-	-	-
New Homes Bonus	163	141	50	50	50
EPR	-	649	325	200	-
Recovery Grant	-	297	297	297	297
NNDR Growth/Pooling	500	500	500	500	500
Resources	10,035	10,961	10,723	10,757	10,722
Call on Reserves	(564)	(574)	(827)	(904)	(934)
Available Reserves					
Balance of Reserves b/f	4,865	4,301	3,727	2,900	1,996
Less to/(-)from reserves in year	(564)	(574)	(827)	(904)	(934)
Year End Reserves Balance	4,301	3,727	2,900	1,996	1,063

* This is the amount of savings/income growth required to maintain the minimum reserves balance

**Rolled in Local Council Tax Support Admin and Family Annex Grants

5.2 Changes in the base budget costs between 2024/25 and 2025/26 are as follows:

Table 3

2025/26 Major Forecast Changes	£000
Employment Costs (Pay Award & Incremental)	£491
Utilities	(£139)
Vehicle Fuel	(£135)
Insurance Inflation	£40
Interest (Borrowing)	£310
Interest Income	(£105)
Empty Homes	(£200)
Saving Target removed	£331
Identified Individual Departmental Pressures (< £50	£343
Total	£936

5.3 The budget proposals for 2025/26 onwards are set out below:

Table 4

Budget Proposals	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Income & Efficiencies				
Commercial rent from property	(35)	(50)	(50)	(50)
Markets	(20)	(20)	(20)	(20)
Allotments	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
Depots	(20)	(12)	(12)	(12)
Bus Station / shelters	0	(35)	(35)	(35)
Sports Grounds	0	(20)	(20)	(50)
Other commercial rental opportunities	0	0	(230)	(460)
Waste Collection Efficiencies	0	(200)	(200)	(200)
Staffing				
Various Staffing Savings	(100)	(100)	(100)	(100)
	(179)	(441)	(671)	(931)

Description

- i) Review space and increase lets in Futures Park Business Centre and other council owned properties
- ii) Savings whilst Bacup Market closed and increased income after markets refurbished
- iii) Review usage of all allotment sites and ensure income optimization
- iv) Review usage of depots
- v) Review management of site and departure charges
- vi) Review costs and income associated with council owned sports facilities
- vii) Opportunities for additional commercial rent
- viii) Waste Management round optimisation efficiencies

5.4 Based on the above, the draft budget book for 2025/26 is included at Appendix 2. Key assumptions are:

1. Budget estimates:

- a) Average pay award in 2024/25 is 4.75% (in line with the final pay award), budgeted 5% in 2025/26 and 2% pa thereafter
- b) General price inflation – a freeze on all general revenue expenditure with the exception of pay, utility budgets and contractual increases
- c) Employers Pension Contribution – 14.6% for the period 2025/26 to 2028/29
- d) Increased employer National Insurance contributions as dictated by the Autumn budget statement are to be 50% funded from Government.
- e) Council Tax increase – assumes 2.99% pa, this is the maximum the Council Tax Principles will allow for 2025/26.
- f) NNDR baseline – the current assumption is for the baseline to remain static other than known changes throughout the life of the forecast
- g) 2025/26 assumes a £500k pa pooling gain, based on current 2024/25 forecasts, this is assumed to continue for the life of the MTFS.

2. Council tax to increase by 2.99% (2.99% in February 2024) with growth in the tax base of 1.25% included for 2025/26 and then 1.25% per annum for the remainder of the forecast period.

3. The Government's provisional settlement (December 2024) confirmed the NNDR baseline funding plus other one-off grants.

4. NNDR:

- a) The benefits of the 2025/26 pooling arrangement are currently forecast to contribute c£500k to the 2025/26 budget.
- b) The Government has announced that business rate pools will continue into 2025/26. However beyond 2025/26 the outlook is very uncertain. The MTFS does assume a continued retained growth/pooling gain of £500k pa, less than previous assumptions. Given the Government's previous consultation on business rates retention, this assumption continues to have some risk as the 2026/27 and future position could be that all or some greater proportion of growth will be taken away from council.

6. Impact on Reserves

6.1 As shown in table 2 the forecast relies on the use of reserves to balance the budget throughout its lifespan. This is not a sustainable option and work is ongoing to generate additional income and savings. Table 2 also demonstrates the level of additional income/savings required to maintain the Council's minimum level of reserves.

6.2 Sections 32 and 43 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires local authorities to consider the establishment and maintenance of reserves. These can be held for three main purposes:

- a working balance to help cushion the impact of uneven cash flows and avoid unnecessary temporary borrowing – this forms part of general reserves
- a contingency to cushion the impact of unexpected events or emergencies – this also forms part of general reserves

- a means of building up funds, often referred to as earmarked reserves, to meet known or predicted requirements; earmarked reserves are accounted for separately but legally remain part of the General Fund

In support of this requirement, and as part of the development of the budget for 2025/26, an assessment has been carried out to establish the minimum level of the General Fund Working Balance for this Council. Based on this assessment it is recommended that the minimum working balance should remain at £1.0m. At this level it represents circa 3% of the Council's gross revenue expenditure.

7. Council Tax for 2025/26

7.1 Cabinet will make its final recommendation for Full Council to approve on 5th March 2025. Other precepting authorities will announce their Council Tax charges as follows:

- Lancashire County Council – 26th February 2025
- Lancashire Fire & Rescue – 17th February 2025
- Lancashire Police & Crime Commissioner – Early February 2025
- Whitworth Town Council – February 2025

7.2 The proposed Band D Council Tax for 2025/26 and the previous charge across Rossendale is as follows:

Table 5

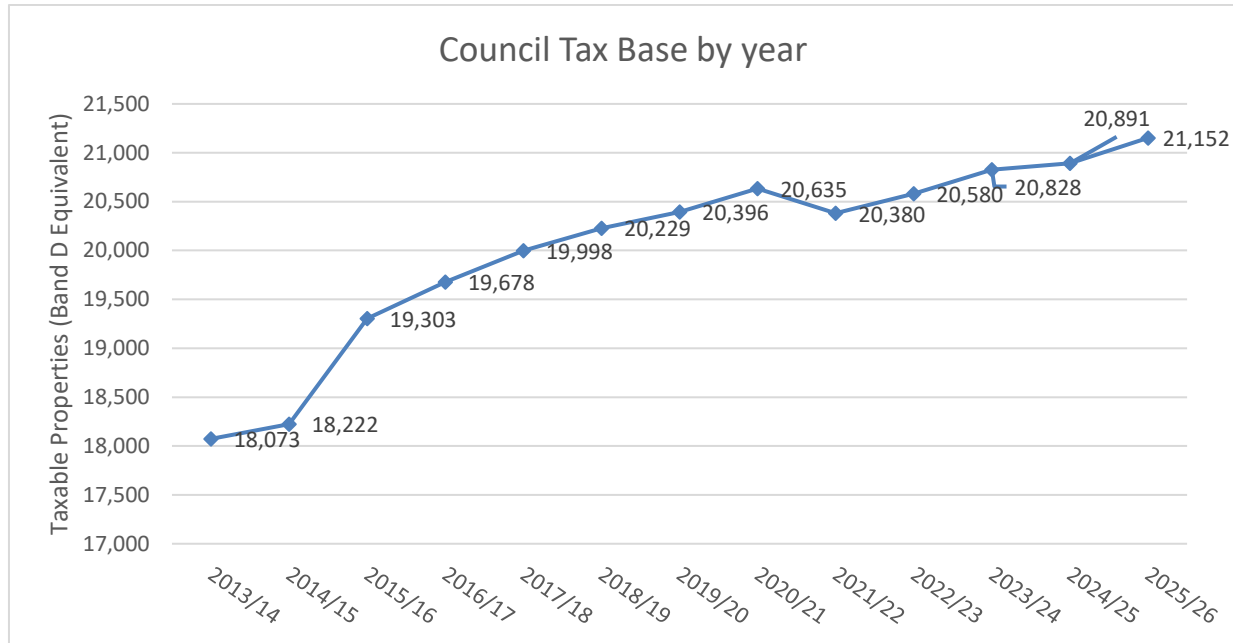
Precepting Body	% Increase	2024/25	2025/26	Increase £	% Share	2024/25	2025/26	Increase £
		Band D £	Band D £			Band A £	Band A £	
Rossendale BC	2.99%	308.44	317.66	9.22	13.1%	205.63	211.77	6.15
Lancashire County Council *	4.99%	1,653.29	1,735.79	82.50	71.7%	1,102.19	1,157.19	55.00
Combined Fire Authority *	£ 5.00	84.73	89.73	5.00	3.7%	56.49	59.82	3.33
Police & Crime Commissioner	£ 14.00	263.40	277.40	14.00	11.5%	175.60	184.93	9.33
Total (Excl' Whitworth)	4.62%	2,309.86	2,420.58	110.72	100.0%	1,539.91	1,613.72	73.81
Whitworth Parish Council	14.11%	30.97	33.86					
Total Whitworth Parish	4.73%	2,340.83	2,454.44					

* At the time of publication the 2025/26 rates have not yet been approved.

8. Council Tax Base

8.1 For 2025/26 the Council has seen 284 new properties added to the valuation list, with the majority of these being Band B properties. The Band D Tax base has increased by 261 properties – 1.2% to 21,152 Band D equivalents. The table below shows the growth trend.

Table 6



8.2 Any variation through actual billing will be reflected in the Collection Fund. Future estimated increases in the Council Tax have been assumed at 1.25% c250 Band D equivalents. The housing target for Rossendale is 321 per annum albeit there is no Band D equivalent published and with Rossendale's housing stock predominantly comprising properties in bands A to C.

9. Fees and Charges

9.2 The annual budget requires that any changes to the council's fees and charges be approved by members. Unless there is commercial justification not to increase fees or an alternative statutory regulation, the proposal is to increase all fees and charges to ensure costs are being recovered. A full list of fees (including previous year comparisons) are included at Appendix 1.

10. Bridging the Council's future funding gap

10.1 The council continues to face a funding gap for the future. Therefore the council should continue to give consideration to:

- The future levels of Council Tax
- Maximising the returns from business rates revenue
- The council's ability to support non-statutory activities and partner/community organisations
- The future quality and standard of statutory service provision
- Any future efficiencies within services and ensuring support services are appropriate
- The council's ability to exploit new revenue generating opportunities

- Treasury management initiatives and maximising the strength of the council's balance sheet resources
- Ensuring any contract renewals are to the best advantage of the council.

11. RISK

In managing the council's budget the council is seeking to manage the following larger scale risks:

- 11.1 **Council Tax:** In setting the 2025/26 budget, members should continue to plan and give due regard to the continued financial challenges over the medium term. In particular, members should be aware of the future implications for the council's financial resources of any council tax freeze or any increase below the Governments' referendum trigger of the higher of £5.00 or 3%.
- 11.2 **Reserves:** The level of reserves is still an estimate until the external auditors sign off the proposed amendments to the previous years accounts. The ongoing audit crisis in the UK will lead to a level of uncertainty for an as yet undefined period but it is likely that this will continue for at least the next two years. Members should note that the 2025/26 budget proposals include the use of £574k from the Transitional reserve. The un-ringfenced reserves are the Transitional, General Fund and some Directorate reserves. An ongoing reliance on reserves to manage the medium term budget is unsustainable and this will require the council to seek future savings and income generation which members will need to support.
- 11.3 **Resources:** The Council faces significant financial pressures, with table 1 showing the continued real time reduction in Government funding. The financial settlement is once again for a single year for 2025/26, this makes resource planning extremely difficult. As part of the local government finance policy statement published on 5th December 2024 it is expected that there will be fundamental improvements to the funding system from 2026-27, based on updated assessments of need and local resources, a reset of the business rates retention system and the promise of a multi-year settlement being set as policy objectives.
- 11.4 **Funding gap:** The medium-term financial forecast indicates the Council needs to generate additional income or savings of c£250k in 2026/27 rising to £375k annually by 2027/28 to maintain the minimum level of reserves (subject to the assumptions noted above and before future savings initiatives). Members must continue to give due consideration as to how they are to bridge this annual deficit going forward, in order to produce legally balanced budgets for the future.
- 11.5 **NNDR arrangements for 2025/26:** The Government has announced that the Business Rates arrangements for 2025/26 will remain the same as 2024/25. The council remains a member of the Lancashire Business Rates Pool which means it retains 40% of all business rates growth and avoids the direct payment of a 50% levy on any end of year surplus. This is beneficial for the council's budget position and the council should lobby for a no worse situation to arise from the promised reset business rates retention scheme and business rates baseline reset.
- 11.6 **Pay:** The 2024/25 pay award equated to an average 4.75% (2.5% or £1290 PA whichever is the higher) increase for this Council. Since the agreement of this pay settlement inflationary pressures and interest rates have fallen, therefore the budget assumes a 5% pay award for 2025/26 and 2% thereafter for the duration of this MTFS. The budget also assumes, as in previous years a saving as a result of natural staff turnover and the vacancy saving this creates, this is set at £100k pa. Whilst this is a challenging target, it is achievable and will be closely monitored

- 11.7 **Capital:** Members need to be aware of the impact the increased number of capital schemes and expenditure will have on the MTFS in future years. Capital expenditure has to be paid for through the revenue budget spread across the life of the asset, this is called the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). The MRP charged to the revenue budget in 2025/26 based on the estimated capital expenditure is c£790k, however based on current schemes this rises to c£960k by 2028/29. This places additional pressure on the MTFS.
- 11.8 **Rossendale Leisure Trust (RLT):** The cost of living crisis continues to have a significant impact on leisure facilities across the country, including the Leisure Trust. The Trust is estimating an income shortfall in 2025/26. The Trust and the Council are trying to mitigate the risks as much as possible, however many of the factors are beyond the Trusts' and the council's control. The recommendations in the Grant Thornton report have been implemented and are subject to regular monitoring. The announcement in the Autumn Statement of a further c7% increase in the living wage from April 2025 and an increase in Employer National Insurance contributions will place further pressure on the Trust. The Trust and the council need to continue to work together to control the losses wherever possible. This is a major risk for the council in that the Trust is a significant debtor, and in respect of the ongoing delivery of leisure services across the borough. It is critical that the Trust becomes financially sustainable and financially independent of the council.
- 11.9 **The Whitaker:** The cost of living crisis is also impacting on the hospitality operation at the Whitaker, which is in significant debt to RLT (the parent company). The Whitaker Board are working hard to ensure that a sustainable solution is sought regarding the hospitality function. This is a risk for the Council as it is the accountable body for the NLHF grant, which may be subject to clawback if the Whitaker were to close. The Council is working closely with RLT and the Board to mitigate this risk.
- 11.10 **Temporary Accommodation:** The current demand for temporary accommodation is placing significant pressure on the Council's revenue budget. Whilst the Council claims Housing Benefit towards the cost, this only covers c20% of the expenditure. The Housing Options team are working hard to reduce costs wherever possible and the Council is investigating longer term solutions. During 2024/25 two additional properties have been purchased by RBC to provide temporary accommodation and it is hoped to purchase additional properties in 2025/26.
- 11.13 **Corporate Risk register:** The register includes risks around the MTFS, Sustainable Workforce and the Leisure Trust. The MTFS is currently a "red" risk, in light of this current MTFS update it is recommended that the current risk rating is retained.

12. Section 25 Report

- 12.1 As part of the final recommendations to Full Council, Section 25 of the Local Government Act (2003) places a requirement on the Section 151 Officer to advise councillors during the budget process on "the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the budget calculations and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves", which includes a financial resilience statement. This provision is designed to ensure that members have information which will support responsible financial management over the longer term.
- 12.2 The Director of Resources (as the officer designated under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972) has produced the following statements in respect of the proposed budget for 2025/26:

- Acknowledging the contents of this report and setting this within the wider control framework and financial management arrangements within the council, it is my opinion that the estimates have been prepared and reviewed utilising the most up to date and accurate information available and that all assumptions made are reasonable in the current climate. I therefore consider the Council's budget for 2025/26 to be robust.
- I am of the view that the Council is pursuing a sound financial strategy in the context of the challenging financial position. However, there remains a high level of uncertainty. The current economic situation of higher inflation and interest rates means the Council's financial position is constantly changing. Depending on the shift/outcome of these risks there could be a major movement on the financial forecast set out above. The Cabinet and Corporate Management Team will be working to firm up the 2025/26 savings proposals and formulate the plans for identifying the additional savings requirement during 2025 and will continue monitoring the current economic position.
- In relation to financial reserves, the levels continue to be closely monitored and if the savings/income generation schemes set out in table 2 are achieved the level of reserves is adequate for the lifetime of this forecast. However if the savings are not achieved or the additional income isn't generated the Council's reserves will be exhausted by the end of this forecast.

13. FINANCE

- 13.1 The key financial matters are dealt with throughout this report. The decision to increase Council Tax is a Member decision. In making their decision Members should give consideration of the deficit facing the council over the medium term. Given the council's future deficit an increase of 2.99% in Council Tax is strongly recommended by the s.151 officer. Any change to Council Tax below the maximum allowed, has an ongoing and cumulative negative impact on future year resources.
- 13.2 The council continues to face a funding gap challenge despite the savings and income generation work already completed this year and in previous years. The council has a statutory duty to produce annually a balanced budget and it is legally bound to find a solution to the future funding gap. There are also some higher risk assumptions in the forecast. Ultimately the use of reserves to balance the funding gap, although legal, is both finite and financially not a sustainable approach to managing the budget in the long-term.
- 13.3 Given the 2025/26 cost base and the financial gap over the longer term the council needs to continue to develop plans to reduce its net cost base in order to avoid reliance on limited reserves and to deal with the future resource deficit. The key messages for the medium term continue to be:
- Council must continue to increase Council Tax in line with the Government's maximum thresholds.
 - Council must give further consideration to either reduce costs or increase revenue.
 - The uncertainty of future funding levels given the local Government finance policy statement of December 2024 including a new approach to targeting funding and a review of the business rates system.
 - The impact and timing of any Local Government reorganisation factors.

14. LEGAL

14.1 The council must calculate and approve its Council Tax Requirement annually for the forthcoming financial year in accordance with s32 and s43 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (LGFA 1992). Section 25 of the Local Government Act (2003) also requires the officer having responsibility for the administration of the council's financial affairs, to report to the council on the robustness of the budget estimates and adequacy of financial reserves when determining its budget requirement under the Local Government Finance Act 1992. This report discharges this responsibility.

15. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

15.1 The Equality Act (2010) requires the council to have due regard in the exercising of its functions to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. Equality impact assessments will be carried out where necessary on any savings proposal. The duty to inform, consult or involve requires that the council must involve communities and those directly affected at the most appropriate and proportionate level in 'routine functions, in addition to one-off decisions.' Consultation took place with:

- Cabinet and Management Team – November and December 2024 and January 2025
- Members - January 2025
- Public (via social media and the council's website) – January 2025
- Overview & Scrutiny - February 2025

16. CONCLUSIONS

16.1 The financial position for the council, like all local authorities, is challenging and subject to a high-level of risk regarding the current economic position. The council is proposing to set a revenue budget for 2025/26 of £11.535m.

16.2 There are a number of significant risks outside the council's control which remain a major concern including the current economic environment and the uncertainty of future Government funding levels and any impacts of Local Government reorganisation. Members will be kept updated on latest financial projections, local Government Finance announcements and risks as they transpire.

16.3 The Council carefully considers and monitors the MTFs and the risks as set out in this report and in the Corporate Risk Register. The Council has a risk management strategy in place to identify and evaluate risks. Risks are identified, potential impacts are highlighted and controls and mitigations are set in place. The Council monitors and reports to Cabinet Members and Audit and Accounts Committee during the year.

16.4 The Council currently holds a number of earmarked reserves, these are funds set aside for funding future liabilities, however they are being used to fund the shortfall between how much the Council spends and how much funding the Council receives. Based on the estimates detailed in section 5 above, if no further savings/efficiencies or additional income is generated these reserves will be exhausted over the life of the current forecast.

16.5 Whilst the Council is currently developing several income generating regeneration schemes, which will support the budget in the longer term. It must remain focused on identifying and delivering further savings and income in order to ensure annual balanced budgets over the immediate and medium term. It must also ensure that all its budget resource allocations are directed to the core functions of the council and that the use of its resources drives the delivery of the council's Corporate Plan priorities.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Revenue Budget 2025/26 and the MTFS update being reported to Cabinet in Feb 2025	Cabinet papers February 2025



Rosendale Borough Council

Fees and Charges for 2025/26

Council may from time to time revise fees and charges partway through a financial year

Trade Waste

<u>Trade Waste</u> Cost per annum one pick up a week size of bin	2024/25 Charge	2025/26 Charge
140ltr	£350.00	£368.00
240ltr	£525.00	£551.00
500ltr	£725.00	£761.00
660ltr	£900.00	£945.00
770ltr	£1,000.00	£1,050.00
1100ltr	£1,050.00	£1,103.00

<u>Schools/ Charities</u> Cost per annum one pick up a fortnight size of bin	2024/25 Charge	2025/26 Charge
55 - 140ltr Bin, Bag or Box	£175.00	£184.00
240ltr	£262.50	£275.50
500ltr	£362.50	£380.50
660ltr	£450.00	£472.50
770ltr	£500.00	£525.00
1100ltr	£525.00	£551.50

<u>Trade Recycling</u> Cost per annum - fortnightly collection size of bin	2024/25 Charge	2025/26 Charge
55 - 140ltr Bin, Bag or Box	£75.00	£79.00
240ltr	£95.00	£100.00
500ltr	£160.00	£168.00
660ltr	£195.00	£205.00
770ltr	£220.00	£231.00
1100ltr	£265.00	£278.00

<u>Sacks etc</u>	2024/25 Charge	2025/26 Charge
Grey Sacks (includes VAT) (50 pack)	£300.00	£315.00
Blue Sacks (50 pack)	£75.00	£79.00
Aqua Sacks (50 pack)	£75.00	£79.00

Bulky Collections

<u>Bulky Collection Charges</u>	2024/25 Charge	2025/26 Charge
1 item (furniture and electrical items)	£21.00	£22.00
2 items (furniture and electrical items)	£32.00	£34.00
3 items (furniture and electrical items)	£43.00	£45.00
4 items (furniture and electrical items)	£54.00	£57.00
5 items (furniture and electrical items)	£65.00	£68.00
6 items (furniture and electrical items)	£76.00	£80.00
7 items (furniture and electrical items)	£87.00	£91.00
8 items (furniture and electrical items)	£98.00	£103.00
9 items (furniture and electrical items)	£109.00	£114.00
10 items (furniture and electrical items)	£120.00	£126.00
Price per additional item	£10 per item thereafter	£10 per item thereafter

<u>Bins & Sacks</u>	2024/25 Charge	2025/26 Charge
New Bin Delivery	£39.00	£41.00

Garden Waste	2024/25 Charge	2025/26 Charge
Garden Waste (yearly fee)	£45.00	£48.00

No charges for the following Bins

Blue - Glass, Cans & Plastics

Grey - Paper & Cardboard

Parks and Playing Fields

	2024/25 Charge	2025/26 Charge
Letting of Sites (Per Day)		
Moorlands Park	£257.00	£270.00
Stubbylee Park	£257.00	£270.00
Victoria Park	£257.00	£270.00
Maden Recreation Ground	£257.00	£270.00
New Hall Hey Bacup Cricket Ground - Property Services	£257.00	£270.00
Fairview	£257.00	£270.00
All Other Playing Fields	£134.00	£141.00

Parks and Playing Fields

	2024/25 Charge	2025/26 Charge
Memorials / Dedications		
Trees		
Standard option	£252.00	£265.00
Own selected species		
Benches		
Standard	£1,045.00	£1,097.00
Ornate	£1,285.00	£1,349.00

Cemeteries

	2024/25 Charge	2025/26 Charge
Purchase of right of burial in numbered grave space	£1,333.00	£1,400.00
Purchase of right of burial in numbered grave space (outside of the Borough)	£1,585.00	£1,664.00
Transfer of Grant	£80.00	£84.00
Right to fix a headstone or monument		
Headstone	£245.00	£257.00
Kerb Stones	£595.00	£625.00
Inscriptions	£65.00	£68.00
Vase / Plinth and Tablets	£115.00	£121.00
Interments		
Earth Grave & Grave Dressing (resident of the Borough)	£1,090.00	£1,144.00
Earth Grave & Grave Dressing (non resident of the Borough)	£1,650.00	£1,733.00
Vault – Constructions costs + 5% (+ VAT)	£1,320.00	£1,386.00
Vault – Interments	£1,200.00	£1,260.00
Vault – Interments (non resident of the Borough)	£1,735.00	£1,822.00
Interment of Ashes	£260.00	£273.00
Interment of ashes (non resident of the borough)	£330.00	£346.00
Scattering of Ashes	£52.00	£55.00
Bricking of grave to coffin height (additional fee)	£225.00	£236.00
Ashes Chambers (Rawtenstall, Bacup & Haslingden)		
Purchase of Exclusive Right of Burial in Chamber	£835.00	£877.00
Interment of ashes in chamber	£295.00	£310.00
Miscellaneous Charges		
Copy of Regulations and Charges	£11.00	£12.00
Search Fee	£49.00	£51.00
Duplicate Grave Deed	£77.00	£81.00
Use of Chapel	£188.00	£197.00
Garden of Remembrance / Whitworth		
Reserving Space	£41.00	£43.00
Interment of Ashes	£65.00	£68.00
Headstone in above.	£70.00	£73.00
Supply of Engraved Plaque (excluding VAT)	£177.00	£186.00
Supply of Memorial Tree		
	£450.00	£473.00
New Bench including Plaque	£1,500.00	£1,575.00

Environmental Health

	2024/25 Charge	2025/26 Charge
Food Safety		
Export Certificate	£63.00	£66.00
Re-inspections of business operators for food hygiene rating	£175.00	£184.00
Private water supplies - Risk Assessment	£55 per hour or any part there of, plus £12.50 per invoiced Household	£58 per hour or any part there of, plus £13.00 per invoiced Household
Private water supplies - Sampling	£55 per hour or any part there of, plus £12.50 per invoiced Household	£58 per hour or any part there of, plus £13.00 per invoiced Household
Private water supplies - Investigation	£55 per hour or any part there of, plus £12.50 per invoiced Household	£58 per hour or any part there of, plus £13.00 per invoiced Household
Private water supplies - Granting Authorisation	£55 per hour or any part there of, plus £12.50 per invoiced Household	£58 per hour or any part there of, plus £13.00 per invoiced Household
Private water supplies - Analysing a sample under Regulation 10	£55 per hour or any part there of, plus £12.50 per invoiced Household	£58 per hour or any part there of, plus £13.00 per invoiced Household
Private water supplies - Analysing a check monitoring sample	£55 per hour or any part there of, plus £12.50 per invoiced Household	£58 per hour or any part there of, plus £13.00 per invoiced Household
Private water supplies - Analysing an audit monitoring sample	£55 per hour or any part there of, plus £12.50 per invoiced Household	£58 per hour or any part there of, plus £13.00 per invoiced Household
Health & Safety		
Skin Piercing - premises	£210.00	£220.00
Skin Piercing - persons	£210.00	£220.00
Factual report to solicitors / injured person	£330.00	£347.00

Environmental Health

	2024-25 Charge	2025-26 Charge
Pollution Health & Housing		
LAPC & LAPPC Fees	As Prescribed	As Prescribed
Environmental Information Regulation enquires	£90 per hour (minimum 1 hour)	£95 per hour (minimum 1 hour)
List of permitted processes	£58.00	£61.00
Enquires related to public register of permitted processes	£90 per hour (minimum 1 hour)	£95 per hour (minimum 1 hour)
Contaminated Land Enquires	£99 (1st hour), £50 per additional half hour)	£104 (1st hour), £52 per additional half hour)
Any Default works	Hourly rate of officer involved + 16.30% of external works costs (min £15 and max £500 per household)	Hourly rate of officer involved + 17.12% of external works costs (min £16 and max £525 per household)
UK House inspections	£142.00	£149.00
HMO License	New Application Part A £719.70 Part B £279.50 Renewal Part A £700.70 Part B £279.50	New Application Part A £719.70 Part B £279.50 Renewal Part A £700.70 Part B £279.50
Housing Act 2004 Notices not including Variations and Revocations	Up to Statutory Maximum of £500	Up to Statutory Maximum of £525
Housing Act 2004 Revocation or Variation of Notice	Officer Time at £48 per hour	Officer Time at £50 per hour
The Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm (England) Regulations 2016 Penalty Charge (not exceeding £5000) Reg 8	First offence £2,500 (reduced to £1,250 if paid early). Second offence £5,000 (reduced to £2,500 if paid early). Any other offence £5,000 with no reductions.	First offence £2,500 (reduced to £1,250 if paid early). Second offence £5,000 (reduced to £2,500 if paid early). Any other offence £5,000 with no reductions.
Scrap Metal		
Dealers 3 year Licence	£486.00	£510.00
Mobile Collections 3 year Licence	£378.00	£397.00
Variations	£70.00	£74.00
Replacement licences	£54.00	£57.00

Gambling Act Licences

Activity	2024-25 Charge	2025-26 Charge
Bingo Hall – New Licence	£1,885.00	£1,979.00
Bingo Hall – Non Fast Track	£1,750.00	£1,838.00
Bingo Hall – Fast Track	£274.00	£288.00
Bingo Hall – Annual Fee	£1,000.00	£1,050.00
Bingo Hall – Variations	£1,750.00	£1,838.00
Bingo Hall – Reinstatement of Licence	£1,200.00	£1,260.00
Bingo Hall – Provisional statement	£1,133.00	£1,190.00
Bingo Hall – Transfer	£567.00	£595.00
Betting Shop – New Application	£1,681.00	£1,765.00
Betting Shop – Non Fast Track	£1,500.00	£1,575.00
Betting Shop – Fast Track	£300.00	£315.00
Betting Shop – Annual Fee	£600.00	£630.00
Betting Shop – Variations	£1,500.00	£1,575.00
Betting Shop – Reinstatement	£1,100.00	£1,155.00
Betting Shop – Provisional Statement	£2,000.00	£2,100.00
Betting Shop – Transfer	£1,200.00	£1,260.00
Adult Gaming Centre – New Application	£1,335.00	£1,402.00
Adult Gaming Centre – Non Fast Track	£1,000.00	£1,050.00
Adult Gaming Centre – Fast Track	£274.00	£288.00
Adult Gaming Centre – Annual Fee	£1,000.00	£1,050.00
Adult Gaming Centre – Variations	£1,000.00	£1,050.00
Adult Gaming Centre – reinstatement of licence	£1,200.00	£1,260.00
Adult Gaming Centre – provisional licence	£2,000.00	£2,100.00
Adult Gaming Centre – transfer	£1,200.00	£1,260.00
Family Entertainment Centre – New Application	£1,327.00	£1,393.00
Family Entertainment Centre – Non Fast Track	£1,000.00	£1,050.00
Family Entertainment Centre – Fast Track	£300.00	£315.00
Family Entertainment Centre – Annual Fee	£750.00	£788.00
Family Entertainment Centre – Variations	£750.00	£788.00
Family Entertainment Centre – reinstatement of licencer	£950.00	£997.00
Family Entertainment Centre – provisional statement	£2,000.00	£2,100.00
Family Entertainment Centre – Transfer	£950.00	£997.00

Street Trading

Licence	Details	2024-25 Charge	Notes
Street Trading Consent - 12 mth consent	New	£95.00	Application Fee. A further £336 will be charged for issue of consent (below)
Street Trading Consent - 12 mth consent	New	£336.00	Issue fee
Street Trading Consent - 12 mth consent	Renewal	£430.00	
Street Trading Consent - 14 day consent	New	£95.00	Fee is not payable if the consent is a community event (as determined by the licencing manager)
Variation of Street Trading Consent	Variation	£0.00	
Change of personal details		£0.00	
Change in employee details		£0.00	
Copy of street trading consent		£0.00	

2025-26 Charge	Notes
£100.00	Application Fee. A further £353 will be charged for issue of consent (below)
£353.00	Issue fee
£452.00	
£100.00	Fee is not payable if the consent is a community event (as determined by the licencing manager)
£0.00	
£0.00	
£0.00	
£0.00	

Second Hand Goods Dealers Fees

Licence	Details	2024-25 Charge	
Second hand Goods Dealer Registration	Registration	£105.00	
Copy registration certificate	Copy certificate	£0.00	

2025-26 Charge	
£110.00	
£0.00	

Other

Licence	Details	2024-25 Charge	
Sex Shop	New	£3,282.00	

2025-26 Charge	
£3,446.00	

Animal Welfare

Item	Application Fee	Licence Fee	2024/25 Charge	Application Fee	Licence Fee	2025/26 Charge	NOTES
Keeping or Training Animals for exhibition	£127.00	£288.00	£415.00	£127.00	£288.00	£415.00	
Selling animals as Pets	£127.00	£288.00	£415.00	£127.00	£288.00	£415.00	
Doggy Day Care	£127.00	£288.00	£415.00	£127.00	£288.00	£415.00	
Hiring out Horses	£161.00	£297.00	£458.00	£161.00	£297.00	£458.00	Additional vet fees apply and charged separately prior to issue of licence
Dog Breeding	£161.00	£297.00	£458.00	£161.00	£297.00	£458.00	Additional vet fees apply and charged separately prior to issue of licence
Dog Breeding	£193.00	£310.00	£503.00	£193.00	£310.00	£503.00	Additional vet fees apply and charged separately prior to issue of licence
Boarding for cats	£127.00	£288.00	£415.00	£127.00	£288.00	£415.00	
Boarding dogs in kennels	£127.00	£288.00	£415.00	£127.00	£288.00	£415.00	
Home Boarders (Single Dwelling)	£119.00	£300.00	£419.00	£119.00	£300.00	£419.00	
Arranging boarding/day care where agent not boarding themselves	£262.00	£304.00	£566.00	£262.00	£304.00	£566.00	
Additional fee for every 1 host	£58.00	£32.00	£90.00	£58.00	£32.00	£90.00	
Arranging boarding/day care where Host has to apply in own right	£324.00	£300.00	£624.00	£324.00	£300.00	£624.00	
Add additional activity to existing licence	£93.00	£0.00	£93.00	£93.00	£0.00	£93.00	
Licence issue (copy licence or following variation)	£15.00	£0.00	£15.00	£15.00	£0.00	£15.00	
Appeal Fee	£86.00	£0.00	£86.00	£86.00	£0.00	£86.00	£43 refunded if appeal results in a higher star rating
Re-score Request	£65.00	£0.00	£65.00	£65.00	£0.00	£65.00	
Missed vet or inspector appointment fee	£55.00	£0.00	£55.00	£55.00	£0.00	£55.00	Where appointment arranged but inspection cannot be undertaken for any reason
Zoo Licence	£195.00	£195.00	£390.00	£195.00	£195.00	£390.00	Additional vet fees apply and charged separately prior to issue of licence
Dangerous Wild Animals Licence	£91.00	£91.00	£182.00	£91.00	£91.00	£182.00	Additional vet fees apply and charged separately prior to issue of licence

Taxi Licensing

	2024-25 Charge	2025-26 Charge
Hackney Carriage Driver Licence (Renewal) 3 years	£259	£259
Hackney Carriage Driver New Licence (Renewal) 3 years	£259	£259
Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences	£212	£212
Electric Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences		
Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence (Renewal)	£212	£212
Private Hire Vehicle Licence	£212	£212
Electric Private Hire Vehicle Licence		
Private Hire Vehicle Licence (Renewal)	£212	£212
Private Hire Driver Licence 3 years	£259	£259
Private Hire New Driver License 3 years	£259	£259
Private Hire Operators License 5 years	£446	£446
Private Hire Operators License 3 years	£321	£321
Private Hire Operators License 1 year	£196	£196
Driver/ Vehicle/ Operator License only	No charge	No charge
Copy documents	No charge	No charge
Re-booking Fee	£35	£35
Basic Skills Assessment / Policy Knowledge Test	£70	£70
Change of Vehicle	£42	£42
Replacement Door Stickers (each)	£8	£8
Replacement ID Plate	£13	£13
Replacememnt ID Badge	£5	£5
Lanyard	£2	£2

Premises Liquor Licences

The cost premises licences are determined in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003 and the regulations made therein. Local Authorities have no discretion in this matter.

Rateable Value	Band
Rateable < £4,300	A
£4,300 to £33,000	B
£33,001 to £87,000	C
£87,001 to £125,000	D
£125,001 and above	E

Band
A
B
C
D
E

License	Description	2024-25 Charge	2025-26 Charge
Premises Licence - Alcohol Band A	New	£100.00	£100.00
Premises Licence - Alcohol Band B	New	£190.00	£190.00
Premises Licence - Alcohol Band C	New	£315.00	£315.00
Premises Licence - Alcohol Band D	New	£450.00	£450.00
Premises Licence - Alcohol Band E	New	£635.00	£635.00
Premises Licence - NO Alcohol Band A	New	£100.00	£100.00
Premises Licence - NO Alcohol Band B	New	£190.00	£190.00
Premises Licence - NO Alcohol Band C	New	£315.00	£315.00
Premises Licence - NO Alcohol Band D	New	£450.00	£450.00
Premises Licence - NO Alcohol Band E	New	£635.00	£635.00
Club Premiese Certificate - Alcohol Band A	New	£100.00	£100.00
Club Premiese Certificate - Alcohol Band B	New	£190.00	£190.00
Club Premiese Certificate - Alcohol Band C	New	£315.00	£315.00
Club Premiese Certificate - Alcohol Band D	New	£450.00	£450.00
Club Premiese Certificate - Alcohol Band E	New	£635.00	£635.00
Club Premiese Certificate - NO - Alcohol Band A	New	£100.00	£100.00
Club Premiese Certificate - NO - Alcohol Band B	New	£190.00	£190.00
Club Premiese Certificate - NO - Alcohol Band C	New	£315.00	£315.00
Club Premiese Certificate - NO - Alcohol Band D	New	£450.00	£450.00
Club Premiese Certificate - NO - Alcohol Band E	New	£635.00	£635.00
Premises Licence - Alcohol Band A	Annual Fee	£70.00	£70.00
Premises Licence - Alcohol Band B	Annual Fee	£180.00	£180.00
Premises Licence - Alcohol Band C	Annual Fee	£295.00	£295.00
Premises Licence - Alcohol Band D	Annual Fee	£320.00	£320.00
Premises Licence - Alcohol Band E	Annual Fee	£350.00	£350.00
Premises Licence - NO Alcohol Band A	Annual Fee	£70.00	£70.00
Premises Licence - NO Alcohol Band B	Annual Fee	£180.00	£180.00
Premises Licence - NO Alcohol Band C	Annual Fee	£295.00	£295.00
Premises Licence - NO Alcohol Band D	Annual Fee	£320.00	£320.00
Premises Licence - NO Alcohol Band E	Annual Fee	£350.00	£350.00
Copy premises license or summary	Section 25	£10.50	£10.50
Provisional Statement	Sectio 29	£315.00	£315.00
Notification of Change of Name or address - premise license	Section 33	£10.50	£10.50
Variation of DPS	Section 37	£23.00	£23.00
Transfer Premises License	Section 42	£23.00	£23.00
Interim Authoirty Notice	Section 47	£23.00	£23.00
Copy club premises certificate or summary	Section 79	£10.50	£10.50
Notification of Change of Name or alteration of rules	Section 82	£10.50	£10.50
Change of registered address of club	Section 83	£10.50	£10.50
Temporary Event Notice	Section 100	£21.00	£21.00
Copy Temporary Event Notice	Section 100	£10.50	£10.50
Personal Licence	New	£37.00	£37.00
Personal Licence	Renewal	£37.00	£37.00
Copy personal license	Section 126	£10.50	£10.50
Notification of change of name or address - personal license	Section 127	£10.50	£10.50
Notification of interest	Section 178	£21.00	£21.00

Planning Applications

The planning application costs are determined in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Regulations 2012. Local Authorities have no discretion in this matter.

All Outline Applications		2024-25 Charge	20% fixing broken Hsg Mrkt element	2025-26 Charge	20% fixing broken Hsg Mrkt element
Site Area	Not more than 2.5 hectares	£578 per 0.1 hectare	£116	£578 per 0.1 hectare	£116
Site Area up to a maximum fee of £150,000	More than 2.5 hectares	£15,431 + £186 per 0.1 hectare	£3,086 + £31	£15,431 + £186 per 0.1 hectare	£3,086 + £31
Householder Applications		2024-25 Charge	20% fixing broken Hsg Mrkt element	2025-26 Charge	20% fixing broken Hsg Mrkt element
Alterations/extensions to a single dwelling , including works within boundary	Single dwelling (excluding flats)	£258	£43	£258	£43
Full Applications (and First Submissions of Reserved Matters)		2024-25 Charge	20% fixing broken Hsg Mrkt element	2025-26 Charge	20% fixing broken Hsg Mrkt element
Erection of dwellings					
Permission in Principle		£503 for each 0.1 hectare	£84	£503 for each 0.1 hectare	£84
Alterations/extensions to two or more dwellings , including works within boundaries	Two or more dwellings (or one or more flats)	£550	£92	£550	£92
New dwellings (up to and including 50)	New dwellings (not more than 50)	578 per dwelling	£96	578 per dwelling	£96
New dwellings (for <i>more</i> than 50) up to a maximum fee of £300,000	New dwellings (more than 50)	£30,859 + £186 per additional dwelling	£5,143 + £31	£30,859 + £186 per additional dwelling	£5,143 + £31
Erection of buildings (not dwellings, agricultural, glasshouses, plant nor machinery):					
Increase of floor space	No increase in gross floor space or no more than 40m ²	£293	£49	£293	£49
Increase of floor space	More than 40m ² but no more than 75m ²	£578	£96	£578	£96
Increase of floor space	More than 75m ² but no more than 3,750m ²	£578 for each 75m ² or part thereof	£96	£578 for each 75m ² or part thereof	£96
Increase of floor space	More than 3,750m ²	£30,859 + £186 for each additional 75m ² in excess of 3750 m ² to a maximum of £405,000	£5,143 + £31	£30,859 + £186 for each additional 75m ² in excess of 3750 m ² to a maximum of £405,000	£5,143 + £31
The erection of buildings (on land used for agriculture for agricultural purposes)					
Site area	Not more than 465m ²	£120	£20	£120	£20
Site area	More than 465m ² but not more than 540m ²	£578	£96	£578	£96
Site area	More than 540m ² but not more than 4,215m ²	£578 for first 540m ² + £578 for each 75m ² (or part thereof) in excess of 540m ²	£96 + £96	£578 for first 540m ² + £578 for each 75m ² (or part thereof) in excess of 540m ²	£96 + £96
Site area	More than 4,215m ²	£30,859 + £186 for each 75m ² (or part thereof) in excess of 4,215m ² up to a maximum of £405,000	£5,143 + £31	£30,859 + £186 for each 75m ² (or part thereof) in excess of 4,215m ² up to a maximum of £405,000	£5,143 + £31
Erection of glasshouses (on land used for the purposes of agriculture)		2024-25 Charge	20% fixing broken Hsg Mrkt element	2025-26 Charge	20% fixing broken Hsg Mrkt element
Floor space	Not more than 465m ²	£120	£20	£120	£20
Floor space	More than 465m ²	£3,225	£538	£3,225	£538
Erection/alterations/replacement of plant and machinery					
Site area	Not more than 5 hectares	£578 for each 0.1 hectare (or part thereof)	£96	£578 for each 0.1 hectare (or part thereof)	£96
Site area	More than 5 hectares	£30,859 + additional £186 for each 0.1 hectare (or part thereof) in excess of 5 hectares to a maximum of £405,000	£5143 + £31	£30,859 + additional £186 for each 0.1 hectare (or part thereof) in excess of 5 hectares to a maximum of £405,000	£5143 + £31

Applications other than Building Works		2024-25 Charge	20% fixing broken Hsg Mrkt element	2025-26 Charge	20% fixing broken Hsg Mrkt element
Car parks, service roads or other accesses	For existing uses	£293	£49	£293	£49
Waste (Use of land for disposal of refuse or waste materials or deposit of material remaining after extraction or storage of minerals)					
Site area	Not more than 15 hectares	£293 for each 0.1 hectare (or part thereof)	£49	£293 for each 0.1 hectare (or part thereof)	£49
Site area	More than 15 hectares	£47,161 + £186 for each 0.1 hectare (or part thereof) in excess of 15 hectares up to a maximum of £105,300	£7,860 + £31	£47,161 + £186 for each 0.1 hectare (or part thereof) in excess of 15 hectares up to a maximum of £105,300	£7,860 + £31
Operations connected with exploratory drilling for oil or natural gas					
Site area	Not more than 7.5 hectares	£635 for each 0.1 hectare (or part thereof)	£106	£635 for each 0.1 hectare (or part thereof)	£106
Site area	More than 7.5 hectares	£48,696 + additional £204 for each 0.1 hectare (or part thereof) in excess of 7.5 hectares up to a maximum of £405,000	£8,116 + £34	£48,696 + additional £204 for each 0.1 hectare (or part thereof) in excess of 7.5 hectares up to a maximum of £405,000	£8,116 + £34
Other operations (winning and working of minerals)					
Site area	Not more than 15 hectares	£293 for each 0.1 hectare (or part thereof)	£49	£293 for each 0.1 hectare (or part thereof)	£49
Site area	More than 15 hectares	£47,161 + additional £186 for each 0.1 in excess of 15 hectare up to a maximum of £105,300	£7,860 + £31	£47,161 + additional £186 for each 0.1 in excess of 15 hectare up to a maximum of £105,300	£7,860 + £31
Other operations (not coming within any of the above categories)					
Site area	Any site area	£293 for each 0.1 hectare (or part thereof) up to a maximum of £2,535	£49	£293 for each 0.1 hectare (or part thereof) up to a maximum of £2,535	£49

Lawful Development Certificate		2024-25 Charge	20% fixing broken Hsg Mrkt element	2024-25 Charge	20% fixing broken Hsg Mrkt element
LDC – Existing Use - in breach of a planning condition		Same as Full		Same as Full	
LDC – Existing Use LDC - lawful not to comply with a particular condition		£293	£49	£293	£49
LDC – Proposed Use		Half the normal planning fee.		Half the normal planning fee.	
Reserved Matters					
Application for approval of reserved matters following outline approval		Full fee due or if full fee already paid then £578 due	£96	Full fee due or if full fee already paid then £578 due	£96
Approval/Variation/discharge of condition					
Application for removal or variation of a condition following grant of planning permission		£293	£49	£293	£49
Application relates to planning permission for development already carried out (Section 73A)		£293	£49	£293	£49
Request for confirmation that one or more planning conditions have been complied with		£43 per request for Householder otherwise £145 per request	£7 and £24	£43 per request for Householder otherwise £145 per request	£7 and £24
Change of Use of a building to use as one or more separate dwellinghouses, or other cases					
Number of Dwellings	Not more than 50 dwellings	£578 for each	£96	£578 for each	£96
Number of Dwellings	More than 50 dwellings	£30,859 + £186 for each in excess of 50 up to a maximum of £405,000	£5,143 + £31	£30,859 + £186 for each in excess of 50 up to a maximum of £405,000	£5,143 + £31
Other Changes of Use of a building or land		£578	£96	£578	£96
Advertising					
Relating to the business on the premises		£178	£30	£178	£30
Advance signs which are not situated on or visible from the site, directing the public to business		£178	£30	£178	£30
Other advertisements		£578	£96	£578	£96

Prior Approval					
Agricultural and Forestry buildings & operations or demolition of buildings		£120	£20	£120	£20
Telecommunications Code Systems Operators		£578	£96	£578	£96
Proposed Change of Use to State Funded School or Registered Nursery		£120	£20	£120	£20
Proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Building to a State-Funded School or Registered Nursery		£120	£20	£120	£20
Proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Building to a flexible use within Shops, Financial and Professional services, Restaurants and Cafes, Business, Storage or Distribution, Hotels, or Assembly or Leisure		£120	£20	£120	£20
Proposed Change of Use of a building from Office (Use Class B1) Use to a use falling within Use Class C3 (Dwellinghouse)		£120	£20	£120	£20
Proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Building to a Dwellinghouse (Use Class C3), where there are no Associated Building Operations		£120	£20	£120	£20
Proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Building to a Dwellinghouse (Use Class C3), and Associated Building Operations		£258	£43	£258	£43
Proposed Change of Use of a building from a Retail (Use Class A1 or A2) Use or a Mixed Retail and Residential Use to a use falling within Use Class C3 (Dwellinghouse), where there are no Associated Building Operations		£120	£20	£120	£20
Proposed Change of Use of a building from a Retail (Use Class A1 or A2) Use or a Mixed Retail and Residential Use to a use falling within Use Class C3 (Dwellinghouse), and Associated Building Operations		£258	£43	£258	£43
Notification for Prior Approval for a Change Of Use from Storage or Distribution Buildings (Class B8) and any land within its curtilage to Dwellinghouses (Class C3)		£120	£20	£120	£20
Notification for Prior Approval for a Change of Use from Amusement Arcades/Centres and Casinos, (Sui Generis Uses) and any land within its curtilage to Dwellinghouses (Class C3)		£120	£20	£120	£20
Notification for Prior Approval for a Change of Use from Amusement Arcades/Centres and Casinos, (Sui Generis Uses) and any land within its curtilage to Dwellinghouses (Class C3), and Associated Building Operations		£258	£43	£258	£43
Notification for Prior Approval for a Change of Use from Shops (Class A1), Financial and Professional Services (Class A2), Betting Offices, Pay Day Loan Shops and Casinos (Sui Generis Uses) to Restaurants and Cafés (Class A3)		£120	£20	£120	£20
Notification for Prior Approval for a Change of Use from Shops (Class A1), Financial and Professional Services (Class A2), Betting Offices, Pay Day Loan Shops and Casinos (Sui Generis Uses) to Restaurants and Cafés (Class A3), and Associated Building Operations		£258	£43	£258	£43
Notification for Prior Approval for a Change of Use from Shops (Class A1) and Financial and Professional Services (Class A2), Betting Offices, Pay Day Loan Shops (Sui Generis Uses) to Assembly and Leisure Uses (Class D2)		£120	£20	£120	£20
Application for a Non-material Amendment Following a Grant of Planning Permission					
Applications in respect of householder developments		£43	£7	£43	£7
Applications in respect of other developments		£293	£49	£293	£49
Local Authority Involvement in High Hedge Complaints					
High Hedge Complaint		£625	N/A	£625	N/A
Pre-Application Advice Fees	Small scale- Householders	£90	N/A	£90	N/A
	Medium Scale - 1-9 houses	£450		£450	
	Majors	£2,000		£2,000	
	Significant Majors	£3,000		£3,000	
	Listed Building Consent & Conservation Works	£250		£250	
Planning History Checks		£72	N/A	£72	N/A
Supplementary Planning Application Advice		POA	N/A	POA	N/A

S106 Fees

2024/25

Type of Obligation Monitoring Fee

Commuted Sum	1% of each payment instalment	This will be included within each invoice requesting payment
Land Contribution	£1,173 per development site	This payment is to be made at the time that the land transfer takes place
On-site Affordable Housing	£1,173 per development site	Payment is to be made on the first occupation of the affordable units
Other obligation	£1,173 per obligation	This is to ensure compliance with obligations such as providing a woodland management strategy etc
Overage Clause1	At least £1,173 or 1% of any addition	This is to report on any commuted sum payments arising from greater profits.

Commuted sum payments for open space / playing pitches contributions	£2,414 per dwelling for housing schemes of 10 or more dwelling	This is to report on any commuted sum payments arising from greater profits.
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Historic S106 Agreements Obligations	Copies of S106 legal agreements and to seek evidence that obligations have been discharged.	£150
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Off-site Affordable Housing		n/a
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2025/26

Type of Obligation Monitoring Fee

Commuted Sum	1% of each payment instalment	This will be included within each invoice requesting payment
Land Contribution	£1,232 per development site	This payment is to be made at the time that the land transfer takes place
On-site Affordable Housing	£1,232 per development site	Payment is to be made on the first occupation of the affordable units
Other obligation	£1,232 per obligation	This is to ensure compliance with obligations such as providing a woodland management strategy etc
Overage Clause1	At least £1,232 or 1% of any addition	This is to report on any commuted sum payments arising from greater profits.

Commuted sum payments for open space contributions	£1,277 per dwelling for housing schemes of 10 or more dwelling	When need is demonstrated
Commuted sum payments for open playing pitches contributions	£803 per dwelling for housing schemes of 10 or more dwelling	When need is demonstrated

Historic S106 Agreements Obligations	Copies of S106 legal agreements and to seek evidence that obligations have been discharged.	£158
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Off-site Affordable Housing	Difference between OMV & RP x the number of offsite AH. (OMV - RP) x TS / 0.7	Cost to the developer if the affordable dwellings were provided on site
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Biodiversity Net Gain Fees

2024/25			
BNG Standard Monitoring Fee	Low technical difficulty to enhance/create habitats	Moderate technical difficulty to enhance/create habitats	High technical difficulty to enhance/create habitats
Small biodiversity off-site/on-site area (0 to 10ha)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Medium biodiversity off-site/on-site area (10+ to 20ha)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Large biodiversity off-site/on-site area (20+ to 40ha)	n/a	n/a	n/a

2025/26			
BNG Standard Monitoring Fee	Low technical difficulty to enhance/create habitats	Moderate technical difficulty to enhance/create habitats	High technical difficulty to enhance/create habitats
Small biodiversity off-site/on-site area (0 to 10ha)	£8,003	£15,206	£23,361
Medium biodiversity off-site/on-site area (10+ to 20ha)	£13,338	£20,978	£33,373
Large biodiversity off-site/on-site area (20+ to 40ha)	£26,676	£35,963	£46,722

Building Control - Table A

New Build - Houses 2024/25

Standard Charge for New Housing (up to 300m2 Floor Area including flats and maisonettes but not conversions)

No of Dwellings	Plan Fee	VAT	Plan Total	Inspect Fee	VAT	Inspect Total	Building Notice Fee	VAT	Building Notice Total
1	260.00	52.00	£312.00	723.33	144.67	£868.00	1,180.00	236.00	£1,416.00
2	342.50	68.50	£411.00	864.17	172.83	£1,037.00	1,448.33	289.67	£1,738.00
3	380.83	76.17	£457.00	1,013.33	202.67	£1,216.00	1,672.50	334.50	£2,007.00
4	455.00	91.00	£546.00	1,169.17	233.83	£1,403.00	1,949.17	389.83	£2,339.00
5	545.83	109.17	£655.00	1,338.33	267.67	£1,606.00	2,260.00	452.00	£2,712.00

Building Control - Table A

New Build - Houses 2025/26

Standard Charge for New Housing (up to 300m2 Floor Area including flats and maisonettes but not conversions)

No of Dwellings	Plan Fee	VAT	Plan Total	Inspect Fee	VAT	Inspect Total	Building Notice Fee	VAT	Building Notice Total
1	273.00	54.60	£327.60	760.00	152.00	£912.00	1,239.00	247.80	£1,486.80
2	360.00	72.00	£432.00	907.00	181.40	£1,088.40	1,521.00	304.20	£1,825.20
3	400.00	80.00	£480.00	1,064.00	212.80	£1,276.80	1,756.00	351.20	£2,107.20
4	478.00	95.60	£573.60	1,228.00	245.60	£1,473.60	2,047.00	409.40	£2,456.40
5	573.00	114.60	£687.60	1,405.00	281.00	£1,686.00	2,373.00	474.60	£2,847.60

Standard Charge for New Housing (Floor Area between 301m2 and 700m2)

	Plan Fee	VAT	Plan Total	Inspect Fee	VAT	Inspect Total	Building Notice Fee	VAT	Building Notice Total
Single Dwelling with Floor Area between 301m2 and 500m2	300.00	60.00	£360.00	819.17	163.83	£983.00	1,343.33	268.67	£1,612.00
Single Dwelling with Floor Area between 501m2 and 700m2	300.00	60.00	£360.00	1,055.83	211.17	£1,267.00	1,626.67	325.33	£1,952.00

Please note for more than 5 Dwelling or if the floor area of a dwelling exceeds 700m2 the charge is individually determined

All the above charges are on the basis that any controlled electrical work is carried out by a person who is a member of a registered competent person scheme, if this is not the case an additional charge may apply

Standard Charge for New Housing (Floor Area between 301m2 and 700m2)

	Plan Fee	VAT	Plan Total	Inspect Fee	VAT	Inspect Total	Building Notice Fee	VAT	Building Notice Total
Single Dwelling with Floor Area between 301m2 and 500m2	315.00	63.00	£378.00	860.00	172.00	£1,032.00	1,411.00	282.20	£1,693.20
Single Dwelling with Floor Area between 501m2 and 700m2	315.00	63.00	£378.00	1,109.00	221.80	£1,330.80	1,708.00	341.60	£2,049.60

Please note for more than 5 Dwelling or if the floor area of a dwelling exceeds 700m2 the charge is individually determined

All the above charges are on the basis that any controlled electrical work is carried out by a person who is a member of a registered competent person scheme, if this is not the case an additional charge may apply

Building Control - Table B

Charges for small buildings, extensions and alterations to dwellings 2024/25
Valid for applications received between 01/04/2024 & 31/03/2025

Proposal	Plan Fee	VAT	Plan Total	Inspect Fee	VAT	Inspect Total	Building Notice Fee	VAT	Building Notice Total
Category 1: Extensions to Dwellings									
Extension Internal Floor area not exceeding 10m2	166.67	33.33	£200.00	197.50	39.50	£237.00	436.67	87.33	£524.00
Extension Internal Floor Area over 10m2 but not exceeding 40m2	166.67	33.33	£200.00	365.00	73.00	£438.00	637.50	127.50	£765.00
Extension Internal Floor Area over 40m2 but not exceeding 60m2	166.67	33.33	£200.00	512.50	102.50	£615.00	815.00	163.00	£978.00
Extension - Internal Floor Area over 60m2 but not exceeding 80m2	166.67	33.33	£200.00	660.83	132.17	£793.00	993.33	198.67	£1,192.00
Category 2 - Garages & Carports									
Erection or Extension of a detached or attached building or extension to a dwelling									
Which consists of a garage, carport or both; having a floor area not exceeding 40m2 in total and is intended to be used in common with an existing building	280.00	56.00	£336.00	inc	inc	inc	336.67	67.33	£404.00
The conversion of an attached garage into a habitable room	248.33	49.67	£298.00	inc	inc	inc	297.50	59.50	£357.00
Where the Garage extension exceeds a floor area of 40m2 but does not exceed 60m2	403.33	80.67	£484.00	inc	inc	inc	483.33	96.67	£580.00
Category 3: Loft Conversation and Dormers									
Formation of a room in a roof space, including means of access thereto. Fees for lofts greater than 40m2 are to be based on the cost of work. The Fee cannot be less than shown below									
Without a dormer but not exceeding 40m2 in floor area	166.67	33.33	£200.00	205.83	41.17	£247.00	447.50	89.50	£537.00
With a dormer but not exceeding 40m2 in floor area	166.67	33.33	£200.00	327.50	65.50	£393.00	592.50	118.50	£711.00

Where the extension to the dwelling exceeds 80m2 in floor area, the charge is based on the estimated cost in Table E, subject to the sum of the plan charge and inspection charge being not less than £1057.50 (excluding VAT). The total estimated cost of the work must therefore be at least £75,001.

Note: All the above charges are on the basis that any controlled electrical work is carried out by a person who is a member of a registered Competent Person Scheme, if this is not the case an additional charge may apply.

Building Control - Table B

Charges for small buildings, extensions and alterations to dwellings 2025/26
Valid for applications received between 01/04/2025 & 31/03/2026

Proposal	Plan Fee	VAT	Plan Total	Inspect Fee	VAT	Inspect Total	Building Notice Fee	VAT	Building Notice Total
Category 1: Extensions to Dwellings									
Extension Internal Floor area not exceeding 10m2	175.00	35.00	£210.00	207.00	41.40	£248.40	459.00	91.80	£550.80
Extension Internal Floor Area over 10m2 but not exceeding 40m2	175.00	35.00	£210.00	383.00	76.60	£459.60	669.00	133.80	£802.80
Extension Internal Floor Area over 40m2 but not exceeding 60m2	175.00	35.00	£210.00	538.00	107.60	£645.60	856.00	171.20	£1,027.20
Extension - Internal Floor Area over 60m2 but not exceeding 80m2	175.00	35.00	£210.00	694.00	138.80	£832.80	1043.00	208.60	£1,251.60
Category 2 - Garages & Carports									
Erection or Extension of a detached or attached building or extension to a dwelling									
Which consists of a garage, carport or both; having a floor area not exceeding 40m2 in total and is intended to be used in common with an existing building	294.00	58.80	£352.80	inc	inc	inc	354.00	70.80	£424.80
The conversion of an attached garage into a habitable room	261.00	52.20	£313.20	inc	inc	inc	312.00	62.40	£374.40
Where the Garage extension exceeds a floor area of 40m2 but does not exceed 60m2	424.00	84.80	£508.80	inc	inc	inc	508.00	101.60	£609.60
Category 3: Loft Conversation and Dormers									
Formation of a room in a roof space, including means of access thereto. Fees for lofts greater than 40m2 are to be based on the cost of work. The Fee cannot be less than shown below									
Without a dormer but not exceeding 40m2 in floor area	175.00	35.00	£210.00	216.00	43.20	£259.20	470.00	94.00	£564.00
With a dormer but not exceeding 40m2 in floor area	175.00	35.00	£210.00	344.00	68.80	£412.80	622.00	124.40	£746.40

Where the extension to the dwelling exceeds 80m2 in floor area, the charge is based on the estimated cost in Table E, subject to the sum of the plan charge and inspection charge being not less than £1057.50 (excluding VAT). The total estimated cost of the work must therefore be at least £75,001.

Note: All the above charges are on the basis that any controlled electrical work is carried out by a person who is a member of a registered Competent Person Scheme, if this is not the case an additional charge may apply.

Building Control - Table C

Standard Charges for Alterations to Dwellings 2024-25

Proposal	Plan Fee	VAT	Plan Total	Inspect Fee	VAT	Inspect Total	Building Notice Fee	VAT	Building Notice Total	Regularisation
1A. Installation of Replacement windows and doors in a dwelling where the number of windows / doors does not exceed 20							77.50	15.50	£93.00	
1B. Installation of Replacement windows and doors in a dwelling where the number of windows / doors does not exceed 20 (retrospective)								0.00		122.00
2. Underpinning with a total cost not exceeding £30,000	281.667	56.33	£338.00	inc	inc	inc	338.33	67.67	£406.00	
3. Controlled Electrical Work to a single dwelling (not carried out in conjunction with work being undertaken that falls within Table B)	250.83	50.17	£301.00	inc	inc	inc	300.83	60.17	£361.00	
4A. Renovation of a thermal element i.e. Work involving recovering of a roof, replacement of a floor or renovation of an external wall to which L 1b applies. (retrospective)							117.50	23.50	£141.00	178.00
4B. Renovation of a thermal element Replacement Conservatory Roof	POA						POA			POA
5. Formation of a single en suite bathroom / shower room or cloakroom within an existing dwelling (excluding electrical work)	241.67	48.33	£290.00	inc	inc	inc	290.00	58.00	£348.00	409.00
6. Removal or partial removal of chimney breast (accompanied by Structural Engineering Details)	151.67	30.33	£182.00				151.67	30.33	£182.00	218.00
7. Installation of New or Replacement Sewage Treatment Plant and associated discharge	232.50	46.50	£279.00			inc	279.17	55.83	£335.00	402.00
8. Removal of wall and insertion of one or two steel beams maximum span 4 metres (accompanied by Structural Engineering Details)	151.67	30.33	£182.00				151.67	30.33	£182.00	218.00
9. Structural Alterations not supported by Structural Calculations to be individually assessed (Calculations may still be required)	POA					inc	POA			POA
10. The insertion of insulating material in a cavity wall of an existing property*							78.33	15.67	£94.00	
11. Installation of a multi fuel appliance including associated Flue liner and hearth* to a single dwelling							278.33	55.6667	£334.00	400.00

* Not carried out under a Competent Person Scheme

Where it is intended to carry out additional work internally within a dwelling at the same time as undertaking alterations as defined in Table C then the charge for all of the internal work (including work as defined in table C) may be assessed using the total estimated cost of work as set out in table E. All other work within dwellings will be charged as set out in Table E.

Building Control - Table C

Standard Charges for Alterations to Dwellings 2025-26

Proposal	Plan Fee	VAT	Plan Total	Inspect Fee	VAT	Inspect Total	Building Notice Fee	VAT	Building Notice Total	Regularisation
1A. Installation of Replacement windows and doors in a dwelling where the number of windows / doors does not exceed 20							81.00	16.20	£97.20	
1B. Installation of Replacement windows and doors in a dwelling where the number of windows / doors does not exceed 20 (retrospective)								0.00		128.00
2. Underpinning with a total cost not exceeding £30,000	296.00	59.20	£355.20	inc	inc	inc	355.00	71.00	£426.00	
3. Controlled Electrical Work to a single dwelling (not carried out in conjunction with work being undertaken that falls within Table B)	263.00	52.60	£315.60	inc	inc	inc	316.00	63.20	£379.20	
4A. Renovation of a thermal element i.e. Work involving recovering of a roof, replacement of a floor or renovation of an external wall to which L 1b applies. (retrospective)							123.00	24.60	£147.60	187.00
4B. Renovation of a thermal element Replacement Conservatory Roof	POA						POA			
5. Formation of a single en suite bathroom / shower room or cloakroom within an existing dwelling (excluding electrical work)	254.00	50.80	£304.80	inc	inc	inc	305.00	61.00	£366.00	429.00
6. Removal or partial removal of chimney breast (accompanied by Structural Engineering Details)	159.00	31.80	£190.80				159.00	31.80	£190.80	229.00
7. Installation of New or Replacement Sewage Treatment Plant and associated discharge	244.00	48.80	£292.80			inc	293.00	58.60	£351.60	422.00
8. Removal of wall and insertion of one or two steel beams maximum span 4 metres (accompanied by Structural Engineering Details)	159.00	31.80	£190.80				159.00	31.80	£190.80	229.00
9. Structural Alterations not supported by Structural Calculations to be individually assessed (Calculations may still be required)						inc	POA			
10. The insertion of insulating material in a cavity wall of an existing property*							82.00	16.40	£98.40	
11. Installation of a multi fuel appliance including associated Flue liner and hearth* to a single dwelling							292.00	58.4	£350.40	420.00

* Not carried out under a Competent Person Scheme

Where it is intended to carry out additional work internally within a dwelling at the same time as undertaking alterations as defined in Table C then the charge for all of the internal work (including work as defined in table C) may be assessed using the total estimated cost of work as set out in table E. All other work within dwellings will be charged as set out in Table E.

Building Control - Table D

Extensions and New Build - Other than to Dwellings 2024/25

(i.e. Shops, Offices, industrial, hotels, storage, assembly etc.)

Note - must be submitted as a full plans application (other than application for replacement windows)

Category of Work	Proposal	Plan Fee	VAT	Plan Total	Inspect Fee	VAT	Inspect Total
1	Internal Floor Area not exceeding 6m ²	367.50	73.50	£441.00	inc	inc	inc
2	Internal Floor Area over 6m ² but not exceeding 40m ²	173.33	34.67	£208.00	359.17	71.83	£431.00
3	Internal Floor Area over 40m ² but not exceeding 80m ²	173.33	34.67	£208.00	558.33	111.67	£670.00
4	Shop fit out not exceeding a value of £50,000	357.50	71.50	£429.00	inc	inc	inc
5	Replacement Windows						
	a - not exceeding 10 windows	133.33	26.67	£160.00	inc	inc	inc
	b - between 11 - 20 windows	236.67	47.33	£284.00	inc	inc	inc

Building Control - Table D

Extensions and New Build - Other than to Dwellings 2025/26

(i.e. Shops, Offices, industrial, hotels, storage, assembly etc.)

Note - must be submitted as a full plans application (other than application for replacement windows)

Category of Work	Proposal	Plan Fee	VAT	Plan Total	Inspect Fee	VAT	Inspect Total
1	Internal Floor Area not exceeding 6m ²	386.00	77.20	£463.20	inc	inc	inc
2	Internal Floor Area over 6m ² but not exceeding 40m ²	182.00	36.40	£218.40	377.00	75.40	£452.40
3	Internal Floor Area over 40m ² but not exceeding 80m ²	182.00	36.40	£218.40	586.00	117.20	£703.20
4	Shop fit out not exceeding a value of £50,000	375.00	75.00	£450.00	inc	inc	inc
5	Replacement Windows						
	a - not exceeding 10 windows	140.00	28.00	£168.00	inc	inc	inc
	b - between 11 - 20 windows	249.00	49.80	£298.80	inc	inc	inc

Building Control - Table E

Standard Charges for all work not in Tables A,B,C & D for 2024/25
(excludes individually determined charges)

Estimated Cost										
From	To	Plan Fee	VAT	Plan Total	Inspect Fee	VAT	Inspect Total	Building Notice Fee	VAT	Building Notice Total
0	1000	126.67	25.33	£152.00	inc	inc	inc	151.67	30.33	£182.00
1,001	2,000	241.67	48.33	£290.00	inc	inc	inc	290.83	58.17	£349.00
2,001	5,000	261.67	52.33	£314.00	inc	inc	inc	314.17	62.83	£377.00
5,001	7,000	290.00	58.00	£348.00	inc	inc	inc	347.50	69.50	£417.00
7,001	10,000	325.00	65.00	£390.00	inc	inc	inc	390.00	78.00	£468.00
10,001	20,000	401.67	80.33	£482.00	inc	inc	inc	482.50	96.50	£579.00
20,001	30,000	173.33	34.67	£208.00	350.00	70.00	£420.00	627.50	125.50	£753.00
30,001	40,000	236.67	47.33	£284.00	385.83	77.17	£463.00	747.50	149.50	£897.00
40,001	50,000	287.50	57.50	£345.00	465.00	93.00	£558.00	903.33	180.67	£1,084.00
50,001	75,000	338.33	67.67	£406.00	566.67	113.33	£680.00	1,090.83	218.17	£1,309.00
75,001	100,000	385.83	77.17	£463.00	714.17	142.83	£857.00	1,320.00	264.00	£1,584.00
100,001	150,000	431.67	86.33	£518.00	821.67	164.33	£986.00	1,504.17	300.83	£1,805.00
150,001	200,000	476.67	95.33	£572.00	929.17	185.83	£1,115.00	1,686.67	337.33	£2,024.00
200,001	250,000	522.50	104.50	£627.00	1036.67	207.33	£1,244.00	1,870.83	374.17	£2,245.00

Where it is intended to carry out additional work on a dwelling at the same time as undertaking an extension within table B, then the charge for this additional work (as indicated in Table E) shall be discounted by 50%, subject to a maximum estimated cost of less than £10,000

Note: In respect of domestic work the above charges are on the basis that any controlled electrical work is carried out by a person who is a member of a registered Competent Person Scheme, if this is not the case an additional charge may apply.

Where the estimated cost of work exceeds £250,000 the charge will be individually assessed by Rossendale Borough Council Building Control Services.

Building Control - Table E

Standard Charges for all work not in Tables A,B,C & D for 2025/26
(excludes individually determined charges)

Estimated Cost										
From	To	Plan Fee	VAT	Plan Total	Inspect Fee	VAT	Inspect Total	Building Notice Fee	VAT	Building Notice Total
0	1000	133.00	26.60	£159.60	inc	inc	inc	159.00	31.80	£190.80
1,001	2,000	254.00	50.80	£304.80	inc	inc	inc	305.00	61.00	£366.00
2,001	5,000	275.00	55.00	£330.00	inc	inc	inc	330.00	66.00	£396.00
5,001	7,000	305.00	61.00	£366.00	inc	inc	inc	365.00	73.00	£438.00
7,001	10,000	341.00	68.20	£409.20	inc	inc	inc	410.00	82.00	£492.00
10,001	20,000	422.00	84.40	£506.40	inc	inc	inc	507.00	101.40	£608.40
20,001	30,000	182.00	36.40	£218.40	368.00	73.60	£441.60	659.00	131.80	£790.80
30,001	40,000	249.00	49.80	£298.80	405.00	81.00	£486.00	785.00	157.00	£942.00
40,001	50,000	302.00	60.40	£362.40	488.00	97.60	£585.60	949.00	189.80	£1,138.80
50,001	75,000	355.00	71.00	£426.00	595.00	119.00	£714.00	1145.00	229.00	£1,374.00
75,001	100,000	405.00	81.00	£486.00	750.00	150.00	£900.00	1386.00	277.20	£1,663.20
100,001	150,000	453.00	90.60	£543.60	863.00	172.60	£1,035.60	1579.00	315.80	£1,894.80
150,001	200,000	501.00	100.20	£601.20	976.00	195.20	£1,171.20	1771.00	354.20	£2,125.20
200,001	250,000	549.00	109.80	£658.80	1089.00	217.80	£1,306.80	1964.00	392.80	£2,356.80

Where it is intended to carry out additional work on a dwelling at the same time as undertaking an extension within table B, then the charge for this additional work (as indicated in Table E) shall be discounted by 50%, subject to a maximum estimated cost of less than £10,000

Note: In respect of domestic work the above charges are on the basis that any controlled electrical work is carried out by a person who is a member of a registered Competent Person Scheme, if this is not the case an additional charge may apply.

Where the estimated cost of work exceeds £250,000 the charge will be individually assessed by Rossendale Borough Council Building Control Services.

Building Control - Table F**Demolition (2024/25)**

Category of Work	Proposal	VAT Exempt Fee
1	Application to demolish existing property under Section 80 of the Buildings Act 1984 & issuing the counter notice under Section 81 of the Building Act 1984.	FOC

Building Control - Table F**Demolition (2025/26)**

Category of Work	Proposal	VAT Exempt Fee
1	Application to demolish existing property under Section 80 of the Buildings Act 1984 & issuing the counter notice under Section 81 of the Building Act 1984.	FOC

Building Control - Table G**Other Charges (2024/25)**

Category of Work	Proposal	Net	VAT	Gross Fee
1	Copy of Decision Notice or Completion Certificates (within the past 3 years)	25.83	5.17	£31.00
2	Additional copy from same file.	6.67	1.33	£8.00
3	Re- opening of archived applications (Charge per Hour - minimum 1 hour £80.00) plus decision notice and completion certificate	70.00	14.00	£84.00
4	Re- opening of archived applications (Charge per Hour - minimum 1 hour £80.00) plus decision notice and completion certificate	97.50	19.50	£117.00
5	Withdrawal of an application and any associated charges (Charge per Hour - minimum 1 hour £80.00)	70.00	14.00	£84.00
6	Building Regulation Confirmation letter	70.00	14.00	£84.00
7	Change of applicants details on valid application (New)	70.00	14.00	£84.00
8	Supply of non-standard data and information, including responding to solicitors enquiries (Charge per Hour - minimum 1 hour £80.00)	70.00	14.00	£84.00
9	<u>Pre Application site visit discountably against full application</u>	70.00	14.00	£84.00
10	Exemption Certificate (Charged per Hour - minimum 1 hour £80.00) additional charges for site visits.	70.00	14.00	£84.00

Building Control - Table G**Other Charges (2025/26)**

Category of Work	Proposal	Net	VAT	Gross Fee
1	Copy of Decision Notice or Completion Certificates (within the past 3 years)	27.00	5.40	£32.40
2	Additional copy from same file.	7.00	1.40	£8.40
3	Re- opening of archived applications (Charge per Hour - minimum 1 hour £80.00) plus decision notice and completion certificate	74.00	14.80	£88.80
4	Re- opening of archived applications (Charge per Hour - minimum 1 hour £80.00) plus decision notice and completion certificate	102.00	20.40	£122.40
5	Withdrawal of an application and any associated charges (Charge per Hour - minimum 1 hour £80.00)	74.00	14.80	£88.80
6	Building Regulation Confirmation letter	74.00	14.80	£88.80
7	Change of applicants details on valid application (New)	74.00	14.80	£88.80
8	Supply of non-standard data and information, including responding to solicitors enquiries (Charge per Hour - minimum 1 hour £80.00)	74.00	14.80	£88.80
9	Pre Application site visit discountably against full application	74.00	14.80	£88.80
10	Exemption Certificate (Charged per Hour - minimum 1 hour £80.00) additional charges for site visits.	74.00	14.80	£88.80

Street Naming & Numbering

Existing Properties

Individual House Name / Individual House re-name or re-number

Conversions of existing Properties into multiples

Newbuild / Conversion to a property

Development of 10 plots or less

Development of 11 plots or more

Additional charge, where this includes the naming of a street

Additional charge, where this includes the naming of a building (e.g. block of flats)

	2024/25 Charge	2025/26 Charge
Individual House Name / Individual House re-name or re-number	£78	£82
Conversions of existing Properties into multiples	£125 up to a maximum of 4 units; additional Units £26 per unit	£131 up to a maximum of 4 units; additional Units £26 per unit
Development of 10 plots or less	£78 per plot up to a maximum of £300	£82 per plot up to a maximum of £315
Development of 11 plots or more	Charges individually assessed	Charges individually assessed
Additional charge, where this includes the naming of a street	£125	£131
Additional charge, where this includes the naming of a building (e.g. block of flats)	£125	£131

Local Land Charges

Offical Search / Enquiries / Con29R form / LLC1
Con 29R - Each additional parcel of land
Offical Search - LLC1
Supplementary Questions Con 29O *
Supplementary Question Con 29O (Question 22) *
Each additional Enquiry

2024/25		
Fee	VAT	TOTAL
£85.00	£17.00	£132.00
£30.00	£0.00	£30.00
£25.00	£5.00	£30.00
£30.00	£0.00	£30.00
£20.00	£4.00	£24.00
£27.00	£5.40	£32.40
£25.00	£5.00	£30.00

2025/26		
Fee	VAT	TOTAL
£85.00	£17.00	£132.00
£30.00	£0.00	£30.00
£25.00	£5.00	£30.00
£30.00	£0.00	£30.00
£20.00	£4.00	£24.00
£27.00	£5.40	£32.40
£25.00	£5.00	£30.00

Legal Services

	2024/25 Charge			2025/26 Charge		
	Net	VAT	Gross	Net	VAT	Gross
<u>Sales of land and property and freehold reversion</u>						
Up to £5,000			£600.00			£630.00
£5001 - £15,000			£800.00			£840.00
£15,001 - £100,000			£1,800.00			£1,890.00
over £100k			2% of sale price			
<u>Leases and Licences</u>						
Industrial Unit Lease		*min	£400.00			£420.00
Industrial Unit Licence		*min	£250.00			£263.00
Garden/Garage Tenancy		*min	£350.00			£368.00
Wayleave/Easement		*min	£550.00			£578.00
Commercial Lease		*min	£850.00			£893.00
Notice of Assignment		*min	£95.00			£100.00
Agricultural Tenancy		*min	£400.00			£420.00
Agricultural Tenancy Renewal		*min	£300.00			£315.00
Lease Renewal		*min	£300.00			£315.00
Deed of Variation/Surrender/Release		*min	£400.00			£420.00
<u>S106 Agreements</u>						
Preparation		* min	£1,750.00			£1,838.00
Checking Fee		* min	£800.00			£840.00
Deed of Variations		* min	£1,000.00			£1,050.00
Footpath Diversions		* min	£3,000.00			£3,150.00
+ any disbursements (assuming unopposed)						
Commercial Road Closures under TPCA		* min	£150.00			£158.00
Commercial Event Licences		* min	£300.00			£315.00
Misc' Commercial Licence		* min	£400.00			£420.00

Property Services

	2024/25				2025/26		
	Net	VAT	Gross		Net	VAT	Gross
Garage sites (adopted TH sites will be held at current rate for a period of 12 months) adjoining the applicants property and must be no Rental £1.50 per sq.m Information regarding industrial units or managed offices have not been included due to the sensitivity of individual Garage bond scheme to be introduced to all new and renewing tenancies from 01/04/20	£190.00	£38.00	£228.00	Garage sites (adopted TH sites will be held at current rate for a period of 12 months) adjoining the applicants property and must be no Rental £1.50 per sq.m Information regarding industrial units or managed offices have not been included due to the sensitivity of individual Garage bond scheme to be introduced to all new and renewing tenancies from 01/04/20	£200.00	£40.00	£240.00

Valuation Services Residential	2024/25			Valuation Services Residential	2025/26		
	Net	VAT	Gross		Net	VAT	Gross
Band A (£1,000 - £5,000)	£318.33	£63.67	£382.00	Band A (£1,000 - £5,000)	£334.00	£66.80	£400.80
Band B (£5001 - £15,000)	£318.33	£63.67	£382.00	Band B (£5001 - £15,000)	£334.00	£66.80	£400.80
Band C (£15,001 - £25,000)	£340.00	£68.00	£408.00	Band C (£15,001 - £25,000)	£357.00	£71.40	£428.40
Band D (£5,001 - £50,000)	£340.00	£68.00	£408.00	Band D (£5,001 - £50,000)	£357.00	£71.40	£428.40
Band E (£50,001 - £100,000)	£365.00	£73.00	£438.00	Band E (£50,001 - £100,000)	£383.00	£76.60	£459.60
Band F (£100,001 +)	£485.00	£97.00	£582.00	Band F (£100,001 +)	£509.00	£101.80	£610.80
Minimum rental fee of £200 per annum. Minimum purchase value of £1000. Valuations on a price banding basis based on letterhead valuation for				Minimum rental fee of £200 per annum. Minimum purchase value of £1000. Valuations on a price banding basis based on letterhead valuation for			

Valuation Services Commercial	2024/25			Valuation Services Commercial	2025/26		
	Net	VAT	Gross		Net	VAT	Gross
Band A (£1,000 - £5,000)	£280.00	£56.00	£336.00	Band A (£1,000 - £5,000)	£294.00	£58.80	£352.80
Band B (£5001 - £15,000)	£280.00	£56.00	£336.00	Band B (£5001 - £15,000)	£294.00	£58.80	£352.80
Band C (£15,001 - £25,000)	£280.00	£56.00	£336.00	Band C (£15,001 - £25,000)	£294.00	£58.80	£352.80
Band D (£5,001 - £50,000)	£280.00	£56.00	£336.00	Band D (£5,001 - £50,000)	£294.00	£58.80	£352.80
Band E (£50,001 - £100,000)	£335.00	£67.00	£402.00	Band E (£50,001 - £100,000)	£352.00	£70.40	£422.40
Band F (£100,001 +)	£335.00	£67.00	£402.00	Band F (£100,001 +)	£352.00	£70.40	£422.40
Minimum rental fee of £200 per annum. Minimum purchase value of £1000. Valuations on a price				Minimum rental fee of £200 per annum. Minimum purchase value of £1000. Valuations on a price			
	Min net fee of £200				Min net fee of £210		

	2024/25				2025/26		
	Net	VAT	Gross		Net	VAT	Gross
Application to Purchase/Lease/Rent	£125.00	£25.00	£150.00	Application to Purchase/Lease/Rent	£131.00	£26.20	£157.20
Charity / CIC Application to Purchase/Lease/Rent	£11.25	£2.25	£13.50	Charity / CIC Application to Purchase/Lease/Rent	£12.00	£2.40	£14.40
Licence / Lease Instruction Fee	£70.00	£14.00	£84.00	Licence / Lease Instruction Fee	£74.00	£14.80	£88.80
Charity Licence / Lease Instruction Fee	£10.83	£2.17	£13.00	Charity Licence / Lease Instruction Fee	£11.00	£2.20	£13.20
Estates Administration Fee	£30.00	£6.00	£36.00	Estates Administration Fee	£32.00	£6.40	£38.40
Allotments				Allotments			
Tenancy agreement pr sq. m.	£25.50	£0.00	£25.50	Tenancy agreement pr sq. m.	£27.00	£0.00	£27.00
Minimum fee of £50 per annum	£0.37	£0.00	£0.37	Minimum fee of £50 per annum	£0.39	£0.00	£0.39

Room hire at the Business Centre	Seats	2024/25			Room hire at the Business Centre	Seats	2025/26		
		Half Day	Full Day	Hot Drinks Facilities			Half Day	Full Day	Hot Drinks Facilities
Small Meeting Room	10	£60.00	£110.00	Not Included	Small Meeting Room	10	£63.00	£116.00	Not Included
(104, 109, 113)					(104, 109, 113)				
Boardroom	16	£100.00	£180.00	Included	Boardroom	16	£105.00	£189.00	Included
(110, 210)					(110, 210)				
Council Chamber	Numbers upon Request	£180.00	£300.00	Included	Council Chamber	Numbers upon Request	£189.00	£315.00	Included
Training Room (IT Use)	9	£125.00	£200.00	Included	Training Room (IT Use)	9	£131.00	£210.00	Included
Small Meeting Room	4	£50.00	£85.00	Not Included	Small Meeting Room	4	£53.00	£89.00	Not Included

Rossendale Borough Council

Revenue & Capital Budget Book 2025/26

To be presented to Full Council on 5th March 2025

Summary of Revenue Budget 2025/26

General Fund Summary

Service	2024/25 Revised Estimate	In Year Virements	2024/25 Revised Baseline	Changes within 2024/25					2025/26 Original Budget
				Staff Costs	Other Inflation	Savings	Inter-service Virements	Volume/ Technical Changes	
				£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Communities Directorate									
Customer Services	1,743	0	1,743	26	0	0	0	96	1,865
Operational Functions	2,263	0	2,263	137	0	0	0	308	2,706
Parks & Open Spaces	948	0	948	80	0	0	0	(21)	1,007
Communities	169	0	169	8	0	0	0	1	178
Environmental Health / PPU unit	388	0	388	77	0	0	0	10	475
Licensing & Enforcement	122	0	122	(59)	0	0	0	5	67
	5,632	0	5,632	268	0	0	0	399	6,297
Economic Development Directorate									
Planning Services	310	0	310	73	0	0	0	72	455
Building Control Services	7	0	7	10	0	0	0	(3)	13
Housing and Regeneration Service	522	0	522	68	0	0	0	(25)	565
Property Services	277	0	277	12	0	(79)	0	12	222
	1,116	0	1,116	162	0	(79)	0	56	1,255
Corporate Services									
Legal Services	199	0	199	10	0	0	0	(7)	202
Democratic Services	627	0	627	15	0	0	0	(25)	617
Local Land Charges	(5)	0	(5)	3	0	0	0	22	20
Corporate Management	718	0	718	(30)	0	0	0	(134)	555
Financial Services	838	0	838	(34)	0	0	0	(215)	589
People & Policy	734	0	734	180	0	0	0	32	946
Non-Distributed Costs	106	0	106	0	0	(100)	0	229	235
Capital Financing and Interest	633	0	633	0	0	0	0	185	819
	3,851	0	3,851	144	0	(100)	0	87	3,982
Total General Fund	10,599	0	10,599	574	0	(179)	0	542	11,535
Funded by									
Revenue Support Grant	91								93
NNDR (Business rates baseline share)	2,335								2,436
New Homes Bonus	163								141
Funding Guarantee	361								0
Services Grant	15								0
Collection Fund Surplus - Council Tax	126								126
Collection Fund Surplus - Business Rates	0								0
NNDR Growth/Pooling	500								500
Extended Producer Responsibilities	0								649
Recovery Grant	0								297
Contribution from Reserves	564								574
Council Tax Requirement	4,155								6,719
Number of Band D Equivalent Properties	20,891								21,152
Council Tax at Band D (excluding Whitworth)	£308.44						2.99%		£317.66

Revenue Budget 2025/26

Communities Directorate

Service	2024/25 Revised Estimate	In Year Virements	2024/25 Revised Baseline	Changes within 2024/25					2025/26 Original Budget
				Inflation Pay Award	Other Inflation	Savings	Inter- service Virements	Volume/ Technical Changes	
				£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Customer Services									
Benefits Administration	(118)	0	(118)	0	0	0	0	3	(114)
Benefits Granted	(24)	0	(24)	0	0	0	0	(99)	(122)
Central Printing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Concessionary Travel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Customer Services Management	83	0	83	3	0	0	0	(0)	87
E-Government (ICT Support)	869	0	869	14	0	0	0	54	938
One Stop Shop	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Revenues Collection	(379)	0	(379)	0	0	0	0	128	(251)
Revs & Bens Partnership	1,158	0	1,158	0	0	0	0	42	1,200
Service Assurance Team	147	0	147	8	0	0	0	(32)	123
	1,743	0	1,743	26	0	0	0	96	1,865
Operational Functions									
Operations & Fleet Management	422	0	422	(17)	0	0	0	167	572
Refuse & Recycling	1,537	0	1,537	130	0	0	0	101	1,768
Street Sweeping	304	0	304	23	0	0	0	27	354
Town Centre Caretaker	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	12
	2,263	0	2,263	137	0	0	0	308	2,707
Parks									
Cemeteries	(127)	0	(127)	0	0	0	0	(41)	(167)
Parks	96	0	96	0	0	0	0	(71)	26
Parks & Open Spaces	967	0	967	80	0	0	0	83	1,129
Playing Fields (Sports Facilities)	11	0	11	0	0	0	0	8	19
	948	0	948	80	0	0	0	(21)	1,007
Communities	169	0	169	8	0	0	0	1	178
Environmental Health	388	0	388	77	0	0	0	10	475
Licensing and Enforcement	122	0	122	(59)	0	0	0	5	67
Communities Directorate Total	5,632	0	5,632	268	0	0	0	399	6,298

Revenue Budget 2025/26

Economic Development Directorate

Service	2024/25 Revised Estimate	In Year Virements	2024/25 Revised Baseline	Changes within 2024/25					2025/26 Original Budget
				Inflation Pay Award	Other Inflation	Savings	Inter-service Virements	Volume/ Technical Changes	
Planning									
Development Control	151	0	151	63	0	0	0	72	286
Forward Planning	159	0	159	10	0	0	0	(0)	169
	310	0	310	73	0	0	0	72	455
Building Control									
Fee Earning	(31)	0	(31)	8	0	0	0	(3)	(26)
Statutory Function	35	0	35	2	0	0	0	(1)	36
Street Signs	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	4
	7	0	7	10	0	0	0	(3)	13
Regeneration									
Economic Regeneration	226	0	226	48	0	0	0	(43)	231
Museum	26	0	26	0	0	0	0	8	34
	252	0	252	48	0	0	0	(35)	265
Property Services									
Allotments	3	0	3	0	0	(4)	0	(1)	(2)
Bus Shelters / Station	129	0	129	0	0	0	0	(12)	117
Business Centre	200	0	200	0	0	0	0	(27)	173
Car Parks	75	0	75	0	0	0	0	(7)	68
Corporate Estates	(570)	0	(570)	11	0	(35)	0	61	(533)
Council Offices	(37)	0	(37)	0	0	0	0	23	(14)
Courier	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	(1)	4
Depots	101	0	101	0	0	(20)	0	3	84
Facilities Management	92	0	92	0	0	0	0	(61)	31
Land Drainage	16	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	16
Markets	21	0	21	0	0	(20)	0	(5)	(4)
Museums	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	(1)	0
Public Baths	11	0	11	0	0	0	0	2	14
Public Clocks & Memorials	8	0	8	1	0	0	0	1	10
Public Conveniences	9	0	9	0	0	0	0	(6)	3
Public Halls	20	0	20	0	0	0	0	7	28
Sports Facilities	24	0	24	0	0	0	0	2	27
Sports Grounds	132	0	132	0	0	0	0	28	160
Xmas Lights	36	0	36	0	0	0	0	5	41
	277	0	277	12	0	(79)	0	12	222
Housing									
Homelessness	217	0	217	9	0	0	0	21	247
Housing Strategy	43	0	43	3	0	0	0	(3)	42
Private Sector renewals	11	0	11	7	0	0	0	(8)	11
	271	0	271	19	0	0	0	10	299
Economic Development Directorate Total	1,116	0	1,116	162	0	(79)	0	56	1,255

Revenue Budget 2025/26

Corporate Directorate

Service	2024/25 Revised Estimate	In Year Virements	2024/25 Revised Baseline	Changes within 2024/25					2025/26 Original Budget
				Inflation Pay Award	Other Inflation	Savings	Inter-service Virements	Volume/ Technical Changes	
Legal Services	199	0	199	10	0	0	0	(7)	202
Local Land Charges	(5)	0	(5)	3	0	0	0	22	20
Democratic Services									
Democratic Support	158	0	158	(8)	0	0	0	(7)	143
Direct Member Costs (including allowances)	215	0	215	0	0	0	0	(12)	203
Elections	90	0	90	2	0	0	0	(2)	90
Elections IER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Electoral Registration	94	0	94	4	0	0	0	(1)	97
Mayoralty & Civic Events	68	0	68	18	0	0	0	(3)	82
Town Twinning	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
	627	0	627	15	0	0	0	(25)	617
Corporate Management									
Corporate Contingency	30	0	30	0	0	0	0	7	38
Executive Office	385	0	385	11	0	0	0	(2)	394
Executive Support/Corporate Subscriptions	34	0	34	0	0	0	0	21	55
Empty Homes	300	0	300	(27)	0	0	0	(172)	101
Leisure Services	(32)	0	(32)	(13)	0	0	0	13	(32)
	718	0	718	(30)	0	0	0	(134)	555
Finance									
Accountancy	438	0	438	(25)	0	0	0	(217)	196
Exchequer	135	0	135	(9)	0	0	0	3	129
Insurance & Risk / Internal Audit	65	0	65	0	0	0	0	0	65
Treasury Management	200	0	200	0	0	0	0	(2)	199
	838	0	838	(34)	0	0	0	(215)	589
People & Policy									
Corporate Support	228	0	228	99	0	0	0	20	348
People & Policy	501	0	501	81	0	0	0	16	598
Publicity & Tourism	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	(4)	0
	734	0	734	180	0	0	0	32	946
Non-Distributed Costs									
Other Non Distributed costs	11	0	11	0	0	0	0	24	35
Pension Costs	95	0	95	0	0	(100)	0	205	200
	106	0	106	0	0	(100)	0	229	235
Capital Financing									
Interest & Misc expenses	(11)	0	(11)	0	0	0	0	185	175
Capital Financing	644	0	644	0	0	0	0	0	644
Reversal of Capital Charges	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	633	0	633	0	0	0	0	185	819
Corporate Directorate Total	3,851	0	3,851	144	0	(100)	0	87	3,982

Schemes in Progress	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000	Total 2025/26 - 2028/29 inc slippage £'000
Schemes					
Vehicles / Equipment	666	387	892	447	2,392
Wheeled & Litter Bins	50	50	50	50	200
Playgrounds	10	-	-	-	10
Cemeteries	10	10	10	10	40
Pathways	20	-	-	-	20
General Building Renovations & Maintenance	200	200	200	200	800
Carbon Reduction Fund	527	-	-	-	527
Car Parks General 22-26 MTFS	30	30	-	-	60
Rawtenstall Market Electrical Works	101	-	-	-	101
Whitaker Park (Drainage)	80	-	-	-	80
Legacy Liabilities	100	70	65	65	300
Sub-total	1,794	747	1,217	772	4,530
Schemes funded wholly/partly by External Finance or Government Grants	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000	Total 2025/26 - 2028/29 inc slippage £'000
DFG'S - Mandatory Grants	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,000
Football Pitches	1,200	192	-	-	1,392
Rossendale Town Centres - (LUF)	9,566	-	-	-	9,566
Rawtenstall Gyratory - (LUF)	4,512	-	-	-	4,512
Sub-total	16,278	1,192	1,000	1,000	19,470
Total of Schemes in Progress	18,072	1,939	2,217	1,772	24,000

New Schemes or Schemes awaiting external funder approval	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000	Total 2025/26 - 2028/29 inc slippage £'000
Operations Infrastructure	6,000	-	-	-	6,000
Valley View (Wall)	200	-	-	-	200
Long Term Plans for Towns	-	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
Total New Schemes	6,200	2,000	2,000	2,000	12,200
Grand Total	24,272	3,939	4,217	3,772	36,200

Appendix 4

Rossendale Borough Council

Council Tax Resolution – Council 5th March 2025

1 – 2024-25 Collection Fund Surplus

1.1 That estimated amounts due in relation to collection fund surplus 2024-25 are noted:

	£
Lancashire Police & Crime Commissioner	19,059
Lancashire County Council	119,631
Lancashire Combined Fire Authority	6,131
Rossendale Borough Council	22,318

The Council Tax Resolution

The Council is recommended to resolve as follows:-

- 2 That it is noted that the Director of Resources, under delegated authority has calculated for the year 2025/26
 - (a) the Council Tax Base for the whole area of the Borough **21,152** “D” Band equivalent units [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Localism Act 2011]
 - (b) a Council Tax Base for dwellings in that part of the Council’s area to which a parish precept relates, being Whitworth Parish, the amount of **2,365** “D” Band equivalent units.
- 3 Calculate that the Council Tax Requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2025/26 (excluding Parish precepts) is £6,799,223
- 4 That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2025/26 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-
 - (a) **£34,533,358** Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.

- (b) **£27,734,135** Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- (c) **£6,799,223** Being the amount by which the aggregate at 4(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 4(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
- (d) **£321.45** Being the amount at 4(a) above less the amount at 4(b) above, divided by the amount at 2(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31(B) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
- (e) **£80,079** Being the aggregate amounts of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- (f) **£317.66** Being the amount at 4(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 2(a) above by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.
- (g) **£351.52** for part of the Council's area, Parish of Whitworth, being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 4(f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area 4(e) above divided in each case by the amount at 2(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.
- (h) Being the amounts shown below that are given by multiplying the amounts at 4(f) and 4(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

VALUATION BANDS								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Parish of Whitworth	234.35	273.4	312.45	351.52	429.64	507.75	585.87	703.04
All other parts of the Borough	211.77	247.07	282.36	317.66	388.25	458.84	529.43	635.32

- (i) That it be noted that for the year 2025-26 the Lancashire County Council have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the Categories of dwellings shown below:-

VALUATION BANDS								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Lancashire County Council	1,157.19	1,350.06	1,542.92	1,735.79	2,121.52	2,507.25	2,892.98	3,471.58

At the time of publication the above rates have not been approved.

- (j) That it be noted that for the year 2025-26 the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

VALUATION BANDS								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Police & Crime Commissioner for Lancashire	184.93	215.76	246.58	277.40	339.04	400.69	462.33	554.80

At the time of publication the above rates have not been approved.

- (k) That it be noted that for the year 2025-26 the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

VALUATION BANDS								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Lancashire Combined Fire Authority	59.82	69.79	79.76	89.73	109.67	129.61	149.55	179.46

- (l) That, being calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 4.2(h) above and 4.2(i), (j) and (k) above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2025-26 for each of the categories of dwellings show below:-

VALUATION BANDS								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Rossendale Borough Council	211.77	247.07	282.36	317.66	388.25	458.84	529.43	635.32
Lancashire County Council	1,157.19	1,350.06	1,542.92	1,735.79	2,121.52	2,507.25	2,892.98	3,471.58
Police & Crime Commissioner for Lancashire	184.93	215.76	246.58	277.40	339.04	400.69	462.33	554.80
Lancashire Combined Fire Authority	59.82	69.79	79.76	89.73	109.67	129.61	149.55	179.46
Total Non Parished Area	1,613.71	1,882.68	2,151.62	2,420.58	2,958.48	3,496.39	4,034.29	4,841.16
Parish of Whitworth	1,636.29	1,909.01	2,181.71	2,454.44	2,999.87	3,545.30	4,090.73	4,908.88

- 5 To determine in accordance with Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 that the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2025/26 is not excessive in accordance with principles determined by the Secretary of State under Section 52ZC. As the billing authority, the Council has not been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2025/26 is excessive and therefore the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with section 52ZK of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

6 Council Tax

Collection - That the Head of Customer Services and e-Government, officers and partners be authorised to take all necessary steps to ensure collection and recovery of the Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR).

7 NNDR1

In accordance with Section 59A of The Local Government Finance Act 1988, as amended by The Local Government Finance Act 2012, the report informs members of the calculations carried out in estimating the level of National Non-Domestic Rates (the business rates tax base) the Council anticipates collecting in 2025-26. The business rates tax base, reported in the NNDR1 submission to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), is noted as £14,300,573 (Part 1a, line 11).

That estimated amounts due to each authority in relation to NNDR collection fund for 2025-26 are noted:

	£
Central Government	41,004
Lancashire County Council	7,381
Lancashire Combined Fire Authority	820
Rosendale Borough Council	32,803

Subject:	Capital Programme 2025/26 – 2028/29 and Capital Strategy 2025/26	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Council	Date:	5 th March 2025
Report of:	Director of Resources	Lead Member:	Resources
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: Yes/No	Attached:	Yes/No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required: Yes/No	Attached:	Yes/No
Contact Officer:	Chris Warren	Telephone:	01706 252409
Email:	chriswarren@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

Cabinet Recommends that Council approve:

- 1.1. The capital programme for 2025/26 and associated capital expenditure of £24.272m. and further capital expenditure of £11,928m for the period between 2026/27 and 2028/29
- 1.2. The Capital Strategy 2025/26 is attached at Appendix A

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This report proposes a capital expenditure programme for 2025/26 and the medium term, including new capital projects approved during 2024/25 subject to further due diligence and legal contracts. The report also explores the 2025/26 Capital Strategy.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Capital expenditure refers to larger projects, typically over £10k in value, and those where the benefit will last for more than one year, such as vehicles and buildings.
- 3.2 The council has a four-year capital spending programme, in line with other aspects of the MTFS. The MTFS may be abridged depending on the outcome of wider devolution and local government reorganisation outcomes, which at the time of writing are unclear. The programme includes capital expenditure scheduled for the council's operational assets and for externally funded Economic Development and Community schemes. The council ensures all capital expenditure is directly linked to the council's priorities and is affordable and offers value for money. Any spend on the council's operational assets is scheduled in line with the council's Major Asset Plan. Expenditure in respect of grants or financial assistance is included in the programme if the nature of Council expenditure can be classed as capital.
- 3.3 The capital programme is updated continually for agreed changes and reported to Cabinet on a quarterly basis and to Council as part of any financial forecast updates. A prudent approach is taken when preparing the programme to ensure that financing resources are only forecast for when there is relative certainty that they will be received.
- 3.4 In accordance with CIPFA's Prudential Code the council's Director of Resources (S151 Officer) is required to have full regard for affordability, sustainability and prudence when making recommendations about the council's future capital programme. Such consideration includes the level of long-term revenue commitments arising from completed capital works. The Council considers the affordability of capital investment and the impact on revenue forecasts when formulating its capital spending plans.

4. AN AFFORDABLE CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2025/26

- 4.1 In order to meet the council’s strategic plans and operational requirements the Council has drawn up an affordable capital programme for four years.
- 4.2 The full detail capital programme is attached at Appendix A and totals £36.2m. The planned spend over the life of the programme is continuously reviewed and any scheme profiling changes are reflected in quarterly monitoring reports. The table, below, sets out the latest capital programme summary. This has been updated for agreed changes up to the end of December 2024 and the proposed new additions on page 5:

Table 1

	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000	Total £'000
Operations & Communities	8,036	639	952	507	10,134
Corporate Services & Buildings	631	300	265	265	1,461
Housing	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,000
Regeneration	14,078	2,000	2,000	2,000	20,078
Climate change	527	-	-	-	527
Total	24,272	3,939	4,217	3,772	36,200

- 4.3 Where possible the Council carries out stock condition surveys to establish a rolling programme of improvement and refurbishment of its operational properties. The programme takes account of the need for efficiency and environmental impact issues. The council’s properties include office accommodation, the depot and venues such as the markets and open space facilities.
- 4.4 The Council has a small investment property portfolio managed to generate income to support the revenue budget and maximise opportunities for regeneration. The council has also purchased two residential properties to support the Revenue budget with respect to homelessness and is considering options for further purchases.
- 4.5 The Council currently has several major on-going capital projects, these include the Levelling Up funded Rawtenstall Gyrotory and Rossendale Town Centres Projects and the Haslingden 2040 NLHF scheme.
- 4.6 The council has developed a comprehensive replacement plan for the operational vehicle fleet over the life of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).
- 4.7 There are a number of smaller projects on-going including the Carbon Reduction Fund, the Futures Park infrastructure scheme and various park improvement schemes.
- 4.8 During 2024/25 there have been additions to the programme these are:-
- Whitaker and Victoria Park Improvements
 - Fairview Recreation Ground
 - Edgeside Wheeled Sports Facility
- 4.9 It is proposed to add three new schemes to the programme for 2025/26, these are listed on page 5.

5. FINANCING THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME

5.1 Capital resources come from three sources:

- Capital receipts from sales of land or other assets
- Capital grants or contributions from outside agencies, organisations or community groups or from property developers through s106 agreements
- Revenue Contributions to Capital Outlay (RCCO) from either the council's own budgets, or from property developers through s106 agreements.

The council has estimated the following financing sources will be available to fund the capital investment programme between 2025/26 and 2028/29:

Table 2



■ Disabled Facilities Grants ■ Capital Receipts ■ Revenue Funding ■ Borrowing ■ External Contributions

6. FUTURE PLANS

6.1 The council has an ambitious agenda for improving Rossendale. Projects requiring capital funding must be financially sustainable. Other potential future schemes could include:

- Regeneration projects at Futures Park
- Future Health and Leisure Facility improvements.
- Improvement projects recommended within the Play Strategy.
- Rossendale Valley Growth Corridor aimed at opening up new employment sites along the A56/M66 corridor.

6.2 Each of these proposals is either at feasibility stage or earlier. If the above projects are approved by Members they will require capital funding. If this is funded using the Council's own resources or prudential borrowing it will impact on the Councils revenue budget and the capital programme would need to be reviewed and adjusted.

7. RISK

All the issues raised and the recommendations in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

7.1 The impacts of local government reorganisation may curtail the programme and lead to poor value for money or partly completed schemes if not adequately planned. The council will mitigate this by keeping abreast of the reorganisation agenda and working closely with other parties to mitigate curtailment of projects it will also phase works to minimise the risk of non-completion.

7.2 The council needs to ensure that it is able to generate adequate sources of capital funding to support its capital commitments over the medium term and that it does not over stretch itself in terms of borrowing exposure. The uncertainty around the allocation of national capital programmes such as the UK Shared Prosperity Fund exacerbate this risk. This risk is mitigated by the on-going monitoring of the capital programme and the agreement of any additions to the programme only following member approval, which will include considerations of the implications for the council's capital and revenue position.

7.3 In the current economic climate there is some uncertainty surrounding the council's ability to generate resources from the disposal of its surplus assets. Regular reporting will continue to be made to members to explain any additional resources achieved and account for their allocation to the programme as and when they become available.

- 7.4 The requirement to build a waste transfer station in the borough has been included in the programme with an assumption that Lancashire County Council will make a capital contribution to this scheme on the basis that it supports the wider aims for waste disposal and recycling for itself and the whole of Lancashire. There is precedent for such contributions for transfer stations built in West Lancashire and Ribble Valley. Should this not materialise there will be an increased borrowing requirement and consequent revenue pressure from the borrowing cost and minimum revenue provision. In addition, should this development be delayed there will be an increased revenue pressure of c£100k per month to transport waste to the currently available alternative site.
- 7.5 The potential for unforeseen events or liability. The Council owns, or has liability for, a number of major structures including viaducts, culverts, cemeteries, properties and other assets throughout the valley which have the potential to lead to significant liabilities for the Council.
- 7.6 Recent high levels of inflation have abated somewhat however inflation continues to have an impact on affordability of the capital programme and projects will need to be closely monitored to ensure that they are delivered within budgets. Recent historic high interest rates are forecast to reduce over the coming year, albeit more slowly than originally forecast, and it is expected that this will lead to a reduction in the cost of borrowing which will help mitigate any adverse pressure on the revenue budget.
- 8. FINANCE**
The financial implications are contained within the body of the report.
- 9. LEGAL**
None.
- 10. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**
The capital programme forms part of the council's 2025/26 MTFS proposals and has been included as part of the MTFS equality considerations and consultation process.
- 11. CONCLUSIONS**
- 11.1 The proposed capital programme for 2025/26 and up to 2028/29 represents an affordable plan, as indicated by the prudential borrowing performance indicators the Capital Strategy (Appendix b).
- 11.2 We anticipate that there will be a deficit between capital resources and requirements over the future years and in particular in 2025/26 with the requirement to build a waste transfer station looks set to increase the need for the council to borrow. With severe pressures on the council's revenue resources throughout the MTFS period it is likely that the council will need to source additional external borrowing, as reflected in the capital programme financing estimates. This will lead to interest costs which will need to be included within the business case for each investment. When approving new schemes it is important that consideration is given to the impact they will have on the Councils revenue budget through the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) charge

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Revenue Budget 2025/26 and the MTFS update being reported to Cabinet in Feb 2025	Cabinet papers February 2025

Schemes in Progress	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000	Total 2025/26 - 2028/29 inc slippage £'000
Schemes					
Vehicles / Equipment	666	387	892	447	2,392
Wheeled & Litter Bins	50	50	50	50	200
Playgrounds	10	-	-	-	10
Cemeteries	10	10	10	10	40
Pathways	20	-	-	-	20
General Building Renovations & Maintenance	200	200	200	200	800
Carbon Reduction Fund	527	-	-	-	527
Car Parks General 22-26 MTFS	30	30	-	-	60
Rawtenstall Market Electrical Works	101	-	-	-	101
Whitaker Park (Drainage)	80	-	-	-	80
Legacy Liabilities	100	70	65	65	300
Sub-total	1,794	747	1,217	772	4,530
Schemes funded wholly/partly by External Finance or Government Grants	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000	Total 2025/26 - 2028/29 inc slippage £'000
DFG'S - Mandatory Grants	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,000
Football Pitches	1,200	192	-	-	1,392
Rosendale Town Centres - (LUF)	9,566	-	-	-	9,566
Rawtenstall Gyrotory - (LUF)	4,512	-	-	-	4,512
Sub-total	16,278	1,192	1,000	1,000	19,470
Total of Schemes in Progress	18,072	1,939	2,217	1,772	24,000

New Schemes or Schemes awaiting external funder approval	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000	Total 2025/26 - 2028/29 inc slippage £'000
Operations Infrastructure	6,000	-	-	-	6,000
Valley View (Wall)	200	-	-	-	200
Long Term Plans for Towns	-	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
Total New Schemes	6,200	2,000	2,000	2,000	12,200
Grand Total	24,272	3,939	4,217	3,772	36,200
Description					
Operations Infrastructure	To respond to LCC decision to direct waste to Farington and meet the introduction of a separate food waste collection from April 2026				
Valley View	Rebuilding of a retaining wall at Valley View				
Long term Plans for Towns	Funding to assist with regeneration of Rawtenstall, Crawshawbooth and Waterfoot towns				

MTFS Forecast 2025/26
Rossendale Borough Council Capital Financing Statement

MTFS Forecast	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000	Total Estimate 2025/26 - 2028/29 £'000
Estimated Expenditure					
Schemes in Progress	18,072	1,939	2,217	1,772	24,000
New Schemes	6,200	2,000	2,000	2,000	12,200
Total Estimated Capital Payments	24,272	3,939	4,217	3,772	36,200
Estimated Resources					
General Fund :					
Direct Revenue Finance	0	0	0	0	0
Disabled Facilities Grant	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,000
Other External Finance (see below)	16,228	2,192	2,000	2,000	22,420
Prudential Borrowing	5,444	647	917	668	7,676
Earmarked Reserves	0	0	0	0	0
Capital Receipts	1,600	100	300	104	2,104
Total Resources	24,272	3,939	4,217	3,772	36,200
Total surplus(-)/shortfall in year	0	0	0	0	0
Cumulative total surplus(-)/shortfall	0	0	0	0	0

ANALYSIS OF OTHER EXTERNAL FINANCE

Description	Funder	Estimate 2025/26 £'000	Estimate 2026/27 £'000	Estimate 2027/28 £'000	Estimate 2028/9 £'000	Total
Football Pitches	UKSPF, Football Foundation 25/26, S106 26/27	950	192	0	0	1,142
Rossendale Town Centres - (LUF)	Capital Regeneration Fund	8,216	0	0	0	8,216
Rawtenstall Gyrotory - (LUF)	Capital Regeneration Fund & LCC	4,062	0	0	0	4,062
Operations Infrastructure	LCC	3,000	0	0	0	3,000
Long Term Plans for Towns	DLUHC	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
Sub-total External Funding :		16,228	2,192	2,000	2,000	22,420
DFG's		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,000
Total External Funding		17,228	3,192	3,000	3,000	26,420



The 2025/26 Capital Strategy

The Capital Strategy, including Prudential Indicators & Limits Capital

Strategy Report 2025/26

1. Introduction

The capital strategy gives a high-level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of local public services along with an overview of how associated risk is managed and the implications for future financial sustainability. The development of the Corporate Capital Strategy is an iterative process insofar as it will be updated as new issues arise, for example, during the development and updating of the Council's Corporate Priorities or as new issues that have an impact on the Council emerge. At the present time, the Strategy is updated on an annual basis.

A sound capital programme must be driven by the Corporate Priorities and capital decisions must balance the long-term gains with the initial capital costs and the ongoing revenue implications in terms of running costs and potential income generation opportunities. Decisions made this year on capital and treasury management will have financial consequences for the Authority for many years into the future, therefore they are subject to both a national regulatory framework and to local policy framework. The Prudential Code recognises that in making its capital investment decisions the council must have explicit regard to option appraisal, asset management planning, strategic planning for the council and achievability of the capital programme.

2. Capital Expenditure and Financing

Capital expenditure is where the Council spends money on assets, such as property or vehicles that will be used for more than one year. In local government this includes spending on assets owned by other bodies, and loans and grants to other bodies enabling them to buy assets. The Council has some limited discretion on what counts as capital expenditure, for example typically assets costing below £10,000 are not capitalised and are charged to revenue in year.

In 2025/26, the Council is planning capital expenditure of £24.272m summarised in Table 1.

Table 1 - Prudential Indicator: Estimates of Capital Expenditure

	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000	Total £'000
Operations & Communities	8,036	639	952	507	10,134
Corporate Services & Buildings	631	300	265	265	1,461
Housing	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,000
Regeneration	14,078	2,000	2,000	2,000	20,078
Climate change	527	-	-	-	527
Total	24,272	3,939	4,217	3,772	36,200

Governance: A strategic review of the Capital Programme including a review of the Council's investment assets and operational assets is carried out annually. The reviews take into consideration works identified from stock condition surveys and investments/capital expenditure resulting from the Council's Corporate Priorities. Bids are formulated based on the outcome of reviews and recommend

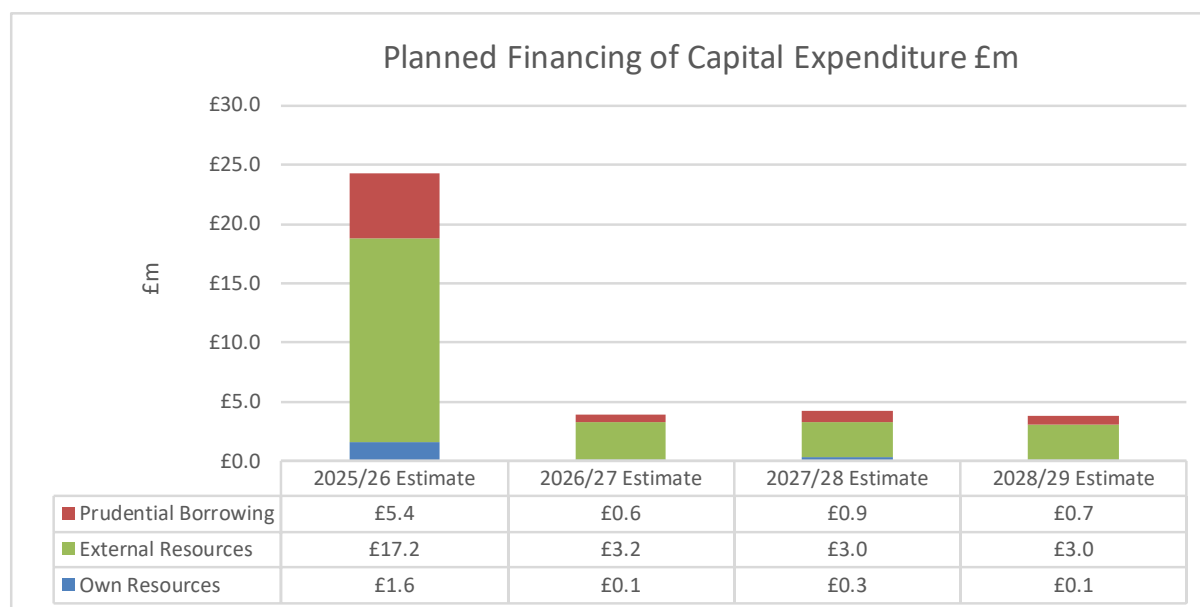
Responsible Section/Team	Finance	Version/Status	2025/26
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projects for inclusion in the Council's capital programme. Bids are reviewed by Finance who calculate the financing cost (which can be nil if the project is fully externally financed). Cabinet Members and Corporate Management Team appraise all bids based on a comparison of service priorities against financing costs. The final capital programme is then presented along with the Cabinet budget proposals in January and to Council in February/March each year.

- Full details of the Council's capital programme are shown in Appendix A of the Capital Programme report to Council each February/March.

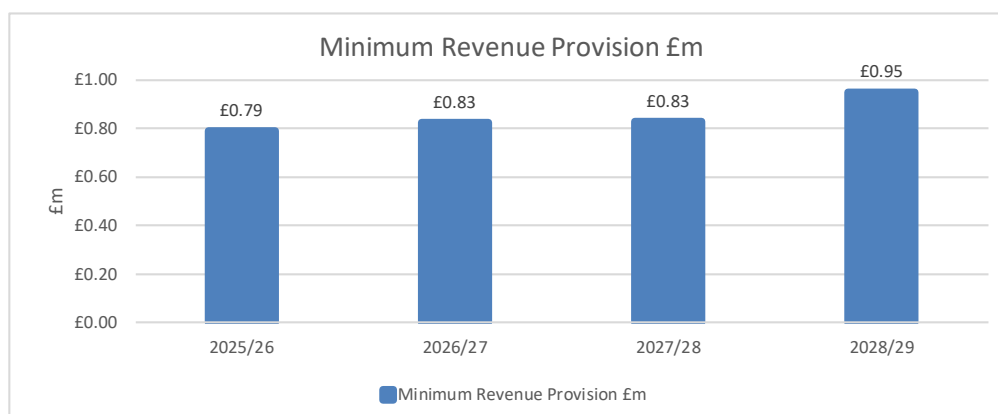
All capital expenditure must be financed, either from external sources (government grants and other contributions), the Council's own resources (revenue, reserves and capital receipts) or debt (borrowing or leasing). The planned financing of the expenditure in Table 1 is as follows:

Table 2: Capital financing



Prudential Borrowing is only a temporary source of finance, since loans and leases must be repaid, and this is therefore replaced over time by other financing, usually from revenue which is known as Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). Alternatively, proceeds from selling capital assets (known as capital receipts) may be used to replace debt finance. Planned MRP repayments are as follows.

Table 3: Replacement of Debt Finance



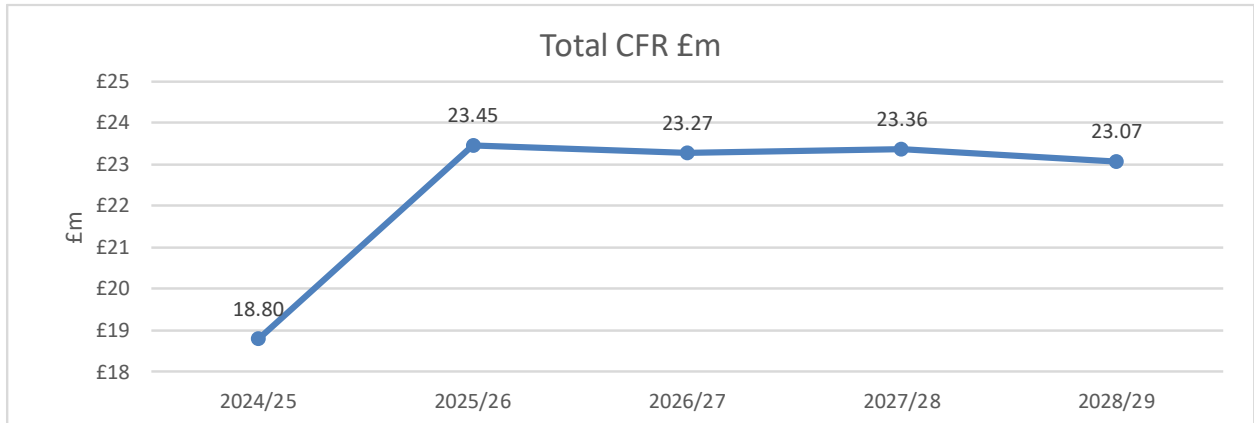
Responsible Section/Team	Finance	Version/Status	2025/26
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- The Council's Minimum Revenue Provision statement is available in the Treasury Strategy

The Council's cumulative outstanding amount of debt finance is measured by the capital financing requirement (CFR). This increases with new debt-financed capital expenditure and reduces with MRP and capital receipts. The CFR is expected to increase by £4.65m during 2025/26. This is largely based on the increased Capital relating to the Operations Infrastructure and the Regeneration of the Rossendale Town centres.

Based on the above figures for expenditure and financing, the Council's estimated CFR is as follows:

Table 4 - Prudential Indicator: Estimates of Capital Financing Requirement



Asset management: To ensure that capital assets continue to be of long-term use, the Council has an asset management strategy. Also wherever possible the Council investigates opportunities to dispose of property assets for development, and explores other opportunities to maximise the return on the investment property portfolio income or increase financial receipts. As well as future investments, Members must also consider the costs of holding onto some assets compared with their contribution towards the Corporate Priorities. Holding costs include revenue running costs and general maintenance, but often capital maintenance costs are overlooked and these can mount up over time if not addressed. The last comprehensive stock condition survey was undertaken in 2013 and since then the Council has only had the resources to deal with the highest priority capital maintenance works in a rolling programme of around £100k per annum. The Property Service team are currently carrying out a review of all the Council's assets on a ward by ward basis, this is to enable the Council to better understand the scope of its property and land assets portfolio i.e. location, suitability, condition and value. The review has indicated that the costs relating to capital maintenance works should increase to £200k per annum.

Asset disposals: When a capital asset is no longer needed, it may be sold so that the proceeds, capital receipts, can be spent on new assets or to repay debt. The Council's ability to raise capital receipts from land sales is dependent upon the current property market and its appetite to dispose of non-operational assets. The opening value of capital receipts from sale of assets is forecast to be £900k. The Council will seek appropriate opportunities for divestment of assets.

Housing capital receipts in the future are only expected from the sale of CPO properties and these are dependent upon, and directly related to, any CPO costs.

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Regular reporting will continue to be made to Members to explain any additional resources achieved and account for their allocation to the programme as and when they become available. The Council is currently estimating it will receive £1.6m of capital receipts in the coming financial years as follows:

Table 5: Capital Receipts

	2025/26 Estimate £'000	2026/27 Estimate £'000	2027/28 Estimate £'000	2028/29 Estimate £'000	Total Estimate £'000
Asset Sales	1,600	0	0	0	1,600

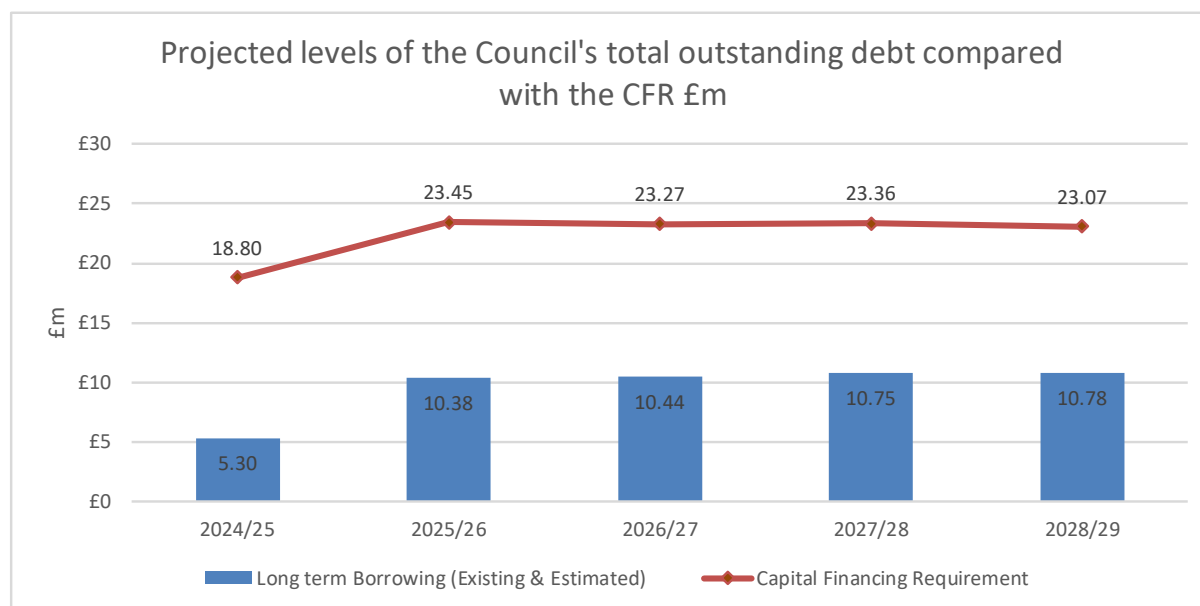
3. Treasury Management

Treasury management is concerned with keeping sufficient but not excessive cash available to meet the Council's spending needs, while managing the risks involved. Surplus cash is invested until required, while a shortage of cash will be met by borrowing, to avoid excessive credit balances or overdrafts in the bank current account.

Borrowing strategy: The Council's main objectives when borrowing are to achieve a low but certain cost of finance while retaining flexibility should plans change in future.

Projected levels of the Council's total outstanding debt are shown below, compared with the capital financing requirement.

Table 6: Prudential Indicator Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement

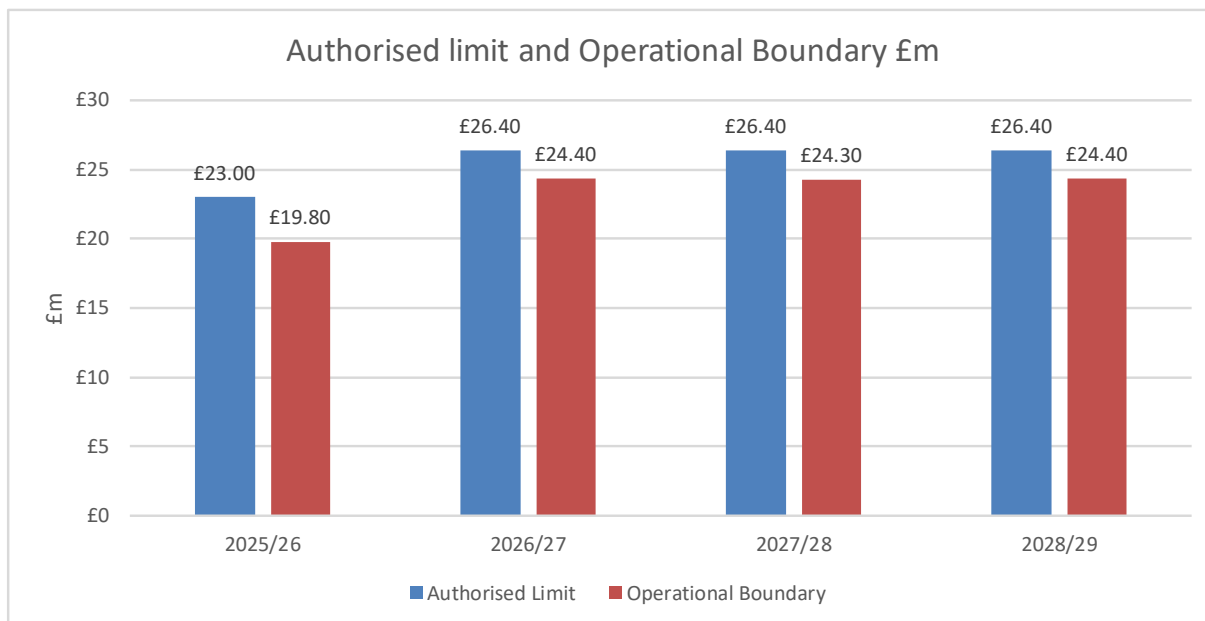


Statutory guidance is that debt should remain below the capital financing requirement, except in the short-term. As can be seen from table 6, the Council expects to comply with this in the medium term.

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Affordable borrowing limit: The Council is legally obliged to set an affordable borrowing limit (also termed the authorised limit for external debt) each year. In line with statutory guidance, a lower “operational boundary” is also set and is based on the Authority’s estimate of most likely but not worst-case scenario and should equate to the maximum level of external debt projected by this estimate. The Operational Boundary and the Authorised Limit are increasing to allow sufficient headroom for new external borrowing for the approved Capital Programme.

Table 7 - Prudential Indicators: Authorised limit and Operational Boundary for External Debt



Further details on borrowing are in the Treasury Management Strategy

Investment strategy: Treasury investments arise from receiving cash before it is paid out again. Investments made for service reasons or for pure financial gain are not generally considered to be part of treasury management.

The Council’s policy on treasury investments is to prioritise security and liquidity over yield. That is to focus on minimising risk rather than maximising returns. Cash is invested securely, for example with the government, other local authorities or selected high-quality banks, to minimise the risk of loss. The Council does not make investments for period over 365 days.

The estimated level of cash balances held is anticipated to have peaked in 2025/26 and due to the Levelling Up Capital Projects grants and other externally funded projects having funds received in arrears, reducing available cash on a temporary basis quarterly.

Further details on treasury investments are in the Treasury Management Strategy.

Governance: Decisions on treasury management investment and borrowing are made daily and are therefore delegated to the Section 151 Officer who must act in line with the treasury management strategy approved by Council. Treasury Management Activity is included within the quarterly monitoring reports which are presented to the Cabinet. The Audit and Accounts Committee is responsible for scrutinising treasury management decisions.

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4. Investments for Service Purposes

These investments, including loans, are made for their contribution toward service delivery objectives. For example, the Council has provided loans in prior years to Rossendale Leisure Trust for equipment purchase and to the Whitaker to enable the delivery of the recent capital works. These loans are made to benefit the local community. In light of the public service objective, the Council is willing to take more risk in making service investments than it is with treasury investments, however it still aims for such investments to contribute to its corporate priorities.

Governance: Decisions on service investments are made by either Cabinet or the Council, in line with the Council's constitution. Most loans are capital expenditure and purchases will therefore be approved as part of the capital programme.

5. Investment Properties

With central government financial support for local public services declining, the Council invests in commercial property within Rossendale, mainly for the aim of regeneration of the Borough including job retention and creation, whilst seeking to achieve financial gain in order to produce a balanced overall financial budget and to minimise the charges to Council Tax payers. At the time of writing, the Council's investment properties were valued at c£550k providing a net return after all costs of 4.55%.

The principal risk exposures include increased vacancies and potential fall in capital values. These risks are managed by the Property Services team monitoring and actively seeking to lease vacant premises and effective monitoring of performance of the investment portfolio. The Council's level of commercial investments are modest and considered relatively small in proportion to the size of the authority, however to ensure commercial investments remain in proportion they are subject to an overall maximum investment limit of £8m. The level of the commercial investment returns is not material to the Council's overall budget, however should expected yields not materialise the contingency would be to use earmarked reserves in the short term and review the assets future.

Governance: Decisions relating to capital expenditure for all purposes, including for the acquisition of property assets, are made in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the Council, thus requiring the approval of Full Council/Cabinet as appropriate. Property and most other commercial investments are also capital expenditure and purchases will therefore also be approved as part of the capital programme.

6. Liabilities

In addition to the debt in Table 6 above, the Council has set aside c£1,091k (as at 31st March 2024) in a Business Rates Appeal Provision to cover risks arising from the costs of Business Rates appeals as a consequence of the transference of such risks under the localisation of business rates arrangements introduced in 2013.

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the Council a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefits or service potential, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

Governance: Decisions on incurring new discretionary liabilities are taken in consultation with the Section 151 Officer.

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Revenue Budget Implications Although capital expenditure is not charged directly to the revenue budget, interest payable on loans and MRP are charged to revenue, offset by any investment income receivable. The net annual charge is known as financing costs; this is compared to the net revenue stream i.e. the amount funded from Council Tax, business rates and general government grants.

Table 8: Prudential Indicator: Proportion of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream

Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)	2025/26 Estimate £'000	2026/27 Estimate £'000	2027/28 Estimate £'000	2028/29 Estimate £'000
Opening CFR	18,796	23,448	23,269	23,356
Movement in CFR	4,652	(179)	87	(284)

Further details on the revenue implications of capital expenditure are included within the Capital Programme.

Sustainability: Due to the very long-term nature of capital expenditure and financing, the revenue budget implications of expenditure incurred in the next few years may extend for up to 50 years into the future. The Director of Resources is satisfied that the proposed capital programme is prudent, affordable and sustainable.

7. Knowledge and Skills

The Council employs professionally qualified and experienced staff in senior positions with responsibility for making capital expenditure, borrowing and investment decisions. For example, the Director of Resources is a qualified accountant with over 20 years' of Public Sector experience. The Council pays for accountancy staff to study towards relevant professional accountancy qualifications and the staff involved in treasury management attend treasury seminars and workshops provided by CIPFA and other external service providers. Training is provided to Councillors as part of the financial management training delivered by the Section 151 Officer and more detailed treasury management training to Councillors on the Audit & Accounts Committee by treasury management advisors Link Asset Management Limited. Where appropriate the Council appoints external advisors and consultants that are specialists in their field. This approach is more cost effective than employing such staff directly, and ensures that the Council has access to knowledge and skills commensurate with its risk appetite.

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Subject:	Treasury Management Strategy & Treasury Management Practices	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Council	Date:	5 th March 2025
Report of:	Director of Resources	Lead Member:	Resources
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:	Chris Warren	Telephone:	01706 252409
Email:	chriswarren@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

Cabinet Recommends that Council approves:-

- 1.1 The Treasury Management Strategy Statement, including the borrowing strategy
- 1.2 The Investment Strategy, including Investment Indicators
- 1.3 The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement
- 1.4 To delegate any further minor amendments to the Director of Resources (s.151) in consultation with the Lead Member for Resources.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The purpose of the report is to obtain Cabinet approval of the updated Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) and Treasury Management Policy and Practices (TMP).

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 This is an annual update of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement (Appendix 1) and the Treasury Management Policy and Practices (Appendix 2), based upon the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Treasury Management and Prudential Codes 2021.
- 3.2 Treasury management is concerned with how organisations manage their cash resources, and its scope covers borrowing, investment and hedging instruments and techniques. Risk is inherent in all treasury management activities and it is necessary to balance risk and return. In the public services it is generally considered that the priority is to protect capital rather than maximise return.
- 3.3 The Treasury Management Strategy for 2025/26 at Appendix 1 is written in conjunction with both the revenue budget for 2025/26 and the Capital Strategy and Capital Programme 2025/26 to 2028/29 which are also being placed before members for consideration, specifically in respect of the TMSS at Appendix 1 key clauses as follows:
 - Capital Strategy at 1.2.1
 - Capital Expenditure at 2.1 and 5.1.1
 - The Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) at 2.2
 - Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) and Voluntary Revenue Provision (VRP) at 2.5
 - Interest expenditure and income at 5.1.2
 - Credit Worthiness Policy at 4.2

- 3.4 The interest rates quoted at paragraphs 3.3 and 5.2 of the strategy reflect the average of samples gathered by Link Asset Services as at the 8th January 2025 from city and non-city forecasters, including HM Treasury. The forecasts are an estimate based on today's financial climate. Whilst forecasters are comparatively confident about their estimates for the coming financial year, those for longer term are far less reliable.
- 3.5 The Treasury Management Strategy Statement covers:
- treasury controls and reporting mechanisms required to limit the treasury risk and activities of the Council
 - the current and expected cash and reserve balances at (2.4)
 - the borrowing requirement and borrowing limits at (3.1)
 - prospects for interest rates at (3.3)
 - policy on borrowing in advance of need at (3.5)
 - the investment strategy and expected rates of return at (4.4)
 - Prudential Indicators and the MRP strategy at (5.1)
 - treasury management scheme of delegation at (5.6) and the relevant roles and responsibilities of delegated officers at (5.7)
- 3.6 As part of the council's budget-setting work the estimates of future interest rates, capital resources and expenditure and capital financing costs (through the Minimum Revenue Provision) have been included in arriving at a balanced budget for 2025/26.
- 3.7 The Treasury Management Policy and Practices at Appendix 2 provide further operational detail on the plans within the Treasury Management Strategy Statement. For 2025/26 there have been only very minor amendments to the Treasury Management Policy and Practises to cover the works with related parties and subsidiaries and to keep it in line with updates in the TMSS above.
- 3.8 The Treasury Management Practises cover:
- risk management arrangements and techniques
 - performance measurement
 - decision making and operational controls within the day to day administration of treasury and cash flow management
 - measures to prevent money laundering
 - training requirements for staff included within the delegation arrangements in the Treasury Management Strategy Statement
 - further details on the use of external service providers
- 3.9 At times of low interest rates from banks, one alternative use of resources open to the council is the pre-payment of revenue creditors in order to achieve early payment discounts. These transactions are not treated as investments, therefore do not fall under the TMS or TMPs in the appendices attached. However, the same considerations of risk and reward should be considered prior to entering into any such agreement. The Director of Resources must be sure of the nature and obligation of the future transactions, their expected value and the credit worthiness of the supplier/counterparty involved. At present there are neither arrangements in place nor plans to enter into such agreements.

4. RISK

4.1 The key risks associated with the strategy include:

- An unexpected increase/decrease in bank base rates.
- An unexpected reduction in cash balances. Each individual opportunity would be assessed on its own merits and reported to members at the next available opportunity.

4.2 All the issues raised and the recommendations in this report also involve risk considerations as set out below:

- Failure to comply with legal statute, Codes of Practice and regulations of the council.
- Financial risks and credit risks exposure as a result of treasury management decisions. The TMS lays the ground rules for balancing the desire to maximise interest earning capacity with the potential risks of investments in the financial sector, especially in the current economic climate.

5. FINANCE

Finance matters are dealt with in the body of the report.

6. LEGAL

There are no material legal implications.

7. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Consultation has taken place with the Council's treasury management advisors – Link Asset Services.

7.2 Officers have ensured that the documents attached meet the requirements of the current CIPFA revised Treasury Management Code of Practice and revised Prudential Code 2021 by adopting the proforma documents provided by Link Asset Services with only minor adaptations for local considerations.

8. REASON FOR DECISION

8.1 Following consideration at Full Council, Members are asked to approve the adoption of the updated Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Treasury Management Policy and Practises, which will ensure continued compliance with the Code and continue to manage the council's exposure to financial risk.

8.2 In light of the current economic climate and potential resultant changing cash flow requirements, Members are asked to delegate any minor amendments required within year to the Director of Resources in consultation with the Lead Member for Resources.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Previously adopted 2024/25 TMSS & TMP	Website: Full Council February 2024

Treasury Management Strategy Statement

Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement
and Annual Investment Strategy

2025/26

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1. Key Considerations

2021 revised CIPFA Treasury Management Code and Prudential Code – changes which will impact on future TMSS/AIS reports and the risk management framework

CIPFA published the revised Codes on 20th December 2021 and stated that revisions need to be included in the reporting framework from the 2023/24 financial year. This Authority, therefore, has to have regard to these Codes of Practice when it prepares the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy, and also related reports during the financial year, which are taken to Full Council for approval.

The revised Treasury Management Code required all investments and investment income to be attributed to one of the following three purposes: -

Treasury management

Arising from the organisation's cash flows or treasury risk management activity, this type of investment represents balances which are only held until the cash is required for use. Treasury investments may also arise from other treasury risk management activity which seeks to prudently manage the risks, costs or income relating to existing or forecast debt or treasury investments.

Service delivery

Investments held primarily and directly for the delivery of public services including housing, regeneration and local infrastructure. Returns on this category of investment which are funded by borrowing are permitted only in cases where the income is "either related to the financial viability of the project in question or otherwise incidental to the primary purpose".

Commercial return

Investments held primarily for financial return with no treasury management or direct service provision purpose. Risks on such investments should be proportionate to an authority's financial capacity – i.e., that 'plausible losses' could be absorbed in budgets or reserves without unmanageable detriment to local services. An authority must not borrow to invest primarily for financial return.

The revised Treasury Management Code requires an authority to implement the following: -

2. **Adopt a liability benchmark treasury indicator** to support the financing risk management of the capital financing requirement; this is to be shown in chart form for a minimum of ten years, with material differences between the liability benchmark and actual loans to be explained;
3. **Long-term treasury investments**, (including pooled funds), are to be classed as commercial investments unless justified by a cash flow business case;
4. **Pooled funds** are to be included in the indicator for principal sums maturing in years beyond the initial budget year;
5. Amendment to the **knowledge and skills register** for officers and members involved in the treasury management function - to be proportionate to the size and complexity of the treasury management conducted by each authority;
6. **Reporting to members is to be done quarterly**. Specifically, the Director of Resources (s.151) is required to establish procedures to monitor and report performance against all forward-looking prudential indicators at least quarterly. The s.151 officer is expected to establish a measurement and reporting process that highlights significant actual or forecast deviations from the approved indicators.

However, monitoring of prudential indicators, including forecast debt and investments, is not required to be taken to Full Council and should be reported as part of the authority's integrated revenue, capital and balance sheet monitoring;

7. **Environmental, social and governance (ESG)** issues to be addressed within an authority's treasury management policies and practices (TMP1).

The main requirements of the Prudential Code relating to service and commercial investments are: -

1. The risks associated with service and commercial investments should be proportionate to their financial capacity – i.e. that plausible losses could be absorbed in budgets or reserves without unmanageable detriment to local services;
2. An authority must not borrow to invest for the primary purpose of commercial return;
3. It is not prudent for local authorities to make any investment or spending decision that will increase the CFR, and so may lead to new borrowing, unless directly and primarily related to the functions of the authority, and where any commercial returns are either related to the financial viability of the project in question or otherwise incidental to the primary purpose;
4. An annual review should be conducted to evaluate whether commercial investments should be sold to release funds to finance new capital expenditure or refinance maturing debt;
5. A prudential indicator is required for the net income from commercial and service investments as a proportion of the net revenue stream;
6. Create new Investment Management Practices to manage risks associated with non-treasury investments, (similar to the current Treasury Management Practices).

An authority's Capital Strategy or Annual Investment Strategy should include: -

1. The authority's approach to investments for service or commercial purposes (together referred to as non-treasury investments), including defining the authority's objectives, risk appetite and risk management in respect of these investments, and processes ensuring effective due diligence;
2. An assessment of affordability, prudence and proportionality in respect of the authority's overall financial capacity (i.e., whether plausible losses could be absorbed in budgets or reserves without unmanageable detriment to local services);
3. Details of financial and other risks of undertaking investments for service or commercial purposes and how these are managed;
4. Limits on total investments for service purposes and for commercial purposes respectively (consistent with any limits required by other statutory guidance on investments);
5. Requirements for independent and expert advice and scrutiny arrangements (while business cases may provide some of this material, the information contained in them will need to be periodically re-evaluated to inform the authority's overall strategy);
6. State compliance with paragraph 51 of the Prudential Code in relation to investments for commercial purposes, in particular the requirement that an authority must not borrow to invest primarily for financial return.

As this TMSS and AIS deals solely with treasury management investments, the categories of service delivery and commercial investments should be addressed as part of the Capital Strategy report.

However, as investments in commercial property have implications for cash balances managed by the treasury team, it will be for each authority to determine whether to add a high level summary of the impact that commercial investments have, or may have, if it is planned to liquidate such investments within the three year time horizon of this report, (or a longer time horizon if that is felt appropriate).

1.1 Background

The Authority is required to operate a balanced revenue budget, which broadly means that cash raised during the year will meet cash expenditure. Part of the treasury management operation is to ensure that this cash flow is adequately planned, with cash being available when it is needed. Surplus monies are invested in low-risk counterparties or instruments commensurate with the Authority's low risk appetite, providing adequate liquidity initially before considering investment return.

The second main function of the treasury management service is the funding of the Authority's capital plans. These capital plans provide a guide to the borrowing need of the Authority, essentially the longer-term cash flow planning, to ensure that it can meet its capital spending obligations. This management of longer-term cash may involve arranging long or short-term loans or using longer-term cash flow surpluses. On occasion, when it is prudent and economic, any debt previously drawn may be restructured to meet risk or cost objectives.

The contribution the treasury management function makes to the Authority is critical, as the balance of debt and investment operations ensure liquidity or the ability to meet spending commitments as they fall due, either on day-to-day revenue or for larger capital projects. The treasury operations will see a balance of the interest costs of debt and the investment income arising from cash deposits affecting the available budget. Since cash balances generally result from reserves and balances, it is paramount to ensure adequate security of the sums invested, as a loss of principal will in effect result in a loss to the General Fund Balance.

CIPFA defines treasury management as:

"The management of the local authority's borrowing, investments and cash flows, including its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks."

Whilst any commercial initiatives or loans to third parties will impact on the treasury function, these activities are generally classed as non-treasury activities, (arising usually from capital expenditure), and are separate from the day-to-day treasury management activities.

1.2 Reporting Requirements

1.2.1 Capital Strategy

The CIPFA 2021 Prudential and Treasury Management Codes require all local authorities to prepare a Capital Strategy report which will provide the following: -

- a high-level long-term overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of services
- an overview of how the associated risk is managed
- the implications for future financial sustainability

The aim of the strategy is to ensure that all the Authority's elected members fully understand the overall long-term policy objectives and resulting Capital Strategy requirements, governance procedures and risk appetite.

1.2.2 Treasury Management Reporting

The Authority is currently required to receive and approve, as a minimum, three main treasury reports each year, which incorporate a variety of policies, estimates and actuals.

- a. **Prudential and treasury indicators and treasury strategy** (this report) - The first, and most important report is forward looking and covers: -
 - the capital plans, (including prudential indicators)
 - a minimum revenue provision (MRP) policy, (how residual capital expenditure is charged to revenue over time)
 - the Treasury Management Strategy, (how the investments and borrowings are to be organised), including treasury indicators; and
 - an Annual Investment Strategy, (the parameters on how investments are to be managed)
- b. **A mid-year treasury management report** – This is primarily a progress report and will update members on the capital position, amending prudential indicators as necessary, and whether any policies require revision. In addition, this Authority will receive quarterly update reports.
- c. **An annual treasury report** – This is a backward-looking review document and provides details of a selection of actual prudential and treasury indicators and actual treasury operations compared to the estimates within the strategy.

Scrutiny

The above reports are required to be adequately scrutinised before being recommended to the Full Council. This role is undertaken by the Cabinet.

Quarterly reports – In addition to the three major reports detailed above, from 2023/24 quarterly reporting (end of June/end of December) is also required. However, these additional reports do not have to be reported to Full Council/Board but do require to be adequately scrutinised. This role is undertaken by the Cabinet. (The reports, specifically, should comprise updated Treasury/Prudential Indicators.)

1.3 Treasury Management Strategy for 2025/26

The strategy for 2025/26 covers two main areas:

Capital issues

- the capital expenditure plans and the associated prudential indicators
- the minimum revenue provision (MRP) policy

Treasury management issues

- the current treasury position
- treasury indicators which limit the treasury risk and activities of the Authority
- prospects for interest rates
- the borrowing strategy
- policy on borrowing in advance of need
- debt rescheduling
- the investment strategy
- creditworthiness policy; and
- the policy on use of external service providers

These elements cover the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003, DLUHC Investment Guidance, DLUHC MRP Guidance, the CIPFA Prudential Code and the CIPFA Treasury Management Code.

1.4 Training

The CIPFA Treasury Management Code requires the responsible officer to ensure that members with responsibility for treasury management receive adequate training in treasury management. This especially applies to members responsible for scrutiny.

Furthermore, pages 47 and 48 of the Code state that they expect “all organisations to have a formal and comprehensive knowledge and skills or training policy for the effective acquisition and retention of treasury management knowledge and skills for those responsible for management, delivery, governance and decision making.

The scale and nature of this will depend on the size and complexity of the organisation’s treasury management needs. Organisations should consider how to assess whether treasury management staff and council members have the required knowledge and skills to undertake their roles and whether they have been able to maintain those skills and keep them up to date.

As a minimum, authorities should carry out the following to monitor and review knowledge and skills:

- Record attendance at training and ensure action is taken where poor attendance is identified.
- Prepare tailored learning plans for treasury management officers and council members.
- Require treasury management officers and council members to undertake self-assessment against the required competencies (as set out in the schedule that may be adopted by the organisation).
- Have regular communication with officers and council members, encouraging them to highlight training needs on an ongoing basis.”

In further support of the revised training requirements, CIPFA’s Better Governance Forum and Treasury Management Network have produced a ‘self-assessment by members responsible for the scrutiny of treasury management’, which is available from the CIPFA website to download.

Member training took place in September 2023 and January 2024, further training will be arranged as required.

The training needs of treasury management officers are periodically reviewed.

A formal record of the training received by officers central to the Treasury function will be maintained by Director of Resources. Similarly, a formal record of the treasury management/capital finance training received by members will also be maintained by Member Services.

1.5 The Authority uses treasury management consultants, Link Treasury Services Limited as its external treasury management advisors.

The Authority recognises that responsibility for treasury management decisions remains with the organisation at all times and will ensure that undue reliance is not placed upon the services of our external service providers. All decisions will be undertaken with regards to all available information, including, but not solely, our treasury advisers.

It also recognises that there is value in employing external providers of treasury management services to acquire access to specialist skills and resources. The Authority will ensure that the terms of their appointment and the methods by which their value will be assessed are properly agreed and documented and subjected to regular review.

2. THE CAPITAL PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2025/26 – 2028/29

The Authority's capital expenditure plans are the key driver of treasury management activity. The output of the capital expenditure plans is reflected in the prudential indicators, which are designed to assist members' overview and confirm capital expenditure plans are prudent, affordable and sustainable.

2.1 Capital Expenditure and Financing

This prudential indicator is a summary of the Authority's capital expenditure plans, both those agreed previously, and those forming part of this budget cycle. Members are asked to approve the capital expenditure forecasts: -

Table 1

Capital Expenditure	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000	Total Expenditure £'000
Operations & Communities	8,036	639	952	507	10,134
Corporate Services & Buildings	631	300	265	265	1,461
Housing	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,000
Regeneration	14,078	2,000	2,000	2,000	20,078
Climate change	527	-	-	-	527
Total	24,272	3,939	4,217	3,772	36,200

Other long-term liabilities - the above financing need excludes other long-term liabilities, such as PFI and leasing arrangements that already include borrowing instruments.

The table below summarises the above capital expenditure plans and how these plans are being financed by capital or revenue resources. Any shortfall of resources results in a funding borrowing need.

Table 2

Financing of Capital Expenditure	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000	Total Expenditure £'000
Capital Receipts	1,600	100	300	104	2,104
Capital Grants	17,228	3,192	3,000	3,000	26,420
Capital Reserves	-	-	-	-	0
Earmarked Reserves	-	-	-	-	0
Total in-year resources	18,828	3,292	3,300	3,104	28,524
Net Financing need for year	5,444	647	917	668	7,676

2.2 The Authority's Borrowing Need (the Capital Financing Requirement)

The second prudential indicator is the Authority's Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). The CFR is simply the total historic outstanding capital expenditure which has not yet been paid for from either revenue or capital resources. It is essentially a measure of the Authority's indebtedness and so it's underlying borrowing need. Any capital expenditure above, which has not immediately been paid for through a revenue or capital resource, will increase the CFR.

The CFR does not increase indefinitely, as the minimum revenue provision (MRP) is a statutory annual revenue charge which broadly reduces the indebtedness in line with each asset's life, and so charges the economic consumption of capital assets as they are used.

The CFR includes any other long-term liabilities (e.g., finance leases). Whilst these increase the CFR, and therefore the Authority's borrowing requirement, these types of schemes already include a borrowing facility provided by the lease financier and so the Authority is not required to separately borrow for these schemes.

The Authority is asked to approve the CFR projections below:

Table 3

Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)	2025/26 Estimate £'000	2026/27 Estimate £'000	2027/28 Estimate £'000	2028/29 Estimate £'000
Opening CFR	18,796	23,448	23,269	23,356
Movement in CFR	4,652	(179)	87	(284)
Closing CFR	23,448	23,269	23,356	23,072
Movement in CFR is represented by				
Net Financing need for year	5,444	647	917	668
Less MRP repayments	792	826	830	952
Movement in CFR	4,652	(179)	87	(284)

The movement in CFR in 2025/26 is £5,652k, which includes the following projects:

- Rossendale Town Centres (LUF)
- Rawtenstall Gyratory (LUF)
- Operations Infrastructure

Table 4

External Borrowing Requirement.	2025/26 Estimate £'000	2026/27 Estimate £'000	2027/28 Estimate £'000	2028/29 Estimate £'000
Service Spend	3,117	647	917	668
Housing	-	-	-	-
Regeneration	2,327	-	-	-
Closing CFR	5,444	647	917	668

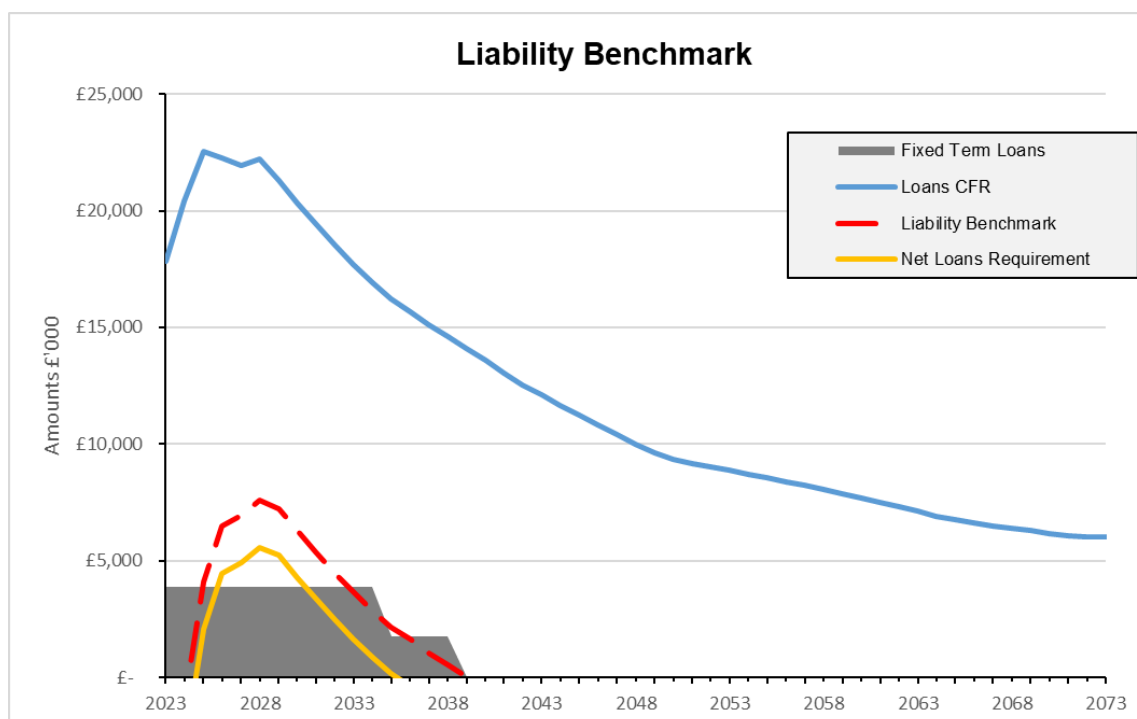
2.3 Liability Benchmark

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

There are four components to the LB: -

1. **Existing loan debt outstanding:** the Authority's existing loans that are still outstanding in future years.
2. **Loans CFR:** this is calculated in accordance with the loans CFR definition in the Prudential Code and projected into the future based on approved prudential borrowing and planned MRP.
3. **Net loans requirement:** this will show the Authority's gross loan debt less treasury management investments at the last financial year-end, projected into the future and based on its approved prudential borrowing, planned MRP and any other major cash flows forecast.
4. **Liability benchmark** (or gross loans requirement): this equals net loans requirement plus short-term liquidity allowance.

Table 5



2.4 Core Funds and Expected Investment Balances

The application of resources (capital receipts, reserves etc.) to either finance capital expenditure or other budget decisions to support the revenue budget will have an ongoing impact on investments unless resources are supplemented each year from new sources (asset sales etc.). Detailed below are estimates of the year-end balances for each resource and anticipated day-to-day cash flow balances.

Table 6

	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Year End Resources	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
	£000	£000	£000	£000
General Fund Balance	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Earmarked Reserves	8,876	7,904	6,963	5,970
Capital Receipts	1,600	-	-	-
Government Grants Unapplied	500	250	100	100
Net to/(-)from reserves	(972)	(941)	(993)	(1,048)
Total Reserves	11,004	8,213	7,070	6,022
(Under)/Over Borrowing (see 3.1)	(13,069)	(12,826)	(12,604)	(12,296)
Expected Resources	(2,065)	(4,613)	(5,534)	(6,274)
Cash Balances	9,000	7,800	6,400	6,400
Working Capital*	11,065	12,413	11,934	12,674

*Working capital balances shown are estimated year-end; these may be higher mid-year

2.5 Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement

Under Regulation 27 of the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003, where the Authority has financed capital expenditure by borrowing it is required to make a provision each year through a revenue charge (MRP).

The Authority is required to calculate a prudent provision of MRP which ensures that the outstanding debt liability is repaid over a period that is reasonably commensurate with that over which the capital expenditure provides benefits. The MRP Guidance (2018) gives four ready-made options for calculating MRP, but the Authority can use any other reasonable basis that it can justify as prudent.

The MRP policy statement requires full council approval (or closest equivalent level) in advance of each financial year.

The Authority is recommended to approve the following MRP Statement:

For expenditure incurred before 1 April 2008 which forms part of supported capital expenditure, the MRP policy will be:

From 1 April 2008 for all unsupported borrowing the MRP policy will be:

- **Asset life method (annuity)** – MRP will be based on the estimated life of the assets;

Capital expenditure incurred during 2024/25 will not be subject to an MRP charge until 2025/26, or in the year after the asset becomes operational

The Authority will apply the asset life method for any expenditure capitalised under a Capitalisation Direction.

MRP in respect of assets acquired under Finance Leases or PFI will be charged at an amount equal to the principal element of the annual repayment.

For capital expenditure on loans to third parties where the principal element of the loan is being repaid in annual instalments, the capital receipts arising from the principal loan repayments will be used to reduce the CFR instead of MRP.

Where no principal repayment is made in a given year, MRP will be charged at a rate in line with the life of the assets funded by the loan.

MRP Overpayments - Under the MRP guidance, any charges made in excess of the statutory MRP can be made, known as voluntary revenue provision (VRP).

VRP can be reclaimed in later years if deemed necessary or prudent. In order for these amounts to be reclaimed for use in the budget, this policy must disclose the cumulative overpayment made each year.

Cumulative VRP overpayments made to date are £657k (made in 2018/19).

3. BORROWING

The capital expenditure plans set out in Section 2 provide details of the service activity of the Authority. The treasury management function ensures that the Authority's cash is organised in accordance with the relevant professional codes, so that sufficient cash is available to meet this service activity and the Authority's Capital Strategy. This will involve both the organisation of the cash flow and, where capital plans require, the organisation of appropriate borrowing facilities. The strategy covers the relevant treasury / prudential indicators, the current and projected debt positions, and the Annual Investment Strategy.

3.1 Current Portfolio Position

The overall treasury management portfolio as at 31/3/24 and for the position as at 31/12/2024 are shown below for both borrowing and investments.

Table 7

Treasury Portfolio	31/03/2024 Actual £000	31/12/2024 Current Portfolio £000
External Borrowing:		
Public Works Loan Board Loan 1	2,024	2,116
Public Works Loan Board Loan 2	1,550	1,600
Total External Borrowing	3,574	3,716
Treasury Investments:		
Nat West	1,403	652
Handelsbanken	-	-
Lloyds	-	2,000
LCC Call Account	1,000	2,000
DMO	5,500	6,500
Total Treasury Investments	7,903	11,152
Net Borrowing / (Lending)	(4,329)	(7,436)

The Authority's forward projections for borrowing are summarised below. The table shows the actual external debt, against the underlying capital borrowing need, (the Capital Financing Requirement - CFR), highlighting any over or under borrowing.

Table 8

Borrowing Position	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Debt at 1st April	5,299	10,379	10,444	10,753
New Debt	5,444	647	917	668
Debt Repayments	(364)	(582)	(608)	(645)
Debt at 31st March	10,379	10,444	10,753	10,776
PWLB Loan 1	1,656	1,472	1,288	1,104
PWLB Loan 2	1,350	1,250	1,150	1,050
Estimated New Debt	7,373	7,721	8,314	8,622
Capital financing Requirement (C	23,448	23,269	23,356	23,072
Under / (over) Borrowing	13,069	12,826	12,604	12,296

Within the range of prudential indicators there are several key indicators to ensure that the Authority operates its activities within well-defined limits. One of these is that the Authority needs to ensure that its gross debt does not, except in the short-term, exceed the total of the CFR in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional CFR for 2025/26 and the following two financial years. This allows some flexibility for limited early borrowing for future years but ensures that borrowing is not undertaken for revenue or speculative purposes.

The Director of Finance reports that the Authority complied with this prudential indicator in the current year and does not envisage difficulties for the future. This view takes account of current commitments, existing plans and the proposals in this budget report.

3.2 Treasury Indicators: Limits to Borrowing Activity

The Operational Boundary. This is the limit beyond which external debt is not normally expected to exceed. In most cases, this would be a similar figure to the CFR, but may be lower or higher depending on the levels of actual debt and the ability to fund under-borrowing by other cash resources.

Table 9

Operational Boundary	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Total External Debt	24,400	24,300	24,400	24,100

The Authorised Limit for external debt. This is a key prudential indicator and represents a control on the maximum level of borrowing. This represents a legal limit beyond which external debt is prohibited, and this limit needs to be set or revised by the Full Council. It reflects the level of external debt which, while not desired, could be afforded in the short-term, but is not sustainable in the longer-term.

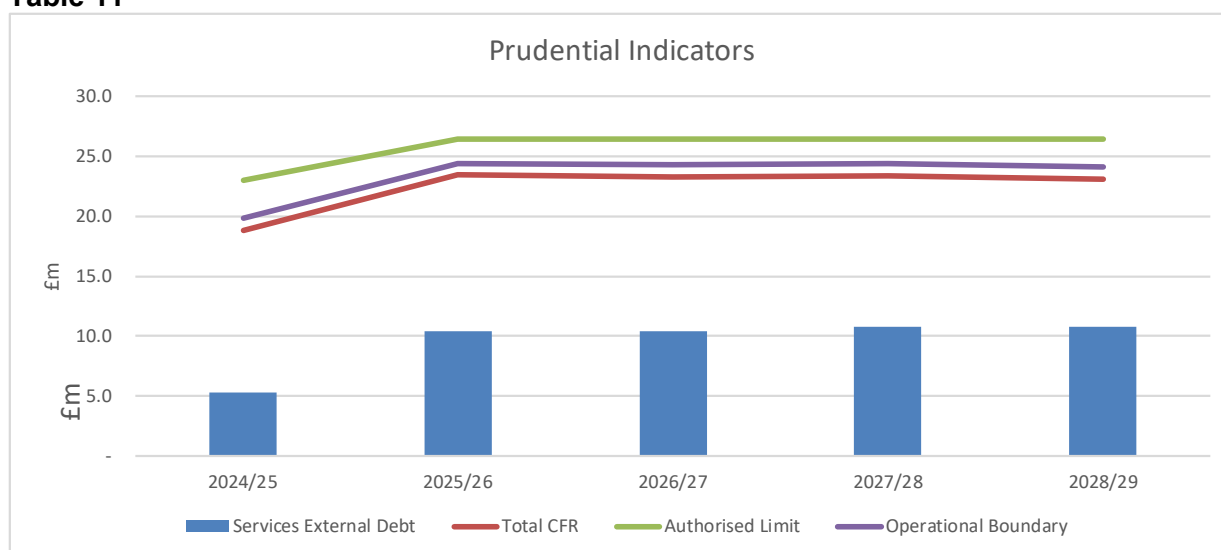
- This is the statutory limit determined under section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2003. The Government retains an option to control either the total of all local authority plans, or those of a specific authority, although this power has not yet been exercised.
- The Authority is asked to approve the following Authorised Limit:

Table 10

Authorised Limit	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000
Total External Debt	26,400	26,400	26,400	26,400

- In graphical terms the relationship between the total CFR, the current external borrowing and the suggested authorised limits and operational boundaries can be shown below. The prudent level of future potential borrowing is clearly visible as the gap between the forecast CFR and the current and future estimated borrowing levels.

Table 11



3.3 Prospects for Interest Rates

The Authority has appointed Link Group as its treasury advisor and part of their service is to assist the Authority to formulate a view on interest rates. Link provided the following forecasts on 11 November 2024. These are forecasts for Bank Rate, average earnings and PWLB certainty rates, gilt yields plus 80 bps.

Link Group Interest Rate View	11.11.24												
	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26	Mar-27	Jun-27	Sep-27	Dec-27
BANK RATE	4.75	4.50	4.25	4.00	4.00	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
3 month ave earnings	4.70	4.50	4.30	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
6 month ave earnings	4.70	4.40	4.20	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
12 month ave earnings	4.70	4.40	4.20	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
5 yr PWLB	5.00	4.90	4.80	4.60	4.50	4.50	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.10	4.00	4.00	3.90
10 yr PWLB	5.30	5.10	5.00	4.80	4.80	4.70	4.50	4.50	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.20	4.10
25 yr PWLB	5.60	5.50	5.40	5.30	5.20	5.10	5.00	4.90	4.80	4.70	4.60	4.50	4.50
50 yr PWLB	5.40	5.30	5.20	5.10	5.00	4.90	4.80	4.70	4.60	4.50	4.40	4.30	4.30

Additional notes by Link on this forecast table: -

- Following the 30 October Budget, the outcome of the US Presidential election on 6 November, and the 25bps Bank Rate cut undertaken by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on 7 November, we have significantly revised our central forecasts for the first time since May. In summary, our Bank Rate forecast is now 50bps – 75bps higher than was previously the case, whilst our PWLB forecasts have been materially lifted to not only reflect our increased concerns around the future path of inflation, but also the increased level of Government borrowing over the term of the current Parliament.

- If we reflect on the 30 October Budget, our central case is that those policy announcements will be inflationary, at least in the near-term. The Office for Budgetary Responsibility and the Bank of England concur with that view. The latter have the CPI measure of inflation hitting 2.5% y/y by the end of 2024 and staying sticky until at least 2026. The Bank forecasts CPI to be 2.7% y/y (Q4 2025) and 2.2% (Q4 2026) before dropping back in 2027 to 1.8% y/y.
- The anticipated major investment in the public sector, according to the Bank, is expected to lift UK real GDP to 1.7% in 2025 before growth moderates in 2026 and 2027. The debate around whether the Government's policies lead to a material uptick in growth primarily focus on the logistics of fast-tracking planning permissions, identifying sufficient skilled labour to undertake a resurgence in building, and an increase in the employee participation rate within the economy.
- There are inherent risks to all the above. The worst-case scenario would see systemic blockages of planning permissions and the inability to identify and resource the additional workforce required to deliver large-scale IT, housing and infrastructure projects. This would lead to upside risks to inflation, an increased prospect of further Government borrowing & tax rises, and a tepid GDP performance.
- Our central view is that monetary policy is sufficiently tight at present to cater for some further moderate loosening, the extent of which, however, will continue to be data dependent. We forecast the next reduction in Bank Rate to be made in February and for a pattern to evolve whereby rate cuts are made quarterly and in keeping with the release of the Bank's Quarterly Monetary Policy Reports (February, May, August and November).
- Any movement below a 4% Bank Rate will, nonetheless, be very much dependent on inflation data in the second half of 2025. The fact that the November MPC rate cut decision saw a split vote of 8-1 confirms that there are already some concerns around inflation's stickiness, and with recent public sector wage increases beginning to funnel their way into headline average earnings data, the market will be looking very closely at those releases.
- Regarding our PWLB forecast, the short to medium part of the curve is forecast to remain elevated over the course of the next year, and the degree to which rates moderate will be tied to the arguments for further Bank Rate loosening or otherwise. The longer part of the curve will also be impacted by inflation factors, but there is also the additional concern that with other major developed economies such as the US and France looking to run large budget deficits there could be a glut of government debt issuance that investors will only agree to digest if the interest rates paid provide sufficient reward for that scenario.
- So far, we have made little mention of the US President election. Nonetheless, Donald Trump's victory paves the way for the introduction/extension of tariffs that could prove inflationary whilst the same could be said of further tax cuts and an expansion of the current US budget deficit. Invariably the direction of US Treasury yields in reaction to his core policies will, in all probability, impact UK gilt yields. So, there are domestic and international factors that could impact PWLB rates whilst, as a general comment, geo-political risks abound in Europe, the Middle East and Asia.
- Our revised PWLB rate forecasts below are based on the Certainty Rate (the standard rate minus 20 bps) which has been accessible to most authorities since 1 November 2012. Please note, the lower Housing Revenue Account (HRA) PWLB

rate started on 15 June 2023 for those authorities with an HRA (standard rate minus 60 bps).

Gilt yields and PWLB rates

The overall longer-run trend is for gilt yields and PWLB rates to fall back over the timeline of our forecasts, but the risks to our forecasts are to the upsides. Our target borrowing rates are set **two years forward** (as we expect rates to fall back) and the current PWLB (certainty) borrowing rates are set out below: -

PWLB debt	Current borrowing rate as at 11.11.24 p.m.	Target borrowing rate now (end of Q3 2026)	Target borrowing rate previous (end of Q3 2026)
5 years	5.02%	4.30%	3.90%
10 years	5.23%	4.50%	4.10%
25 years	5.66%	4.90%	4.40%
50 years	5.42%	4.70%	4.20%

Borrowing advice: Our long-term (beyond 10 years) forecast for Bank Rate has been increased to 3.25% (from 3%). As all PWLB certainty rates are currently significantly above this level, borrowing strategies will need to be reviewed in that context. Overall, better value can be obtained at the shorter end of the curve and short-dated fixed LA to LA monies should also be considered. Temporary borrowing rates will, generally, fall in line with Bank Rate cuts.

Our suggested budgeted earnings rates for investments up to about three months' duration in each financial year are set out below.

Average earnings in each year	Now	Previously
2024/25 (residual)	4.60%	4.25%
2025/26	4.10%	3.35%
2026/27	3.70%	3.10%
2027/28	3.50%	3.25%
2028/29	3.50%	3.25%
Years 6 to 10	3.50%	3.25%
Years 10+	3.50%	3.50%

We will continue to monitor economic and market developments as they unfold. Typically, we formally review our forecasts following the quarterly release of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Report but will consider our position on an ad hoc basis as required.

Our interest rate forecast for Bank Rate is in steps of 25 bps, whereas PWLB forecasts have been rounded to the nearest 10 bps and are central forecasts within bands of + / - 25 bps. Naturally, we continue to monitor events and will update our forecasts as and when appropriate.

3.4 Borrowing Strategy

The Authority is currently maintaining an under-borrowed position. This means that the capital borrowing need, (the Capital Financing Requirement), has not been fully funded with loan debt as cash supporting the Authority's reserves, balances and cash flow has been used as a temporary measure. This strategy is prudent as medium and longer dated borrowing rates are expected to fall from their current levels, albeit only once prevailing inflation concerns are addressed by restrictive near-term monetary policy. That is, Bank Rate remains relatively elevated in 2025 even if some rate cuts arise.

Against this background and the risks within the economic forecast, caution will be adopted with the 2025/26 treasury operations. The Director of Finance will monitor interest rates in financial markets and adopt a pragmatic approach to changing circumstances:

- *if it was felt that there was a significant risk of a sharp FALL in borrowing rates, then borrowing will be postponed.*
- *if it was felt that there was a significant risk of a much sharper RISE in borrowing rates than that currently forecast, fixed rate funding will be drawn whilst interest rates are lower than they are projected to be in the next few years.*

Any decisions will be reported to the Cabinet at the next available opportunity.

3.5 Policy on Borrowing in Advance of Need

The Authority will not borrow more than or in advance of its needs purely in order to profit from the investment of the extra sums borrowed. Any decision to borrow in advance will be within forward approved Capital Financing Requirement estimates and will be considered carefully to ensure that value for money can be demonstrated and that the Authority can ensure the security of such funds.

3.6 Rescheduling

Rescheduling of current borrowing in our debt portfolio may be considered whilst premature redemption rates remain elevated but only if there is surplus cash available to facilitate any repayment, or rebalancing of the portfolio to provide more certainty is considered appropriate.

If rescheduling is to be undertaken, it will be reported to the *Cabinet*, at the earliest meeting following its action.

3.7 New Financial Institutions as a Source of Borrowing and / or Types of Borrowing

Currently the PWLB Certainty Rate is set at gilts + 80 basis points. However, consideration may still need to be given to sourcing funding from the following sources for the following reasons:

- Local authorities (primarily shorter dated maturities out to 3 years or so – generally still cheaper than the Certainty Rate).
- Financial institutions (primarily insurance companies and pension funds but also some banks, out of forward dates where the objective is to avoid a “cost of carry” or to achieve refinancing certainty over the next few years).

Our advisors will keep us informed as to the relative merits of each of these alternative funding sources.

3.8 Approved Sources of Long and Short-term Borrowing

On Balance Sheet	Fixed	Variable
PWLB	●	●
UK Municipal Bond Agency	●	●
Local Authorities	●	●
Banks	●	●
Pension Funds	●	●
Insurance Companies	●	●
UK Infrastructure Bank	●	●
Overdraft		●
Internal (capital receipts & revenue balances)	●	●
Finance Leases	●	●

4 ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY

4.1 Investment Policy – Management of Risk

The Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC - this was formerly the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)) and CIPFA have extended the meaning of ‘investments’ to include both financial and non-financial investments. This report deals solely with treasury (financial) investments, (as managed by the treasury management team). Non-financial investments, essentially the purchase of income yielding assets and service investments, are covered in the Capital Strategy, (a separate report).

The Council’s investment policy has regard to the following: -

- DLUHC’s Guidance on Local Government Investments (“the Guidance”)
- CIPFA Treasury Management in Public Services Code of Practice and Cross Sectoral Guidance Notes 2021 (“the Code”)
- CIPFA Treasury Management Guidance Notes 2021

The Council’s investment priorities will be security first, portfolio liquidity second and then yield (return). The Council will aim to achieve the optimum return (yield) on its investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity and with regard to the Authority’s risk appetite.

In the current economic climate, it is considered appropriate to maintain a degree of liquidity to cover cash flow needs but to also consider “laddering” investments for periods up to 12 months with high credit rated financial institutions, whilst investment rates remain elevated, as well as wider range fund options.

The above guidance from the DLUHC and CIPFA places a high priority on the management of risk. This Authority has adopted a prudent approach to managing risk and defines its risk appetite by the following means: -

1. Minimum acceptable **credit criteria** are applied in order to generate a list of highly creditworthy counterparties. This also enables diversification and thus avoidance of concentration risk. The key ratings used to monitor counterparties are the short-term and long-term ratings.
2. **Other information:** ratings will not be the sole determinant of the quality of an institution; it is important to continually assess and monitor the financial sector on both a micro and macro basis and in relation to the economic and political environments in which institutions operate. The assessment will also take account of information that reflects the opinion of the markets. To achieve this consideration the Authority will engage with its advisors to maintain a monitor on market pricing such as “**credit default swaps**” and overlay that information on top of the credit ratings.
3. **Other information sources** used will include the financial press, share price and other such information pertaining to the financial sector in order to establish the most robust scrutiny process on the suitability of potential investment counterparties.
4. This Council has defined the list of **types of investment instruments** that the treasury management team are authorised to use. There are two lists in Appendix 5.4 under the categories of ‘specified’ and ‘non-specified’ investments.

Specified investments are those with a high level of credit quality and subject to a maturity limit of one year or have less than a year left to run to maturity, if originally they were classified as being non-specified investments solely due to the maturity period exceeding one year.

Non-specified investments are those with less high credit quality, may be for periods in excess of one year, and/or are more complex instruments which require greater consideration by members and officers before being authorised for use.

5. **Transaction limits** are set for each type of investment in 4.2.

However, this Authority will also pursue **value for money** in treasury management and will monitor the yield from investment income against appropriate benchmarks for investment performance, (see paragraph 4.5). Regular monitoring of investment performance will be carried out during the year.

Changes in risk management policy from last year.

The above criteria are unchanged from last year.

4.2 Creditworthiness Policy

The primary principle governing the Authority's investment criteria is the security of its investments, although the yield or return on the investment is also a key consideration. After this main principle, the Authority will ensure that: -

- It maintains a policy covering both the categories of investment types it will invest in, criteria for choosing investment counterparties with adequate security, and monitoring their security. This is set out in the specified and non-specified investment sections below; and
- It has sufficient liquidity in its investments. For this purpose, it will set out procedures for determining the maximum periods for which funds may prudently be committed. These procedures also apply to the Authority's prudential indicators covering the maximum principal sums invested.

The Director of Resources will maintain a counterparty list in compliance with the following criteria and will revise the criteria and submit them to Full Council for approval as necessary. These criteria are separate to that which determines which types of investment instrument are either specified or non-specified as it provides an overall pool of counterparties considered high quality which the Authority may use, rather than defining what types of investment instruments are to be used.

Credit rating information is supplied by Link Group, our treasury advisors, on all active counterparties that comply with the criteria below. Any counterparty failing to meet the criteria would be omitted from the counterparty (dealing) list. Any rating changes, rating Watches (notification of a likely change), rating Outlooks (notification of the longer-term bias outside the central rating view) are provided to officers almost immediately after they occur, and this information is considered before dealing. For instance, a negative rating Watch applying to a counterparty at the minimum Authority criteria will be suspended from use, with all others being reviewed in light of market conditions.

The criteria for providing a pool of high-quality investment counterparties, (both specified and non-specified investments) is:

- Banks 1 - good credit quality – the Authority will only use banks which:
 - i. are UK banks; and/or
 - ii. are non-UK and domiciled in a country which has a minimum sovereign Long-Term rating of AAA

and have, as a minimum, the following Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's credit ratings (where rated):

- i. Short Term – F1
 - ii. Long Term – A
- Banks 2 – Part nationalised UK bank – Royal Bank of Scotland ring-fenced operations. This bank can be included provided they continue to be part nationalised or meet the ratings in Banks 1 above.
 - Banks 3 – The Authority's own banker for transactional purposes if the bank falls below the above criteria, although in this cash balances will be minimised in both monetary size and time invested.
 - Bank subsidiary and treasury operation -. The Authority will use these where the parent bank has provided an appropriate guarantee or has the necessary ratings outlined above.
 - Money Market Funds (MMFs) using only those with AAA long term rating backed up with lowest volatility rating Money Market Funds (MMFs)
 - UK Government (including gilts, Treasury Bills and the DMADF)
 - Local authorities, parish councils etc
 - Housing associations
 - Rossendale Leisure Trust
 - Other related parties (where a charge can be placed on land or equity to preserve the Councils right to resources)

Use of additional information other than credit ratings. Additional requirements under the Code require the Authority to supplement credit rating information. Whilst the above criteria rely primarily on the application of credit ratings to provide a pool of appropriate counterparties for officers to use, additional operational market information will be applied before making any specific investment decision from the agreed pool of counterparties. This additional market information (for example Credit Default Swaps, rating Watches/Outlooks) will be applied to compare the relative security of differing investment opportunities.

Time and monetary limits applying to investments. The time and monetary limits for institutions on the Authority's counterparty list are as follows (these will cover both specified and non-specified investments): -

Table 12

Investment Type / Minimum Credit Rating (Note 1)	Banks Unsecured (Note 2)	Banks Secured (Note 3)	Government (Note 4)
UK Government	n/a	n/a	£ Unlimited 5 years
UK Treasury Bills	n/a	n/a	£1m in Total for 6 months
UK Local Authorities	n/a	n/a	£8m each for periods of up to 1 year £8m each for overnight/call deposits
Investment Rated A-	£3m each for 6 months	£3m each for 1 year	n/a
Money Market Funds (Note 5)	£2m per Fund up to 6 months		
Registered Providers (Note 6)	£1m in total for 1 Year		
Any other organisation (Note 7)	£1.5m for maximum of 10 years		

Notes to Table 12

1. Credit rating: Investment limits are set by reference to the lowest published long-term credit rating from a selection of external rating agencies. However, investment decisions are never made solely based on credit ratings, and all other relevant factors including external advice will be taken into account.

2. Banks unsecured: Includes accounts, deposits, certificates of deposit and unsecured bonds with banks and building societies. These investments are subject to the risk of credit loss via a bail-in should the regulator determine that the bank is failing or likely to fail. See below for arrangements relating to operational bank accounts.

3. Banks secured: Includes covered bonds, reverse repurchase agreements and other collateralised arrangements with banks and building societies. These investments are secured on the bank's assets, which limits the potential losses in the unlikely event of insolvency, and means that they are exempt from bail-in. Where there is no investment specific credit rating, but the collateral upon which the investment is secured has a credit rating, the higher of the collateral credit rating and the counterparty credit rating will be used to determine cash and time limits.

4. Government: Includes loans, bonds and bills issued or guaranteed by national governments, regional and local authorities and multilateral development banks. These investments are not subject to bail-in, and there is generally a lower risk of insolvency. Investments with the UK Central Government may be made in unlimited amounts as a contingency in the event of a crisis.

5. Pooled Funds: These Funds are shares in diversified investment vehicles which invest in any of the investment types above (Notes 2 to 4), plus equity shares and property. These funds provide wide diversification, together with the services of a professional Fund Manager. The Money Market Funds offer same-day liquidity and very low volatility and are used as an alternative to instant access bank accounts. There is no sector limit applying to Money Market Funds although the Council will take care to diversify its liquid investments over a variety of providers to minimise risk.

6. Registered providers: These are longer term loans or bonds that are secured or guaranteed on the assets of Registered Providers of Social Housing. These bodies are highly regulated by the Homes and Communities Agency and are likely to receive government support if needed.

7. Other organisation: This is subject to an external credit assessment, specific advice from the Council's treasury management adviser and full Council approval.

Operational bank accounts: The Council's own bank account which is used for all of the Council's operational activities will have a minimum credit rating of BBB- and assets greater than £25 billion. The Bank of England has stated that in the event of failure, banks with assets greater than £25 billion are more likely to be bailed-in than made insolvent, increasing the chance of the Council maintaining operational continuity. The balances in the Council's own bank account will be up to a maximum of £8m, or 50% of the resources available at the time of investing, whichever is the larger.

The proposed criteria for specified and non-specified investments are shown in Appendix 5.4 for approval.

Creditworthiness

Significant levels of downgrades to Short and Long-Term credit ratings have not materialised since the crisis in March 2020. In the main, where they did change, any alterations were limited to Outlooks. Nonetheless, when setting minimum sovereign debt ratings, this Authority will not set a minimum rating for the UK

CDS prices

Although bank CDS prices, (these are market indicators of credit risk), spiked upwards during the autumn of 2022, they have returned to more average levels since then. However, sentiment can easily shift, so it will remain important to undertake continual monitoring of all aspects of risk and return in the current circumstances. Link monitor CDS prices as part of their creditworthiness service to local authorities and the Authority has access to this information via its Link-provided Passport portal.

4.3 Limits

Due care will be taken to consider the exposure of the Council's total investment portfolio to non-specified investments, countries, groups and sectors.

4.4 Investment Strategy

In-house funds. Investments will be made with reference to the core balance and cash flow requirements and the outlook for short-term interest rates (i.e., rates for investments up to 12 months). Greater returns are usually obtainable by investing for longer periods. The current shape of the yield curve suggests that is the case at present, but with Bank Rate having peaked in the second half of 2023 and having subsequently reduced so an agile investment strategy would be appropriate to optimise returns.

Accordingly, while most cash balances are required in order to manage the ups and downs of cash flow, where cash sums can be identified that could be invested for longer periods, the value to be obtained from longer-term investments will be carefully assessed.

Investment returns expectations.

The current forecast shown in paragraph 3.3, includes a forecast for Bank Rate to have peaked at 5.25% and anticipated to fall further.

The suggested budgeted investment earnings rates for returns on investments placed for periods up to about three months during each financial year are as follows: -

Table 13

Average earnings in each year	Link	RBC View
2024/25(residual)	4.60%	4.25%
2025/26	4.10%	3.35%
2026/27	3.70%	3.10%
2027/28	3.50%	3.25%
2028/29	3.50%	3.25%
Years 6 to 10	3.50%	3.25%
Years 10+	3.50%	3.50%

As there are so many variables at this time, caution must be exercised in respect of all interest rate forecasts.

For its cash flow generated balances, the Authority will seek to utilise its SIBA instant access and notice accounts, Money Market Funds and short-dated deposits, (overnight to 100 days), in order to benefit from the compounding of interest.

Investment treasury indicator and limit - total principal funds invested for greater than 365 days. These limits are set with regard to the Authority's liquidity requirements and to reduce the need for early sale of an investment and are based on the availability of funds after each year-end.

The Authority is asked to approve the following treasury indicator and limit: -

Table 14

Upper limit for principal sums invested for longer than 365 days			
£m	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Principal sums invested for longer than 365 days	£1.5m	£1.5m	£1.5m

4.5 Investment Performance / Risk Benchmarking

These benchmarks are simple guides to maximum risk, so they may be breached from time to time, depending on movements in interest rates and counterparty criteria. The purpose of the benchmark is that officers will monitor the current and trend position and amend the operational strategy to manage risk as conditions change. Any breach of the benchmarks will be reported, with supporting reasons in the mid-year or Annual Report.

- Security – the exposure to credit risk is monitored by measuring the average credit rating of its investment portfolio with a target rating of A-.
- Liquidity – the Authority will manage its cashflow so as not to go overdrawn.

- Yield – the benchmark for returns on investments is the Sterling Overnight Index Average (SONIA). Actual investment returns are monitored against budget.

4.6 End of Year Investment Report

At the end of the financial year, the Authority will report on its investment activity as part of its financial monitoring process.

5 APPENDICES

1. Prudential and treasury indicators
2. Interest rate forecasts
3. Economic background
4. Treasury management practice 1 – credit and counterparty risk management
5. Approved countries for investments
6. Treasury management scheme of delegation
7. The treasury management role of the section 151 officer

5.1 THE CAPITAL PRUDENTIAL AND TREASURY INDICATORS 2025/26 – 2028/29

The Authority's capital expenditure plans are the key driver of treasury management activity. The output of the capital expenditure

plans is reflected in the prudential indicators, which are designed to assist members' overview and confirm capital expenditure plans.

5.1.1 Capital Expenditure

Table 15

Capital Expenditure	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000	Total Expenditure £'000
Operations & Communities	8,036	639	952	507	10,134
Corporate Services & Buildings	631	300	265	265	1,461
Housing	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,000
Regeneration	14,078	2,000	2,000	2,000	20,078
Climate change	527	-	-	-	527
Total	24,272	3,939	4,217	3,772	36,200

5.1.2 Affordability Prudential Indicators

The previous sections cover the overall capital and control of borrowing prudential indicators, but within this framework prudential indicators are required to assess the affordability of the capital investment plans. These provide an indication of the impact of the capital investment plans on the Authority's overall finances. The Authority is asked to approve the following indicators: -

Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream

This indicator identifies the trend in the cost of capital, (borrowing and other long-term obligation costs), against the net revenue stream.

Table 16

Ratio of financing costs to Net Revenue Stream	2025/26 Estimate £'000	2026/27 Estimate £'000	2027/28 Estimate £'000	2028/29 Estimate £'000
Financing Costs	1,000	1,255	1,260	1,389
Proportion of net revenue stream	8.67%	10.96%	10.78%	11.79%

The estimates of financing costs include current commitments and the proposals in this budget report.

5.1.3 Maturity Structure of Borrowing

Maturity structure of borrowing. These gross limits are set to reduce the Authority's exposure to large, fixed rate sums falling due for refinancing, and are required for upper and lower limits.

The Council is asked to approve the following treasury indicators and limits: -

Table 17

Maturity structure of fixed interest rate borrowing 2025/26		
	Lower	Upper
Under 12 months	0%	40%
12 months to 2 years	0%	50%
2 years to 5 years	0%	50%
5 years to 10 years	0%	50%
10 years and above	0%	100%
Maturity structure of variable interest rate borrowing 2025/26		
	Lower	Upper
Under 12 months	0%	10%
12 months to 2 years	0%	10%
2 years to 5 years	0%	10%
5 years to 10 years	0%	10%
10 years and above	0%	10%

5.1.4. Control of Interest Rate Exposure

Please see paragraphs 3.3, 3.4 and 4.4.

5.2 INTEREST RATE FORECASTS 2025-2028

Link Group Interest Rate View	11.11.24												
	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26	Mar-27	Jun-27	Sep-27	Dec-27
BANK RATE	4.75	4.50	4.25	4.00	4.00	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
3 month ave earnings	4.70	4.50	4.30	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
6 month ave earnings	4.70	4.40	4.20	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
12 month ave earnings	4.70	4.40	4.20	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
5 yr PWLB	5.00	4.90	4.80	4.60	4.50	4.50	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.10	4.00	4.00	3.90
10 yr PWLB	5.30	5.10	5.00	4.80	4.80	4.70	4.50	4.50	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.20	4.10
25 yr PWLB	5.60	5.50	5.40	5.30	5.20	5.10	5.00	4.90	4.80	4.70	4.60	4.50	4.50
50 yr PWLB	5.40	5.30	5.20	5.10	5.00	4.90	4.80	4.70	4.60	4.50	4.40	4.30	4.30

PWLB forecasts are based on PWLB certainty rates.

5.3 ECONOMIC BACKGROUND

The third quarter of 2024 (July to September) saw:

- GDP growth stagnating in July following downwardly revised Q2 figures (0.5% q/q)
- A further easing in wage growth as the headline 3myy rate (including bonuses) fell from 4.6% in June to 4.0% in July;
- CPI inflation hitting its target in June before edging above it to 2.2% in July and August;
- Core CPI inflation increasing from 3.3% in July to 3.6% in August;
- The Bank of England initiating its easing cycle by lowering interest rates from 5.25% to 5.0% in August and holding them steady in its September meeting;
- 10-year gilt yields falling to 4.0% in September.

Over the aforementioned period, the economy's stagnation in June and July pointed more to a mild slowdown in UK GDP growth than a sudden drop back into a recession. However, in the interim period, to 12 December, arguably the biggest impact on the economy's performance has been the negative market sentiment in respect of the fallout from the Chancellor's Budget on 30 October.

If we reflect on the 30 October Budget, our central case is that those policy announcements will prove to be inflationary, at least in the near-term. The Office for Budgetary Responsibility and the Bank of England concur with that view. The latter have the CPI measure of inflation hitting 2.5% y/y by the end of 2024 and staying sticky until at least 2026. The Bank forecasts CPI to be elevated at 2.7% y/y (Q4 2025) before dropping back to sub-2% in 2027. Nonetheless, since the Budget, the October inflation print has shown the CPI measure of inflation bouncing up to 2.3% y/y with the prospect that it will be close to 3% by the end of the year before falling back slowly through 2025. The RPI measure has also increased significantly to 3.4% y/y.

How high inflation goes will primarily be determined by several key factors. First amongst those is that the major investment in the public sector, according to the Bank of England, will lift UK real GDP to 1.7% in 2025 before growth moderates in 2026 and 2027. The debate around whether the Government's policies lead to a material uptick in growth primarily focus on the logistics of fast-tracking planning permissions, identifying sufficient skilled labour to undertake a resurgence in building, and an increase in the employee participation rate within the economy.

There are inherent risks to all the above. The worst-case scenario would see systemic blockages of planning permissions and the inability to identify and resource the additional workforce required to deliver large-scale IT, housing and infrastructure projects. This would lead to upside risks to inflation, an increased prospect of further Government borrowing & tax rises in the June 2025 Spending Review (pushed back from the end of March), and a tepid GDP performance.

Regarding having a sufficiently large pool of flexible and healthy workers, the initial outlook does not look bright. Research from Capital Economics has alluded to an increase of some 500,000 construction workers being needed to provide any chance of the Government hitting its target of 300,000 new homes being built in each of the next five years (234,000 net additional dwellings in England in 2022/23). But the last time such an increase was needed, and construction employment is currently at a nine-year low, it took 12 years to get there (1996 to 2008). Also note, as of October 2024, job vacancies in the construction sector were still higher than at any time in the 20 years preceding the pandemic.

Currently, it also seems likely that net inward migration is set to fall, so there is likely to be a smaller pool of migrant workers available who, in the past, have filled the requirement for construction worker demand. The Government plans to heavily promote training schemes, particularly to the one million 16- to 24-year-olds who are neither in education nor work. But it is arguable as to whether the employee shortfall can be made up from this source in the requisite time, even if more do enter the workforce.

Against, this backdrop, there may be a near-term boost to inflation caused by a wave of public sector cash chasing the same construction providers over the course of the next year or so, whilst wages remain higher than the Bank currently forecasts because of general labour shortages, including in social care where Government accepts there is a 150,000 shortfall at present.

Unemployment stands at a low 4.3% (September), whilst wages are rising at 4.3% y/y (including bonuses) and 4.8% (excluding bonuses). The Bank would ideally like to see further wage moderation to underpin any further gradual relaxing of monetary policy. Indeed, over the next six months, the market is currently only pricing in Bank Rate reductions in February and May – which would see Bank Rate fall to 4.25% - but further cuts, thereafter, are highly likely to be even more data-dependent.

If we focus on borrowing, a term we are likely to hear throughout 2025 is “bond vigilante”. Essentially, this represents a generic term for when the market is ill at ease with the level of government borrowing and demands a higher return for holding debt issuance. In the UK, we do not need to go back too far to recall the negative market reaction to the Truss/Kwarteng budget of 2022. But long-term borrowing rates have already gradually moved back to those levels since their recent low point in the middle of September 2024. Of course, the UK is not alone in this respect. Concerns prevail as to what the size of the budget deficit will be in the US, following the election of Donald Trump as President, and in France there are on-going struggles to form a government to address a large budget deficit problem too. Throw into the mix the uncertain outcome to German elections, and there is plenty of bond investor concern to be seen.

Staying with the US, Donald Trump’s victory paves the way for the introduction/extension of tariffs that could prove inflationary whilst the same could be said of further tax cuts. Invariably the direction of US Treasury yields in reaction to his core policies will, in all probability, impact UK gilt yields. So, there are domestic and international factors that could impact PWLB rates whilst, as a general comment, geo-political risks continue to abound in Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

In the past month, the US Core CPI measure of inflation has indicated that inflation is still a concern (3.3% y/y, 0.3% m/m), as has the November Producer Prices Data (up 3.0 y/y v a market estimate of 2.6% y/y, 0.4% m/m v an estimate of 0.2% m/m) albeit probably insufficient to deter the FOMC from cutting US rates a further 0.25% at its December meeting. However, with Trump’s inauguration as President being held on 20 January, further rate reductions and their timing will very much be determined by his policy announcements and their implications for both inflation and Treasury issuance.

Looking at gilt movements in the first half of 2024/25, and you will note the 10-year gilt yield declined from 4.32% in May to 4.02% in August as the Bank’s August rate cut signalled the start of its loosening cycle. More recently, however, 10 year gilt yields have spiked back up to 4.35%.

The FTSE 100 reached a peak of 8,380 in the third quarter of 2024 (currently 8.304), but its performance is firmly in the shade of the US S&P500, which has breached the 6,000 threshold on several occasions recently, delivering returns upwards of 25% y/y. The catalyst for any further rally (or not) is likely to be the breadth of AI’s impact on business growth and performance.

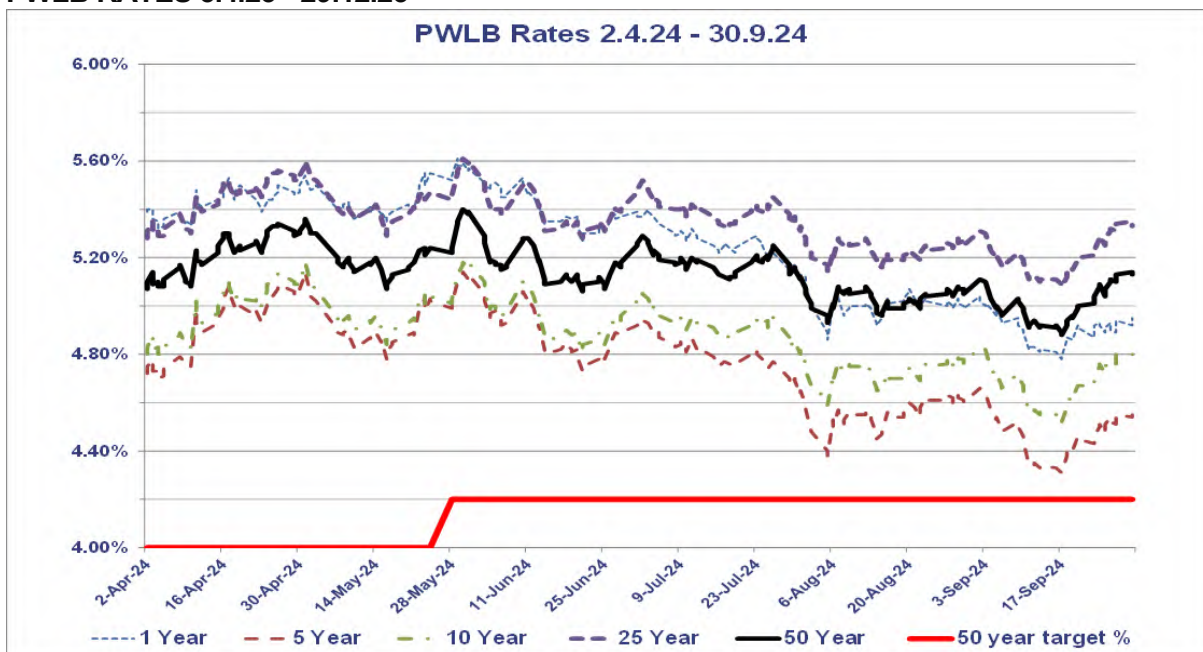
MPC meetings: 9 May, 20 June, 1 August, 19 September, 7 November 2024

- On 9 May, the Bank of England’s Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted 7-2 to keep Bank Rate at 5.25%. This outcome was repeated on 20th June.
- However, by the time of the August meeting, there was a 5-4 vote in place for rates to be cut by 25bps to 5%. However, subsequent speeches from MPC members have supported Governor Bailey’s tone with its emphasis on “gradual” reductions over time.
- Markets thought there may be an outside chance of a further Bank Rate reduction in September, following the 50bps cut by the FOMC, but this came to nothing.

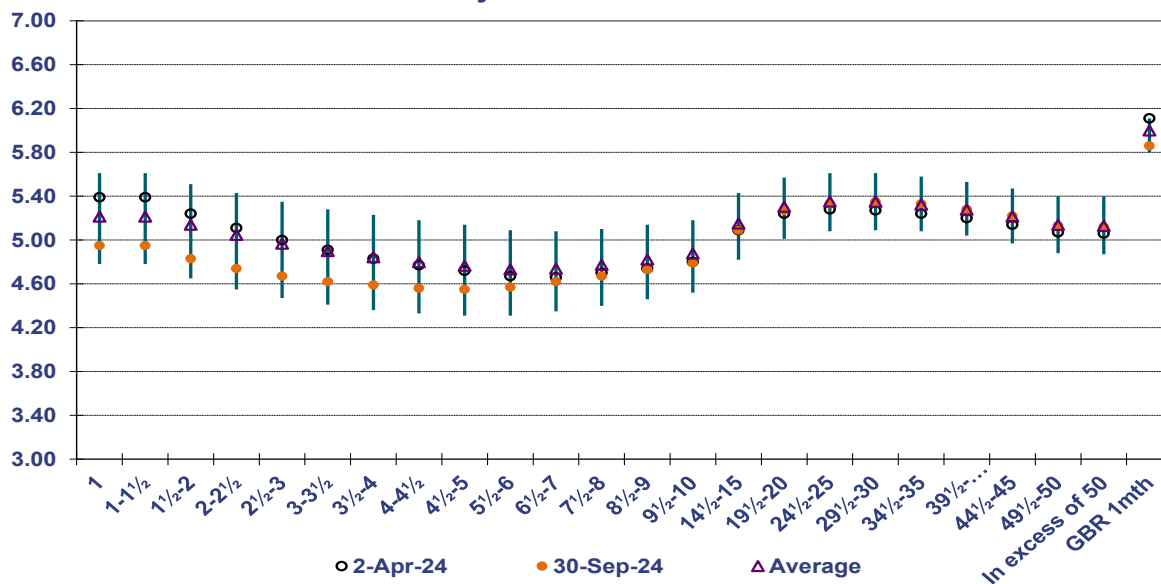
- On 7 November, Bank Rate was cut by 0.25% to 4.75%. The vote was 8-1 in favour of the cut but the language used by the MPC emphasised “gradual” reductions would be the way ahead with an emphasis on the inflation and employment data releases, as well as geo-political events.

In the chart below, despite a considerable gilt market rally in mid-September, rates started and finished the six-month period under review in broadly the same position.

PWLB RATES 3.4.23 - 29.12.23



PWLB Certainty Rate Variations 2.4.24 to 30.9.24



HIGH/LOW/AVERAGE PWLB RATES FOR 3.4.23 – 29.12.23

	1 Year	5 Year	10 Year	25 Year	50 Year
02/04/2024	5.39%	4.72%	4.80%	5.28%	5.07%
30/09/2024	4.95%	4.55%	4.79%	5.33%	5.13%
Low	4.78%	4.31%	4.52%	5.08%	4.88%
Low date	17/09/2024	17/09/2024	17/09/2024	17/09/2024	17/09/2024
High	5.61%	5.14%	5.18%	5.61%	5.40%
High date	29/05/2024	01/05/2024	01/05/2024	01/05/2024	01/05/2024
Average	5.21%	4.76%	4.88%	5.35%	5.14%
Spread	0.83%	0.83%	0.66%	0.53%	0.52%

5.4 TREASURY MANAGEMENT PRACTICE (TMP1) – CREDIT AND COUNTERPARTY RISK MANAGEMENT

The DLUHC issued Investment Guidance in 2018, and this forms the structure of the Authority's policy below. These guidelines do not apply to either trust funds or pension funds which operate under a different regulatory regime.

The key intention of the Guidance is to maintain the current requirement for local authorities to invest prudently, and that priority is given to security and liquidity before yield. In order to facilitate this objective, the Guidance requires this Authority to have regard to the CIPFA publication Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes. This Council adopted the Code on 24/02/2010 and will apply its principles to all investment activity. In accordance with the Code, the Director of Finance has produced its treasury management practices (TMPs). This part, TMP 1(1), covering investment counterparty policy requires approval each year.

Annual Investment Strategy - The key requirements of both the Code and the investment guidance are for the Authority to set an Annual Investment Strategy, as part of its annual treasury strategy for the following year, covering the identification and approval of the following:

- The strategy guidelines for choosing and placing investments, particularly non-specified investments.
- The principles to be used to determine the maximum periods for which funds can be committed.
- Specified investments that the Authority will use. These are high security, and high liquidity investments in sterling and with a maturity of no more than a year.
- Non-specified investments, clarifying the greater risk implications, identifying the general types of investment that may be used and a limit to the overall amount of various categories that can be held at any time.

The investment policy proposed for the Authority is:

Strategy guidelines – The main strategy guidelines are contained in the body of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement.

Specified investments – These investments are sterling investments of not more than one-year maturity, or those which could be for a longer period but where the Authority has the right to be repaid within 12 months if it wishes. They also include investments which were originally classed as being non-specified investments, but which would have been classified as specified investments apart from originally being for a period longer than 12 months once the remaining period to maturity falls to under 12 months.

These are considered low risk assets where the possibility of loss of principal or investment income is small. These would include sterling investments which would not be defined as capital expenditure with: -

- The UK Government (such as the Debt Management Account deposit facility, UK Treasury Bills or a Gilt with less than one year to maturity).
- Supranational Bonds of less than one year's duration.
- A Local Authority, Housing Association, Parish Council or Community Council.
- Pooled investment vehicles (such as Money Market Funds) that have been awarded a high credit rating by a credit rating agency e.g., Standard and Poor's, Moody's and/or Fitch rating agencies.
- A body that is considered of a high credit quality (such as a bank or building society). This category covers bodies with a minimum Short-Term rating of A- (or the equivalent) as rated by Standard and Poor's, Moody's and / or Fitch rating agencies.

In accordance with the Code, the Authority has set out additional criteria to limit the time and the amount of monies which will be invested in these bodies. These criteria are set out in 4.2 above.

Non-specified investments – are any other type of investment (i.e., not defined as specified above). These are set out in 4.2 above.

NOTE 1. This Authority will seek further advice on the appropriateness and associated risks with investments in these categories.

The monitoring of investment counterparties - The credit rating of counterparties will be monitored regularly. The Authority receives credit rating information (changes, rating watches and rating outlooks) from Link as and when ratings change, and counterparties are checked promptly. On occasion ratings may be downgraded when an investment has already been made. The criteria used are such that a minor downgrading should not affect the full receipt of the principal and interest. Any counterparty failing to meet the criteria will be removed from the list immediately by the Director of Finance, and if required new counterparties which meet the criteria will be added to the list.

5.5 APPROVED COUNTRIES FOR INVESTMENTS

This list is based on those countries which have sovereign ratings of AA- or higher, (we show the lowest rating from Fitch, Moody's and S&P) and also, (except - at the time of writing - for Hong Kong and Luxembourg), have banks operating in sterling markets which have credit ratings of green or above in the Link creditworthiness service.

Based on lowest available rating

AAA

- Australia
- Denmark
- Germany
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Singapore
- Sweden
- Switzerland

AA+

- Canada
- Finland
- U.S.A.

AA

- Abu Dhabi (UAE)

AA-

- Belgium
- France
- Qatar
- **U.K.**

5.6 TREASURY MANAGEMENT SCHEME OF DELEGATION

(i) Full Council

- receiving and reviewing reports on treasury management policies, practices and activities;
- approval of annual strategy.

(ii) Cabinet

- approval of/amendments to the Council's adopted clauses, treasury management policy statement and treasury management practices;
- budget consideration and approval;
- approval of the division of responsibilities;
- receiving and reviewing regular monitoring reports and acting on recommendations;
- approving the selection of external service providers and agreeing terms of appointment.

(iii) Audit & Accounts Committee

- reviewing the treasury management policy and procedures and making recommendations to the responsible body.

5.7 THE TREASURY MANAGEMENT ROLE OF THE SECTION 151 OFFICER

The S151 (responsible) officer

- recommending clauses, treasury management policy/practices for approval, reviewing the same regularly, and monitoring compliance;
- submitting regular treasury management policy reports;
- submitting budgets and budget variations;
- receiving and reviewing management information reports;
- reviewing the performance of the treasury management function;
- ensuring the adequacy of treasury management resources and skills, and the effective division of responsibilities within the treasury management function;
- ensuring the adequacy of internal audit, and liaising with external audit;
- recommending the appointment of external service providers.
- preparation of a Capital Strategy to include capital expenditure, capital financing, non-financial investments and treasury management, with a long-term timeframe.
- ensuring that the Capital Strategy is prudent, sustainable, affordable and in the long term and provides value for money
- ensuring that due diligence has been carried out on all treasury and non-financial investments and is in accordance with the risk appetite of the authority
- ensure that the Council has appropriate legal powers to undertake expenditure on non-financial assets and their financing
- ensuring the proportionality of all investments so that the Council does not undertake a level of investing which exposes the Council to an excessive level of risk compared to its financial resources
- ensuring that an adequate governance process is in place for the approval, monitoring and ongoing risk management of all non-financial investments and long-term liabilities
- provision to members of a schedule of all non-treasury investments including material investments in subsidiaries, joint ventures, loans and financial guarantees
- ensuring that members are adequately informed and understand the risk exposures taken on by the Council
- ensuring that the Council has adequate expertise, either in house or externally provided, to carry out the above
- creation of Treasury Management Practices which specifically deal with how non treasury investments will be carried out and managed, to include the following: -
 - *Risk management (TMP1 and schedules), including investment and risk management criteria for any material non-treasury investment portfolios;*
 - *Performance measurement and management (TMP2 and schedules), including methodology and criteria for assessing the performance and success of non-treasury investments;*
 - *Decision making, governance and organisation (TMP5 and schedules), including a statement of the governance requirements for decision making in relation to non-treasury investments; and arrangements to ensure that appropriate professional due diligence is carried out to support decision making;*

- *Reporting and management information (TMP6 and schedules), including where and how often monitoring reports are taken;*
- *Training and qualifications (TMP10 and schedules), including how the relevant knowledge and skills in relation to non-treasury investments will be arranged.*

The Deputy S151 Officer (being the Head of Financial Services)

In the absence of the S151 Officer, the Deputy S151 Officer will take over the responsibilities noted above.

The Finance Officer (Exchequer Services)

- Transfer of funds between the Council's approved call and notice accounts.

Authorised Signatories

The following posts have been designated as those authorised to act as bank signatories for the Council:

- Director of Resources (S151 Officer)
- Head of Financial Services (Deputy S151 Officer)
- Finance Officer (Exchequer)
- Principal Accountant
- Accountant (x2)
- Accounts Technician

Treasury Management Policy and Practises

2025/26

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The Treasury Management Policy Statement

The treasury management policy statement

This council defines its treasury management activities as:

1. The management of the organisation's borrowing, investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.
2. This organisation regards the successful identification, monitoring and control of risk to be the prime criteria by which the effectiveness of its treasury management activities will be measured. Accordingly, the analysis and reporting of treasury management activities will focus on their risk implications for the organisation, and any financial instruments entered into to manage these risks.
3. This council acknowledges that effective treasury management will provide support towards the achievement of its business and service objectives. It is therefore committed to the principles of achieving value for money in treasury management, and to employing suitable comprehensive performance measurement techniques, within the context of effective risk management.

Clauses to be formally adopted

1. This Council will create and maintain, as the cornerstones for effective treasury management:
 - a Treasury Management Policy Statement (TMSS), stating the policies, objectives and approach to risk management of its treasury management activities
 - suitable Treasury Management Practices (TMPs), setting out the manner in which the organisation will seek to achieve those policies and objectives, and prescribing how it will manage and control those activities.
 - investment management practices (IMPs) for investments that are not for treasury management purposes.

The content of the policy statement, TMPs and IMPs will follow the recommendations contained in Sections 6, 7 and 8 of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code (the Code), subject only to amendment where necessary to reflect the particular circumstances of this organisation. Such amendments will not result in the organisation materially deviating from the Code's key principles.

2. This Council will receive reports on its treasury management policies, practices and activities, including, as a minimum, an annual strategy and plan in advance of the year, a mid-year review and an annual report after its close, in the form prescribed in its TMPs and IMPs.
3. This Council delegates responsibility for the implementation and regular monitoring of its treasury management policies and practices to Director of Resources, and for the

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execution and administration of treasury management decisions to the Director of Resources, who will act in accordance with the organisation's policy statement and TMPs

4. This organisation nominates Director of Resources to be responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of the treasury management strategy and policies.

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TMP 1 RISK MANAGEMENT

The responsible officer (in the case of Rossendale Borough Council, The Director of Resources) will design, implement and monitor all arrangements for the identification, management and control of treasury management risk, will report at least annually on the adequacy/suitability thereof, and will report, as a matter of urgency, the circumstances of any actual or likely difficulty in achieving the organisation's objectives in this respect, all in accordance with the procedures set out in TMP6 Reporting requirements and management information arrangements. In respect of each of the following risks, the arrangements which seek to ensure compliance with these objectives are set out in the schedule to this document.

1. Credit and Counterparty Risk Management

Credit and counter-party risk is the risk of failure by a counterparty to meet its contractual obligations to the organisation under an investment, borrowing, capital project or partnership financing, particularly as a result of the counterparty's diminished creditworthiness, and the resulting detrimental effect on the organisation's capital or current (revenue) resources.

This organisation regards a key objective of its treasury management activities to be the security of the principal sums it invests. Accordingly, it will ensure that its counterparty lists and limits reflect a prudent attitude towards organisations with whom funds may be deposited, and will limit its investment activities to the instruments, methods and techniques referred to in TMP4 Approved Instruments Methods and Techniques and listed in the schedule to this document. It also recognises the need to have, and will therefore maintain, a formal counterparty policy in respect of those organisations from which it may borrow, or with whom it may enter into other financing arrangements.

The organisation's credit and counterparty policies should set out its policy and practices relating to environmental, social and governance (ESG) investment considerations. This is a developing area, and it is not implied that the organisation's ESG policy will currently include ESG scoring or other real-time ESG criteria at individual investment level.

1.1. Policy on the use of credit risk analysis techniques

- 1.1.1. The Council will use credit criteria in order to select creditworthy counterparties for placing investments with.
- 1.1.2. Credit ratings will be used as supplied from all three rating agencies - Fitch, Moodys and Standard & Poors
- 1.1.3. Treasury Management Consultants will provide regular updates of changes to all ratings relevant to the council.
- 1.1.4. The responsible officer will formulate suitable criteria for assessing and monitoring the credit risk of investment counterparties and shall construct a lending list comprising maturity periods, type, group, sector, country and counterparty limits. This organisation will use the Sector creditworthiness service based on using colours determined by minimum combinations of ratings to derive maturity limits as follows: -
 - Yellow 5 years
 - Purple 2 years

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- Blue 1 year (only applies to nationalised or semi nationalised UK Banks)
- Orange 1 year
- Red 6 months
- Green 3 months
- No Colour not to be used

In addition, a credit default swap overlay is used as a further safeguard to give early warning of potential creditworthiness problems which may only belatedly lead to actual changes in credit ratings.

As this methodology is complex, readers are referred to the document produced by Link Asset Services “Treasury Solutions Credit Policy Guide December 2015” for a full explanation.

1.1.5. Credit ratings for individual counterparties can change at any time. The Director of Resources is responsible for applying approved credit rating criteria for selecting approved counterparties. Treasury management staff will add or delete counterparties to/from the approved counterparty list in line with the policy on criteria for selection of counterparties.

1.1.6. This organisation will not rely solely on credit ratings in order to select and monitor the creditworthiness of counterparties. In addition to credit ratings it will therefore use other sources of information including: -

- The quality financial press
- Market data
- Information on government support for banks and
- The credit ratings of that government support

1.1.7. Maximum maturity periods and amounts to be placed in different types of investment instrument are shown below. At present the maximum investment period for Specified Investments is less than 365 days.

1.1.8. Diversification: this organisation will avoid concentrations of lending and borrowing by adopting a policy of diversification. It will therefore use the following: -

Investment Type / Minimum Credit Rating (Note 1)	Banks Unsecured (Note 2)	Banks Secured (Note 3)	Government (Note 4)
UK Government	n/a	n/a	£ Unlimited 5 years
UK Treasury Bills	n/a	n/a	£1m in Total for 6 months
UK Local Authorities	n/a	n/a	£8m each for periods of up to 1 year £8m each for overnight/call deposits
Investment Rated A-	£3m each for 6 months	£3m each for 1 year	n/a
Money Market Funds (Note 5)	£2m per Fund up to 6 months		
Registered Providers (Note 6)	£1m in total for 1 Year		
Any other organisation (Note 7)	£1.5m for maximum of 10 years		

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Notes

1. *Credit rating: Investment limits are set by reference to the lowest published long-term credit rating from a selection of external rating agencies. However, investment decisions are never made solely based on credit ratings, and all other relevant factors including external advice will be taken into account.*
2. *Banks unsecured: Includes accounts, deposits, certificates of deposit and unsecured bonds with banks and building societies. These investments are subject to the risk of credit loss via a bail-in should the regulator determine that the bank is failing or likely to fail. See below for arrangements relating to operational bank accounts.*
3. *Banks secured: Includes covered bonds, reverse repurchase agreements and other collateralised arrangements with banks and building societies. These investments are secured on the bank's assets, which limits the potential losses in the unlikely event of insolvency, and means that they are exempt from bail-in. Where there is no investment specific credit rating, but the collateral upon which the investment is secured has a credit rating, the higher of the collateral credit rating and the counterparty credit rating will be used to determine cash and time limits.*
4. *Government: Includes loans, bonds and bills issued or guaranteed by national governments, regional and local authorities and multilateral development banks. These investments are not subject to bail-in, and there is generally a lower risk of insolvency. Investments with the UK Central Government may be made in unlimited amounts as a contingency in the event of a crisis.*
5. *Pooled Funds: These Funds are shares in diversified investment vehicles which invest in any of the investment types above (Notes 2 to 4), plus equity shares and property. These funds provide wide diversification, together with the services of a professional Fund Manager. The Money Market Funds offer same-day liquidity and very low volatility and are used as an alternative to instant access bank accounts. There is no sector limit applying to Money Market Funds although the Council will take care to diversify its liquid investments over a variety of providers to minimise risk.*
6. *Registered providers: These are longer term loans or bonds that are secured or guaranteed on the assets of Registered Providers of Social Housing. These bodies are highly regulated by the Homes and Communities Agency and are likely to receive government support if needed.*
7. *Other organisation: This is subject to an external credit assessment, specific advice from the Council's treasury management adviser and full Council approval.*
 - **Operational bank accounts:** The Council's own bank account which is used for all of the Council's operational activities will have a minimum credit rating of BBB- and assets greater than £25 billion. The Bank of England has stated that in the event of failure, banks with assets greater than £25 billion are more likely to be bailed-in than made insolvent, increasing the chance of the Council maintaining operational continuity. The balances in the Council's own bank account will be up to a maximum of £5m, or 50% of the resources available at the time of investing, whichever is the larger.

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- Country limits – normally, a minimum sovereign rating of AAA is required for an institution to be placed on our approved lending list. However, UK banks will be considered regardless of the UK’s sovereign rating at the time of investment.

1.1.9. Investments will not be made with counterparties that do not have a credit rating in their own right, other than in the case of Non-specified Investments where the counterparty is one of the Council’s related parties and where a charge can be placed on land or equity in order to preserve the Council’s rights to its resources.

1.1.10. The definition of ‘high credit quality’ in order to determine what are specified investments as opposed to non specified investments which do not have high credit ratings is set out at the end of TMP1 in schedule 1.

1.1.11. Should the Council ever begin to use **external fund manager(s)** they will adhere to the counterparty credit criteria and maximum individual limits set by the Council; however, it is understood that fund manager(s) may use a subset of the counterparty list so derived.

1.2 Liquidity Risk Management

This is the risk that cash will not be available when it is needed, that ineffective management of liquidity creates additional unbudgeted costs, and that the organisation’s business/service objectives will be thereby compromised.

This organisation will ensure it has adequate though not excessive cash resources, borrowing arrangements, overdraft or standby facilities to enable it at all times to have the level of funds available to it which are necessary for the achievement of its business/service objectives. This organisation will only borrow in advance of need where there is a clear business case for doing so and will only do so for the current capital programme or to finance future debt maturities.

1.2.1. Amounts of approved minimum cash balances and short-term investments

The Finance Officers shall seek to minimise the balance held in the Council’s main bank accounts at the close of each working day. The use of alternative call accounts and short-term notice accounts (under 90 days) shall be used in order to achieve this aim.

1.2.2. Details of:

a. Standby facilities

At the end of each financial day the balance in the Council’s current account is automatically transferred to/from the Special Business Investment Account (SIBA) to maximise the interest available on the Council’s operational bank accounts. In practice the current account and the SIBA account are now operated as one account. Individual daily debit balances on the current account are not treated as an overdraft.

The Council also maintain one or more on-call, and notice accounts up to 90 days with other banks. These accounts are used for reserve cash balances which may be required without notice. Such instant access is possible, but would lead to some loss of interest commensurate with the notice period waived.

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- b. Bank overdraft arrangements
Previous overdraft facilities have now ceased due to the sweeping action described above and following the bank imposing an arrangement fee for overdrafts on the SIBA account.
- c. Short-term borrowing facilities
The Council accesses temporary loans through approved brokers on the London money market. The approved operational borrowing limit for short term debt in 2025/26 is £14.7m.
- d. Insurance/guarantee facilities
There are no specific insurance or guarantee facilities as the above arrangements are regarded as being adequate to cover all unforeseen occurrences.

1.3 Interest Rate Risk Management

The risk that fluctuations in the levels of interest rates create an unexpected or unbudgeted burden on the organisation's finances, against which the organisation has failed to protect itself adequately.

This organisation will manage its exposure to fluctuations in interest rates with a view to containing its interest costs, or securing its interest revenues, in accordance with the amounts provided in its budgetary arrangements as amended in accordance with TMP6 Reporting requirements and management information arrangements.

It will achieve this by the prudent use of its approved financing and investment instruments, methods and techniques, primarily to create stability and certainty of costs and revenues, but at the same time retaining a sufficient degree of flexibility to take advantage of unexpected, potentially advantageous changes in the level or structure of interest rates. This should be the subject to the consideration and, if required, approval of any policy or budgetary implications.

1.3.1 Policies concerning the use of instruments for interest rate management.

- a. forward dealing
Consideration will be given to dealing from forward periods dependent upon market conditions.
- b. callable deposits (England and Wales only)
The Council may use callable deposits as part as of its Annual Investment Strategy (AIS), which now forms part of the Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement. The credit criteria and maximum periods are set out in the Schedule of Specified and Non Specified Investments appended to the AIS.

1.4 Exchange Rate Risk Management

The risk that fluctuations in foreign exchange rates create an unexpected or unbudgeted burden on the organisation's finances, against which the organisation has failed to protect itself adequately.

The Council will manage its exposure to fluctuations in exchange rates so as to minimise any detrimental impact on its budgeted income/expenditure levels.

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1.5 Refinancing Risk Management

The risk that maturing borrowings, capital projects or partnership financings cannot be refinanced on terms that reflect the provisions made by the organisation for those refinancing, both capital and current (revenue), and/or that the terms are inconsistent with prevailing market conditions at the time.

This organisation will ensure that its borrowing, private financing and partnership arrangements are negotiated, structured and documented, and the maturity profile of the monies so raised are managed, with a view to obtaining offer terms for renewal or refinancing, if required, which are competitive and as favourable to the organisation as can reasonably be achieved in the light of market conditions prevailing at the time.

The Council will actively manage its relationships with its counterparties in these transactions in such a manner as to secure this objective, and will avoid overreliance on any one source of funding if this might jeopardise achievement of the above.

1.5.1. Debt/Other Capital Financing, Maturity Profiling, Policies and Practices

The Council will establish through its Prudential and Treasury Indicators the amount of debt maturing in any year/period.

Any debt rescheduling will be considered when the difference between the refinancing rate and the redemption rate is most advantageous and the situation will be continually monitored in order to take advantage of any perceived anomalies in the yield curve. The reasons for any rescheduling to take place will include:

- a) the generation of cash savings at minimum risk;
- b) to reduce the average interest rate;
- c) to amend the maturity profile and /or the balance of volatility of the debt portfolio.

Rescheduling will be reported to the Cabinet at the meeting immediately following its action.

1.5.2. Projected Capital Investment Requirements

The Finance Manager will prepare a three year plan for capital expenditure for the Council. The capital plan will be used to prepare a three year revenue budget for all forms of financing charges. In addition, the responsible officer will draw up a capital strategy report which will give a longer term view.

The definition of capital expenditure and long term liabilities used in the Code will follow recommended accounting practice as per the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting.

1.5.3 Policy Concerning Limits on Affordability and Revenue Consequences of Capital Financing

In considering the affordability of its capital plans, the Council will consider all the resources currently available/estimated for the future together with the totality of its capital plans, revenue income and revenue expenditure forecasts for the forthcoming year and the two following years and the impact these will have on council tax. It will also take into account affordability in the longer term beyond this three year period.

The Council will use the definitions provided in the Prudential Code for borrowing, capital expenditure, capital financing requirement, debt, financing costs, investments, net borrowing, net revenue stream, other long term liabilities.

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1.6 Legal and Regulatory Risk Management

The risk that the organisation itself, or an organisation with which it is dealing in its treasury management activities, fails to act in accordance with its legal powers or regulatory requirements, and that the organisation suffers losses accordingly.

This organisation will ensure that all of its treasury management activities comply with its statutory powers and regulatory requirements. It will demonstrate such compliance, if required to do so, to all parties with whom it deals in such activities. In framing its credit and counterparty policy under TMP1[1] credit and counterparty risk management, it will ensure that there is evidence of counterparties' powers, authority and compliance in respect of the transactions they may affect with the organisation, particularly with regard to duty of care and fees charged.

This organisation recognises that future legislative or regulatory changes may impact on its treasury management activities and, so far as it is reasonably able to do so, will seek to minimise the risk of these impacting adversely on the organisation.

1.6.1. References to Relevant Statutes and Regulations

The treasury management activities of the Council shall comply fully with legal statute, guidance, Codes of Practice and the regulations of the Council, and as amended during the period of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS). These include but are not limited to:

- Local Government Finance Act 1988 section 114 – duty on the responsible officer to issue a report if the Council is likely to get into a financially unviable position.
- Requirement to set a balanced budget - Local Government Finance Act 1992 section 32 for billing authorities and section 43 for major precepting authorities.
- Local Government Act 2003
- S.I. 2003 No.2938 Local Government Act 2003 (Commencement No.1 and Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2003 13.11.03
- S.I. 2003 No.3146 Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003 and associated commentary 10.12.03
- S.I. 2004 No.533 Local Authorities (Capital Finance) (Consequential, Transitional and Savings Provisions) Order 2004 8.3.04
- S.I. 2004 No.534 Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004 8.3.04
- S.I. 2004 no. 3055 The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Amendment) (England) (No. 2) Regulations 2004
- S.I. 2006 no. 521 Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006
- S.I. 2007 no. 573 Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2007
- Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 s238(2) – power to issue guidance; to be used re: MRP
- S.I. 2008 no. 414 Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2008
- S.I. 2009 no. 321 Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2009
- S.I. 2009 no. 2272 The Local Authorities (Capital Finance And Accounting) (England) (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 2009
- S.I. 2009 no. 3093 The Local Government Pension Fund Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2009

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- S.I. 2010 no. 454 (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2010
- Localism Act 2011
- S.I. 2012 no. 265 Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012
- S.I. 2012 No. 711 The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2012
- S.I. 2012 No. 1324 The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) (No.3) Regulations 2012
- S.I. 2012 No. 2269 The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) (No. 4) Regulations 2012
- S.I. 2013 no. 476 The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013
- S.I. 2015 no. 234 Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015

Guidance and codes of practice

- CIPFA's Treasury Management Codes of Practice and Guidance Notes 2021,
- CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities 2021
- CIPFA Local Authority Capital Accounting 2019
- CIPFA Standard of Professional Ethics 2018
- The Good Governance Standard for Public Services 2004
- LAAP/CIPFA Bulletins
- IFRS - Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom: A Statement of recommended Practice
- PWLB circulars on Lending Policy
- The Non-Investment Products Code (NIPS) - (formerly known as The London Code of Conduct) for principals and broking firms in the wholesale markets.
- Financial Conduct Authority's Code of Market Conduct
- The Council's Standing Orders relating to Contracts
- The Council's Financial Regulations
- The Council's Scheme of Delegated Functions

1.6.2 Procedures for Evidencing the Council's Powers/Authorities to Counterparties

The Council's powers to borrow and invest are contained in legislation.

Investing: Local Government Act 2003, section 12

Borrowing: Local Government Act 2003, section 1

In addition, it will make available on request the following the scheme of delegation of treasury management activities contained in Treasury Management Strategy which states

- which officers carry out these duties
- which officers are the authorised signatories

Required Information on Counterparties

Lending shall only be made to counterparties on the Approved Lending list. This list has been compiled using advice from the Council's treasury advisers based upon credit ratings supplied by Fitch, Moodys and Standard & Poors. Lending can also be made to one of the Council's related parties or subsidiaries.

1.6.3 Statement on the Council's Political Risks and Management of Same

The Director of Resources shall take appropriate action with the Council, the Chief Executive Officer and the Leader of the Council to respond to and manage appropriately political risks such as change of majority group, leadership in the Council, change of Government etc.

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1.6.4 Monitoring Officer

It is the duty of the monitoring officer to ensure that the treasury management activities of the Council are lawful.

1.6.5. Director of Resources

The Director of Resources is the (s.151) Officer. The duty of this officer is to ensure that the financial affairs of the Council are conducted in a prudent manner and to make a report to the Council if he has concerns as to the financial prudence of its actions or its expected financial position.

1.7 Fraud, Error and Corruption, and Contingency Management

The risk that the Council fails to identify the circumstances in which it may be exposed to the risk of loss through fraud, error, corruption or other eventualities in its treasury management dealings, and fails to employ suitable systems and procedures and maintain effective contingency management arrangements to these ends. It includes the area of risk commonly referred to as operational risk.

This Council will ensure that it has identified the circumstances which may expose it to the risk of loss through fraud, error, corruption or other eventualities in its treasury management dealings. Accordingly, it will employ suitable systems and procedures, and will maintain effective contingency management arrangements, to these ends.

The Council will therefore:-

- a) Seek to ensure an adequate division of responsibilities and maintenance at all times of an adequate level of internal check which minimises such risks.
- b) Fully document all its treasury management activities so that there can be no possible confusion as to what proper procedures are.
- c) Staff will not be allowed to take up treasury management activities until they have had proper training in procedures and are then subject to an adequate and appropriate level of supervision.
- d) Records will be maintained of all treasury management transactions so that there is a full audit trail and evidence of the appropriate checks being carried out.

1.7.1. Details of Systems and Procedures to be Followed, Including Internet Services

Authority

- The Scheme of Delegation to Officers sets out the delegation of duties to officers.
- All loans and investments are negotiated by the responsible officer or authorised persons.
- Loan procedures are defined in the Financial Regulations section of the Council's Constitution.

Procedures

- The electronic banking procedures include internet access to the Council's bank accounts for both downloading statements and entering one-off same-day transactions. The electronic authorisation of transactions through chip and pin cards and passwords follows the same pattern of required signatories as paper transactions do (i.e. one signature up to £5,000 and two signatures for transactions

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over £5,000).

- Autopay online is the system used by the Council for the transfer of payment and collection files to the BACs processing centre. BACs collection and payment files are generated by the payroll, creditors, benefits and revenues software systems and transferred through a secure internet portal by the authorised signatories. Files must be generated, approved and sent by two different people.
- Full details of operational procedures are maintained by the Finance Officer (Exchequer Services).

Investment and borrowing transactions

- A detailed register of all loans and investments is maintained by the Finance Officer (Exchequer Services). A written acknowledgement of each deal is sent promptly to the lending or borrowing institution where transactions are done directly with the organisation.
- Written confirmation is received and checked against the dealer's records for the transaction.
- Any discrepancies are immediately reported to the Director of Resources for resolution.
- All transactions placed through brokers are confirmed by a broker note showing details of the loan arranged. Written confirmation is received and checked against the dealer's records for the transaction. Any discrepancies are immediately reported to the Director of Resources for resolution.

Regularity and security

- Lending is only made to institutions on the Approved List of Counterparties.
- All loans raised, and repayments made, go directly to and from the bank account of approved counterparties.
- Counterparty limits are set for every institution that the Council invests with.
- Brokers have a list of named officials authorised to agree deals.
- There is a separation of duties in the section between dealers and the checking and authorisation of all deals.
- The Council's bank holds a list of Council officials who are authorised signatories for treasury management transactions.
- Payments can only be authorised in a formal letter by an authorised signatory, the list of signatories having previously been agreed with the current provider of our banking services.
- The NatWest Bankline system can only be accessed by a password and online payments require chip and pin authorisation from one or more of the bank signatories (two for payments over £5,000).
- There is adequate insurance cover for employees involved in loans management and accounting.

Checks

- The bank reconciliation is carried out monthly from the bank statement to the financial ledger.
- A debt charge/investment income listing is produced every month when a review is undertaken against the budget for interest earnings and debt costs.

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Calculations

- The calculation of repayment of principal and interest notified by the lender or borrower is checked for accuracy against the amount calculated by the Finance Officer (Exchequer Services). This is used to check the amount paid to lenders.
- Average weighted capital loans fund interest rates and debt management expenses are calculated monthly using information from the financial ledger.
- These interest and expense rates are then used to calculate the principal, interest and debt management expense charges to the General Fund.

1.7.2. Emergency and Contingency Planning Arrangements Disaster Recovery Plan.

The Council's main Business Continuity Plan includes a detailed section covering the essential financial systems and procedures, including banking, payments and revenue collection. All members of the treasury management team are familiar with this plan and new members will be briefed on it. The plan is reviewed and updated at regular intervals with both paper and electronic copies being available.

All computer files are backed up on the server to enable files to be accessed from remote sites.

1.7.3. Insurance Cover Details

Fidelity Insurance

The Council has 'Fidelity' insurance cover with Zurich Municipal which covers the loss of cash by fraud or dishonesty of employees. This cover is limited to £5m for any one event with an excess of £5k for any one event.

Professional Indemnity Insurance

The Council also has an 'Officials Indemnity' insurance policy with Zurich Municipal which covers loss to the Council from the actions and advice of its officers which are negligent and without due care. This cover is limited to £5m for any one event with an excess of £5k for any one event.

1.8 Market Risk Management

The risk that, through adverse market fluctuations in the value of the principal sums an organisation borrows and invests, its stated treasury management policies and objectives are compromised, against which effects it has failed to protect itself adequately.

This organisation will seek to ensure that its stated treasury management policies and objectives will not be compromised by adverse market fluctuations in the value of the principal sums it invests, and will accordingly seek to protect itself from the effects of such fluctuations.

1.8.1. Details of Approved Procedures and Limits for Controlling Exposure to Investments whose Capital Value May Fluctuate (Gilts, CDs, Etc.)

These are controlled through setting limits on investment instruments where the principal value can fluctuate. The limits are determined and set through the Annual Investment Strategy (which now forms part of the Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement).

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TMP 2 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

2.1 Evaluation and Review of Treasury Management Decisions

The Council has a number of approaches to evaluating treasury management decisions:

- a. monthly reviews carried out by the Director of Resources and Head of Financial Services, reported as part of the regular financial monitoring reports to Cabinet.
- b. weekly review reports from our treasury management consultants detailing current markets, forecasts and model portfolio returns.
- c. annual review of performance and strategy with our treasury management consultants.
- d. comparative reviews with neighbouring authorities.

2.1.2 Reviews with our treasury management consultants

The Director of Resources meets with our consultants every 12 months to review the performance of the investment and debt portfolios. Ad-hoc reviews are conducted by arrangement as outlined at 2.3.4.

2.1.3 Annual Review after the end of the financial year

In addition to the regular financial monitoring reports to Cabinet, the end of March out-turn report includes an annual treasury management report which reviews the performance of the debt and investment portfolios. This report contains the following:

- a. total debt and investments at the beginning and close of the financial year and average interest rates
- b. borrowing strategy for the year compared to actual strategy
- c. investment strategy for the year compared to actual strategy
- d. explanations for variance between original strategies and actual
- e. debt rescheduling done in the year
- f. actual borrowing and investment rates available through the year
- g. comparison of return on investments to the investment benchmark
- h. compliance with Prudential and Treasury Indicators

2.1.4 Comparative reviews

When data becomes available, comparative reviews are undertaken to see how the performance of the authority on debt and investments compares to other authorities with similar size portfolios (but allowing for the fact that Prudential and Treasury Indicators are locally set). Data can be sourced from: -

- CIPFA Treasury Management statistics published each year for the last complete financial year
- Neighbouring Lancashire authorities
- Link Asset Services model portfolio

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2.2 Benchmarks and Calculation Methodology:

2.2.1 Debt management

- Average rate on all external debt
- Average period to maturity of external debt
- Average period to maturity of new loans in previous year

2.2.2 Investment

The performance of investment earnings will be measured against the following benchmarks: -

Link Asset Services model portfolio

- *Weighted average rate of return*
- *Weighted average maturity*

Performance may also be measured against other local authority funds with similar benchmarks and parameters managed by other fund managers.

2.3 Policy concerning methods for testing Value for Money in Treasury Management

2.3.1 Frequency and processes for tendering

Tenders are normally awarded on a five-year basis. The process for awarding contracts will be in line with the Council's Contract Standing Orders.

2.3.2 Banking services

The Council's banking arrangements are to be subject to competitive tender unless it is considered that there will be changes in the volume of transactions in the foreseeable future which renders a shorter period appropriate.

2.3.3 Money-broking services

The Council may use money broking services in order to make deposits or to borrow, and will establish charges for all services prior to using them.

2.3.4 Consultants'/advisers' services

This Council's policy is not to appoint full-time professional treasury management consultants (Link Asset Services advise on an ad hoc basis, alongside automated updates).

2.3.5 Policy on External Managers (Other than relating to Superannuation Funds)

The Council's policy is not to appoint external investment fund managers.

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TMP 3 DECISION-MAKING AND ANALYSIS

3.1 Funding, Borrowing, Lending, and New Instruments/Techniques:

3.1.1 Records to be kept

The following records will be retained:-

- Daily and monthly cash balance forecasts
- Brokers' confirmations for investment and temporary borrowing transactions
- Confirmations from borrowing /lending institutions where deals are done directly
- PWLB loan confirmations
- PWLB debt portfolio schedules.
- Certificates for market loans, local bonds and other loans
- Contract notes received from fund manager(s)
- Fund manager(s) valuation statements (if applicable)

3.1.2 Processes to be pursued

- Cash flow analysis.
- Debt and investment maturity analysis
- Ledger reconciliation
- Review of opportunities for debt restructuring (if applicable)
- Review of borrowing requirement to finance capital expenditure (and other forms of financing where those offer value for money)
- Performance information (e.g. monitoring of actual against budget for debt charges, interest earned, debt management; also monitoring of average pool rate, investment returns, etc).

3.1.3 Issues to be addressed

3.1.3.1. In respect of every treasury management decision made the Council will:

- a) Above all, be clear about the nature and extent of the risks to which the Council may become exposed
- b) Be certain about the legality of the decision reached and the nature of the transaction, and that all authorities to proceed have been obtained
- c) Be content that the documentation is adequate both to deliver the Council's objectives and protect the Council's interests, and to deliver good housekeeping
- d) Ensure that third parties are judged satisfactory in the context of the Council's creditworthiness policies, and that limits have not been exceeded
- e) Be content that the terms of any transactions have been fully checked against the market, and have been found to be competitive.

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3.1.3.2 In respect of borrowing and other funding decisions, the Council will:

- a) consider the ongoing revenue liabilities created, and the implications for the organisation's future plans and budgets
- b) evaluate the economic and market factors that might influence the manner and timing of any decision to fund
- c) consider the merits and demerits of alternative forms of funding, including funding from revenue, leasing and private partnerships
- d) consider the alternative interest rate bases available, the most appropriate periods to fund and repayment profiles to use and, if relevant, the opportunities for foreign currency funding.

3.1.3.3 In respect of investment decisions, the Council will:

- a) consider the optimum period, in the light of cash flow availability and prevailing market conditions;
- b) consider the alternative investment products and techniques available, especially the implications of using any which may expose the Council to changes in the value of its capital;
- c) in the case of investments outside the banking sector the Council will consider the appropriate level of asset security, such as Land Registry charges, local Land Charges, or holding asset deeds.

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TMP 4 APPROVED INSTRUMENTS, METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

4.1 Approved Activities of the Treasury Management Operation

- borrowing
- lending
- debt repayment and rescheduling
- consideration, approval and use of new financial instruments and treasury management techniques
- managing the underlying risk associated with the Council's capital financing and surplus funds activities
- managing cash flow
- banking activities
- the use of external fund managers (other than Pension Fund)
- leasing

4.2 Approved Instruments for Investments

Refer to the Treasury Management Strategy.

4.3 Approved Techniques

- Forward dealing
- The use of structured products such as callable deposits

4.4 Approved Methods and Sources of Raising Capital Finance

Finance will only be raised in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003 and within this limit the Council has a number of approved methods and sources of raising capital finance. These are:

On Balance Sheet	Fixed	Variable
PWLB	●	●
Market (long-term)	●	●
Market (temporary)	●	●
Market (LOBOs)	●	●
Local temporary	●	●
Local Bonds	●	
Overdraft		●
Internal (capital receipts & revenue balances)	●	●
Leasing	●	●
Deferred Purchase	●	●

Other Methods of Financing

- Government and EC Capital Grants
- Lottery monies
- PFI/PPP

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Borrowing will only be done in Sterling. All forms of funding will be considered dependent on the prevailing economic climate, regulations and local considerations. The responsible officer has delegated powers in accordance with Financial Regulations, Standing Orders, the Scheme of Delegation to Officers Policy and the Treasury Management Strategy to take the most appropriate form of borrowing from the approved sources.

4.5 Investment Limits

The Treasury Management Strategy Statement sets out the limits and the guidelines for use of each type of investment instrument.

4.6 Borrowing Limits

See the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Prudential and Treasury Indicators.

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TMP 5 Organisation, Clarity and Segregation of Responsibilities, and Dealing Arrangements

5.1 Allocation of responsibilities

(i) Full Council

- receiving and reviewing reports on treasury management policies, practices and activities
- approval of annual treasury management strategy
- approval of capital strategy and capital programme
- approval of annual revenue budget

(ii) Cabinet

- recommendation of amendments to the organisation's adopted clauses, treasury management policy statement and treasury management practices
- budget consideration and recommendations
- approval of the division of responsibilities
- receiving and reviewing regular monitoring reports and acting on recommendations
- approving the selection of external service providers and agreeing terms of appointment
- reviewing the treasury management policy and procedures

5.2 Principles and Practices Concerning Segregation of Duties

5.2.1 The following duties must be undertaken by separate officers: -

Dealing	Negotiation and approval of deal. Receipt and checking of brokers confirmation note against loans diary. Reconciliation of cash control account. Bank reconciliation
Accounting Entry	Production of transfer note. Processing of accounting entry
Authorisation/Payment of Deal	Entry onto system. Approval and payment.

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5.3 Treasury Management Organisation Chart

Director of Resources

|

Head of Financial Services

|

Finance Officer
(Exchequer Services)

5.4 Statement of the treasury management duties/responsibilities of each treasury post

5.4.1. The responsible officer

The responsible officer is the person charged with professional responsibility for the treasury management function and in this Council is the Director of Resources (This post is also the S151 officer.) This officer will carry out the following duties: -

- a) recommending clauses, treasury management policy/practices for approval, reviewing the same regularly, and monitoring compliance
- b) submitting regular treasury management policy reports
- c) submitting budgets and budget variations
- d) receiving and reviewing management information reports
- e) reviewing the performance of the treasury management function
- f) ensuring the adequacy of treasury management resources and skills, and the effective division of responsibilities within the treasury management function
- g) ensuring the adequacy of internal audit, and liaising with external audit
- h) recommending the appointment of external service providers.
- i) The responsible officer has delegated powers through this policy to take the most appropriate form of borrowing from the approved sources, and to make the most appropriate form of investments in approved instruments.
- j) The responsible officer may delegate his power to borrow and invest to members of his staff, principally the Head of Financial Services, to act as temporary cover for leave/sickness. All transactions must be authorised by at least two of the bank signatories as approved in the Treasury Management Strategy Appendix 5.6.
- k) The responsible officer will ensure that Treasury Management Policy is adhered to, and if not will bring the matter to the attention of elected members as soon as possible.
- l) Prior to entering into any capital financing, lending or investment transaction, it is the responsibility of the responsible officer to be satisfied, by reference to the Council's legal department and external advisors as appropriate, that the proposed transaction does not breach any statute, external regulation or the Council's Financial Regulations
- m) It is also the responsibility of the responsible officer to ensure that the Council complies with the requirements of The Non Investment Products Code (formerly known as The London Code of Conduct) for principals and broking firms in the wholesale markets.

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5.4.2. Head of Financial Services (Deputy S151 officer)

The responsibilities of this post will be: -

- a) duties as delegated by the responsible officer in accordance with 5.4.1 (j)
- b) execution of transactions in accordance with good governance arrangements and adequate segregation – (second signatory)
- c) oversight and review of forecast cash balances to inform treasury management decision making.

5.4.3. Finance Officer (Exchequer Services)

The responsibilities of this post will be: -

- a) execution of transactions
- b) adherence to agreed policies and practices on a day-to-day basis
- c) maintaining relationships with counterparties and external service providers
- d) supervising treasury management staff
- e) monitoring performance on a day-to-day basis
- f) submitting management information reports to the responsible officer
- g) identifying and recommending opportunities for improved practices

5.4.4. The Head of the Paid Service – the Chief Executive

The responsibilities of this post will be: -

- a) Ensuring that the system is specified and implemented
- b) Ensuring that the responsible officer reports regularly to Full Council and Cabinet on treasury policy, activity and performance.

5.4.5. The Monitoring Officer

The responsibilities of this post will be: -

- a) Ensuring compliance by the responsible officer with the treasury management policy statement and treasury management practices and that they comply with the law.
- b) Being satisfied that any proposal to vary treasury policy or practice complies with law or any code of practice.
- c) Giving advice to the responsible officer when advice is sought.

5.4.6. Internal Audit

The responsibilities of Internal Audit will be: -

- a) Reviewing compliance with approved policy and treasury management practices.
- b) Reviewing division of duties and operational practice.
- c) Assessing value for money from treasury activities.
- d) Undertaking probity audit of treasury function.

5.5 Absence Cover Arrangements

The Head of Financial Services is also the deputy S151 Officer. The Head of Financial Services will also ensure that cover is available for the Finance Officer (Exchequer Services) and other treasury management officers as necessary.

If and when this organisation intends, as a result of lack of resources or other circumstances, to depart from these principles, the responsible officer will ensure that the reasons are properly reported in accordance with TMP6 Reporting requirements

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and management information arrangements and the implications properly considered and evaluated.

5.6 Dealing Limits

The following posts are authorised to deal:

- The Director of Resources: limited to investments and loans of £5m per transaction. Amounts in excess of this limit should be by Scheme of Delegation.

5.7 Policy on Brokers' Services

It is this Council's policy to rotate business between brokers.

5.8 Policy on Taping of Conversations

It is not this Council's policy to tape brokers conversations.

5.9 Direct Dealing Practices

The Council will consider dealing direct with counterparties if it is appropriate and the Council believes that better terms will be available. At present, most deals are arranged by this method. There are certain types of accounts and facilities, however, where direct dealing is required, as follows;

- Business Reserve Accounts:
- Call Accounts:
- Money Market Funds.

5.10 Settlement Transmission Procedures

A formal letter signed by an agreed bank signatory setting out each transaction must be sent to the local authority's bankers where preliminary instructions have been given by telephone. For payments a transfer will be made through BACs or CHAPs to be completed by the appropriate bank deadlines in place that day.

5.11 Documentation Requirements

For each deal undertaken a record should be prepared giving details of dealer, amount, period, counterparty, interest rate, dealing date, payment date(s), broker.

5.12 Arrangements Concerning the Management of Third-Party Funds.

The Council does not currently manage any third-party funds. Trust funds are now held and administered by the Community Foundation for Lancashire.

5.13 Council Cheque and Bank Signatories

A list of the posts delegated with cheque and bank signatory authority are included within the appendices to the Treasury Management Strategy Statement.

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TMP 6 Reporting Requirements and Management Information Arrangements

6.1 Annual programme of reporting

- a) Annual reporting requirements before the start of the year: -
 - a. review of the organisation's approved clauses, treasury management policy statement and practices
 - b. strategy report on proposed treasury management activities for the year comprising of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement
 - c. capital strategy to give a longer term view of the capital programme and treasury management implications thereof beyond the three year time horizon for detailed planning
- b) Regular review by Cabinet within the Financial Monitoring Reports incorporating Mid-Year Review
- c) Annual review report after the end of the year within the out-turn Financial Monitoring Report.

6.2 Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS)

1. The Treasury Management Strategy Statement sets out the specific expected treasury activities for the forthcoming financial year. This strategy will be submitted to the Cabinet and then to the full Council for approval before the commencement of each financial year.
2. The formulation of the annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement involves determining the appropriate borrowing and investment decisions in the light of the anticipated movement in both fixed and shorter -term variable interest rates. For instance, this Council may decide to postpone borrowing if fixed interest rates are expected to fall, or borrow early if fixed interest rates are expected to rise.
3. The Treasury Management Strategy Statement is concerned with the following elements:
 - a) Prudential and Treasury Indicators
 - b) current Treasury portfolio position
 - c) borrowing requirement
 - d) prospects for interest rates
 - e) borrowing strategy
 - f) policy on borrowing in advance of need
 - g) debt rescheduling
 - h) investment strategy
 - i) creditworthiness policy
 - j) policy on the use of external service providers
 - k) any extraordinary treasury issue
 - l) the MRP/VRP strategy

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4. The Treasury Management Strategy Statement will establish the expected move in interest rates against alternatives (using all available information such as published interest rate forecasts where applicable), and highlight sensitivities to different scenarios.

6.3 The Annual Investment Strategy

Included within the Treasury Management Strategy Statement is the report on the Annual Investment Strategy which sets out the following: -

- a) The Council's risk appetite in respect of security, liquidity and optimum performance
- b) The definition of high credit quality to determine what are specified investments as distinct from non specified investments
- c) Which specified and non specified instruments the Council will use
- d) Whether they will be used by the in house team, external managers or both (if applicable)
- e) The Council's policy on the use of credit ratings and other credit risk analysis techniques to determine creditworthy counterparties for its approved lending list
- f) Which credit rating agencies the Council will use
- g) How the Council will deal with changes in ratings, rating watches and rating outlooks
- h) Limits for individual counterparties and group limits
- i) Country limits
- j) Levels of cash balances
- k) Interest rate outlook
- l) Budget for investment earnings
- m) Policy on the use of external service providers

6.4 The Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement

This statement will be submitted as one element of the Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement and will set out how the Council will make revenue provision for repayment of its borrowing using the four options for so doing.

6.5 Policy on Prudential and Treasury Indicators

1. The Council approves before the beginning of each financial year a number of treasury limits which are set through Prudential and Treasury Indicators.
2. The responsible officer is responsible for incorporating these limits into the Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement, and for ensuring compliance with the limits. Should it prove necessary to amend these limits, the responsible officer shall submit the changes for approval to the full Council

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6.6 Regular and midyear review

The Council will review its treasury management activities and strategy on at least a six monthly basis, though in practice as part of regular financial monitoring to Cabinet. This review will consider the following:

- a) activities undertaken
- b) variations (if any) from agreed policies/practices
- c) interim performance report
- d) regular monitoring
- e) monitoring of treasury management indicators for local authorities.

6.7 Management Information Reports, including a year-end performance report

Management information reports will be prepared for each Cabinet meeting, the final report going to the first available Cabinet after the year-end. These reports will contain the following information: -

- a) a summary of transactions executed (may want to add brokers used and fees paid) and their revenue (current effects);
- b) measurements of performance including effect on loan charges/investment income;
- c) degree of compliance with original strategy and practices and explanation of variances.
- d) any non compliance with Prudential limits or other treasury management limits.

6.8 Publication of Treasury Management Reports

Treasury Management information reports will be prepared for each Cabinet meeting and these are available as part of the agenda documents on the Council's website at www.rossendale.gov.uk .

The Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement and the Treasury Management Practices are reviewed at the Full Council meeting each February and are again available as part of the agenda documents on the Council's website at www.rossendale.gov.uk .

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TMP 7 BUDGETING, ACCOUNTING AND AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS

7.1 Statutory/Regulatory Requirements

The accounts are drawn up in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in Great Britain that is recognised by statute as representing proper accounting practices. The Council has also adopted in full the principles set out in CIPFA's 'Treasury Management in the Public Services - Code of Practice' (the 'CIPFA Code') 2021 edition, together with those of its specific recommendations that are relevant to this Council's treasury management activities.

7.2 Sample Budgets / Accounts / Prudential and Treasury Indicators

The Director of Resources will prepare at least a three year medium term financial plan with Prudential and Treasury Indicators for treasury management which will incorporate the budget for the forthcoming year and provisional estimates for the following two years. This will bring together all the costs involved in running the function, together with associated income. The Director of Resources will exercise effective controls over this budget and monitoring of performance against Prudential and Treasury Indicators, and will report upon and recommend any changes required in accordance with TMP6.

The matters to be included in the budget will at minimum be those required by statute or regulation, together with such information as will demonstrate compliance with TMP1 Risk management, TMP2 Performance measurement, and TMP4 Approved instruments, methods and techniques.

7.3 List of Information Requirements of External Auditors.

- Reconciliation of loans outstanding in the financial ledger to Treasury Management records
- Maturity analysis of loans outstanding
- Certificates for new long term loans taken out in the year
- Reconciliation of loan interest, discounts received and premiums paid to financial ledger by loan type
- Calculation of loans fund interest and debt management expenses
- Details of interest rates applied to internal investments
- Calculation of interest on working balances
- Interest accrual calculation
- Principal and interest charges reports from the ledgers
- Analysis of any deferred charges
- Calculation of loans fund creditors and debtors
- Annual Treasury Report
- Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Prudential and Treasury Indicators
- Review of observance of limits set by Prudential and Treasury Indicators
- Calculation of the Minimum Revenue Provision
- External fund manager(s) valuations including investment income schedules and movement in capital values (if applicable)

7.4 Monthly Budget Monitoring Report

Monthly Budget Monitoring reports are produced for the Director of Resources with quarterly reports to Cabinet. The report is intended to highlight any variances between budgets and spend in order that the Council can assess its financial position. Details of treasury management activities are included within the Cabinet report.

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TMP 8 Cash and Cash Flow Management

8.1 Arrangements for Preparing/Submitting Cash Flow Statements

Cash flow projections are prepared annually and updated monthly and daily. The annual and monthly cash flow projections are prepared according to known changes in levels of income and expenditure and also changes in payments and receipts dates. These details are supplemented on an ongoing basis by information received of new or revised amounts to be paid or received as and when they are known.

The responsible officer will ensure that these are adequate for the purposes of monitoring compliance with TMP1 - Liquidity risk management, and for the purpose of identifying future borrowing needs.

8.2 Bank Statements Procedures

The Council receives daily bank statements via a daily download of data from its bank. All amounts on the statement are checked to source data from Payroll, Creditors etc.

A formal bank reconciliation is undertaken on a monthly basis by the Finance Team.

8.3 Payment Scheduling and Agreed Terms of Trade with Creditors

Our policy is to pay all creditors as per the agreed terms of trading.

8.4 Arrangements for Monitoring Debtors / Creditors Levels

The Finance Manager is responsible for monitoring the levels of debtors and creditors.

8.5 Procedures for Banking of Funds

All money received by an officer on behalf of the Council will, without unreasonable delay, be passed to the Exchequer Team to deposit in the Council's banking accounts. Cash and cheques banked the previous day will be taken into account in the daily cash flow.

8.6 Practices Concerning Prepayments to Obtain Benefits

The Council has no formal arrangement in place. Where such opportunities arise, the prepayment would be sought and authorised by the Director of Resources.

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TMP 9 Money Laundering

9.1 Proceeds of Crime Act 2002

Money laundering has the objective of concealing the origin of money generated through criminal activity. Legislation has given a higher profile to the need to report suspicions of money laundering. The Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) 2002 established the main offences relating to money laundering. In summary, these are:

- concealing, disguising, converting, transferring or removing criminal property from England and Wales, from Scotland or from Northern Ireland
- being concerned in an arrangement which a person knows or suspects facilitates the acquisition, retention, use or control of criminal property
- acquiring, using or possessing criminal property.

These apply to all persons in the UK in a personal and professional capacity. Any person involved in any known or suspected money-laundering activity in the UK risks a criminal conviction. Other offences under the POCA include:

- failure to disclose money-laundering offences
- tipping off a suspect, either directly or indirectly
- doing something that might prejudice an investigation – for example, falsifying a document.

9.2 The Terrorism Act 2000

This act made it an offence of money laundering to become concerned in an arrangement relating to the retention or control of property likely to be used for the purposes of terrorism, or resulting from acts of terrorism. All individuals and businesses in the UK have an obligation to report knowledge, reasonable grounds for belief or suspicion about the proceeds from, or finance likely to be used for, terrorism or its laundering, where it relates to information that comes to them in the course of their business or employment.

9.3 The Money Laundering Regulations 2007, 2012 and 2015

Organisations pursuing relevant business (especially those in the financial services industry regulated by the FSA) are required to appoint a nominated officer and implement internal reporting procedures; train relevant staff in the subject; establish internal procedures with respect to money laundering; obtain, verify and maintain evidence and records of the identity of new clients and transactions undertaken and report their suspicions. In December 2007 the UK Government published the Money Laundering Regulations 2007, which replaced the Money Laundering Regulations 2003.

9.4 Local authorities

Public service organisations and their staff are subject to the full provisions of the Terrorism Act 2000 and subsequent Terrorism Acts and may commit most of the principal offences under the POCA, but are not legally obliged to apply the provisions of the Money Laundering Regulations 2007, 2012 and 2015. However, as responsible public bodies, they should employ policies and procedures which reflect the essence of the UK's anti-terrorist financing, and anti-money laundering, regimes.

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Accordingly this Council will do the following: -

- a) evaluate the prospect of laundered monies being handled by them
- b) determine the appropriate safeguards to be put in place
- c) require every person engaged in treasury management to make themselves aware of their personal and legal responsibilities for money laundering awareness
- d) make all its staff aware of their responsibilities under POCA
- e) appoint a member of staff to whom they can report any suspicions. This person is Director of Resources
- f) in order to ensure compliance is appropriately managed, this Council will require senior management to give appropriate oversight, analysis and assessment of the risks of clients and work/product types, systems for monitoring compliance with procedures and methods of communicating procedures and other information to personnel.
- g) The officer responsible for the creation and monitoring the implementation of a corporate anti money laundering policy and procedures is The Head of Legal and Democratic Services and it shall be a requirement that all services and departments implement this corporate policy and procedures.

9.5 Procedures for Establishing Identity / Authenticity of Lenders

It is not a requirement under POCA for local authorities to require identification from every person or organisation it deals with. However, in respect of treasury management transactions, there is a need for due diligence and this will be effected by following the procedures below.

The Council does not accept loans from individuals.

All loans are obtained from the PWLB, other local authorities or from authorised institutions under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. This register can be accessed through the FCA website on www.fca.gov.uk.

When repaying loans, the procedures in 9.6 will be followed to check the bank details of the recipient.

9.6 Methodologies for Identifying Deposit Takers

In the course of its treasury activities, the Council will only lend money to or invest with those counterparties that are on its approved lending list. These will be local authorities, the PWLB, Bank of England and authorised deposit takers under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. The FCA register can be accessed through their website on www.fca.gov.uk.

All transactions will be carried out by BACS or CHAPs for making deposits or repaying loans.

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TMP 10 Training and Qualifications

The Council recognises that relevant individuals will need appropriate levels of training in treasury management due to its increasing complexity. There are two categories of relevant individuals: -

- a) Treasury management staff employed by the Council
- b) Members charged with governance of the treasury management function

All treasury management staff should receive appropriate training relevant to the requirements of their duties at the appropriate time. The Council operates a Personal Development Review system which identifies the training requirements of individual members of staff engaged on treasury related activities.

Additionally, training may also be provided on the job and it will be the responsibility of the Director of Resources to ensure that all staff under his / her authority receive the level of training appropriate to their duties. This will also apply to those staff who from time to time cover for absences from the treasury management team.

10.1 Details of Approved Training Courses

Treasury management staff and members will go on courses provided by our treasury management consultants, CIPFA, money brokers etc.

10.2 Records of Training Received by Treasury Staff

The People and Policy department will maintain records on all staff and the training they receive.

10.3 Record of Secondment of Senior Management

Records will be kept of senior management who are seconded into the treasury management section in order to gain firsthand experience of treasury management operations.

10.4 Statement of Professional Practice (SOPP)

1. Where the Chief Financial Officer is a member of CIPFA, there is a professional need for the CFO to be seen to be committed to professional responsibilities through both personal compliance and by ensuring that relevant staff are appropriately trained.
2. All staff involved in treasury management activities must also comply with the SOPP.

10.6 Member training records

Records will be kept of all training in treasury management provided to members.

10.7 Members charged with governance

Members charged with diligence also have a personal responsibility to ensure that they have the appropriate skills and training for their role.

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TMP 11 Use of External Service Providers

11.1 Details of Contracts with Service Providers, Including Bankers, Brokers, Consultants, Advisers

This Council will employ the services of other organisations to assist it in the field of treasury management. In particular, it will use external consultants to provide specialist advice in this ever more complex area. However, it will ensure that it fully understands what services are being provided and that they meet the needs of this organisation, especially in terms of being objective and free from conflicts of interest.

It will also ensure that the skills of the in house treasury management team are maintained to a high enough level whereby they can provide appropriate challenge to external advice and can avoid undue reliance on such advice.

Treasury management staff and their senior management will therefore be required to allocate appropriate levels of time to using the following sources of information so that they are able to develop suitable levels of understanding to carry out their duties, especially in challenge and avoiding undue reliance.

- The quality financial press
- Market data
- Information on government support for banks and
- The credit ratings of that government support

11.1.1 Banking Services

- a) Name of supplier of service is the NatWest Bank.
- b) Regulatory status – banking institution authorised to undertake banking activities by the FSA
- c) The branch address is:
28 Bank Street
Rawtenstall
Rossendale
Lancashire
BB4 8TS
Tel :- 0151 802 9354 (Business Banking) or
0845 302 1511 (Branch Banking)
- d) Contract commenced 1992
- e) Cost of service is variable depending on a schedule of tariffs set annually applied to volumes of transactions
- f) Payments are due monthly and quarterly

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11.1.2 Money-Broking Services

The Council may use money brokers for temporary borrowing and investment and long term borrowing. It will seek to give an even spread of business amongst the approved brokers.

11.1.3 Consultants'/Advisers' Services

Treasury Consultancy Services

The Council will seek to take expert advice on interest rate forecasts, annual treasury management strategy, timing for borrowing and lending, debt rescheduling, use of various borrowing and investment instruments, how to select credit worthy counterparties to put on its approved lending list etc.

The performance of consultants will be reviewed annually by the Director of Resources to check whether performance has met expectations.

- a) Name of supplier of service is Link Treasury Solutions. Their address is 65 Gresham Street, London, EC2V 7NQ
- b) Regulatory status: investment adviser authorised by the FCA
- c) Cost of service in 2024/25 was £8,400.
- d) Payments are due bi-annually in April and October

11.1.4 Procedures and Frequency for Tendering Services

As per the Council's contract procedure rules.

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TMP 12 Corporate Governance

12.1.1 List of documents to be made available for public inspection

- a. The Council is committed to the principle of openness and transparency in its treasury management function and in all of its functions.
- b. It has adopted the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury management and implemented key recommendations on developing Treasury Management Practices, formulating a Treasury Management Policy Statement and implementing the other principles of the Code.
- c. The following documents are available for public inspection: -

Treasury Management Strategy Statement

including the Annual Investment Strategy

Treasury Management Policy Statement

Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement

Treasury Management monitoring reports produced as part of the Council's regular financial monitoring reports to Cabinet.

Annual Statement of Accounts

Annual Revenue Budget and MTFS

Capital Strategy and 5 Year Capital Programme

Minutes of Council / Cabinet / committee meetings

Third party expenditure via quarterly corporate spend analysis published on the website to comply with the coalition government's transparency agenda.

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IMP Investment Management Practices for Investments that are not part of Treasury Management activity

This Council recognises that investments taken for non-treasury management purposes require careful investment management. Such investments include loans supporting service outcomes, investments in subsidiaries, or investment property portfolios.

The Council's annual treasury management strategy, Capital Strategy, Investment Strategy and similar documents will cover all the organisation's investments, and will set out, where relevant, specific policies and arrangements for non-treasury investments.

This schedule will include a summary of existing material investments, subsidiaries, joint ventures and liabilities including financial guarantees and contingent liabilities and the authority's risk exposure. It will be recognised that the risk appetite for these activities may differ from that for treasury management and this is contained within the Council's approved Capital Strategy.

CIPFA recommends separate Investment Management Practices (IMPs) for non-treasury activities and acknowledges reference to TMPs 1, 2, 5, 6, and 10 for the management of **Risk, Performance, Governance, Reporting** and **Training**, respectively.

Information suggested for non-treasury investments:

1.1 Risk management

The cross-sectoral guidance recognises the categories of investments as follows:

- For treasury management purposes
- For service delivery purposes
- For commercial purposes, including non-financial assets held primarily for financial return, such as commercial properties.

Organisations are required to establish investment management practices for their non-treasury management investments, similar to their treasury management practices. The IMP recommends a schedule for each such investment portfolio, setting out the investment objectives, investment criteria, risk management arrangements, decision-making and reporting arrangements, performance measurement and management, and arrangements for training and qualifications.

The basic principle is that the TM Code covers all investments, and the organisation should ensure that it has due diligence, investment management and risk management arrangements in place and monitored actively for its service and commercial investment portfolios, as well as for its treasury management investments.

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Report to:	Council	Date:	5 th March 2025
Report of:	Director of Resources	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
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required: No	Attached:	No
Contact Officer:	Ian Walker	Telephone:	01706 252592
Email:	ianwalker@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 1.1 That Full Council approve the Rossendale Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2025/26 as set out in this report.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Local Council Tax Support Scheme is subject to annual approval, by full Council.
- The Local Government Finance Bill states that an Authority must make any revision to its scheme, or any replacement scheme, no later than 11th March in the financial year preceding that for which the revision or replacement scheme is to have effect.
- If Rossendale did not pass a local scheme by the 11th March, then a default scheme would come into force, this would result in up to 100% relief for all working age customers, rather than the current 80%, the additional relief would have to be funded by Rossendale.
- Therefore it is proposed that the existing scheme of Council Tax Support be retained unchanged, except for
 - Upgrades to benefit entitlements, and
 - Prescribed changes introduced by Government in The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2025
- Adoption of the scheme by full Council before 11th March will meet the Councils statutory duty.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The national Council Tax Benefit scheme ended in March 2013 and was replaced by local schemes of Council Tax Support from the 1st April 2013. Individual authorities were granted the freedom to design and implement their own local schemes, with the exception that any local scheme could not leave any pension age claimants worse off than under the previous national benefit regulations.

The effect of these changes was a reduction in funding by approximately 20% for working age claimants and after consultation Rossendale adopted a local scheme, based on the previous Council Tax Benefit regulations, but with a 20% reduction in entitlement for working age customers.

The decision to continue with a Council Tax Support scheme based on the Housing Benefit / Council Tax Benefit regulations ensures that in practice the scheme remains effectively a means tested benefit.

- 3.2 The rollout of DWP’s Universal Credit in Rossendale began on the 21st November 2018. In April 2024 the DWP announced a significant scaling up of the UC managed migration programme. Around 38% of the current Council Tax Support Claimants are pensioner households. Government has given an indication that pensioner households will be moved from legacy benefits, but no firm timetable is yet in place. The other 62% who are not pensioner households will almost all eventually transfer over to Universal Credit. A small number of working age claimants who live in temporary or supported accommodation will also remain within the scope of Housing Benefit.
- 3.3 As Housing benefit is reduced, the case for a Council Tax support scheme based on Housing Benefit becomes less clear.

A number of authorities have begun to move away from Housing Benefit linked systems, although these remain in the minority nationally (around 20% of authorities). Any new scheme would need to be effective in both supporting vulnerable customers and protecting the council’s financial position. A significant amount of resource would be required to be able to model and create a new Rossendale scheme. It is not clear that there is any conclusive case for such a change at the present time, particularly if the end result was to maintain similar levels of support for customers as exist under the current system.

4. DETAILS

- 4.1 The number of Council Tax Support claims changes daily, a snapshot taken of the January caseload is detailed below. There were 32,868 domestic properties in Rossendale. Of these 523 were exempt from Council Tax, 1146 2nd homes and 957 classed as vacant. This leaves 31,242 occupied and with a liability to pay Council Tax. 15% of these properties have residents with an entitlement to Council Tax Support.

Council Tax Support Caseload	2nd Adult Rebate Claims	2nd Adult Rebate (UC) Claims	Council Tax Support	Council Support (Universal Credit)	Total Claims (Pensioner, Working Age, Working Age Other)	Total Claims (Pensioner, All Working Age)
Pensioner Claims	11	0	1847	0	1858	1858
Working Age (employed) claims	1	0	27	214	242	2833
Working Age (other) claims	11	1	738	1841	2591	
Total Claims By Type (2AR, CTS, CTS UC)	23	1	2612	2055	4691	4691

Council Tax Support caseload has been consistently falling for a number of years. In the last 5 years caseload has fallen by 851.

The cost of claims for 2024/25 is detailed in the table below. As at the 1st January 2025, total Council Tax Support for 2024/25 was £4,882,658.84. The Council Tax Support scheme results in a loss of income from Council Tax collection. This year’s the Rossendale share is 13.35% which equates to £651,990.72. There is no specific grant which covers Council Tax Support, which had been the case under the former Council Tax Benefit arrangements. The costs are therefore borne locally.

This snapshot shows that local costs have fallen by a little under £30k (652k as against £681k last year). It should be stressed that these are snapshot figures that can change with new claims or claims closed each day.

	Total Claims (Pensioner, Working Age, Working Age Other)	Total Claims (Pensioner, All Working Age)	Total Claims (All CTS)	Rossendale Council Share (13.35%)
Pensioner Claims	£2,196,431.00	£2,196,431.00	£4,882,658.84	£651,990.72
Working Age (employed) claims	£114,097.60	£2,686,227.84		
Working Age (other) claims	£2,572,130.24			

4.2 There are no locally determined changes to the Rossendale scheme proposed for the current year. Nationally inflationary uprating to benefit entitlement levels and thresholds will be applied to the local scheme

4.3 Government has prescribed a changes to be included within local schemes to reflect changes already applicable to the wider benefits system:

- Amending the definition of “pensioner” so that that people migrating from Working Tax Credit to Universal Credit (a mainly working age scheme) do not lose their entitlement to pension age support from 2025-26 onwards

- Adding a new disregard so that payments from the Victims of Overseas Terrorism Compensation Scheme received by non-dependants of a pension age LCTS applicant do not affect entitlement

- Removing the two-child limit when considering the LCTS entitlement of pension age parents.

The prescribed changes also include uprating of various allowances, premiums and thresholds the Consumer Prices Index inflation rate (1.7%)

All these changes are statutory and do not reflect a change in local policy.

5. RISK

The Local Government Finance Bill states that an Authority must make any revision to its scheme, or any replacement scheme, no later than 11th March in the financial year preceding that for which the revision or replacement scheme is to have effect.

If Rossendale did not pass a local scheme by the 11th March, then a default scheme would come into force, this would result in up to 100% relief for all working age customers, rather than the current 80%. The additional relief would have to be funded by Rossendale.

6. FINANCE

The current forecast assumes the continuation of the existing LCTS scheme, which is based on the 20% reduction in support levels. As such, maintaining the existing scheme will have no impact on the Council’s financial forecast.

7. LEGAL

Under the Local Government Finance Act 2012, it is the duty of the Council to have localised Council Tax Support, in the form of a council tax reduction, each year.

8. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

Consultation has been undertaken with Management Team and the Lead Member. There has been no significant policy or equality changes to the scheme.

9. REASON FOR DECISION

Councils are required to set a Council Tax Support scheme annually, before the 11th March on the charge year, in this case 2025/26.

No conclusive case for significant amendment to the scheme has been identified at this time.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Council Tax Support Scheme 2024/25	https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/downloads/file/18398/council-tax-support-scheme-2024-25
Prescribed changes to the scheme	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2025/39/contents/made

Subject:	Council Pay Policy Statement	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Full Council	Date:	5 th March 2025
Report of:	Head of People and Policy	Portfolio Holder:	Corporate Services
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:	Clare Law	Telephone:	01706 252547
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1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 Full Council approves the attached Pay Policy Statement.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1
- The Pay Policy Statement is a 'snap shot' in time' as at 1st February 2025
 - The Pay Policy Statement includes the dis-establishment of the Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Communities, and establishment of the Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer).
 - The Council is a Foundation Living Wage Employer, the Foundation Living Wage is currently £12.00 per hour.
 - The pay multiple between the Chief Executive's pay and the lowest paid employee is 1 to 5.0 which falls within this recommended range of the Hutton report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Localism Act 2011 (Chapter 8 – Pay Accountability), requires all local authorities to set out its position on a range of issues relating to the remuneration of its employees.
- 3.2 The Pay Policy Statement must be approved by the Council in an open forum and published on its website by the end of March on an annual basis.

4 DETAILS

- 4.1 The Pay Policy Statement is a reflection of the Council's pay policy at the time it is approved, as 'a snap shot in time', that is, as at 1st February 2025.
- 4.2 The Pay Policy Statement sets out the existing approach to the remuneration of all posts within the Council. In particular it specifies certain mandatory requirements that must be detailed within the Statement, this refers to:
- The pay structure of the Council and how it is set;
 - Senior Management Remuneration, providing details of the pay grade for posts defined as Chief Officer and the accompanying allowances;
 - The recruitment arrangements for a Chief Officer;
 - The relationship between the salaries of Chief Officers and other employees;
 - Details of the lowest paid posts within the Council;
 - Employer's Pension Contribution details;
 - Termination of employment payments.
- 4.3 The Localism Act refers to the position of Chief Officer, which is defined as:

Head of Paid Service designated under Section 4 (1) of the Local Government and Housing Act (LGHA) 1989.

Monitoring Officer designated under section 5 (1) of the LGHA 1989

Statutory Chief Officer mentioned in section 2 (6) of the LGHA 1989

Non statutory Chief Officers section 2 (7) of the LGHA 1989

A Deputy Chief Officer mentioned in Section 2 (8) of the LGHA 1989.

4.4 Within the Council structure this includes the following posts which are accountable to the Chief Executive:

- Director of Economic Development
- Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer)
- Head of Environmental Services
- Head of Legal Services
- Head of People and Policy

There are a further series of posts which fall within the definition of Chief Officer referred to in the Localism Act, by virtue of being required to deputise for Chief Officers. These have not been specifically listed.

4.5 The Council adopted the Living Wage on 1st April 2013 and became a Foundation Living Wage Employer, the Foundation Living Wage is currently £12.00 per hour.

5. RISK

5.1 There are no specific risk issues for members to consider arising from this report.

6. FINANCE

6.1 The pay and remuneration detailed within the Pay Policy Statement are within the approved budget of the Council.

7. LEGAL

7.1 All relevant comments are covered within the body of the report.

8. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The Policies detailed within the Pay Policy Statement have been approved through Council Procedures and in consultation with the Council's recognised Trade Union.

8.2 The job evaluation scheme used to establish the Council's pay and grading structure has been agreed with the Council's recognised Trade Unions.

8.3 Guidance from North West Employers Organisation (NWEO) and Local Government Association has been used to develop this policy.

9. CONCLUSION

9.1 The Pay Policy Statement details the existing contractual entitlements as per current contracts of employment of senior staff with the Council.

9.2 An equality impact assessment was completed in relation to the pay and grading structure following the implementation of the Pay and Grading Review in 2007.

9.3 The Pay Policy Statement meets the legal requirements as per the Localism Act 2011.

Background Papers

Document	Place of Inspection
Pay Policy Statement	Appendix 1



Pay Policy Statement

As at 1st February 2025

1. Purpose of the Policy

Under section 112 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the “power to appoint officers on such reasonable terms and conditions as the authority thinks fit”. This Pay Policy sets out the Council’s approach to pay in accordance with the requirements of Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011.

The purpose of the statement is to provide transparency with regard to the Council’s approach to setting the pay of its employees by identifying;

- The methods by which salaries of all employees are determined
- The details of the remuneration of its most senior employees, i.e. Chief Officers
- The relationship between the salary of its Chief Officers and other employees

2. Other legislation relevant to pay and remuneration

In determining the pay and remuneration of its employees the Council will comply with all relevant employment legislation. This includes legislation such as the Equality Act 2010, the Part-time Employment (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2000 and where relevant, the Collective Redundancies and Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (Amendment) Regulations 2014. The Council ensures that there is no pay discrimination within its pay structures and that pay differentials can be objectively justified through the use of job evaluation mechanisms, which directly establish the relative level of posts in grades according to the requirements, demands and responsibilities of the role.

The Council operates the GLPC (Greater London Provincial Council) Scheme for all posts up to and including spinal column point 49. All posts above spinal column point 49 have been job evaluated using HAY, which includes comparative benchmarking data from other local authorities. An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken in relation to the Council’s grading structure.

3. Pay Structure

The Council complies with the nationally negotiated spinal column points for all posts up to and including spinal column point 43, which is detailed at Appendix A. Posts above spinal column point 43 are detailed at Appendix B.

The salary increase for all posts within the Council is set nationally, through collective bargaining between the National Employers and Trade Unions. The pay and grading structure was established as part of the Pay Policy 2007. This Policy was approved by the Council in 2007 and addressed the Council’s approach to the job evaluation of posts and the harmonisation of key terms and conditions of employment. Since 2007, all newly created posts and posts that have varied are subject to evaluation against the Job Evaluation Scheme.

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Where evidence exists of recruitment and retention issues it may be necessary to make additional temporary payments via a Market Supplement to take account of external pay levels in the labour market in order to attract and retain employees with particular skills, knowledge and experience. In such instances the Council will use evidence of relevant market comparators, using data sources available from within the local government sector and outside, as appropriate.

4. Definitions

The Localism Act refers to the position of Chief Officer, which is defined as:

- Head of Paid Service designated under Section 4 (1) of the Local Government and Housing Act (LGHA) 1989.
- Monitoring Officer designated under section 5 (1) of the LGHA 1989
- Statutory Chief Officer mentioned in section 2 (6) of the LGHA 1989
- Non statutory Chief Officers section 2 (7) of the LGHA 1989
- A Deputy Chief Officer mentioned in Section 2 (8) of the LGHA 1989

With effect from 2nd September 2024 the roles of Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Communities were disestablished and the role of Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer) was established. The revised Council structure includes the following posts which are accountable to the Chief Executive:

- Director of Economic Development
- Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer)
- Head of Environmental Services
- Head of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)
- Head of People and Policy

There are a further series of posts which fall within the definition of Chief Officer referred to in the Localism Act, by virtue of being required to deputise for Chief Officers. These have not been specifically listed.

Remuneration is defined as the pay an individual receives.

5. Chief Executive Remuneration

Spinal Point	Salary
Chief Executive	115,826.00

Additional Allowances;

No Essential car user allowance lump sum is paid to the Chief Executive (Head of Paid Services).

Returning Officer Fees – This is based upon a fee calculated periodically by the Cabinet Office, with the fee being based on a sum of money multiplied per every 10,000 of electorate. The Council appointed the new Chief Executive as the Returning Officer as part of the appointment process in April 2023.

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The Council pays the fees for the local election and the fees for other elections, such as Parliamentary and County Council, are paid for externally.

Unlike other Local Authorities, Rossendale Borough Council does not offer lease car or telephone allowance schemes.

The Chief Executive is required to respond to Out of Hours Emergencies, attend evening meetings and out of hour's weekend events for which no payment or time is recoverable.

The other terms and conditions of service relating to this post are in accordance with the Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Executives of Local Authorities.

Any other allowances relating to the post are the same as for all other posts within the Council, for example, reimbursement of fuel expenditure from business travel and professional fees.

6. Director Remuneration

There are two posts of Director reporting to the Chief Executive:

Director of Economic Development
Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer)

	Spinal Point	Salary
Director of Economic Development	Grade 16 (65-69)	£80,796 to £88,670
Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer)	Grade 16 (65-69)	£80,796 to £88,670

Additional Allowances:

No essential car user allowance lump sum is paid to the Directors.

Progression through the grade occurs through the payment of an additional annual increment on 1st April, each year.

The other terms and conditions of service relating to these posts are in accordance with the JNC Terms and Conditions for Chief Officers of Local Authorities.

Any other allowances relating to the posts are the same as for all other posts within the Council, for example, reimbursement of fuel expenditure from business travel.

Unlike other Local Authorities, Rossendale Borough Council does not offer lease car or telephone allowance schemes.

The Directors are required to respond to out of hours' emergencies, attend evening meetings and out of hour's weekend events for which no time off in lieu or payment is made.

7. Statutory Chief Officer and Non Statutory Chief Officer Remuneration

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There are three Statutory Chief Officer and Non Statutory Chief Officer posts reporting to the Chief Executive:

Head of Environmental Services
 Head of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)
 Head of People and Policy

Salary range:

	Spinal Point	Salary
Head of Environmental Services	Grade 11 (48-51)	£57,050 to £60,937
Head of Legal Services	Grade 10 (44-48)	£52,802 to £57,050
Head of People and Policy	Grade 10 (44-48)	£52,802 to £57,050

Additional Allowances:

Progression through the grade occurs through the payment of an additional annual increment on 1st April, each year.

The other terms and conditions of service relating to the Head of Finance are in accordance with the JNC for Chief Officers of Local Authorities.

The other terms and conditions of service relating to the Head of Environmental Services, Head of Legal Services and Head of People and Policy are in accordance with NJC for Local Government Services National Agreement on Pay and Conditions of Service.

Any other allowances relating to the posts are the same as for all other posts within the Council, for example, reimbursement of fuel expenditure from business travel.

The Head of Environmental Services, Head of Legal Services and Head of People and Policy post holders, are required to respond to out of hours’ emergencies, attend evening meetings and weekend events for which no pay or time off in lieu is recoverable.

8. Recruitment of Chief Executive and Chief Officers

Under Section 112 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the “power to appoint officers on such reasonable terms and conditions as the authority thinks fit”.

Where there is a requirement to recruit to the post of Chief Executive or Chief Officer, the Council’s Constitution, Part 4, Section 10, Employment Procedure Rules Apply.

9. Salary upon Appointment

Under normal circumstances, all new appointments to a post of Chief Executive or Chief Officer will be made at the bottom spinal column point of the grade, unless there are objective reasons for not doing so. Any appointment above the bottom spinal column point will require the approval of the Appointment Panel.

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10. Performance-related Pay

The Localism Act requires Councils to provide details of any performance related pay for its Chief Officers; however, Rossendale Council does not have any such arrangements.

11. Relationship between Chief Executive/Chief Officer Pay and other Employees

The following information is provided to assist with understanding the ratio calculation:

- Chief Executive Salary mid-point = £115,826(spot salary)
- Chief Officer Median salary = £73,879 (the median point of SCP 55-69)
- Council Median salary = £29,093 (The median SCP point of all employees in RBC)
- Council Lowest salary = £23,151 (Foundation Living Wage)

Pay Ratio

Post	Benchmark Salary	Ratio
Chief Executive salary	Chief Officer Median salary	1: 1.6
Chief Officer salary (mid – point)	Council Median salary	1: 2.5
Chief Executive salary	Lowest salary	1: 5.0
Chief Officer salary (mid - point)	Lowest salary	1: 3.2

The Hutton report, entitled Fair Pay in the Public Sector, contained a recommendation that the Chief Executive's salary should not exceed 20 times that of the lowest pay in the organisation. At Rossendale Borough Council, the pay multiple between the Chief Executive's pay and the lowest paid employee is 1 to 5.0 which falls within this recommended range.

12. Lowest Paid Employees

The lowest grade on the pay structure is Grade 1 (SCP 2-3) £23,666 to £24,027. Grade 1, SCP 1 was deleted from the grading structure as per the NJC Pay Agreement April 2022. The Council became a Foundation Living Wage employer on 1st April 2013, and adopts a minimum hourly pay rate of £12.00 per hour, this will rise to £12.60 per hour at 1st April 2024.

The lowest paid group of employees are the cleaners appointed on the Foundation Living Wage.

13. Termination Payments

The Council's Redundancy Policy applies equally to all employees regardless of their grade. A redundancy payment will be paid to an employee when their post is made redundant and there are no suitable redeployment opportunities.

The Council does not have any policy which allows for early retirement or which allows for any increase or any enhancing of an employee's pensionable service.

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14. Employer Pension Contribution

The Council contributes to the Local Government Pension Scheme in 2024/25 for all its employees who are members equally at the rate of 14.6% of an employee's salary. This rate of contribution is set by Actuaries advising the Lancashire Pension Fund and is reviewed on a triennial basis.

15. Employee Pension Contribution

Employees in the Local Government Pension Scheme will pay the following annual contributions as at 1st April 2024, based upon their pensionable pay:

Full-time salary	Contribution rate
Up to £17,600	5.5%
£17,601 - £27,600	5.8%
£27,601 - £44,900	6.5%
£44,901 - £56,800	6.8%
£56,801 - £79,700	8.5%
£79,701 - £112,900	9.90%
£112,901 - £133,100	10.5%
£133,101 - £199,700	11.4%
£199,701 & above	12.5%

16. Engagement of Former Chief Officers in receipt of Pensions

The Council does not have a policy which prevents former Council employees including Chief Officers from applying for and being successfully appointed to any Council job or returning under a contract for service, because they are in receipt of a Public Sector or Local Government Pension. Normal recruitment and selection processes would apply in line with the Council's Equalities Policy or normal procurement rules would apply.

17. Publication of the Policy

The Policy will be published on the Council's Website.

In addition, for posts where the fulltime equivalent salary is at least £50,000, the Council's Annual Statement of Account will include a note setting out the total amount of:

- salary, fees or allowances paid to or receivable by the person in the current and previous year;
- any bonuses so paid or receivable by the person in the current and previous year;
- any sums payable by way of expenses allowance that are chargeable to UK income tax;
- any compensation for loss of employment and any other payments connected with termination of employment
- any benefits received that do not fall within the above.

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The information set out within this Policy complements the data the Council is required to publish separately under the Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency and by the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011.

18. Review of Pay Policy

The Policy will be subject to annual review and must be approved by the Council prior to 31st March each year. If there is a need to amend the Policy between reviews, then any such amendments will be considered by the Cabinet, prior to approval by the Council.

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Appendix A

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL – PAY AND GRADES AT SCP 43 AND BELOW

	SCP	Per Annum	Monthly	Hourly
	FLW	23,151	1,929	12.00
Grade 1	1	Deleted	1.4.23	as per NJC
	2	23,656	1,971	12.26
	3	24,027	2,002	12.45
Grade 2	4	24,404	2,034	12.65
	5	24,790	2,066	12.85
	6	25,183	2,099	13.05
Grade 3	6	25,183	2,099	13.05
	7	25,584	2,132	13.26
	8	25,992	2,166	13.47
	9	26,409	2,201	13.69
	10	26,835	2,236	13.91
	11	27,269	2,272	14.13
Grade 4	11	27,269	2,272	14.13
	12	27,711	2,309	14.36
	13	28,163	2,347	14.60
	14	28,624	2,385	14.84
	15	29,093	2,424	15.08
Grade 5	15	29,093	2,424	15.08
	16	29,572	2,464	15.33
	17	30,060	2,505	15.58
	18	30,559	2,547	15.84
	19	31,067	2,589	16.10
	20	31,586	2,632	16.37
Grade 6	21	32,115	2,676	16.65
	22	32,654	2,721	16.93
	23	33,366	2,781	17.29
	24	34,314	2,860	17.79
	25	35,235	2,936	18.26
	26	36,124	3,010	18.72
Grade 7	26	36,124	3,010	18.72
	27	37,035	3,086	19.20
	28	37,938	3,162	19.66
	29	38,626	3,219	20.02
	30	39,513	3,293	20.48
	31	40,476	3,373	20.98
	32	41,511	3,459	21.52
Grade 8	33	42,708	3,559	22.14
	34	43,693	3,641	22.65
	35	44,711	3,726	23.17
	36	45,718	3,810	23.70
	37	46,731	3,894	24.22
	38	47,754	3,980	24.75
Grade 9	39	48,710	4,059	25.25
	40	49,764	4,147	25.79
	41	50,788	4,232	26.32
	42	51,802	4,317	26.85
<i>Top NJC Grade</i>	43	52,805	4,400	27.37

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Appendix B

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL – PAY AND GRADES ABOVE SCP 43

	SCP	Per Annum	Monthly	Hourly
Grade 10	44	52,802	4,400	27.37
	45	53,857	4,488	27.92
	46	54,926	4,577	28.47
	47	55,991	4,666	29.02
	48	57,050	4,754	29.57
Grade 11	48	57,050	4,754	29.57
	49	58,193	4,849	30.16
	50	59,579	4,965	30.88
	51	60,937	5,078	31.59
Grade 12	49	58,193	4,849	30.16
	50	59,579	4,965	30.88
	51	60,937	5,078	31.59
	52	62,302	5,192	32.29
	53	63,699	5,308	33.02
Grade 13	51	60,937	5,078	31.59
	52	62,302	5,192	32.29
	53	63,699	5,308	33.02
	54	65,139	5,428	33.76
CO Grade 14	55	64,923	5,410	33.65
	56	66,375	5,531	34.40
	57	67,834	5,653	35.16
	58	69,296	5,775	35.92
	59	70,756	5,896	36.67
	60	72,202	6,017	37.42
CO Grade 15	60	72,202	6,017	37.42
	61	73,879	6,157	38.29
	62	75,554	6,296	39.16
	63	77,230	6,436	40.03
	64	78,904	6,575	40.90
CO Grade 16	65	80,796	6,733	41.88
	66	82,751	6,896	42.89
	67	84,727	7,061	43.92
	68	86,693	7,224	44.94
	69	88,670	7,389	45.96

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Subject:	UK Shared Prosperity Funding 2025-26	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Council	Date:	5 th March 2025
Report of:	Economic Development Officer / Head of Housing & Regeneration	Portfolio Holder:	Lead Member for 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: Yes	Attached: Yes	
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required: No	Attached: No	
Contact Officer:	Megan Eastwood	Telephone:	01706 252568
Email:	meganeastwood@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

Recommendations

1. Full Council to authorise the acceptance of £857,874 UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) from the shadow Lancashire Combined County Authority.
2. Full Council to accept the proposed 25-26 investment plan and note the progress of 23-25 UKSPF funded projects.
3. Full Council to authorise the Head of Legal and Governance in conjunction with the Director of Resources to enter into necessary agreements to deliver the investment plan.
4. Full Council to delegate authority to the Director of Economic Development and Director of Resources to implement the investment plan and in conjunction with the lead member for Economic Development & Regeneration, make any required further minor amendments to the investment plan.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 In December 2022 Rosendale Borough Council approved an investment plan for the use of £2.5m of allocated UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF). This report provides an update on delivery of that plan and the outcomes achieved. In addition, a further allocation has been issued for 2025/26. As a result of the agreed Devolution proposal for Lancashire and the creation of the Lancashire Combined County Authority (LCCA), this allocation has been directly 'passport'ed to the council from the shadow LCCA.
- 1.2 The LCCA have allocated £857,874 to Rosendale Borough Council for 2025/26 and requires Full Council acceptance in accordance with financial procedure rules. As a result of this reduced allocation, revisions to existing activities are necessary and this report requests Full Council to approve the proposed investment plan.
- 1.3 Blackpool Council will be acting as Local Lead Authority for UK SPF in Lancashire, and Rosendale Borough Council will report directly to them.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is a government funding initiative designed to replace the EU Structural Funds following Brexit. It aims to reduce regional economic disparities and support local communities across the UK by investing in three key areas:

- Community and Place – Improving town centres, community spaces, and local culture.
- Supporting Local Businesses – Encouraging innovation, entrepreneurship, and business growth.
- People and Skills – Enhancing job opportunities, training, and employability programs.

2.2 During this first allocation from January 2023 and March 2025, funding has contributed to the delivery of the following projects:

- Whitaker Park Improvements
- Victoria Park Improvements
- Haslingden Market
- Waterfoot Town Square
- Waterfoot Arts Scheme
- Shop refurbishment in Waterfoot
- Establishment of town centre teams
- Rossendale Works Employability Project
- Allocations to Pride Groups
- East Lancashire Chamber Low Carbon Grant Funding
- The Bridge - digital ecosystem development
- Hub development pilot - skills package for Rossendale Businesses

2.3 It was announced by the Labour Government that the UK SPF project would be extended by one year to March 2026, allocating £857,874. However, the current projects must be completed by their original deadline.

3. PROPOSED INVESTMENT PLAN 2025/26

3.1 For the financial year 2025-26, Rossendale Borough Council has been allocated £857,874 from the UKSPF. This represents a significant reduction in comparison to the 2024-25 budget, which stood at £1.681 million. Additionally, the budget for 2024-25 benefitted from a small amount of underspend from the previous year, bringing the total available funding to £1.73 million.

3.2 The proposed allocation for 2025-26 is 50% lower than in previous years, meaning that funding must be streamlined to ensure that priority projects can still be delivered effectively. Also this is only a one year allocation so there is neither time nor flexibility to deliver new major projects. Given this reduction in value and time constraints, careful consideration must be given to the allocation of resources to maximise impact.

3.3 The investment plan for 2025-26 must include both capital and revenue projects, ensuring a balanced approach that supports both long-term infrastructure improvements and short-term operational needs. The Council will need to assess how best to distribute the reduced funding while maintaining strategic alignment with local economic development priorities.

3.4 The overarching principles of the investment is to continue projects where staff resource is allocated, such as the town centre teams and Rossendale Works and securing the completion or enhancement of current projects.

3.5 The proposed allocation of funding for 2025/26 is in the table below.

Programmes	Project Theme	Revenue	Capital	Total
Staff resources	Town Centre Management	131,380		
	Management	8,494		
Completion of Projects	Green Streets		150,000	
	The Bridge	31,000		
	Pride	20,000		
	Rosendale Works	115,000		
	Waterfoot	15,000		
	Haslingden		140,000	
	3G Pitch		220,000	
Extend Coverage	Whitworth Town Centre Improvements	15,000		
	Helmshore Conservation Area	6,000		
	Crawshawbooth Conservation Area	6,000		
	Total	347,874	510,000	857,874

4. Governance

4.1 The Economic Development Department will be the overall day to day lead on the UK SPF programme. They will be responsible for reporting to Blackpool Council.

4.2 An internal officer group will meet monthly, with will include project leads and the legal and finance teams. This group will report internally to the Council's Programme Board who will monitor finance and risk.

5. RISKS

5.1 The principal risk is that the Lead Local Authority for the UK SPF allocation is Blackpool Council as the parent authority for UK SPF in Lancashire. Blackpool Council, through its Programme Monitoring Office (PMO), will lead on the coordination of the administration of the UKSPF Programme on behalf of the LCCA.

5.2 Clarity is being sought on Blackpool Council's payment and reporting schedules to better understand or risks related to cash flow.

6. FINANCE

6.1 It is expected that the Council will be required to submit quarterly monitoring reports to Blackpool showing expenditure.

6.2 All expenditure for the will projects must be within the 2025/26 SPF budget envelope and all expenditure must be in line with the terms of the grant

7. LEGAL

7.1 Due to the value of the funding, Full Council is required to approve acceptance with delegations to officers to sign all relevant funding agreements in line with the Council's Constitution.

7.2 There are no other legal implications arising directly from this report but further reports will be presented as and when required to seek the necessary authorisations.

8. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The works undertaken by the UK Shared Prosperity Funding will support the priorities of the Council's Corporate Plan.

8.2 Any equality implications related to the project will be given consideration in a relevant and proportionate manner for the individual projects.

9. REASON FOR DECISION

The UKSPF investment for 25-26 will continue the momentum gained through the first 3 years of the programme, leading to attractive and thriving town centres, enhanced leisure opportunities and support local businesses. This will help us achieve our economic and leisure aspirations.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers included

Subject:	Acceptance of grants in relation to the prevention of Homelessness	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Council	Date:	5 th March 2025
Report of:	Housing Options Team Leader	Lead Member:	Housing
Key Decision:	X Forward Plan X	General Exception	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached: n/a
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached: n/a
Contact Officer:	Megan Eastwood	Telephone:	01706 252480
Email:	meganeastwood@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 That the Council approves acceptance of the following grants:

- Homeless Prevention Grant - £387,639
- Rough Sleeper Prevention and Recovery Grant - £149,000
- Local Authority Housing Fund - £356,000

1.2 To Delegate Authority to the Head of Legal, Director of resources and Director of Economic Development with the lead member for Housing to enter into any agreements to accept and deliver the relevant grant funded schemes.

1.3 To note Rosendale Borough Council's continued role as the accountable body for the Rough Sleeping Initiative in joint delivery with Burnley and Pendle.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Rosendale Borough Council has received Homeless Prevention Grant monies over the last few years.
- For 2025/26 MHCLG has awarded Rosendale Borough Council £367,639. Authority is requested to accept the grant value which is significantly more than previous years.
- This report requests authority to accept the Rough Sleeper Prevention and Recovery Grant 2025/26 of £149,000 and continue the delivery of this scheme with Burnley and Pendle with Rosendale Borough Council as the accountable body.
- This report also requests authority to accept £356,000 in Local Authority Housing Fund to support the purchase and refurbishment of 4 properties.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Rosendale Borough Council has recently been awarded three grants to support homelessness across the borough. These are the Homeless Prevention Grant, the Rough Sleeper Prevention and Recovery Grant and the Local Authority Housing Fund.

3.2 This is the latest allocation of these grants to address homelessness. The Homeless Prevention Grant and the Rough Sleeper Prevention and Recovery grant are Government allocations but the Local Authority Housing Fund is the result of a successful funding bid.

4. DETAIL

Homeless Prevention Grant

- 4.1 In 2025/26 the allocation from MHCLG for the Homeless prevention Grant is £387,639. This is significantly more than previous years. In 2024/25 the Homeless Prevention Grant was £218,616, which includes a top up issued part way through the year.
- 4.2 Rossendale Council has a Statutory Duty under the Housing Act 1996 part VII to offer advice and assistance in an attempt to prevent or relieve homelessness to those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. The Homelessness Prevention Grant 2025/26 is allocated to support local authorities to prevent and respond to homelessness.
- 4.3 This grant is used for various activities, including:
- **Prevention and Relief:** Services aimed at preventing individuals and families from becoming homeless, such as providing financial assistance, mediation, and support services.
 - **Staffing:** Funding for staff who work on homelessness prevention and relief activities.
 - **Temporary Accommodation:** Although a portion of the grant is ring-fenced to ensure that 49% of the funding is spent on prevention, relief, and staffing activities, and not on temporary accommodation

The Rough Sleeper Prevention and Recovery Grant

- 4.4 The initial 3 year programme has been extended by 1 year with the intention of developing a longer term, 3/5 year deal, over the next 12 months.
- 4.5 The Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery Grant in 2025/26 is £149,000. This allocation includes funding for Rossendale Borough Council, Burnley Borough Council and Pendle Borough Council.
- 4.6 This allocation is paid on the condition that current arrangements to spend funding across the joint-award area from the Rough Sleeping Initiative 2022-25 programme continue.
- 4.7 The purpose of the Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery Grant is to enable local authorities to continue vital rough sleeping services, to support individuals sleeping rough, at risk of sleeping rough, or at risk of returning to rough sleeping.
- 4.8 Where funding is allocated across multiple authorities, it is expected joint delivery and collaboration to continue. Services provided through this grant include:
- Accommodation and outreach staff
 - Specialist services such as physical and mental health support, immigration advice, and training to widen employment opportunities.
- 4.9 It is proposed to continue the Rough Sleeping Initiative in the current arrangement as follows:

	25/26	Staff number	24/25	Staff number
MCHLG ROUGH SLEEPER PREVENTION AND RECOVERY GRANT TOTAL	149,000		149,000	

ACCOMMODATION SUPPORT OFFICER (BURNLEY)	38,000	1.0	38,000	1.0
ACCOMMODATION SUPPORT OFFICER ROSSENDALE	35,000	1.0	35,000	1.0
CASE NAVIGATOR	70,000	2.0	70,000	2.0
PERSONAL BUDGETS	6,000	0	6,000	0

The Local Authority Housing Fund

4.10 In 2023, Rossendale Borough Council received £429,000 and £278,000 in Local Authority Housing Funding. This capital funding has supported the purchase and acquisition of properties in Rossendale to support various households.

4.11 The total grant allocation for the Council is £356,000 between 2024/25-2025/26. This is to provide 4 homes: three properties for general homelessness relief and one property for resettlement of Afghan refugee households. The Council must enter into an MOU and deliver the properties by the end of March 2026.

5. RISK

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

- HPG grant is ring-fenced in 2025/26 to ensure that at least 49% of the funding is spent on prevention, relief, and staffing activities, and not on temporary accommodation. There is a continued risk of the temporary accommodation costs historically exceeding 51% of HPG which would then need to be met by council reserves. However RBC Housing Options Team is committed to continue delivering its B&B elimination plan to reduce costs of temporary accommodation with the support of MCHLG.
- RBC is the accountable body managing the Rough Sleeping and Prevention and Recovery Grant and we will complete due diligence to mitigate any risk.

6. FINANCE

6.1 The Director of Resources will be required to submit a Statement of Grant usage to MHCLG for the Homeless Prevention Grant and the Local Authority Housing Fund.

7. LEGAL

7.1 Due to the value of the funding, Full Council is required to approve acceptance with delegations to officers to sign all relevant funding agreements in line with the Council's Constitution.

7.2 There are no other legal implications arising directly from this report but further reports will be presented as and when required to seek the necessary authorisations.

8. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

Any policy implications are included in the body of the report. There are no equality implications.

9. REASON FOR DECISION

To accept the grants to prevent and relieve homelessness in the Rossendale Borough in line with the Local Authorities Visions and Priorities, specifically having access to a good quality.

home to either rent or buy plays a fundamental part in our residents' quality of life, as we want people to live long healthy lives and take pride in their communities.

No background papers

Subject:	Constitution Review		Status:	For Publication	
Report to:	Council		Date:	5 th March 2025	
Report of:	Monitoring Officer		Lead Member:	Environment and Corporate Services	
Key Decision:	No - reserved for Council	Forward Plan <input 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 Birtwistle		Telephone:	01706 252438	
Email:	clarebirtwistle@rossendalebc.gov.uk				

1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To update the Council's Constitution as detailed in Appendix A in relation to:
- Local Plan Steering Group
 - Roll of Honour

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Amending the Terms of Reference of the Local Plan Steering Group will allow more flexibility and will allow the group to seek a wider range of views as and when required.
- A new Roll of Honour procedure will allow nominations to be progressed.

3. BACKGROUND

Local Plan Steering Group

- 3.1 At the previous meeting of the Local Plan Steering Group it was recommended to expand the group as its current composition did not achieve representation from all sections of the borough.

Roll of Honour

- 3.2 A councillor has requested the Roll of Honour procedure be reviewed and updated to enable nominations to be progressed, as the current procedure is no longer functional.

4. DETAILS

Local Plan Steering Group

- 4.1 The current Local Plan Steering Group is consists of 5 councillors. The group is politically balanced and includes the Lead Member and Chair of the Development Control Committee.
- 4.2 At the January meeting of the steering group it was recommended to expand the group to enable views to be sought from each section of the borough.
- 4.3 To allow a flexible approach, a more fluid membership has been proposed so that the group can be expanded where a wider range of views are to be sought (so long as this is in keeping with the political balance).
- 4.4 The suggested amendments to the Terms of Reference detailed at appendix A will enable the Local Plan Steering Group to achieve more flexibility as and when required, and will keep the wording consistent with that of the Cross Party Working Group.

Roll of Honour

- 4.5 The current procedure entails putting nominees forward as part of the Community Awards to be considered for the Roll of Honour title, however the Community Awards have not taken place for some considerable time.
- 4.6 A councillor has requested the Roll of Honour procedure be updated to enable people who have made outstanding voluntary community contributions to be put forward more effectively.
- 4.7 The suggested amendments to the procedure attached at appendix A will allow for a more efficient procedure to be introduced.

Governance Working Group recommendations

- 4.8 Governance Working Group were consulted on the changes at their meeting on 12th February where they made the following recommendation:

Governance Working Group recommends Council to update the Council's Constitution as detailed in Appendix A in relation to:

1. Local Plan Steering Group
2. Roll of Honour - with the addition of a seconding councillor for the nomination.

- 4.9 These changes recommended by the Governance Working Group are now included in Appendix A.

5. RISK

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

- Failure to maintain and follow an up-to-date Constitution risks legal proceedings being taken against the Council, and risks members of the community being dissatisfied with the action of the Council.

6. FINANCE

There are no immediate financial implications arising from the report.

7. LEGAL

There are no immediate legal considerations attached to the recommendation in this report.

8. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

There are no equalities or HR implications.

9. REASON FOR DECISION

- 9.1 The Council is required by law to implement a Constitution and it is in the interests of the Council to regularly review and update the document.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
The Constitution of the Council	Constitution Rossendale Borough Council

Part 3 Terms of Reference page 43

LOCAL PLAN REVIEW STEERING GROUP

Number of councillors: 5
Quorum: 3

Composition

- Membership of the Local Plan Review Steering Group should be based on the political balance of the Council.
- Composition of the group should include the Lead Member covering planning and the Chair of Development Control Committee.

Terms of Reference

The group will:

- Make recommendations on the content of the Local Plan to officers prior to consideration of the plan by Council.
- Act as a mechanism for keeping members of political parties informed of progress in reviewing the Local Plan including through circulation of minutes.
- Consider the appropriateness of the evidence base and to provide comments as necessary on particular documents.
- Provide member input to comments made on behalf of the Council to Government, statutory bodies and neighbouring authorities on planning issues.
- Consider any other matters as may be necessary to require the effective and timely review of the Local Plan.
- Expand the number of councillors on the group where a wider range of views are sought, so long as political balance is retained.

Part 4 Council Procedure Rules page 78

2. ORDINARY MEETINGS

- x. to award receive notification of the names of Roll of Honour to people who the Council considers proud of their achievements ~~and who have been put forward to be considered for the Roll of Honour as part of the Community Awards~~ for their outstanding voluntary community contribution

Roll of Honour Criteria

- Outstanding voluntary contribution
- Significant community impact
- Momentous achievement

Nominations need to be made by a councillor and seconded by another councillor, and sent with reasons for the nomination and evidence of how the nominee meets the criteria to democracy@rossendalebc.gov.uk. Nominations will be decided by Chief Executive in consultation with the Mayor and the Leader of the Council.

Subject:	Climate Change Strategy Update	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Council	Date:	5 th March 2025
Report of:	Climate Change Programme Officer	Lead Member:	Environment and Corporate Services
Key Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required:	Yes/No	Attached: Yes/No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required:	Yes/No	Attached: Yes/No
Contact Officer:	Kwabena Osei Poku	Telephone:	01706252551
Email:	Kwabenapoku@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 1.1 That Council note the progress in year four of the Climate Change Strategy and approve the revised Climate Change Action Plan.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan were agreed in July 2020 and work has progressed over the past four years to deliver the agreed actions.
- This report provides an update on progress in implementing the projects to reduce our direct carbon emissions from our corporate assets and emissions in the Borough as detailed in the Council's Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP).
- Further work on the preliminary CCAP has been necessary to ensure that proposed actions are clear Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound (SMART) actions that are informed by latest evidence and feedback from senior officers across all service areas of the Council.
- In the first half of the Climate Change Action Plan's life, we prioritised decarbonising Council operations and services. As we move into the second-half of the plan, we shall be focusing more on the wider aspiration of creating a Net Zero Carbon Valley by working with households and businesses to deliver this shared goal.
- The attached revised Action Plan is a result of consultation with senior officers.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. In September 2019, the Council declared a climate emergency and committee to take action locally through a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.
- 3.2. The strategy and action plan were agreed in July 2020 and work has progressed over the past 4 years to deliver the agreed actions.
- 3.3. The Council is taking a wide range of direct actions, set out in the Climate Change Strategy Action Plan, which will contribute to reducing emissions in Rosendale and help to deliver the vision for Council operations to be net zero carbon by 2030.
- 3.4. The Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 13th January 2025, where they recommended Council to approve the revised Action Plan.
- 3.5. A revised and updated Action Plan is presented for approval at **Appendix 1**.

4. DETAILS

- 4.1. Years one, two and three showed considerable progress in setting out the direction of the Council on its journey towards a carbon net zero position by 2030 and produced some notable successes in reducing our carbon footprint. Details of these are contained in the Annual updates for year 1, 2 and 3, copies of which are in **Appendix 2, 3 and 4**.
- 4.2. The 10-year plan was always designed to be a marathon, not a sprint and year 4 has seen considerable progress in planning and developing measures to future proof Council owned assets, and to ensure that any carbon and energy saving initiatives provide value for money, measurable and sustainable reductions in our carbon output.
- 4.3. Progress has also been made in developing policies and projects to ensure that the wider community, businesses and residents contribute to Rossendale's overall carbon reduction efforts.
- 4.4. In the first half of the Climate Change Action Plan's life, we have been focusing on decarbonising the Council's operations and services as much as possible. As we move into the second-half of the plan, we shall be focusing more on the wider aspiration of creating a Net Zero Carbon Valley by working with households and businesses to deliver this shared goal.

Progress in delivering key actions

- 4.5. **Decarbonising Council assets**
- 4.6. The attached priority actions document (**Appendix 5**) highlights key projects delivered or progressing within the 2024/25 financial year.
- 4.7. Work has continued to identify the most appropriate alternative to fossil fuel powered heating systems with consideration given to both ground and air sourced heat pumps, bio mass boilers and infra- red heating systems.
- 4.8. To support this work, funding totalling £39k was secured from the public sector Low Carbon Skills Fund (LCSF) Phase 5, awarded by Department for Energy Security and Net Zero administered by Salix to develop a Building Heat Decarbonisation Plan (BHDP) that gives a detailed profile of the Council estate including the required recommendations to decarbonise each building, reducing the carbon footprint and total energy usage and, ultimately, to achieve net zero by the 2030 deadline.
- 4.9. The LCSF is to cover the costs associated with accessing the expertise and skills needed to develop a Building Heat Decarbonisation Plan (BHDP) to cover 12 buildings across the RBC estate. The site list is as follows:
 - Aged, Blind & Disabled Centre, Burnley Road, Bacup, OL13 8AB
 - The Business Centre, Futures Park Bacup, OL13 0BB
 - Henrietta Street Recycling Depot, Henrietta Street, Bacup, OL13 0AR
 - Sports Changing Rooms, Maden Rec, Maden Road, Bacup, OL13 8HJ
 - Mechanics Hall (Bacup Library), St James Square, Bacup, OL13 9AH
 - Stubbylee Annexe, Stubbylee Lane, Bacup, OL13 0DE
 - Stubbylee Hall, Stubbylee Lane, Bacup, OL13 0DE

- Haslingden Sports Centre, Helmshore Road, Haslingden, BB4 4DN
- Sports Changing Rooms, Marl Pits Pavilion & Sports Centre, Newchurch Road, Rawtenstall, BB4 7SN
- Sports Centre & Pool, Marl Pits Pool, Rawtenstall, BB4 7SN
- Museum and Café, The Whittaker Museum And Visitors Centre, Haslingden Road, Rawtenstall, BB4 6RE
- Whitworth Civic Hall (The Ashcroft), Whitworth Civic Hall, Whitworth, OL12 8DP

- 4.10. The final output is an action plan detailing the prioritised recommended actions for each site. This will:
- Identify carbon saving/ decarbonisation works required to meet our 2030 net zero target.
 - Recommendations for energy efficiency/ decarbonisation works considering timescales, planning constraints, payback, and costs with consideration to electricity loading capacity and any future changes to load capacity
 - Identification of key challenges; consideration for risks associated with implementing recommended improvements and identify any issues that may limit the recommended action performance, whether these issues are technical, financial, or logistical in nature.
- 4.11. The basis of this approach, coupled with further analysis of specific buildings will aid the Council in seeking funding through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) in replacing systems at the end of their working life with low carbon heating alternatives.
- 4.12. Funding totalling £290k was secured from the Swimming Pool Support Fund (SPSF), awarded by Sport England to fund the installation of swimming pool covers and replacement of the air handling unit at Marl Pits Leisure Centre. This will reduce energy consumption at Marl Pits Leisure Centre, enabling a reduction in utility costs as well as contributing to our carbon reduction.
- 4.13. Practical measures implemented this year to reduce energy use and our carbon footprint have included servicing the solar PV at Futures Park, replacing the boiler at Henrietta Street depot office (with a more efficient boiler) and the installation of a hive heating management system at Marl Pits Pavilion and installation of four EV charging sockets at Futures Park and Henrietta Street waste transfer station.
- 4.14. The Council is progressively replacing our vehicle fleet with electric vehicles or low carbon alternatives at the point when they are due for replacement. The Council has commissioned a new electric van to be used as a service vehicle.
- 4.15. **Net Zero Terraced Streets and decarbonising Rossendale**
- 4.16. Working in partnership with Rossendale Valley Energy (RVE) and other partners, Net Zero Terraced Streets(NZTS) is an innovative approach to addressing the complex problem of decarbonising communities which due to the nature of the housing stock, i.e. terraced streets are unsuitable for retro fitting of technology such as Air Sourced Heat Pumps (ASHP's).
- 4.17. As part of Innovate UK's £60 million Net Zero Living programme, which is helping drive the government's Levelling Up agenda, a successful joint bid between Rossendale Borough Council, Rossendale Valley Energy and the Centre for Energy Equality provided funding to investigate the barriers to achieving Net Zero in communities.

- 4.18. The project is being delivered in three stages; Discovery, Alpha and Beta
- 4.19. The Discovery stage completed in June 2023, provided the initial scoping in overcoming the barriers to Net Zero and the Alpha stage which completed in March 2024, further explored the outputs required to deliver the NZTS including community and stakeholder engagement.
- 4.20. The NZTS project has been awarded a further £2.5m to deliver a demonstration scheme to promote a net zero heating solution for terrace houses in Rossendale.
- 4.21. The project is to be delivered by a partnership which includes Rossendale Valley Energy along with a range of other organisations in the public, private and community sectors to deliver different aspects of the project.
- 4.22. The funding has allowed the Council to appoint a Project Manager and a Project Officer to lead the coordination and delivery of the project including financial management, promotion, business and community engagement.
- 4.23. The project has been built around the need to bring together a partnership of technical expertise and community solutions so that an approach can be delivered without the need for the infrastructure of the national government or large metropolitan councils. The partnership therefore brings together:
- Rossendale Borough Council
 - Rossendale Valley Energy
 - Nuvision Energy • Urban Chain
 - IoT Horizon
 - Centre For Energy Equality
 - Kensa Utilities Ltd
 - Community Energy Association Ltd
 - Challock Energy
- 4.24. Details of the demonstration scheme is contained in Net Zero Terraced Street Funding which is in **Appendix 6**.
- 4.25. Funding totalling £171k was secured from On-Street Residential Charge point Scheme (ORCS), awarded by Department for Transport, Office for Zero Emission Vehicles to roll out 26 residential charging points across the Borough.
- 4.26. The ORCS funded Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure project will increase EV charging points in Council owned car parks and provide slower EV charging in 24/7 accessible car parks to support overnight charging.

Key projects delivered 2024/25

- 4.27. **On-street Residential EV charging infrastructure project**
- 4.28. We have completed the installation of 52 new Electric Vehicle (EV) charging sockets across multiple car parks in Rossendale. This was completed using funding from Department for Transport in collaboration with Connected Kerb and supported by Energy Saving Trust. As part of the Council's commitment to a cleaner, greener Borough, the EV charge points became fully operational on 15th November 2024 to serve residents, EV drivers, and visitors

4.29. **Rossendale Forest initiative**

4.30. The Rossendale Forest, the council's tree planting initiative to plant a tree for every child in the borough over three years- that is, 16000 trees between 2022 and 2025- has successfully planted more than 16,000 trees since the start of the project. As of November 2024, the initiative has planted 16,500 trees, exceeding its initial target of 16,000.

4.31. **Revised Climate Change Action Plan**

4.32. A preliminary Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) has previously been drafted to support delivery of the Climate Change Strategy, but further work on this has been necessary to ensure proposed actions are informed by the latest evidence (such as the baseline emissions findings of the Climate Change Study), feedback from senior officers across all service areas of the Council and incorporating clear Specific, Measurable, Achievable Relevant, and Time-bound (SMART) actions

4.33. The revised CCAP updates the existing, preliminary Action Plan, which was prepared alongside the Climate Change Strategy. The purpose of the CCAP is to support delivery of the Council's Climate Change Strategy. The revised CCAP contains measures that will help reduce the Council's carbon emissions to net zero by 2030, but also includes measures that will help reduce borough-wide emissions.

4.34. The revised CCAP contains several introductory chapters describing how actions have been identified; how the Council's estate and area greenhouse gas baseline has informed actions; how actions will be financed and resourced; and how the CCAP will be delivered and monitored.

4.35. The actions themselves are then presented, grouped by theme. The actions have been developed through a combination of means, including:

- a desk-based literature review to identify existing evidence on actions associated with reaching net zero, including reports produced by the Climate Change Committee and their recommendations to Government;
- consulting action plan toolkits and best practice case studies, such as the Local Government Association climate change hub;
- familiarisation with action plans from similar local authorities, including those across Lancashire with whom the Council will be working with to tackle climate change at a larger spatial scale;
- drawing on feedback from senior officers across all Service Areas of the Council at meetings held throughout January-June to ensure the actions are fit-for purpose and reflect service area plans;
- drawing on feedback from the lead Member for Climate Change and Member Climate Change Champion.

4.36. By implementing these changes, the Council's CCAP will become:

- more transparent and accountable
- more likely to achieve its intended environmental outcomes
- easier to track and evaluate progress
- more effective in attracting funding and partnerships

5. RISK

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

- A risk register has been developed for the strategy as part of the Council's programme management process and these risks are monitored regularly. A public commitment has been made by the Council to do what it can locally to tackle climate change. This report limits the risk of not delivering on that commitment by putting the resources in place to ensure delivery. This report identifies ways in which the risk of non-delivery can be mitigated.
- Failure to adopt a comprehensive Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) will have a serious impact on the Council's commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030.

6. FINANCE

- 6.1. Council approved a £1m capital Carbon Reduction Fund in February 2021, phased over 4 years commencing in 2021/22. To date £373k of this fund has been spent on Decarbonising RBC assets. The remainder of the fund will be allocated to support the delivery of this Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. Where appropriate, reports will be developed to support this allocation of funds.
- 6.2. Production of the revised CCAP has been undertaken in-house. No additional resource implications beyond that provided for within the agreed climate change budget will be required.

7. LEGAL

- 7.1. There are no legal implications arising from this report. Each project will be subject to its own considerations on a case by case basis.
- 7.2. All of the projects/activities included in the CCAP which are underway, would have had their legal implications assessed. Future planned activities will need to have their legal implications considered at the relevant stages, as appropriate.

8. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. All of the projects/activities included in the revised CCAP which are underway, would have had their equality implications assessed individually, where relevant. Future planned activities will need to have their equality implications considered at the relevant stages, as appropriate.

9. REASON FOR DECISION

- 9.1. In 2020, the Council made an ambitious commitment to play its part in reducing carbon emissions. The subsequent 4 years have seen significant progress towards achieving this. Continued development of the outlined projects will allow us to move forward to achieve our net zero ambition.
- 9.2. The adoption of the revised Climate Change Action Plan and implementation of outlined actions will ensure that we address the Climate Emergency that the Council declared in

2019, meet the strategic priorities set out in the Council's Corporate Plan 2021-2025 and ensure we reach our net zero ambitions by 2030.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Appendix 1. Revised Climate Change Action Plan	attached
Appendix 2. Annual Report year 1	D1.%20Climate%20Change%20Update
Appendix 3. Annual Report year 2	C1.%20Climate%20change%20strategy%20update
Appendix 4. Annual Report year 3	C2.%20Climate%20Change%20Strategy%20Update
Appendix 5. Priority actions 2024/25	attached
Appendix 6. Net Zero Terraced Street Funding report	D4.%20Net%20Zero%20Terrace%20Streets%20Funding

NET ZERO ROSSENDALE

ACTION PLAN 2020 - 2030

Revised July 2024



NET ZERO ROSSENDALE

Contents

- Introduction pg 3.
- Our Emissions pg 4.
- Our Approach to Decarbonisation pg 6.
- Governance pg 10.
- Funding pg 11.
- Monitoring and Reporting pg 11.



Efficient Energy
Consumption



Sustainable
Transport



Waste and
Biodiversity



Working Together
in Partnership



1. Introduction

It is generally agreed that human-induced global warming is changing our climate. Scientific, peer-reviewed studies provide evidence that climate change has been exacerbated by human activity¹. In 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published a report which presented evidence indicating that efforts to combat climate change should seek to limit the rise in global temperatures to 1.5°C². The report highlighted that greenhouse gas emissions produced by industrial and agricultural processes from the early industrial era through to today will continue to impact our climate, leading to problems such as higher global temperatures and rising sea levels, resulting in extreme weather events, including flooding, heatwaves and drought. According to the IPCC, in order to ensure global temperatures do not exceed the limit of a 1.5 °C increase, global net human-induced carbon dioxide emissions need to reduce by about 45% by 2030 and reach net-zero by 2050.

The UK Committee on Climate Change (CCC) recommended in 2019 that the “UK should set and vigorously pursue an ambitious target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero by 2050, ending the UK’s contribution to global warming within 30 years”³. In May 2019, the UK Parliament also backed a motion to declare a Climate Emergency, and in June 2019 the UK became the first major economy in the world to pass legislation to bring greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero by 2050.

In response to this unprecedented challenge, Rossendale Borough Council (RBC) declared a Climate Emergency in September 2019. RBC committed to reaching net-zero carbon emissions in our estate and operations by 2030 and to work in partnership to reduce carbon emissions for the whole of Rossendale. In 2020, we published our climate change strategy setting out the framework for taking actions to achieve net-zero by 2030.

This action plan sets out how we can reduce carbon emissions across our operations and estate to reach net-zero by 2030 or sooner, as well as how we can work collectively with our partners and communities to deliver a net-zero Rossendale as stated in our climate change strategy. This plan will be reviewed annually to enable new issues, challenges, opportunities, and solutions to be considered, with projects added over the life of this document.

1 Harvey, J. A., Turgeon, K., Gals, R., Heine, R., Abaca, M., Abram, P. K., & Chow, S. L. (2023). Scientists' warning on climate change and insects. *Ecological monographs*, 93(1), e1553.

2 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). (2018). *Global Warming of 1.5 °C*. <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

3 Committee on Climate Change (CCC). (2019). <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/net-zero-the-uks-contribution-to-stopping-global-warming/>

2. Our Emissions

In 2019, soon after declaring a "Climate Emergency", RBC commissioned an assessment of the Council's carbon footprint, in order to understand our emission levels, identify priority areas for action, and check our progress towards making the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2030. We worked with One Carbon World to assess our carbon footprint, including all our activities covered under scopes 1, 2, and 3 of the Green House Gas (GHG) protocol corporate standard (see Figure 1). Therefore, the baseline period of the 2019-2020 financial year is used as the most recently available data measuring the Council's carbon footprint.

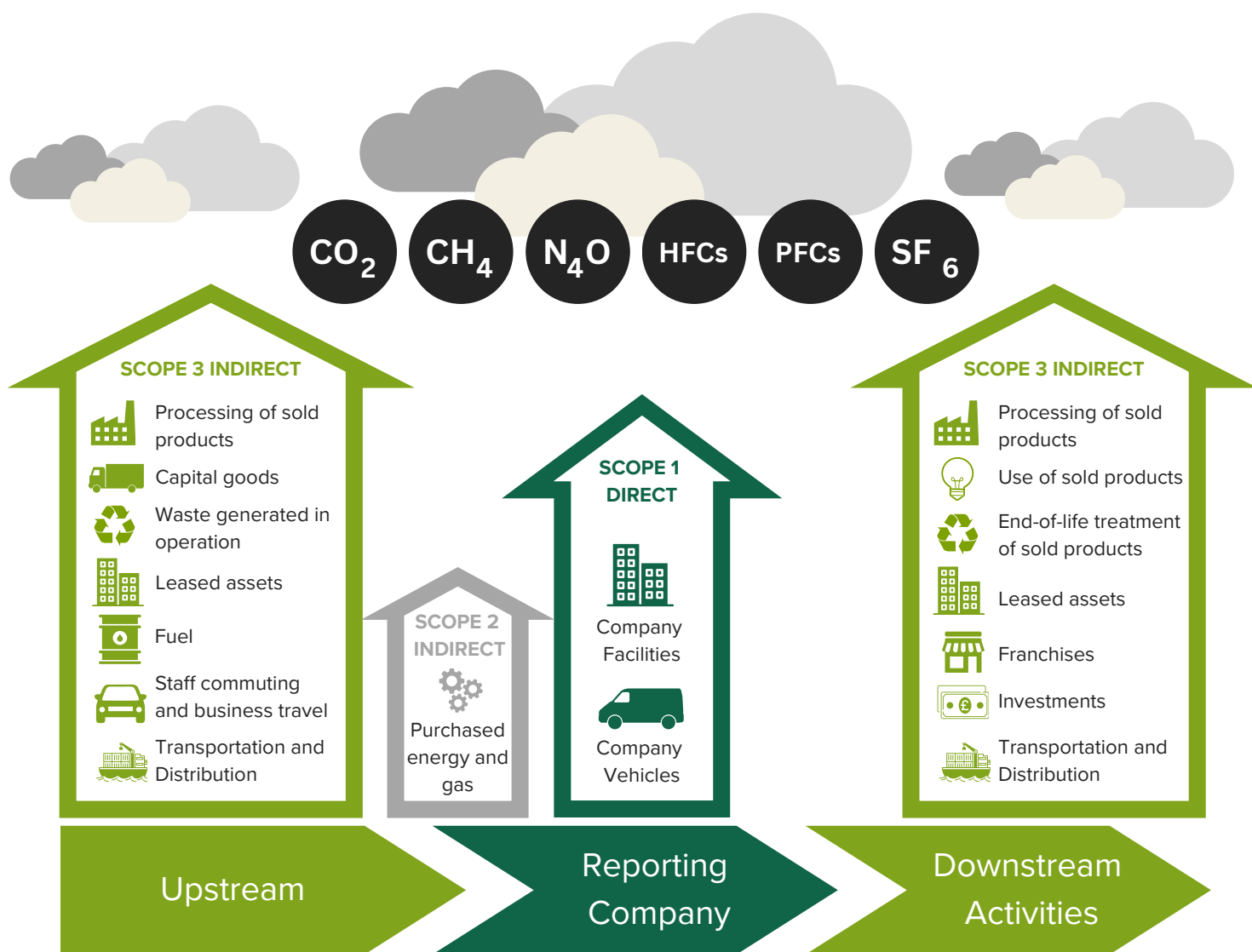
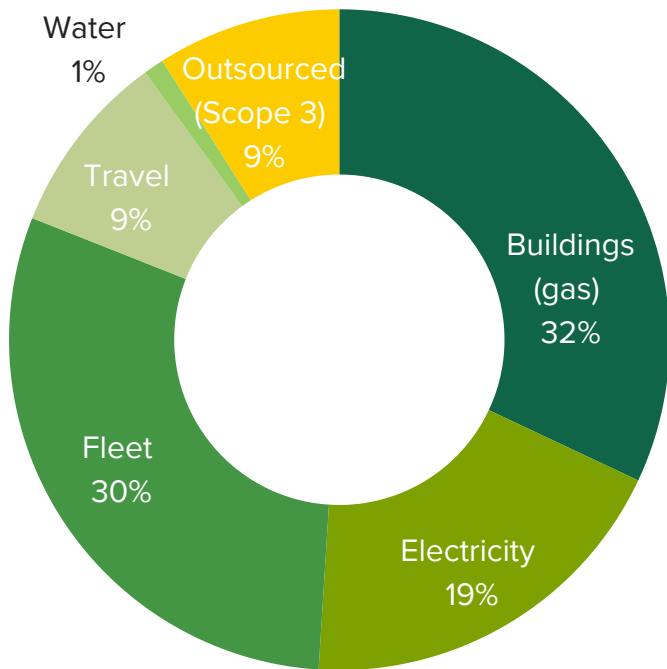


Figure 1 - Scope 1 - 3, Source - GHG Protocol

Net Zero Rossendale

For the 2019-2020 financial year, we calculated the carbon emissions resulting from our activities and operations as **2,028.13 tCO₂e** ("tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent", which is the standard measurement of emissions used by the GHG protocol).



As shown in Figure 2, our top three emission contributors are our buildings, vehicle fleet, and electricity. Therefore, we have prioritised decarbonising these three areas. In 2021, emissions from heating our buildings reduced by 10%.

Figure 2: RBC emissions Source: One Carbon World⁴

⁴ Rossendale Borough Council CO₂ report 2021 as provided by One Carbon World

Figure 3 presents borough-wide emissions data for Rossendale. In 2020, the total estimated carbon footprint for the Borough was 326,000 tCO₂e. The data indicates that transport was the largest carbon emitter, producing 36% of CO₂ emissions in the Borough. While the Council represents only 0.6% of the total emissions in the Borough, we are conscious that by leading the way to become net-zero ahead of the national 2050 timeline, we can demonstrate what can be achieved and inspire Rossendale residents and local businesses to join us on this rewarding journey.

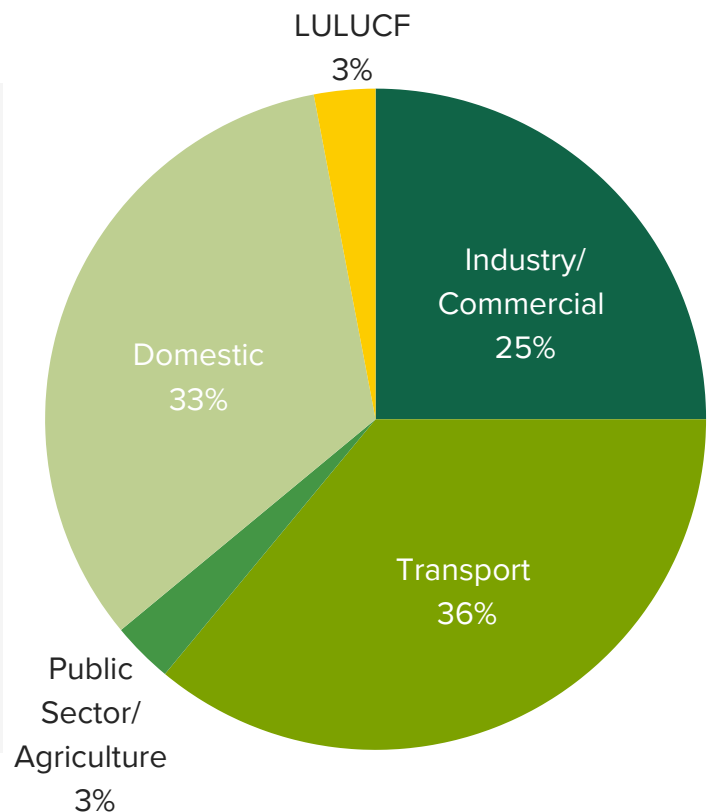


Figure 3: RBC sectoral GHG emissions (2019-2020). Source: BEIS⁵

⁵ Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS). (2022). UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2020>

3. Our Approach to Decarbonisation

We aim to ensure that the Council’s activities and operations reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2030 and to work in partnership to reduce carbon emissions for the whole of Rossendale. To achieve net-zero, we must avoid and reduce carbon emissions as well as increase the amount of carbon that is removed from the atmosphere. It is important that we use our resources wisely for effective delivery of net-zero, taking cost-effective actions which have the greatest impact on reducing emissions.

Emissions Reduction Hierarchy

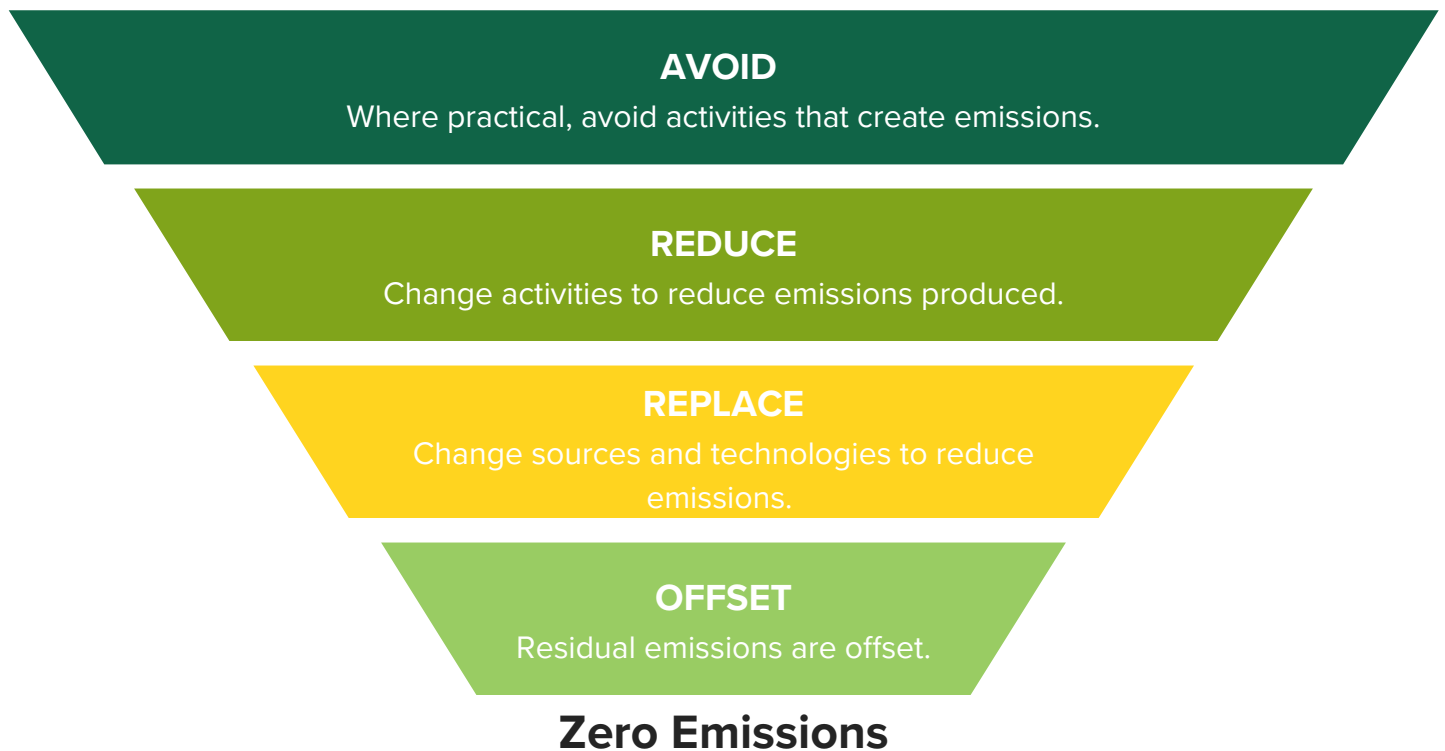


Figure 4: Emissions reduction hierarchy Source: [IEMA](#)

As highlighted in Figure 4, we will follow the internationally recognised emissions reduction hierarchy, an approach to cutting carbon emissions in the most efficient way. In line with the emission reduction hierarchy, avoiding the production of GHG emissions will come first in our plans, followed by taking steps to reduce our emissions. To reduce emissions, the Council will adopt four key areas of focus: efficient energy consumption, sustainable transport, waste and the wider environment, and working together in partnership.⁶

⁶ Rossendale Borough Council. (2020). Climate Change Strategy. <https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/environment/climate-change>

Efficient Energy Consumption



Energy consumption in our buildings from gas and electricity contributed our largest emissions in 2020 (51%). Therefore, making our buildings more energy efficient has to be a priority, along with purchasing and generating renewable energy. To achieve this, we will focus on the following key objectives:

- Identify ways to reduce the consumption of energy in Council-owned buildings
- Work with local housing associations and private sector landlords to increase the use of home insulation and adopt other energy efficiency measures, identifying government funding where possible
- Review our planning guidelines and use these to encourage the construction of new buildings that have a lower carbon footprint in both construction and operation.
- Support energy-switching schemes that enable more residents to move to energy providers that use renewable sources to generate energy.

Sustainable Travel



Transport accounted for 39% of the Council's emissions and 36% of borough-wide emissions in 2020. We aim to deliver low-carbon transport options for all, whilst also promoting healthier travel options such as walking and cycling. To achieve this, we will focus on the following key objectives:

- Strive to switch all Council-owned fleet from petrol/diesel to low carbon alternatives including electric and Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO)
- Install rapid electric car charging points across the Borough.
- Work with local public transport providers and Lancashire County Council to promote public transport options for residents commuting to work.
- Publicise walking and cycling routes within the Borough to encourage the use of travel options that are more sustainable.



Waste and Biodiversity



In 2018, UK-wide emissions from the waste management sector amounted to an estimated 0.1% of total GHG emissions in the UK (BEIS, 2019). However, if we consider emissions across the lifetime of products, from resource extraction and manufacturing, to disposal, the total emissions recorded from this sector would be significantly higher. Finding ways to ensure sustainable resource extraction, use, and end of life management of natural resources will support a transition to a circular economy and contribute to reducing waste streams such as plastics waste.

Meanwhile, experts have highlighted the importance of ecosystems and biodiversity in offsetting carbon emissions and mitigating some of the effects of climate change, including flooding. The Urban Forestry and Woodland Advisory Committee Network (UFWACN) recommends that 20% tree canopy cover is a good aspiration and will unlock several benefits to the environment. Currently, tree cover across the Borough stands at just 5%. We need to explore opportunities to increase our tree canopy cover and enhance biodiversity.

To achieve our aim of reducing waste and impact on the wider environment, we will focus on the following key objectives:

- Work with Lancashire County Council to incentivise recycling and increase recycling and re-use rates to 45% by 2030.
- Introduce food waste collection.
- Work with local businesses, communities, and schools on a major tree planting scheme.
- Identify areas in the Borough to work on the enhancement of biodiversity and climate change mitigation schemes.





Working Together in Partnership



In 2020, the Council's carbon emissions represented 0.6% of emissions in the Borough. Therefore, to achieve our ambitions and make a significant impact, we need to work together in partnership with local businesses, institutions, community groups, and residents in the Borough. We need to establish the building blocks for a much broader partnership to tackle the Climate Emergency. To achieve this, we will focus on the following key objectives:

- Hold a Rossendale Climate Change Conference that brings people together to share ideas and to pledge to work together on the Climate Emergency and to protect our environment
- Establish Climate Change Champions across all sectors and support them to create wider networks for action.
- Create a public platform to track our progress on specific actions and targets, and help you to hold us accountable for taking the action we need.
- Support campaigns and initiatives across the district that deliver carbon savings and increase sustainability.

4. Governance

We have established project groups to ensure we deliver actions committed in this plan, to ensure that the changes benefit the full range of residents in the Borough and to ensure that money is spent appropriately. Table 1 identifies some of these groups and their roles, but it is not intended to be fixed, nor to list everyone that should be included.

Group	Members	Roles and Reporting
Climate Emergency Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Economic Development • Director of Resources • Lead Member for Climate Change 	<p>Overall responsibility for action plan delivery remaining on target and to budget</p> <p>Annual report to Cabinet</p>
Implementation Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Economic Development • Head of Environmental Services • Head of Finance • Head of Planning • Facilities Manager 	<p>Responsible for the delivery of projects and reporting progress to CMT and Executive leadership board</p>
Climate Emergency Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents • Stakeholders • Community groups 	<p>Public engagement, information sharing, reporting</p>

5. Funding

Delivering all the actions in this action plan requires significant funding. The pursuit of our net-zero ambitions and decarbonising the Borough is a top priority for RBC. The Council commits to spending £1m carbon reduction fund to improve energy efficiency of our buildings and other carbon saving technologies. It is important to highlight the carbon reduction fund will not be enough to fund all carbon reduction projects.

We need public and private funding, as well as businesses and residents using their own financial resources to take action, where possible. We will approach government departments, energy companies, and other partners to invest in the future of Rossendale, and will explore all finance options available, such as decarbonisation funds, social impact bonds, and other forms of blended finance.



6. Monitoring and Reporting

To deliver this plan effectively, we will need to monitor, evaluate and report our progress in reducing carbon emissions. We aim to produce an annual carbon emission report outlining our own operational carbon emissions for each financial year using the Green House Gas Accounting Tool developed by local partnership and the Local Government Association.

Across borough-wide emissions, we will utilise the UK Government Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) territorial carbon emissions data, released annually each summer.

An annual Climate Change Conference will be arranged to bring together stakeholders and interested parties in this agenda to review performance and plan the route forward. We will also create a platform for residents to be able to engage with and track our progress and performance so we can ensure we remain accountable.

ACTION PLAN

Contents

- Efficient Energy Consumption pg 13.
- Sustainable Transport pg 15.
- Waste and Biodiversity pg 17.
- Working Together in Partnership pg 19.

Level	Estimated Costs	Carbon Savings
Low	Free or low cost measures	Limited carbon saving, single intervention
Medium	Some investment needed	Significant project or multiple interventions
High	Large capital projects	Large capital projects

Efficient Energy Consumption



Action	Lead	Timescale	Cost	Funding	Carbon Saving	Outcome
Commission and develop a full energy audit of council buildings	Facilities Manager	September 2021	Low	One Carbon World Funding	Low	Identification of energy consumption and carbon output of council owned buildings and potential savings
Develop a building heat decarbonisation strategy and delivery plan	Director of Economic Development	August 2022	Medium	Existing salary budget	Low	Structured route to decarbonise council buildings
	Facilities Manager	Ongoing		External Funding (LCSF)		
Deliver energy efficiency and decarbonisation of heat project to council buildings in line with Rossendale Borough Council building heat decarbonising strategy	Director of Economic Development	Ongoing	Medium	Existing salary budget	High	Lower energy use and associated carbon emissions in council buildings
	Facilities Manager			External Funding (PSDS, SPSF, LCSF)		
Apply for future funding to support building retrofit for council buildings and buildings in the Borough	Director of Economic Development	Ongoing	Low	Existing salary budget	Medium	Increase energy performance of council buildings and homes across the Borough
	Head of Finance					
	Head of Legal					
Incorporate energy efficiency measures and other net zero interventions into Town Centre Regeneration plans for Rawtenstall, Bacup, Waterfoot and Haslingden	Director of Economic Development	Ongoing	Medium	Capital Regeneration Fund	High	Improved air quality, enhanced biodiversity and reduced carbon emissions in the Borough
	Head of Housing and Regeneration			External Funding (UKSPF)		

Net Zero Rossendale - Action Plan

Action	Lead	Timescale	Cost	Funding	Carbon Saving	Outcome
Develop a supplementary planning document which sets the requirement to develop net zero enabled buildings, which are resilient to future climatic changes	Director of Economic Development Head of Planning	November 2022	Medium	Existing salary budget Local Plan review budget	Medium	Developers meet higher standards of sustainability and include provisions for electric vehicle charge points and renewable energy provisions by use of appropriate planning conditions
Work with East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce (ELCC) to conduct free carbon audits and provide advice to support businesses reduce their carbon emissions	Director of Economic Development	Ongoing	Low	External Funding (UKSPF)	Medium	Businesses taking up advice and available funding to improve energy efficiency, reduce energy costs and carbon emissions in the Borough
Work collaboratively with Rossendale Valley Energy (RVE) to provide energy advice through the Local Energy Advice Demonstrator (LEAD) project and the Fairer Warmth App	Director of Economic Development	Ongoing	Low	Existing salary budget External Funding (Innovate UK funding)	Medium	Increased numbers of households improving energy efficiency of their homes
Promote Government household energy efficiency support schemes including ECO flex and HUG	Housing Renewal Officer	Ongoing	Low	Existing salary budget	Medium	Energy efficiency in homes, reduction in fuel poverty and carbon emissions
Encourage the installation of appropriate renewable energy sources including solar and wind turbines to generate sustainable renewable energy	Director for Economic Development Head of Planning	Ongoing	Low	Existing salary budget	Medium	Allocation of sites for renewable energy projects in Local Plan review. Increased uptake of energy from renewable energy sources

Sustainable Transport



Action	Lead	Timescale	Cost	Funding	Carbon Saving	Outcome
Develop a council fleet/plant decarbonisation plan to accelerate the shift to electric vehicles	Head of Environmental Services/ Operations Team	Ongoing	Low	Existing salary budget	Low	Structured route to decarbonise council vehicle fleet/machinery
Explore greater remote/work from home arrangements for staff	HR Manager Head of IT	March 2026	Low	Existing salary budget	Low	Reduction in carbon emissions resulting from staff commuting to work
Procure electric pool cars for staff and encourage the use of public transport for business travel and commute to work	Head of Environmental Services/ Operations Team	December 2020 Ongoing	Medium	Carbon Reduction Fund	Medium	Reduction in carbon emissions from staff travel
Explore options to switch council vans and maintenance vehicles to electric or ultra-low emission alternatives by 2027	Head of Environmental Services/ Operations Team	Ongoing	Medium	Carbon Reduction Fund Capital Replacement Budget	Medium	Reduction in carbon emissions from staff travel and operations
Monitor Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) cost and where feasible fuel fleet using HVO	Head of Environmental Services/ Operations Team	Ongoing	Medium	Carbon Reduction Fund HVO budget	Medium	Reduction in operational carbon emissions
Develop EV infrastructure strategy	Director for Economic Development	March 2026	Low	Existing salary budget	High	Strategy to address the Council's role in supporting transition to electric transport
Support Lancashire County Council to deliver LEVI funded EV charging infrastructure project to develop an expanded network of EV charge points across the district	Director of Economic Development	Ongoing	Low	External Funding (LEVI fund, ORCS fund)	High	Increase uptake of electric cars in the borough

Net Zero Rossendale - Action Plan

Action	Lead	Timescale	Cost	Funding	Carbon Saving	Outcome
Support the implementation of Lancashire County Council's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs)	Director for Economic Development Head of Planning	Ongoing	Low	External Funding (LCC funding) Developer contributions	High	Increasing the number of people across all sectors that regularly walk and cycle for both exercise and commuting to work or school/college
Work with local public transport providers to improve public transport service	Director for Economic Development Head of Planning	Ongoing	Low	Existing salary budget	Medium	Increasing the number of people across all sectors that regularly use public transport to commute for work or school/college
Ensure that all Council facilities are cycling friendly with facilities available to encourage staff to take up cycling	Facilities Manager	December 2026	Medium	Carbon Reduction Fund	Medium	Increasing the number of staff who cycle to commute to work

Waste and Biodiversity



Action	Lead	Timescale	Cost	Funding	Carbon Saving	Outcome
Learn lessons from the successful “check before you chuck” programme and apply to food waste collection rollout	Head of Environmental Services/ Operations Team	Ongoing	Low	Existing salary budget	Medium	Increase recycling rates in the Borough to 45% by 2030
Explore the potential for collaborating with local charities and organisations to segregate and redistribute good quality products from households	Head of Environmental Services/ Operations Team	Ongoing	Low	Existing salary budget	Medium	Increase in reuse, diversion of waste and a transition to a circular economy
Develop and deliver Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDs) on Council owned land	Head of Environmental Services/ Operations Team	Ongoing	Medium	Existing salary budget External Funding	Medium	Flood mitigation
Implement the Biodiversity Net Gain approach in planning	Head of Planning	Ongoing	Medium	Existing salary budget External Funding	Medium	Increased biodiversity across the Borough
Explore opportunities for the Council to be a biodiversity and carbon offset provider on Council owned land	Director for Economic Development Head of Planning	July 2026	Medium	Existing salary budget External Funding	Medium	Increased biodiversity across the Borough and removal of carbon emissions from atmosphere
Increase tree cover of Rossendale Forest by 2 hectares per year	Head of Environmental Services/ Operations Team	December 2025	Medium	Existing salary budget External Funding	Medium	Increase tree canopy cover towards the national average

Net Zero Rossendale - Action Plan

Action	Lead	Timescale	Cost	Funding	Carbon Saving	Outcome
Address the impact of extreme heat in regeneration schemes	Director for Economic Development	December 2026	Medium	Existing salary budget External Funding	Medium	Increase adaptation to impacts of extreme heat. Assist with the design codes for Rossendale, needed for the Local Plan Review

Net Zero Rossendale - Action Plan

Working Together in Partnership



Action	Lead	Timescale	Cost	Funding	Carbon Saving	Outcome
Hold annual Rossendale Climate Change Conference	Director for Economic Development	April 2025	Low	Existing salary budget Carbon Reduction Fund	Low	Increase in awareness of climate change issues and participation in environmentally positive behaviours
Establish community climate action group	Director for Economic Development	March 2025	Low	Existing salary budget	Low	Increase in awareness of climate change issues and participation in environmentally positive behaviours
Explore opportunities to deliver carbon literacy education and training	Director of Economic Development HR Manager	April 2025	Low	Existing salary budget Carbon Reduction Fund	Low	Greater carbon literacy leading to Council progress to Carbon Literate Organisation silver status and beyond
Work in partnership with Rossendale Valley Energy (RVE) on Net Zero Terrace Streets project	Director of Economic Development Head of Planning	Ongoing	Low	Existing salary budget External Funding (Innovate UK funding)	Medium	Reduced energy demand for domestic activities
Pursue local and regional partnerships with other councils to implement RBC climate action plan	Director for Economic Development	Ongoing	Low	Existing salary budget	Low	Borough-wide collaborative activity to deliver carbon emissions reduction
Work in partnership with Rossendale Valley Energy to develop opportunities to involve young people in climate action, including the Energy Heroes initiative	Director of Economic Development Head of Planning	Ongoing	Low	Existing salary budget External Funding (Innovate UK funding)	Medium	Increase in awareness of issues and participation in environmentally positive behaviours

Net Zero Rossendale - Action Plan

Action	Lead	Timescale	Cost	Funding	Carbon Saving	Outcome
Work in partnership with Electricity North West to plan deliver and promote Rossendale Council's climate action plans	Director for Economic Development Head of Housing and Regeneration	Ongoing	Low	Existing salary budget	Medium	Borough-wide collaborative activity to reduce carbon emissions
Establish a system to monitor annual carbon emissions to track progress, raise public awareness and maximise carbon reduction benefits.	Director for Economic Development Head of Environmental Services/ Operations Team Facilities Manager	April 2025	Low	Existing salary budget	Medium	Accurate monitoring of reduction in carbon emissions, carbon accountability and raising public awareness

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Net Zero Rossendale Priority Actions 2024/25



Efficient Energy Consumption

Action	Responsibility	Detailed Activities	Update	Estimated Cost	Funding Source	Completion date
1. Deliver energy efficiency and decarbonisation of heat project to council buildings including Henrietta Street depot office building, Marl Pits Leisure Centre and Futures Park	Jane Riley Nichola Fenton-Clough Kwabena Poku	Develop Building Heat Decarbonisation Plan (BHDP) for the Council Implement recommendations of energy audits for Marl Pits Leisure Centre and Henrietta Street depot office	£290k funding secured by the Council from Swimming Pool Support Fund (SPSF) to install new air handling unit and improve energy efficiency at Marl Pits £38k funding secured by the Council from the Low Carbon Skills Fund (LCSF) to develop a BHDP	Medium	Carbon Reduction Fund Swimming Pool Support Fund (SPSF) Low Carbon Skills Fund (LCSF) Existing salary budget	SPSF project-March 2025 LCSF project-March 2025
2. Apply for future funding to support decarbonisation of Marl Pits Leisure Centre	David Smurthwaite Chris Warren Clare Birtwistle	Seek additional funding where appropriate – e.g. Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS)	PSDS phase 4 application in progress	Estimated £300k PSDS Phase 4 project match funding if grant is approved	Existing salary budget Carbon Reduction Fund	November 2024
3. Deliver campaigns to provide energy advice for the home and promote Government household energy efficiency support schemes including ECO flex and HUG	Kwabena Poku Kelly Jenkinson Jackie Flynn Lauren Dickens Natalie Whitham	Continue to work with Rossendale Valley Energy (RVE) to deliver Local Energy Advice Demonstrator (LEAD) and Net Zero Terraced Streets (NZTS) Project Housing services supporting household applications for available funding including ECO-flex, HUG and Cosy Homes grants	LEAD project progressing NZTS project progressing Government household energy efficiency support schemes highlighted on updated RBC website	Low	Existing salary budget Innovate UK funding Government household heating/energy support funding	Ongoing
4. Identify and exploit opportunities for the installation of renewable energy storage on Council land	Kwabena Poku	Research to identify opportunities for the installation of renewable energy sources including solar and wind farms progressing	Discussions with Planning and Property Services	Low	Existing salary budget	March 2025
5. Incorporate the Council's net zero plans into town centre regeneration plans	Megan Eastwood Kwabena Poku	Economic Development team working with Climate Change Programme Officer to incorporate low carbon interventions in all regeneration projects	Plans to install low carbon heating, EV charging infrastructure and solar PV at Rawtenstall and Bacup market	Medium	Levelling up fund	Ongoing

Sustainable Transport

Action	Responsibility	Detailed Activities	Update	Estimated Cost	Funding Source	Completion date
6. Implement council fleet decarbonisation plan to accelerate the shift to electric vehicles	Andy Taylor Kwabena Poku	Carbon audit of RBC fleet completed DNO application for information about electricity capacity at Henrietta Street Depot to support EV fleet expansion completed	Recommendations of detailed carbon audit conducted for Environmental Services/ Operations to inform fleet decarbonisation plan One EV charging point (two sockets) installed at Futures Park and two at Henrietta Street depot New EV service van purchased-September 2024	Medium	Capital replacement budget Carbon Reduction Fund	Ongoing
7. Develop an expanded network of EV charging points across the district adding to existing provision and working with partners to identify where more are needed.	David Smurthwaite Kwabena Osei Poku	Deliver On-street Residential Chargepoints Scheme (ORCS) funded community EV infrastructure project	26 EV charging points (52 sockets) in the Borough will be commissioned on November 18 th	£171k	ORCS grant	November 2024
8. Work with local public transport providers to improve public transport service	Kwabena Poku	Evidence from residents survey to pursue with transport providers	Public transport providers have promised changes	Low	Existing salary budget	Ongoing

Waste and the Wider Environment

Action	Responsibility	Detailed Activities	Update	Estimated Cost	Funding Source	Completion date
9. Deliver initiatives to increase reuse, recycling and waste prevention.	Andy Taylor	Apply lessons from “Check before you chuck” campaign to prepare for food waste collection	Preparation for food waste collection progressing Preparatory work for new waste transfer station progressing	Low	Existing salary budget	Ongoing
10. Partner with local charities and organisations to segregate and redistribute good quality products from households.	Kwabena Poku Jackie Flynn	Engage with local charities and organisations involved in redistribution of food and products from supermarkets and households	Stakeholder engagement ongoing	Low	Existing salary budget	March 2025
11. Increase tree coverage across the Borough	David Smurthwaite Kwabena Poku	Develop tree planting strategy to provide a clear direction on land acquisition, types	Internal discussions and consultation on tree planting strategy has commenced	Low	Existing salary budget	March 2025

	David McChesney	of trees and stakeholder engagement Explore funding opportunities to start a new tree planting project	16000 tree target for Rossendale Forest initiative achieved- spring 2024			
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Working Together in Partnership

Action	Responsibility	Detailed Activities	Update	Estimated Cost	Funding source	Completion date
12. Hold annual Rosendale Climate Change Conference	David Smurthwaite Kwabena Poku Stephen Sykes Jackie Flynn	Planning for annual Climate Change Conference is in progress	Discussions about agenda and venue Initial contact with prospective speakers and stakeholders	Low	Existing salary budget Carbon Reduction Fund	March 2025
13. Deliver carbon literacy education and training to staff	Kwabena Poku	Book carbon literacy training course for RBC staff and Councillors	40 RBC staff and Councillors to be trained by March 2025	Low	Existing salary budget LCSF Phase 5 project social value support	March 2025
14. Net Zero Terraced Streets project	David Smurthwaite Kwabena Poku Lauren Dickens Natalie Whitham	Work with RVE to deliver Net Zero Terraced Streets (NZTS) project	Community Engagement as part of Net Zero Terrace- Alpha phase completed	Low	Existing salary budget Innovate UK funding	SIF Alpha phase of NZTS completed- March 2024 NZTS Pathfinders 2 - ongoing
15. Pursue local and regional partnerships to implement RBC climate action plan and influence regional climate change agenda	David Smurthwaite Kwabena Poku Cllr Adrian Lythgoe	RBC to continue the partnership with RVE and East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce	Council officers have been attending the Lancashire Climate Officers' quarterly meeting Council officer presented at East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce/ RedCAT meeting in April	Low	Existing salary budget	Ongoing
16. Promote the Climate Action Network and develop opportunities for young people to shape climate action	Kwabena Poku Jackie Flynn	Relaunch Climate Action Network and promote Network on RBC website Continue to work with RVE on LEAD project Working closely with schools	Climate emergency section on the Council website updated in April 2024 Climate Change Officer held meeting with head teacher of St James school (Haslingden) in September to discuss the Council's decarbonisation plans and how to involve young people in shaping climate action	Low	Existing salary budget	Ongoing

<p>17. Establish a system to monitor annual emission to track progress, raise public awareness and maximise carbon reduction benefits.</p>	<p>Andy Taylor Kwabena Poku Jane Riley</p>	<p>Develop emission monitoring plan Explore the use of building energy use monitoring systems for possible use in Council owned buildings</p>	<p>Work on emission monitoring plan progressing Plan to install gas and electric usage monitoring system at Futures Park by end of November</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Existing salary budget Carbon Reduction Fund</p>	<p>March 2025</p>
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