



Exeter City Council

A meeting of **EXETER CITY COUNCIL** will be held at the **GUILDHALL, HIGH STREET, EXETER** on **TUESDAY 10 JUNE 2025**, at 6.00 pm, at which you are hereby summoned to attend.

If you have an enquiry regarding any items on this agenda, please contact Mark Devin, Democratic Services Manager on 01392 265477.

The following business is proposed to be transacted:-

Agenda

1 Minutes

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 15 April 2025 and the Annual Council meeting held on 13 May 2025. (Pages 7 - 24)

2 Declarations of Interest

Councillors are reminded of the need to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests that relate to business on the agenda and which have not already been included in the register of interests, before any discussion takes place on the item. Unless the interest is sensitive, you must also disclose the nature of the interest. In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, you must then leave the room and must not participate in any further discussion of the item.

Councillors requiring clarification should seek the advice of the Monitoring Officer prior to the day of the meeting.

3 Local Government Act 1972 - Exclusion of Press and Public

It is considered that the Council would be unlikely to exclude the press and public during consideration of any of the items on the agenda, but if it should wish to do so, the following resolution should be passed:-

RECOMMENDED that, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of the particular item(s) on the grounds that it (they) involve(s) the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Act.

4 Official Communications

5 Public Questions

Details of questions should be notified to the Democratic Services Manager at least three working days prior to the meeting - by 10am on Thursday 5 June 2025. Further information and a copy of the procedure are available from [Democratic Services](#) with details about speaking at Council to be found here: [Public Speaking at Meetings](#).

6 Petition - Save Northbrook Pool

In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, as the above petition contains more than 2,000 signatures it will be debated by the full Council. The petition organiser will be given five minutes to present the petition, and the petition will then be discussed by Councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes. (Pages 25 - 26)

The Council will decide how to respond to the petition at this meeting following the [Councils Petition Scheme](#).

TO RECEIVE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES AND TO DETERMINE THEREON:-

7	Planning Committee - 28 April 2025	(Pages 27 - 30)
8	Audit and Governance Committee - 17 April 2025	(Pages 31 - 38)
9	Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee - 27 March 2025	(Pages 39 - 44)
10	Strategic Scrutiny Committee - 3 April 2025	(Pages 45 - 52)
11	Executive Committee - 20 May 2025	(Pages 53 - 70)

REPORTS TO FULL COUNCIL

12 Overview of General Fund Revenue Budget 2024/25 - Quarter 4

To consider the report of the Strategic Director for Corporate Resources. (Pages 71 - 94)

13 2024/25 General Fund Capital Monitoring 2024/25 and Revised Capital Programme for 2025/26 and Future Years

To consider the report of the Strategic Director for Corporate Resources. (Pages 95 - 114)

14 2024/25 HRA Budget Monitoring Report – Outturn

To consider the report of the Strategic Director for Corporate Resources. (Pages 115 - 134)

15 Treasury Management 2024/25

To consider the report of the Strategic Director for Corporate Resources. (Pages 135 - 144)

16	Update of Exeter City Council's Companies, Alternative Delivery Models and Charities.	To consider the report of the Strategic Director for Corporate Resources.	(Pages 145 - 166)
17	Generating income to fund Net Zero activity	To consider the report of the Strategic Director for Corporate Resources.	(Pages 167 - 170)
18	Extension of the Public Spaces Protection Order	To consider the report of the Strategic Director for Place.	(Pages 171 - 196)

NOTICES OF MOTION

19 Notice of Motion by Councillor Moore under Standing Order No. 6

Motion: Local Housing Allowance

Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates are used to calculate Housing Benefit or universal Credit for tenants renting from private landlords.

Exeter, like other areas, is experiencing a housing crisis and suffered unsustainable rent increases across the private rented sector and loss of homes to Air B&B and HMOs. This situation is recognised in the Devon Housing Commission Report 2024. Average rents in Exeter are, in March 2025, as high as those in the South East of England.

The LHA rates are based on the 30th percentile figures from twelve months' letting information in the Broad Market Rental Area but are insufficient to cover even the cheapest rooms or homes in Exeter. LH Rates have been subject to a freeze since 2020 and the Labour Government has confirmed the rates will be frozen at current levels until 2026.

When a local authority places a household in temporary accommodation (TA) it can claim back the incurred costs associated with the provision of the TA from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). Apart from households placed in council-owned stock outside the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), for which a local authority can reclaim up to the current Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates, the local authority can generally reclaim up to 90 per cent of the January 2011 LHA rates, which were set based on the rental costs at that time. These rates are now outdated and do not accurately reflect current market conditions. The gap in financing between what local authorities initially pay and what is eventually reimbursed by the national government is known as the Temporary Accommodation Subsidy Gap. The current reimbursement system, which largely relies on these outdated 2011 rates, exacerbates this Subsidy Gap.

As such Council:

- Acknowledges the endemic housing crisis affecting our communities across Exeter and the current inadequacy of Local Housing Allowance, frozen since April 2020;
- Notes that Local Housing Allowance has not kept pace with rising rents;
- Expresses concern that Temporary Accommodation Subsidy Gap places

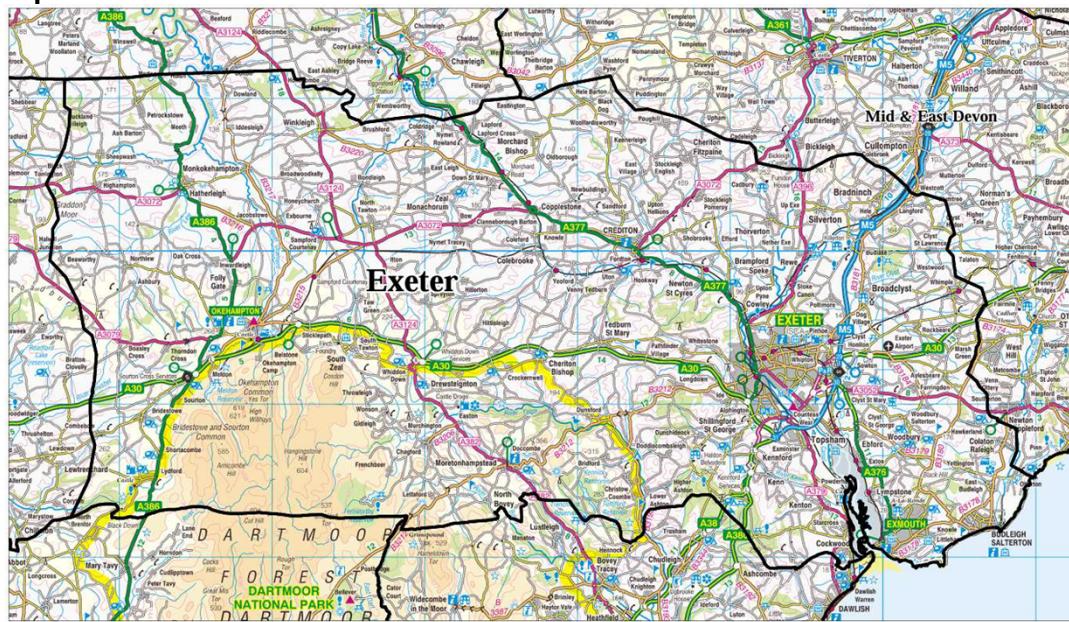
additional strain on local authority budgets.

- Implores Government to commit to immediate interventions to alleviate the housing and homelessness emergency in the short term; and
- Notes the anomalies in the LHA guidance in relation to the Shared Accommodation Rate, for example:
 - The rate applies to single people without children aged 25-34 - which limits opportunities and lifestyle choices;
 - Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) limitations apply from age 25;
 - Pregnant women under the age of 35 pregnant are expected to be accommodated in an HMO and can only apply for a higher rate for a one bed property *after* the birth of the child.
- Notes that the Exeter Broad Rental Market Area for Exeter covers a very large rural area, so drags down the LHA making rental properties in the urban area unaffordable.

Government to

1. Unfreeze, relink and consistently update the Local Housing Allowance levels so they cover rents for the 30% cheapest private rented sector properties⁴ in every local authority area; and address the Temporary Accommodation Subsidy Gap.
2. Redefining the Broad Rental Market Areas covered by Local Housing Allowance at a level that better reflects local rental markets'.
3. Review the Shared Accommodation Rate anomalies listed above to lower the MAPPA age and enable pregnant women to apply for a higher rate before the birth of their child(ren).

Map of Broad Rental Market Area for Exeter



Seconder: Councillor Wetenhall

Background

England is the second most densely populated major country in Europe. Consequently, with huge pressure on land England is also cited as one the most nature deplete countries in Europe and has the lowest 'nature connectedness'.

Regarding Exeter, many of the finest and most appreciated public assets are its river and valley parks. They provide recreational and natural amenity. These important elements of a livable city are captured in some of our guiding documents; the Corporate Strategy 2022-26 and new Exeter City Council Local Plan. Once greenspace is developed it is typically lost to the public and natural domain permanently.

The development hierarchy of habitat loss is avoidance-reduction-mitigation. Where the council chooses on balance to develop green space, it can follow the second principle of harm reduction.

However, this motion recognises Exeter City Council does not have a robust mechanism to mitigate. There is a practice to intensify biodiversity in land through development design, the practice of "biodiversity net gain". This can be viewed as improving the quality of existing biodiversity in a given space. In the case of green space development, in effect nature quality is expected to compensate for the loss of green space. This may have validity, but clearly the practice of pushing natural habitat into ever smaller and smaller but better quality parcels has rapidly apparent limits. This is particularly the case in our urban setting. Biodiversity net gain is arguably a concept best applied to brown field and grey field sites.

Perhaps even more importantly for an urban setting, this model of concentrating nature, says and does nothing for public access to green space for recreation and wellbeing. For these reason that is why this motion has come forward. As Exeter rapidly runs out of development space, the loss of greenfield space to the public domain is increasingly aired by residents and apparent to all.

Motion

This motion proposes that capital receipts from the sale of ECC owned greenfield sites or land never developed that is for all intents and purposes greenfield site, be used solely for the purchase of other greenfield sites within the Exeter City Council boundary or immediately adjacent vicinity.

21 Questions from Members of the Council under Standing Order No. 8

To receive questions from Members on any matter for which the Council has powers, duties or affects the City.

A plan of seating in the Guildhall is attached as an annex.

Date: 2 June 2025

**Bindu Arjoon
Chief Executive**

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Agenda Item 1

COUNCIL

Tuesday 15 April 2025

Present:

The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor, Councillor Kevin Mitchell
Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Paul Knott

Councillors Asvachin, Atkinson, Banyard, Begley, Bennett, Bialyk, Darling, Foale, Fullam, Haigh, Harding, Holland, Hughes, Hussain, Jobson, Ketchin, Knott, Miller-Boam, Mitchell, M, Moore, Palmer, Patrick, Pole, Rees, Rolstone, Snow, Vizard, Wardle, Wetenhall, Williams, M, Williams, R, Wood and Wright

Apologies:

Councillors Parkhouse, Read and Sheridan

Also present:

Chief Executive, Head of Legal and Democratic Services & Monitoring Officer, Head of Service – Finance, Democratic Services Manager and Democratic Services Officer (LS)

25

MINUTES

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 18 February 2025 were moved by the Lord Mayor, taken as read, approved and signed as correct.

The minutes of the Budget meeting of the Council held on 25 February 2025 were moved by the Lord Mayor, taken as read, approved and signed as correct.

The minutes of the Special meeting of the Council held on 20 March were moved by the Lord Mayor, taken as read, approved and signed as correct with an amendment to Minute No. 7 to insert “the LGBT+, especially trans and non-binary community”.

26

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Lord Mayor advised that he had attended the following:

- On the 22 February, I was pleased to attend a re-badging parade with A Company Devon Army Cadet Force;
- On the 1 March I was in attendance of the HMS Exeter Wreath Laying Service;
- On the 8 March, I was privileged to attend the Exeter Bach Choir's 30th Anniversary Concert;
- On 9 March, I attended the Romanian Traditional Spring Festival;
- On 13 March, I was honoured to be at the opening of The Sarah Turvil Multifaith Centre;
- On the 23 March we held the 5th Anniversary Ceremony of the Covid Lockdown;
- On the 27 March we were honoured by the Royal Visit by HRH the Duchess of Gloucester to Exeter College;
- On the 28 March I was pleased to attend the declaration of the new High Sheriff;
- On the 30 March I was pleased to join the Eid al-Fitr Celebrations;

- On the 5 April I enjoyed the VIP reception for the Royal Air Force Town Show 2025; and
- On the 12 April I was honoured to be in attendance of the Diverse Devon Together – Community Social Gathering.

27

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Lord Mayor reported that no questions from a member of the public had been accepted.

28

PLANNING COMMITTEE - 17 FEBRUARY 2025

The minutes of the Planning Committee held on 17 February 2025 were presented by the Chair, Councillor Knott and taken as read.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee of 17 February 2025 be received.

29

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - 12 FEBRUARY 2025

The minutes of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 12 February 2025 were presented by the Deputy Chair, Councillor Jobson, and taken as read.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Audit and Governance Committee of 12 February 2025 be received.

30

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - 19 MARCH 2025

The minutes of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 19 March 2025 were presented by the Chair, Councillor Wardle, and taken as read.

In respect of **Minute No. 55 Code of Corporate Governance 2025/26**, Councillor Moore asked when the review of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) would be concluded, and would residents be able to view the content and Councillor Wardle responded that a written reply would be provided. Councillor Moore asked if there would be an assessment of the Council's climate change action plan and work undertaken and the Leader responded stating that scrutiny would receive a full report which had been received by the Strategic Management Board and this would be the correct place to discuss the Council's obligations and what was achievable or not.

Councillor Wardle moved and Councillor Moore seconded the recommendation **that Council approve the Code of Corporate Governance for 2025/26** and following a unanimous vote was CARRIED.

In respect of **Minute No. 56 Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 Update**, Councillor Wardle moved the recommendation **that Council note and approve the updated Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 Joint Policy and Procedure**, seconded by Councillor Jobson and following a unanimous vote was CARRIED.

In respect of **Minute No. 57 Corporate Net Zero Risk Register**, Councillor Wardle moved the recommendation **that Council approve the updated Net Zero Risk Register** seconded by Councillor Jobson and following a unanimous vote was CARRIED.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Audit and Governance Committee of 19 March 2025 be received.

31

EXETER HARBOUR BOARD - 17 MARCH 2025

The minutes of the Exeter Harbour Board held on 17 March 2025 were presented by the Chair, Councillor Ruth Williams and taken as read.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Exeter Harbour Board of 17 March 2025 be received.

32

STRATA - JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 17 FEBRUARY 2025

The minutes of the Strata - Joint Scrutiny Committee held on 17 February 2025 were presented by Councillor Knott and taken as read.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Strata – Joint Scrutiny Committee of 17 February 2025 be received.

33

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - 4 MARCH 2025

The minutes of the Executive Committee held on 4 March 2025 were presented by the Leader, Councillor Bialyk and taken as read.

In respect of **Minute No. 27 Lord Mayoralty**, the Leader stated that the next Lord Mayor would be Councillor Jobson and the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Rolstone.

In respect of **Minute No. 28 Annual Scrutiny Report 2023/24**, the Leader moved, and Councillor Wright seconded the recommendation **that Council receive the Annual Scrutiny Report 2023/24** and following a unanimous vote was CARRIED.

In respect of **Minute No. 29 Parking Tariffs 2024**, Councillor Wetenhall asked how the Council would deal with expressions of interest such as that put forward for the old bus station site for a pop-up market and Councillor Wood noted that consultation with residents had been listened to by the Portfolio Holder and gave an example from his ward where charging for car parking at Pinhoe Station and the Arena car parks had not been brought forward.

The Leader responded stating that the car parking order for the bus station allowed charges to be put in place but did not mean that this would happen for certain. With regard to expressions of interest the Council would consider all of these through officers and they would be dealt with in due course. It was not the ruling groups intention to have a permanent car park on the old bus station site, but all options would be considered.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Executive Committee of 4 March 2025 be received.

34

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - 1 APRIL 2025

The minutes of the Executive Committee held on 1 April 2025 were presented by the Leader, Councillor Bialyk, and taken as read.

In respect of **Minute No. 34 Review of Corporate Risk Register**, Councillor Vizard asked if the Leader would agree that in terms of the PSDS 4 for Riverside had been

a good example of risk management by the Council given that completion of PSDS 3 would have presented too great a risk. The Leader agreed.

Councillor Moore asked if the Leader would he agree that the next priority for decarbonisation was the RAMM and the Leader responded stating that the identified £900,000 towards the scheme and would remain in the budget rather than being spent elsewhere. Work on the RAMM was identified and he would take advice from officers as to how and when this would be done, as and when funds were available.

In respect of **Minute No. 35 Update on the Digital Customer Strategy**, Councillor Banyard asked that the Portfolio Holder outline the plan to ensure that digitally excluded residents could access Council services stating that a resident, Mr S, didn't trust the internet due to fraud and had no desire to use a computer in any aspect of life. The Leader responded encouraging the resident to make contact and be supported to access services and that others requiring this support could contact the office or Members could give details to office so that residents received an appropriate response.

In respect of **Minute No. 36 Data Strategy**, the Leader move and Councillor Wright seconded the recommendation which following a unanimous vote was CARRIED.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Executive Committee of 1 April 2025 be received.

35 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 8**

In accordance with Standing Order No. 8, the following question was put by Councillor Moore to the Leader:

“Please describe your expectations for: tree and planting schemes, and travel plans, for planning applications approved by the council.”

The Leader responded stating that the Council will apply National Planning Policy and Local Planning Policy in determining planning applications and that developments approved by the Council will have appropriate planning conditions and S106 obligations, as appropriate.

In a supplementary question Councillor Moore asked what the Leader would do to ensure implementation of any conditions set given the perceived lack of implementation from resident.

The Leader responded stating that concerns regarding conditions should be raised and brought to the attention of officers and where appropriate the relevant Strategic Director would speak to the Portfolio Holder and he urged Members to keep an eye on developments in their own area.

In accordance with Standing Order No. 8 the following question was put by Councillor Mitchell to the Leader:

“Following the decision by Morrisons to close its shop in Sidwell Street and the sale of WHSmith stores nationally will Exeter City Council make representations to the Post Office about the future provision of Post Office services within the City Centre?”

As this was a city centre matter the Leader asked that the Portfolio Holder, the Deputy Leader, Councillor Wright respond. Councillor Wright responded stating that Exeter City Council would make a written representation to the Post Office and our MPs about the provision of Post Offices within the City.

In a supplementary question Councillor Mitchell asked that any response to those representations be circulated to all Councillors to which the Deputy Leader agreed.

36

LORD MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENT

As this was his last Council meeting in the Chair, the Lord Mayor stated that it had been a privilege to Chair Council for the last two years and that Members had more in common than divided them. The Lord Mayor thanked the Democratic Services Manager, Monitoring Officer and Chief Executive for their support and wished Councillor Jobson all the best for the future as the incoming Lord Mayor.

(The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and closed at 6.40 pm)

Chair

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ANNUAL COUNCIL

Tuesday 13 May 2025

Present:

The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor Councillor Kevin Mitchell

Councillors Asvachin, Atkinson, Begley, Bialyk, Foale, Fullam, Holland, Jobson, Ketchin, Knott, Miller-Boam, Mitchell, K, Mitchell, M, Moore, Parkhouse, Patrick, Read, Rees, Snow, Vizard, Wardle, Williams, M, Williams, R, Wright, Banyard, Darling, Haigh, Harding, Hughes, Hussain, Palmer, Pole, Rolstone, Wetenhall, Cookson and Payne

Also Present:

Chief Executive, Strategic Director for Place, Strategic Director of Operations, Head of Legal and Democratic Services & Monitoring Officer, Democratic Services Manager, Planning Solicitor, Mayoral Support Officer, Democratic Services Officer and Democratic Services Officer (JM)

7

ELECTION OF THE LORD MAYOR

RESOLVED on the nomination of Councillor Holland seconded by Councillor Bialyk, that Councillor Anne Jobson be elected for Lord Mayor of the City for the ensuing Municipal Year.

The Lord Mayor was invested with her Chain of Office, made her Declaration of Acceptance of Office, took the Chair and returned thanks.

8

APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY LORD MAYOR

RESOLVED on the nomination of Councillor M. Williams, seconded by Councillor Miller-Boam, that Councillor Rolstone be appointed Deputy Lord Mayor of the City for the ensuing Municipal Year.

The Deputy Lord Mayer was invested with her Chain of Office, made her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and returned thanks.

9

CONFIRMATION OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND CONFIRMATION OF THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED that Councillor Bialyk remain Leader of the Council and Councillor Wright remain as Deputy Leader.

10

APPOINTMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS *

The Leader of the Council confirmed his nominations for Portfolio Holders and Executive membership as circulated.

RESOLVED that the Council's Executive be appointed as follows for the ensuing Municipal Year: -

Bialyk, P. Leader

Wright, L. Deputy Leader and Corporate Services, Community Safety and City Centre

Vizard, M. Climate, Ecological Change and Communities

Asvachin, M. Housing, Homelessness Prevention and Customer Services

Wood, D. Leisure Services and Healthy Living

Williams, R. City Management
Patrick, S. City Development
Foale, B. Arts, Culture & Tourism.

MEMBER CHAMPIONS

Miller-Boam, M. Community Safety & Engagement
Darling, D. Culture & City Centre

11

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES *

RESOLVED that the membership of Committees, Chairs and Deputy Chairs and Independent Persons, as shown at the Appendix to these minutes, be approved.

The Leader moved, seconded by Councillor Wright, that the number of seats on Exeter Transport Working Group be increased to seven to allow Councillors Haigh and Holland to be appointed to the committee, which following a vote was
CARRIED.

12

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES *

RESOLVED that the appointments to Outside Bodies shown at the Appendix to these minutes, be approved.

(The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm and closed at 8.15 pm)

Chair

Executive Portfolios and Member Champions

2025/26

<h3 style="text-align: center;">Portfolio Holders</h3>		
1.	Leader Cllr Phil Bialyk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ Corporate Plan ◊ Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution ◊ Corporate Risk Strategy ◊ MTFP and Budget Strategy ◊ Fees & Charges ◊ Devon and Torbay County Combined Authority ◊ Devon District Forum ◊ Team Devon ◊ Exeter Civic University Agreement ◊ Strategic Partnerships (incl Exeter Partnership) and the Sub Regional Growth agenda ◊ Commercial, Social Housing Assets & Property Assets ◊ Strategic Communications ◊ Business Rates Discretionary Grants ◊ Procurement Policy ◊ Strata Joint Executive Committee
2.	Deputy Leader and Corporate Services, Community Safety and City Centre Cllr Laura Wright	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ Equality, Diversity & Inclusion ◊ Corporate Resources ◊ Legal, Democratic, Mayoralty and Electoral Services ◊ HR & Organisational Development ◊ Audit & Governance ◊ Digitalisation ◊ Corporate Health & Safety ◊ Corporate Safeguarding ◊ Corporate Parenting ◊ City Centre Strategy ◊ Working with the BID ◊ Community Safety & Anti-Social Behaviour ◊ CCTV & Home Call ◊ Community Safety Partnership

Portfolio Holders		
3.	Climate, Ecological Change and Communities Cllr Matt Vizard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ Continuing to work towards net zero in our council operations ◊ Working with partners across the City to implement the Net Zero Road Map ◊ Demonstrating leadership across the city in addressing ecological & climate change ◊ Working to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change to achieve a sustainable environment. ◊ Transport ◊ Low Carbon Task Force ◊ District Heating Networks ◊ Community Engagement ◊ Community Grants Strategy and Programme
4.	Housing, Homelessness Prevention and Customer Services Cllr Marina Asvachin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ Corporate Customer Services ◊ Social Housing Rent and service charge setting ◊ Social Housing Landlord Services ◊ Leaseholder Services ◊ Right to Buy ◊ Tenant consultation and engagement ◊ Social Housing allocations ◊ Housing Advisory Board ◊ Benefits, Council Tax, Council Housing Rent Payments, Business Rates payments ◊ Housing Needs, Homelessness & those who are Vulnerably Housed ◊ Housing Advice and Homelessness Prevention ◊ Downsizing Support ◊ Supported Housing Services ◊ Private Sector Housing & Licensing for HMOs ◊ Armed Forces Covenant ◊ Better Care Fund and Disabled Facilities Grant

5.	Leisure Services & Healthy Living Cllr Duncan Wood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ Sport England Local Delivery Pilot ◊ Physical Activity Strategy ◊ Service provision of Leisure Facilities and Playing Pitches ◊ Working with partners to deliver a Sports Strategy ◊ Leisure Services (running service and facilities) ◊ Health and Wellbeing ◊ Wellbeing Exeter, working with the portfolio holder for Climate and Ecological Change and Communities.
6.	City Management Cllr Ruth Williams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ Cleansing ◊ Parks, open spaces and allotments ◊ Public Realm, green spaces and green infrastructure ◊ Bereavement Services ◊ Engineering and Flooding ◊ Strategy and Policy for Waterways ◊ Recycling & Refuse Collection ◊ Rollout of Food Waste ◊ Habitats Mitigation ◊ Air Quality ◊ Fleet Management ◊ Harbour Board Chair ◊ Exeter Canal and Quay ◊ Environmental Health ◊ Enforcement ◊ Licensing ◊ Taxi Forum
7.	City Development Cllr Susannah Patrick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ Exeter Local Plan ◊ Liveable Exeter ◊ Housing Supply ◊ Infrastructure planning ◊ Planning Policy and Planning Control ◊ Strategic Housing Planning Policy ◊ Building Control and Land Charges ◊ Design and Heritage
8.	Arts, Culture & Tourism Cllr Bob Foale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ Markets and Halls, Underground Passages, Corn Exchange, Historic Guildhall, Custom House and Markets ◊ Cultural Strategy ◊ Creative Arc ◊ UNESCO City of Literature ◊ RAMM & Oversight Working Group ◊ Tourism Strategy, Visit Exeter ◊ Events ◊ Commercialisation ◊ Sales & Marketing

Member Champions

9.	Cllr Mollie Miller-Boam	Supporting the portfolio holders: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corporate Services, Community Safety and City Centre• Climate, Ecological Change and Communities
10.	Cllr Debbie Darling	Supporting the portfolio holders: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corporate Services, Community Safety and City Centre• Arts, Culture & Tourism

EXETER CITY COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE, SCRUTINY AND OTHER COMMITTEES: 2025/26

NOMINATIONS

EXECUTIVE (8)

Bialyk, P.M. (Leader and Chair)	Vizard, M.
Wright, L. (Deputy Leader)	Wood, D.
Asvachin, M.Y.	Williams, R.T,
Foale, R.	
Patrick, S	

PORTFOLIO HOLDERS (8)

Bialyk, P. M.	Leader
Wright, L.	Deputy Leader and Corporate Services& City Centre
Vizard, M.	Climate, Ecological Change and Communities
Asvachin, M.Y.	Housing, Homelessness Prevention and Customer Services
Wood, D.	Leisure Services & Healthy Living
Williams, R.T.	City Management
Patrick, S	City Development
Foale.R	Arts, Culture & Tourism

MEMBER CHAMPIONS

Miller-Boam, M	Community Safety & Engagement
Darling, D.	Culture & City Centre

CUSTOMER FOCUS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (14)

Rees, C. (Chair)	Moore, D
Cookson, J. (Deputy Chair)	Parkhouse, J.C.M
Begley, J	Payne, T
Darling, D.	Pole, L
Fullam, A	Read, T
Hussain, J.	Snow, M.I
Holland, P	Wardle, A,J

STRATEGIC SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (14)

Pole, L (Chair)	Knott, P
Mitchell, K (Deputy Chair)	Miller-Boam, M
Atkinson, Y	Palmer, T
Haigh, L	Rolstone, G
Harding, R	Wetenhall, L
Hussain, J	Williams, M.J
Ketchin, A	Conservative nomination

SCRUTINY PROGRAMME BOARD (5)

Williams, M (Chair)	
Pole, L (Chair Strategic Scrutiny)	Rees, C (Chair Customer Focus)
Mitchell K (Deputy Chair Strategic Scrutiny)	Cookson, J (Deputy Chair Customer Focus)

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (12)

Wardle, A.J. (Chair)	Knott, P
Moore, D (Deputy Chair)	Miller-Boam. M
Atkinson, Y	Mitchell, M
Banyard, J	Payne, T
Begley, J	Snow, M.I
Holland, P	Williams, M

PLANNING COMMITTEE (14)

Knott, P. (Chair)	Hussain, J
Rolstone, G. (Deputy Chair)	Ketchin, A
Asvachin, M	Mitchell, M
Atkinson, Y	Pole, L
Banyard, J	Williams, M
Bennett, C	Harding, R.
Hughes, Z	Conservative nomination

PLANNING MEMBER WORKING GROUP (8)

Rolstone, G. (Chair)	Bennett, C
Knott, P. (Chair of Planning) (Deputy Chair)	Hughes, Z.
Atkinson, Y	Mitchell, M
Asvachin, M	Pole, L

LICENSING COMMITTEE (14)

Snow, M.I (Chair)	Hussain, J
Begley, J (Deputy Chair)	Mitchell, K
Banyard, J	Parkhouse, J.C.M
Bennett, C	Holland, P
Fullam, A	Wood, D
Haigh, L	Williams, M. J
Harding, R	Williams, R.T

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE (3)

Licensing Sub-Committee membership to be drawn from Licensing Committee Members above.

COMMUNITY GRANTS PANEL (8)

Vizard, M. (Chair)	Miller-Boam, M
Darling, D	Moore, D
Knott, P	Palmer, T
Hughes, Z	Rolstone, G

EXETER TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP (7)

Vizard, M (Chair)	Wardle, A, J
Knott, P	Wood, D.
Haigh, L	Wetenhall, L
Holland, P	

EXETER HARBOUR BOARD (12)

(6 City Councillors)

Williams, R.T. (Chair)	Read, T
Cookson, J.	Snow, M.I
Rolstone, G.	Sheridan, A

(6 External Members)

ROYAL ALBERT MEMORIAL MUSEUM & ART GALLERY (RAMM) OVERSIGHT PANEL (8)

(6 City Councillors)

Foale, R. (Chair)	Darling, D
Atkinson, Y	Snow, M.I
Banyard, J	Jobson, A.

(2 External Members)

COUNCILLOR DEVELOPMENT STEERING GROUP (6)

Wright, L. (Chair)	Palmer, T.
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Patrick, S	Knott,
Hughes, Z	Williams, R.T

COUNCIL HOUSING ADVISORY AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD (10)

(5 City Councillors)

Wardle.A.J.(Chair)	Fullam, A
Asvachin, M.Y. (Portfolio Holder)	Pole, L
Begley, J	

(5 External Members)

INDEPENDENT PERSONS

Mr I Brooking and Professor B. Kirby appointed as Independent Persons to assist the Council in promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct amongst its Elected Members.

STRATA JOINT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (3) – (1 FROM ECC)

Bialyk, P.M. (Leader)	

STRATA JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (9) – (3 FROM ECC)

Knott, P.	Mitchell, M.
Cookson, J.	

EXETER HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC ORDERS COMMITTEE (13)

(4 City Councillors)

Bialyk, P.M.	Wright, L
Wood, D.	Wetenhall, L.

(9 County Councillors)

Outside Bodies Appointments 2025 - 26

Category 1 - Strategic Appointments	
Title	Representative
Community Safety Partnership	Cllr Laura Wright
	Cllr Marina Asvachin
	Cllr Matthew Vizard
Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel	Cllr Laura Wright
Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee	Cllr Ruth Williams
Devon Rail Forum	Cllr Matthew Vizard
Energy From Waste Liaison Committee	Cllr Ruth Williams
Exe Estuary Management Partnership	Cllr Ruth Williams
Exeter Health and Wellbeing Board	Cllr Matthew Vizard
	Cllr Duncan Wood
	Cllr Laura Wright
	Cllr Catherine Rees
Exeter International Airport Consultative Group	Cllr Matthew Vizard
Exeter SAFE (SAFE Foundation)	Cllr Laura Wright
In Exeter	Cllr Laura Wright
Local Government Association General Assembly	Cllr Phil Bialyk
Royal Albert Memorial Museum Development Trust	Cllr Bob Foale
	Cllr Yvonne Atkinson
South West Councils	Cllr Phil Bialyk
South West Employers Panel	Cllr Phil Bialyk
The Exeter Phoenix Arts Board	Cllr Bob Foale
Topsham Mooring Owners Association	Cllr Gemma Rolstone
Topsham River Commissioners (under the Exeter Port Dues Act 1840)	Cllr Gemma Rolstone
	Cllr Matthew Williams
	Cllr James Cookson
UNESCO City of Literature Board	Cllr Bob Foale

Category 2 - General & Ward Appointments	
Title	Representative
Exeter Church Charities	Cllr Alison Sheridan
	Vacancy
Exeter Fairtrade Steering Group	Cllr Matthew Vizard
	Cllr Mollie Miller-Boam
Exeter Homes Trust	Cllr Tammy Palmer
	Cllr Anne Jobson
	Vacancy

National Park Forum	Cllr Matthew Vizard
	Cllr Tess Read
Parking and Traffic Regulation Outside London Adjudication Joint Committee (PATROLAJC)	Cllr Matthew Vizard
	Vacancy
St. Edmunds & St Mary Major Charities, Exeter	Vacancy
St. Leonard's with Holy Trinity Charities	Vacancy
Turntable Furniture Re-cycling Project	Cllr Susanah Patrick

Council Connected Companies

Title	Representative
Exeter Business Centre Board Ltd	Cllr Paul Knott
	Cllr Duncan Wood
	Cllr Laura Wright
	Vacancy
Exeter Canal & Quay Trust Ltd.	Cllr Phil Bialyk
	Cllr Laura Wright
	Cllr Martin Snow
	Cllr Gemma Rolstone
	Cllr Ruth Williams
	Cllr Bob Foale
	Cllr Annew Jobson
	Cllr Tess Read

Agenda Item 6

Title: Save Northbrook Pool

Statement:

We the undersigned petition the council to I am presenting this petition to you in regard to the news of possible closure of the Northbrook Pool. I am someone who uses this facility a number of times a week and it is incredibly important for my mental and physical wellbeing. I know this is the case for many in the local community. I know the argument may be there are other facilities in Exeter. However, many cannot travel or afford transport or parking for central town. The benefit of a truly local facility such as the Northbrook is valuable for the community. The area is a more deprived area and having an accessible local pool is something we should fight for. The community of the Northbrook is special. The range in ages and people who have been brought together by their love of the pool, activity and connection is unique. I have met and engaged with people I would never have if not part of my day. I love our interactions and the benefits to my wellbeing has been monumental. Not only is it a wonderful and vital local

Justification:

The Northbrook swimming pool is more than just a facility for physical activities. It is a hub that brings our community together, enabling us to find solace in the company of our neighbors and friends. The shared experience at the swimming pool eases loneliness and tightens bonds among the locals. It also provides a significant boost to our mental and physical wellbeing. Swimming is known to enhance mood and decrease anxiety - a fact supported by Mental Health organisations. Furthermore, it offers a chance for physical exercise, which is crucial for health. Many members and frequenters can't manage or afford travel to city centre locations. The closing of Northbrook Swimming Pool would deprive us of these benefits and rip the community of a vital facility in a less affluent area.

Hence, we call the relevant authorities to reconsider their decision and work towards keeping the swimming pool open. Join us in our fight to keep our community center alive and thriving

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Agenda Item 7

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Monday 28 April 2025

Present:-

Councillor Knott (Chair)

Councillors Asvachin, Atkinson, Banyard, Bennett, Hughes, Hussain, Jobson, Ketchin, Miller-Boam, Mitchell, M and Rolstone

Apologies

Councillor Patrick

Also Present

Head of Service - City Development, Assistant Service Lead - City Development, Senior Planner Conservation and Democratic Services Manager

19

MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 27 January 2025 and 17 February 2025 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chair as correct.

20

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made by Members.

21

PLANNING APPLICATION NO. 25/0072/LBC - 25 THE STRAND, TOPSHAM

Councillors Hughes and Pole arrived during the officer's presentation and did not participate in the debate or vote for this item.

The Assistant Service Lead - City Development presented the application for: roof and floor repairs; external masonry and wall repairs; re-building of the parapet; replacement of 20th Century windows in sail loft; the removal of external wall cement rendering and replacement with lime render; and replacement of 20th Century fixed slatted shutters on the south elevation. The property was grade II listed and located in the Topsham Conservation Area.

Members received a presentation (supplemented to the agenda) which provided detail on:

- the site location;
- aerial views and museum photos;
- the proposal overview and site photos of the roof;
- the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) objection to the roof repairs;
- officer advice in response to comments made by SPAB;
- an overview of the floor joist repair proposal and site photos;
- detail of the proposed cross-section;
- proposed first and second floor plans;
- an objection from SPAB for the structural joist repairs at the first and second floors;
- officer response to comments made by SPAB;
- proposal overview and west and north elevations;

- parapet photos;
- the proposal overview of the replacement of windows in the sail loft and site photos;
- an objection from SPAB relating to the window replacement and officer advice provided;
- the proposal overview for the removal of the external wall cement rendering and replacement with lime render and photos;
- the proposal overview for the replacement of 20th Century fixed slat slat shutters on the south elevation and photos;
- an objection to replacement windows from SPAB; and
- officer recommendation was to approve with conditions outlined in the report.

Particular reference was made to the application being for a listed building consent and not a planning application, consequently the issues relating to neighbourhood impacts and highways were not for consideration.

The Assistant Service Lead - City Development and the Senior Planner - Conservation responded to questions from Members as follows:

- the floor struts, which had been objected to by SPAB would be concealed and not be visible;
- consultation with heritage groups was dependent on the building's era, however SPAB could comment on any relevant building;
- the conservation officer had counted the exact number of ceiling joists needing repair on the submitted plans, and this was fewer than the number identified in the SPAB objection; and
- the lead contractor was an experienced joiner, and their on-site assessment would determine the appropriate repair method for the joists.

During the debate, Members expressed the following views:

- it was important to there was a need to consider the application carefully and being open and transparent about the application;
- the historic building requires urgent extensive repairs to prevent further deterioration, and the scaffolding need to be removed as promptly as possible following this, as this is impacting on traffic and image of the building;
- the team had undertaken an excellent evaluation of the building; and
- expressed support for the officer's recommendations.

Councillor Atkinson moved and Councillor Ketchin seconded a motion to move to the vote to accept the officer's recommendations.

The recommendation was to GRANT subject to conditions as set out in the report and following a vote was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED that planning permission for roof and floor repairs, external masonry and wall repairs, re-building of parapet, replacement of 20th Century windows in sail loft, the removal of external wall cement rendering and replacement with lime render and replacement of 20th Century fixed slatted shutters on south elevation be approved subject to the conditions set out in the report.

Members received the appeals report and the Head of Service - City Development advised that there was a typographical error in report relating to 170 Pennsylvania Road and confirmed that the appeal was allowed, but costs were not awarded.

In response to questions raised, the Head of Service - City Development advised that:

- appeal decision cases were decided upon by their merits and specific case facts and did not set a general precedent. There were often similar cases which referenced previous decisions; and
- the matter relating to the replacement shed at 16 Chapel Road would be raised with the enforcement team for an update. The working practice unauthorised structures was to undertake informal discussions to remove the structure and escalate to formal measures as needed.

The report of the Strategic Director for Place was noted.

(The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and closed at 6.05 pm)

Chair

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Agenda Item 8

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Thursday 17 April 2025

Present:

Councillor Tony Wardle (Chair)
Councillors Jobson, Atkinson, Begley, Knott, Miller-Boam, Mitchell, M, Moore, Palmer and Patrick

Also Present:

Strategic Director for Corporate Resources, Strategic Director for Place, Head of Legal and Democratic Services & Monitoring Officer, Solicitor and Democratic Services Officer (LS)

59

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Ketchin and the Chief Executive.

60

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests were made.

61

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

The Monitoring Officer requested that this item was withdrawn to allow input from party leaders. The report would be presented to a future meeting in accordance with Council provisions.

62

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES - CITY DEVELOPMENT FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Solicitor presented the report on Constitutional Changes – City Development Functions and Responsibilities stating that input had been sought from officers as well as Members, via the Governance Sounding Board. In presenting the report he made the following points:

- at present the public and Members spoke immediately prior to debate on an item and this could often drive debate considering matters which were not material planning issues. It was proposed that Standing Order No. 19A be amended to change the speaking order. It was hoped that this would bring more informed debate and enable the committee to make lawful and good decisions;
- the length of time which Members may address the committee for under Standing Order No. 44 was proposed to be amended, limiting Members to five minutes to represent their residents and increasing public speakers to five minutes thus equalising both parties as the current unrestricted format for questions under Standing Order No. 44 and members of the public speaking under Standing Order No. 19A had, at times, evolved into lengthy discussion or question and answer sessions which could introduce irrelevant considerations;
- there was an updated flow chart which set out the speaking order to Members and the public;
- the Planning Code of Good Practice would replace the Planning Code of Conduct and had been provided by a professional membership body representing local authority legal advisers and had been presented in 2003

but updated since and reflected the Localism Act amongst other relevant legislation. This would provide practical support to Members as they navigated the planning decision-making progress;

- a site-visit protocol would be introduced;
- changes to scheme of delegation were listed in section 3 of the report and would enhance the role of Delegation Briefing and ensure that items which came before Delegation Briefing were reported in a timely manner;
- S106 obligations would be clarified;
- the detail of the report stated that the financial limit for new planning agreements, which the Head of City Development had delegated authority to enter into, was £100,000. The proposed new scheme of delegations to officers at Appendix 5 stated at Part B, Section 3 that the limit was £200,000 and the Solicitor apologised for the oversight.
- the Terms of Reference for the Planning Committee would be updated; and
- only staff applications which were major would be brought before the committee.

The Monitoring Officer clarified that changes to the Constitution were delegated to the Monitoring Officer and Lord Mayor and he saw no reason why these changes could not be introduced ahead of the wider Constitutional Changes item being heard.

During debate the Chair of the Planning Committee, Councillor Knott spoke in support of the officer's recommendations in light of having attended a national conference with 29 other local planning authorities where Exeter was the only authority to allow unlimited time for Members to speak. He also clarified that time limits could be extended by the Chair using their powers, where necessary.

There was reservation over changes being made to the order of speakers at Planning Committee.

The Strategic Director for Place and Solicitor responded to questions from Members in the following terms:

- officers and the team had gone through a rigorous process over a period of months looking at how things could be improved, in particular for the public;
- Part of that process had been to look at what was good nationally which hadn't previously been done;
- the changes proposed were based on national good practice and the Chair having been to a national conference was excellent to hear;
- officers could address the issues raised during the public speaking and Member debate. The Strategic Director for Place or Planning Officer would sum up before debate therefore changing the order would make the process more robust;
- the purpose of Delegation Briefing was to determine if it was in the public interest for an application to be brought before the Planning Committee. Members could submit items for Delegation Briefing up to two days after the close of the consultation period;
- a TPO was an application to put an order on a tree therefore if a planning application came forward this could become one of the constraints. Officers could consider this on balance;
- the flowchart could have additions made including the flexibility discussed with regard to timings;
- the proposed revised Terms of Reference included guidance for applications from Councillors, Planning Officers and their close family members and others major in nature of staff. This was proportionate for the purposes of transparency;

- further time needed for clarifications would be at the discretion of the Chair;
- the Governance Sounding Board had comprised cross-party Members who had helped to shape the proposals and their excellent contribution was now reflected in the report;
- there was no question over the lawfulness or validity of the current processes but these proposals had come about due to a review being required; and
- changes and their impact could be reviewed.

The Deputy Chair suggested that it could be worth considering a planning basics training session to include what items, and how they should go to Delegation Briefing.

The Monitoring Officer stated that there had been no substantive changes to the constitution for over twenty years and in future there would be a process for annual review in place.

A Member, who had been part of the Governance Sounding Board, stated that this had been collaborative and not party political and that a trial period for changes had been discussed as well as the possibility of gaining feedback and taking action as appropriate.

The Chair moved, seconded by Councillor Jobson the recommendations outlined in the report and following votes on each were **CARRIED**.

RECOMMENDED that Council grant:

2.1 delegated authority to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Lord Mayor to agree a date for the Council to adopt the following changes to the Constitution:

2.1.1 Standing Order 19A to be amended to adjust the speaking order at Planning Committee so that Councillors and members of the public speak first on any planning application before the officer presentation;

2.1.2 Standing Order 44 be amended to limit speaking time for Councillors who are not members of the Planning Committee to five minutes when addressing any planning application (and that any follow-up questions posed by the committee to those Councillors also be limited to five minutes);

2.1.3 Standing Order 19A to be further amended to increase the amount of time for which a member of the public who ask to speak in respect of any planning application from three to five minutes (and that any follow-up questions posed by the committee to the member of the public is limited to five minutes);

2.1.4 City Development to update and publish the Planning Committee Debate and Decision Process flowchart to reflect the changes to the speaking order at Planning Committee meetings;

2.1.5 replace the Local Planning Code of Conduct with the Members Planning Code of Good Practice;

2.1.6 adopt the Site Visit Protocol;

2.1.7 update the terms of reference to the Planning Committee in the constitution to accommodate minor adjustments such as clarity on how staff applications are dealt with; and

2.1.8 update the scheme of delegation relating to the functions and responsibility of the Head of City Development to reflect updates and accommodate minor clarifications.

63

AMENDMENTS TO TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE JOINT CONSULTATION AND NEGOTIATION COMMITTEE

Councillor Knott proposed that this item was deferred due to it being linked to the withdrawn item regarding Constitutional Changes. This was withdrawn following advice from the Monitoring Officer that JCNC was a freestanding part of the constitution therefore maybe considered.

The meeting was adjourned at 18:59pm

The meeting reconvened at 19:06pm

Strategic Director for Corporate Resources presents on behalf of the JCNC and Strategic Director for People and Communities, making the following points:

- This was a small piece of the constitution;
- The JCNC had been through a process of amending their Terms of Reference in order to strengthen them;
- the process was that the Terms of Reference had been drafted and reviewed in consultation with Unison which was the only union currently represented on the JCNC;
- Unison had consulted with staff representatives and gained feedback which had been shared with the JCNC
- There was a request to review paid time after 12 months; and
- There were no staff representatives from Unite or GMB at Exeter City Council.

The Chair stated that the other unions had members in the council and that he and the Deputy Chair would like those others to be consulted and that there should be evidence of such before this item went forward. The Chair pointed out that given Local Government Reorganisation it was important that union members had proper representation, and the other unions might want to have input. The Deputy Chair stated that this was an important process and this was missing detail which ought to be added.

The Strategic Director for Corporate Resources responded to Members questions in the following terms:

- That there was space on the JCNC for all unions to be represented which remained open but hadn't been taken up recently; and
- Further changes could be made and brought before Council via the Audit and Governance Committee.

The Chair proposed, seconded by Councillor Moore and following a unanimous vote it was **AGREED**:

That this matter be deferred to a future meeting of this committee and all three unions be written to, their local representatives and regional offices, and sent copies of existing and proposed Terms of Reference and a written reply to be requested by the end of June; and

For Officers to clarify:

1. the difference in wording in points 1 and 6 regarding consultation and negotiation; and

2. reasons for removal of reference to the national agreement on pay and conditions of service NJC National Agreement and Joint Negotiating Committee's for Chief Officers of Local Authorities and Local Authority Chief Executives.

(The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and closed at 7.30 pm)

Chair

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Audit and Governance Committee Recommendations to Council

Minute NO. 62 - Report Constitutional Changes - City Development Functions and Responsibilities

- [Appendix 1 Standing Orders 19A and 44 \(Markup\)\(Final\)](#)
- [Appendix 2 PCD and DP Proposed](#)
- [Appendix 3 Proposed Members Planning Code of Good Practice \(Clean\)](#)
- [Appendix 4 Exeter City Council Site Visit Protocol](#)
- [Appendix 5 Delegations to Officers and Deputies \(New\)](#)
- [Appendix 6 Delegations to Officers and Deputies \(Existing\)](#)
- [Appendix 7 ToR \(New\)](#)
- [Appendix 8 ToR \(Comparison\)](#)

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Agenda Item 9

CUSTOMER FOCUS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

27 March 2025

Present:

Councillor Josie Parkhouse (Chair)
Councillors Rees, Begley, Darling, Harding, Holland, Miller-Boam, Moore, Patrick, Pole and Wardle

Apologies:

Councillors Fullam, Hussain and Read

Also present:

Senior Housing Needs Team Lead, Head of Service - Housing, Head of Service - Customers and Communities, Strategic Director for People and Communities, Strategic Director of Operations, Head of Legal and Democratic Services & Monitoring Officer, Head of Service - City Centre and Net Zero, Legal Advisor and Democratic Services Officer (LS)

In attendance as Portfolio Holders:

Councillors Asvachin, Bialyk, Vizard, Williams, R.

53 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee held on 30 January 2025 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

54 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made by Members.

55 Questions from the Public under Standing Order No. 19

The Chair reported that there were no questions from the public.

56 Questions from Members of the Council under Standing Order No. 20

The Chair reported that there were no questions submitted in advance from Members and invited questions to the Portfolio Holders present in accordance with Standing Order No. 20.

Councillor Vizard, Portfolio Holder for Climate, Ecological Change and Communities responded to a question from a Member making the point that he considered how charities who did not receive any money could be supported and asked the Head of Service Customers and Communities to respond. The Head of Service Customers and Communities stated that 'Gatherwell' had a suite of marketing tools which would be used.

Councillor Vizard also responded to a further question from a Member stating that the website would be updated with the additional information provided following the previous meeting of the Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee.

57 Scrutiny Work Plan

The Chair proposed that this item be heard next rather than in the order it appeared in the agenda.

The Chair reminded Members that following discussion at the last meeting the item "Performance and service provided to customers and stakeholders of Stagecoach Southwest in Exeter" had been passed to the Scrutiny Programme Board to determine at which committee it is best heard.

The Chair explained that there were two proformas to be scoped with ASB in city centre being the first and she invited Councillor Mitchell, as proposer to come to the table as he had submitted a request under Standing Order No. 44 to attend and speak on the item.

Councillor Mitchell in presenting the request stated that the item was as outlined on the proforma and that he would suggest that the committee look at causations, how it presents itself in Exeter, was there anything unique to the city and look at possible solutions.

The Chair stated that similar to the previous theme of safety of women at night she would suggest that the whole committee address this topic so as not to exclude anyone.

A Member suggested that it may be useful to invite the Portfolio Holder, Councillor Wright in order to better understand the situation.

The Scrutiny Programme Board could also discuss invitees, and July was considered a good time to schedule this item as this would coincide with almost a year of the community safety team which would be extended and linked to Devon and Cornwall hotspot policing.

The Chair clarified that the issue to be considered on a proforma would look at the city centre, but a wider area could be considered at a later date.

The Strategic Director People and Communities made the following comments in support of scoping the item:

- the Strategic Director for Place would be the relevant officer;
- she cautioned against correlating street attachment and rough sleeping with ASB;
- there was a library of international evidence about cause and effect, reports of which could be made available to help identify what would be expected from partners;
- she could provide information about the organisation who commissions drug and alcohol services.

Councillor Moore suggested that witnesses were ask the following:

- What were the key things they offer which are unique;
- What they thought the Council could do better or stop doing to impact ASB and work better in partnership with them.

The Chair suggested that a small number of key witnesses were asked to give a short, written report and present on ASB in the city centre, its causes and possible solutions, in the first instance, to include Police, InExeter, the university, drug/alcohol services.

Following a vote the scoping of the item on ASB in the city centre was AGREED unanimously.

The Head of Service – City Centre and Net Zero suggested that the InExeter boundary be used as this was well-defined.

In scoping the item on Key People Activity across the Council the Strategic Director for People and Communities made the following points:

- Last year the Chief Executive had commissioned a review of HR;
- Information had been taken from the review to create an HR Improvement Plan which it would be helpful for scrutiny to look at;
- The timeframe set out was a welcome opportunity to set out what the review had detailed, the actions taken and things which remained outstanding;
- The new Head of Service had been in post for one month so the time frame given would give time for delivery of the Improvement Plan to be pushed forward;
- Use of temporary staff had not been part of the review but could look to share information in relation to whether this had made things easier or produced budget savings.

Following a vote the scoping of the item on Key People Activity Across the Council was AGREED unanimously.

The Chair proposed seconded by Councillor Rees that the Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee approve the Work Plan as submitted with Portfolio holder report for July removed and tenants Passivhaus item moved to September. Following a vote, the recommendation was CARRIED unanimously.

58 **Portfolio Holder Report - Portfolio for City Management (Cllr Ruth Williams)**

The Portfolio Holder for City Management, Councillor Ruth Williams, presented her report which was taken as read.

The Portfolio Holder, Strategic Director for People and Communities, Strategic Director for Operations and Head of Service Operations responded to questions from Members in the following terms:

- the government website issued advice and guidance to packaging producers regarding the new legislation, but the related funding remained unclear;
- investment in the MRF would improve the recycling rate and Exeter was in the top 10% for residual waste and the Council was good at selling some recyclables but this maybe affected by the new legislation;
- reduction in the amount of waste produced remained the aim;
- the tender for work on the Heavitree paddling pools had been unsuccessful as the funds on offer were insufficient for the work required, stage 2 consultation was planned and being designed;
- electric vehicles for food waste did not currently exist and the position was the same for large street cleansing vehicles;
- the cost of an electric waste collection vehicle was £0.5million with an equivalent diesel costing £0.25million but shorter leases would be considered;
- it was hoped that in 2026 electric vehicles could operate for 2.5 days before charging was needed;
- whole fleet electrification would be difficult to manage due to infrastructure and scheduling given the capacity of the charge, how far the vehicles travel and how heavy they are. Growth in stages allowed learning to be had;

- food waste rounds could be adjusted rather than extra vehicles obtained in order to maximise efficiency;
- recruitment was not a single service-area issue and a number of routes in were being considered and expertise could be difficult to source;
- apprenticeships were a key area being considered within the HR Improvement Plan and it was acknowledged that the current website did not always make it easy to make a job application or take into account a wide range of needs;
- video applications were being trialled as well as looking into methods used by other councils;
- a strategy in regard to career pathways would be brought forward;
- consultants would be appointed in the near future and would support procurement with regard to the MRF. The building and infrastructure would go ahead in tandem and an update to Members would be provided in the summer;
- recycling rates were not the most important metric, reducing waste produced was;
- manufacturers using less packaging should help reduce the amount of waste collected and the amount the council recycled;
- the recycling rate could be improved by including garden waste collection which could be misleading;
- education was still needed to help residents to understand as there remained residents who did not recycle, including some students who struggled to understand the system.

59 **Update on Street Cleansing**

The Head of Service Operations presented the report on the Update on Street Cleansing and responded to questions from Members in the following terms:

- that a methodology which maintained objectivity was used to select sample roads. This involved a twelve-month rolling programme where wards were selected cyclically with 5% being re-inspections for consistency;
- Grade C issues were addressed between 24 and 48 hours and cleared and those areas would be re-inspected within the next month, on a different day and time. It was possible that these could be one-off issues or not. If there was aggregated or accumulated waste, then additional solutions could be considered;
- volunteer and community litter-picking schemes were part of the solution and measures would be seen as adequate if maintained by volunteers;
- street cleansing was responsible for litter and detritus arising on the kerb however there could be biomatter and metals from vehicles and Devon County Council(DCC) would be responsible for drainage and their programme of works did not correspond with that of the city council;
- street parking was an issue and there was no capacity to suspend parking across the whole city in order to cleanse. However, DCC would permit 24-hour parking suspension if there were particular issues;
- DCC was responsible for weeds, but some may inadvertently be cleared when deep cleaning. Persistent issues would not be addressed by the city council;
- the standard litter form on the council website should be used to report issues;
- all litter bins not in play areas were for mixed use, meaning that dog foul could be put in and the waste to energy plant would process this;
- self-compacting litter bins were being trialled at Bromhams Farm, and these could be useful in rural communities and Valley Parks as they had a larger capacity;
- there was work to be done on education and to get schools involved at an early stage;

- further data collation was required, and the online forms would provide this but current lack of digitisation meant it was more difficult to gather evidence and data;
- enforcement for littering was difficult as those dropping litter must be seen to do so;
- fly-tipping was a waste issue rather than street cleansing and related to large bulky items;
- there was a programme of work with Devon County Council and other districts with regard to waste collection and fly-tipping. Cameras were being considered in problematic areas.

60 **Six-monthly update on Homelessness Strategy**

The Portfolio Holder for Housing, Homelessness Prevention and Customer Services, Councillor Asvachin, presented the report which was taken as read.

The Portfolio Holder, Senior Housing Needs Team Lead, Head of Service – Housing and Strategic Director for People and Communities responded to questions from Members in the following terms:

- targets to end rough sleeping were aspirational and it could be more realistic to end rough sleeping as a norm;
- terms of reference for a mid-term policy review, later in the year, were being written;
- the Howell Road pods were operational with two of the four successfully occupied albeit with some repairs required;
- the portfolio holder was working with St Petrock's and the methodology for the count was on the agenda;
- the date of the count was countywide and agreed with partners and reassurance was given over accuracy as the team carried out weekly counts and monthly returns to Government with an average of 13 reported at present;
- officers had carried out extensive work responding to the consultation and working with the LGA on a lobbying piece of work, which had included briefings for local MPs. There was a consistent message across the country;
- the number of people living in campervans were unknown at present but would be obtained;
- the number of people who had approached the Council to make homelessness applications was 2023/24 1053, 2024/25 1079;
- it was difficult to say if attrition rates had an impact;
- trend data would be provided in future;
- the outreach team were commissioned to reach out to those sleeping in vehicles;
- the need for toilets overnight would be noted in the review of services;
- the council worked with Public Health and Devon County Council at a strategic level regarding drug use and were operationally co-located with a range of other services. Identification of those at risk was undertaken on a weekly basis. There was a high number of drug-related deaths, but the majority were housed;
- the outreach team were trained and able to respond to those experiencing overdose;
- the impact of interventions would be brought to the portfolio Holder; and
- individuals may have a range of types of contact with the Council, but outreach was face to face.

61 **Results of 2025/26 Budget Consultation**

The Strategic Directors for People and Communities and Place presented the report and responded to questions from Member in the following terms:

- On reflection the market research was carried out by a professional company using representative samples including young people, but the online survey reached an older demographic which was interesting;
- Whichever methodology was used in future the same EDI information requests would be made in order to build a data set around knowledge and insights;
- Specific attempts were made to engage with young people with care experience through Devon County Council users' groups but there had been no interest which would be reflected on, and other methodology would be considered;
- All the information would be on the website;
- This was early in the journey of objectivity about engagement with citizens as this was the second of this type of survey and knowledge and data would be built;
- Professionals were used to advise but there was more still to do;
- It would be up to Members how this was used in policy;
- There would be consultation on the impact of not accepting cash payments and this would focus on those identified who might be most disadvantaged including taking information from research on digital exclusion and feedback would be provided to Members before a final decision was taken.

One Member felt that the summary page could misrepresent the data held within the report. They felt that 3 of the 5 areas there was a clear priority – People feeling safe in the city, cleaning streets and reducing litter and a well-run Council, however, this was not the same for People and Homes. Furthermore, the online group put museums, theatre and art as a second choice, yet this showed lowest in the summary.

Another Member stated that they were assured that officers would bring proposals and that results of this type of surveys would inform ideas and strategies in future.

The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and closed at 7.35 pm

Chair

Agenda Item 10

STRATEGIC SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

3 April 2025

Present:

Councillor Councillor Liz Pole (Chair)

Councillors Mitchell, M, Atkinson, Haigh, Hughes, Jobson, Knott, Moore, Palmer, Rees, Rolstone, Snow and Williams, M

Also present:

Strategic Director for Place, Head of Legal and Democratic Services & Monitoring Officer, Legal Advisor, Place Partnership (Sport England) Manager and Democratic Services Officer (LS)

In attendance as Portfolio Holder:

Councillors Bialyk, Foale, Williams, R and Wood

61 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2025 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chair as correct.

62 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made by Members.

63 Questions from Members of the Public Under Standing Order No.19

There were no questions submitted by the public.

64 Questions from Members of the Council Under Standing Order No.20

In accordance with Standing Order No. 20, the following question was submitted by Councillor Wetenhall in relation to the Portfolio of Councillor Wood who attended the meeting. The question was circulated at the meeting to Members of the Committee. The response of the Portfolio Holder for Leisure Service and Healthy Living is set out below:

Question

“Agreeing final measures for Newtown Live and Move project

The report to this committee on the above project states that “*The results [of the public consultation] are currently being analysed with a view to sharing with SMB and members before a proposal going to DCC HATOC in July 2025. The scheme is on track for delivery in September.*”

But Devon County Council are advertising the draft orders on April 3rd, with public consultation on them running to April 28th. In other words, it appears that decisions have already been taken about the measures ahead of any consideration of the public consultation results or input from SMB or ward Councillors.

Can the Portfolio Holder confirm explain how this has happened and what he suggests happens to reconcile what DCC and ECC are doing?”

Response

Councillor Wood stated that at the joint Devon County Council and Exeter City Council Members Briefing on 15 October it was proposed and agreed that the

scheme would progress to consultation and there would be two elements to this, the survey and public engagement events and the formal Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) consultation. It was the understanding at that time that both elements would take place concurrently to form the complete consultation for onward analysis, proposals and decision making. Operationally, the two elements had to run back-to-back. The advertising of the formal TRO consultation did not preclude further advertisements or adjustments but without taking this forward, it would have required a further decision gateway. The TRO consultation was part of the proposal and decision making which was required to be considered for this scheme to be delivered.

The work was underway to present findings of the public engagement and would also summarise the TRO consultation during May. This would enable decisions to be proposed and made through the ECC SMB and DCC HATOC decision-making processes to enable the scheme to progress to construction in the autumn.

In a supplementary question Councillor Wetenhall asked if the Portfolio Holder could confirm detail of when SMB, ward Members and the Portfolio Holder would see, discuss and approve this. Councillor Wood responded stating that it would be good to deliver this as there had been previous consultations and that the officer would present to scrutiny today and would likely include an answer.

In accordance with Standing Order No. 20, the following question was submitted by Councillor Moore in relation to the Portfolio of Councillor Wood who attended the meeting. The question was circulated at the meeting to Members of the Committee. The response of the Portfolio Holder for Leisure Services and Healthy Living is set out below:

Question

“Please can the following figures be presented to the scrutiny committee in relation to Northbrook Pool.

Cost of planned and responsive maintenance requirements for the next three years. Expenditure, Maintenance Costs & Projected Increase in Future Repairs”

Response

Councillor Wood stated that looking back over the last three years, maintenance costs were £66,845, approximately £22,000 per annum. Looking forward, after considering the financial sustainability and consultation report, if the Council decided to keep the pool open significant capital works would be required. These would include, works to improve sustainability, reducing energy use and carbon emissions at approximately £850,000. £700,000 would be required to bring the centre up to a reliable and efficient operational industry standard and approximately £450,000 cost to comply with accessibility requirements. Collectively these works would extensively update the building therefore the historic trend of £22,000 per annum maintenance costs may be reduced.

In accordance with Standing Order No. 20, the following question was submitted by Councillor Moore in relation to the Portfolio of Councillor Wood who attended the meeting. The question was circulated at the meeting to Members of the Committee. The response of the Portfolio Holder for Leisure Service and Healthy Living is set out below:

Question

“What costs would be incurred by the Council to cover its closure (redundancy, security while closed etc)”

Response

Cost for decommissioning Northbrook:

Pools - £1000

Gas and domestic water services - £1000

Electrics - £500

Trade waste - £750

Boarding up of reception and office windows - £260

Total = £3510

Staff relocation would be considered following the usual process.

In a supplementary question Councillor Moore asked if these costs had been shared with the community and any interested community groups and whether funding from government had been considered. In response Councillor Wood stated that this information would be included in the minutes of this meeting and swimming pools fund had been approached twice but a commitment to remain open for 15 years was necessary, which was not possible at the time.

In accordance with Standing Order No. 20, the following question was submitted by Councillor Moore in relation to the Portfolio of Councillor Wood who attended the meeting. The question was circulated at the meeting to Members of the Committee. The response of the Portfolio Holder for Leisure Service and Healthy Living is set out below:

Question

"What advice from Sport England or others has been sought to improve viability?"

Answer

In July 2023, Stage 1 of Sport England Swimming Pool Fund bid of £91,193 was requested to support with the prevention of closure due to rising utility costs which was unsuccessful.

In October 2023, Stage 2 of Sport England Swimming Pool Fund bid of £894,400 was requested to support with the installation of PV panels, LED lighting, replace the gas boiler, triple glaze the pool hall, wall upgrade and repair roof and roof lights which was unsuccessful due to 15-year commitment to keep the building open.

In a supplementary question Councillor Moore asked why consultation with the community was only happening now and not two years ago, after the budget decision had been made. Councillor Wood responded that there was a potential decision to be made to make significant savings across the council and so consultation on the impact on users and the community was required at this point. There wasn't an intention to close the pool until the building of this budget. No community group had approached the Council formally and the building belonged to the Northbrook Trust so any group wishing to take it on would need to consider all implications of doing so.

Questions to the Portfolio Holder for Leisure Services and Healthy Living

Councillor Palmer asked if the pool were to close could the Portfolio Holder give reassurance that schools which use the pool for swimming lessons would not be disadvantaged and that costs wouldn't increase.

Councillor Wood responded stating that it would be Council who made any decision and schools had been approached. The consultation was available online and paper-based and over 200 hundred responses had been received to date. The consultation was formal, appropriate and in-depth and it would be wrong to predict the results which would inform decision making.

Councillor Atkinson asked how many political parties had responded with an alternative solution and what services funds would come from to enable this.

Councillor Wood responded stating that no plans had been received from any group, political or otherwise and the centre was operating at a loss of £220,000 per year.

Councillor Mitchell stated that the alternative budget proposed no cuts in leisure.

65 **Portfolio Holder report - Portfolio Holder for Leisure Services & Healthy Living (Councillor Wood)**

Councillor Wood presented his report which was taken as read and highlighted that the dashboard showed key indicators of how the service was performing.

The Portfolio Holder responded to questions from Members in the following terms:

- the intention was to approach leisure being cost-neutral as it was a discretionary service;
- the enhanced model for Wellbeing Exeter did not necessarily mean additional wards, it could include communities of interest which may not be geographical as was the case with the current enhanced provision;
- the work of the Wellbeing Exeter project was effective with the core model focussed on communities in the greatest need and some not traditionally viewed as in need but disrupted by development. The biggest impact was new communities and those who struggle to engage in a new area. Inclusive Exeter had already carried out some work including with a BAME community in Pinhoe and it may be possible to negotiate with some developers to contribute to Wellbeing Exeter;
- officers were working closely with Sport England with regard to the package of funding required as Sport England were not able to fully fund projects. The process was not one of application and decision-making but rather a negotiated process;
- NHS staff were present during referral sessions and most were paid for by the NHS and evaluation was carried out across the country with the local service almost breaking even. Anecdotal feedback was positive with one volunteer having been through the sessions and reporting that this had helped their recovery, gave them confidence in their body again and so they became a leisure member and volunteer. Formal evaluation would be undertaken by the NHS;
- governance models for the Wonford centre were being considered and a written answer would be provided outside the committee with regard to how a decision would be made about governance; and
- work was being undertaken with a partner regarding Exeter Arena and this was different to Northbrook pool as the Arena was a Grade B facility of national standard. How to run the Arena in a more cost-effective way was being investigated with the support of a partner and there was no indication of closure.

Councillor Hughes withdrew their question following comment by the Chair.

66 **Portfolio Holder Report - Portfolio Holder for Arts, Culture & Tourism (Councillor Foale)**

Councillor Foale presented the report on his Portfolio for Arts, Culture and Tourism highlighting the following:

- it had been a pleasure to have the chance to work with the creative and dynamic people of Exeter and to build positive relationships with over five National Portfolio Organisations (NPO);
- a celebration had been held at the Barnfield Theatre;
- there was a plan in conjunction with Exeter Partnership; and
- there had been a dig event in Princesshay with the RAMM.

The Portfolio Holder and Strategic Director for Place responded to questions from Members in the following terms:

- different models of governance would be investigated by the consultant;
- it would be an excellent idea for other service areas to replicate the supported placements scheme which the RAMM had successfully implemented;
- it was of note that the RAMM reached out to special schools and other vulnerable young people;
- there was a plan for a review of cultural services and subsequent restructure within which learning would be shared from the leisure review. An example was given of the café from St Sidwell's Point now being open in the RAMM;
- the draft cultural strategy had been updated;
- all five NPO were keen to repeat the celebration evening annually; and
- ensuring that transport options were clear on the Visit Exeter site could be looked in to.

67 Live and Move Programme Update

The Place Partnership Manager presented the report of the Live and Move Programme Update and gave a presentation making the following points:

- that there was a new element in tracking what facilities were used;
- residents said that Valley Parks and playing fields were most popular as opposed to indoor activities;
- it was easier to obtain information from those using indoor facilities; and
- Newtown update had been added to support.

The Place Partnership Manager and the Strategic Director for Place responded to Members questions in the following terms:

- he was unsure of the exact questions asked about gender but would investigate and provide details outside the meeting;
- gender inequality hadn't been a focus in the past but rather ethnic diversity. He was willing to work with Members and colleagues to gain insight into what could be done in future;
- Ebrington Road remained a focus along with Merrivale, Redhills and Exwick;
- It was exciting that This Girl Can campaign had been brought to the city as well as the Women's Rugby World Cup and the programme would celebrate all that was available in the area;
- access to Valley Parks was constantly being looked at and there may be opportunities with the Water Lane development. There was a desire to improve routes and access to get people safely and sustainably into the Valley Park;
- the dashboard was available publicly and there was a local community of practice held quarterly and shared through Exeter Partnership. The information gathered would be used in future funding bids;
- Exeter was known nationally for best practice in utilising this data which was also given to Sport England to share and had been featured a number of times in place-based newsletters with case studies and learning also on the website;

- the language was complicated regarding reduction in inactivity but this was part of a national survey used for benchmarking;
- there were qualitative reports which could be shared;
- there was data regarding the barriers to walking and cycling which could be shared;
- much of the programme's work with those with disabilities was one-to-one rather than groups. Recommendations from Members of groups to speak to, such as the suggested Pelican Project, would be welcome and it would be possible to investigate what else could be done;
- individuals could be referred to Wellbeing Exeter; and
- Sport England did not include heavy housework as activity but people were asked about things which raised their heartrate, so residents may have included this; and
- the Chief Medical Officer had a view on what was and was not included in the activity list.

Following a vote the report on the Live and Move Programme Update was noted.

68 **Forward Plan of Business and Scrutiny Work Plan**

The Chair stated that there had been one request for scrutiny under Standing Order No. 18 from Councillors Mitchell, Jobson and Moore which had followed a discussion at Chair's Briefing and the Chair having made contact with the Chief Executive and Leader. There was also one item allocated to the committee via the Scrutiny Programme Board.

Councillor Mitchell presented the request that the Strategic Scrutiny Committee consider in conjunction with the Council Leader and the Chief Executive, an appropriate date for the committee to consider the Final Business Case regarding Exeter City Council's submission to government in respect of Local Government Reorganisation.

Councillor Mitchell explained that they understood that there was a lot of work to be done and they did not wish to hinder that but wanted to ensure that all parties remained involved and supported the case when it came to Executive and Council in a united fashion.

Councillor Moore seconded the proposal.

Members spoke in favour making the following points:

- that the Leader and Chief Executive could expand on their work and seek the support of the committee;
- Devon County Council and other leaders could be invited to hear the Council's thinking;
- this would be a formal process to reassure residents;
- scrutiny was an important element;
- it was unknown how many other submissions would include Exeter and whether they would have been scrutinised therefore scrutiny could strengthen the Council's case;
- it was important to note that scrutiny in public would show accountability and residents would be pleased that Members were talking to one another and in agreement; and
- there was concern that the county council proposal may be successful.

Members spoke against the proposal making the following points:

- they were not sure that value could be added or what could be achieved as they would work with their group leader; and
- report deadlines for scrutiny could potentially hinder progress.

The Strategic Director for Place made the following points:

- the Strategic Management Board(SMB) were committed to cross-party engagement as the full business case was developed;
- there would be detailed discussions between SMB and each group leader forming active work to develop the final case;
- there would be consultation and engagement with a wide range of stakeholders;
- there would be a public consultation and engagement process;
- there were six aspects, to which the Leader had alluded, and a number were beyond the knowledge of the Council therefore specialist consultants would be required to develop the case; and
- that it could be helpful for scrutiny to look at the proposals of other Councils, especially those which included the city council boundaries.

The Chair invited Councillor Bialyk, the Leader, who was present, to speak on the matter. The Leader made the following points:

- he understood that this was a major issue and he wanted to get it right;
- there was an aspiration to be unitary;
- there was size and geography to work through;
- there were six areas to be covered;
- Members would have input into the submission;
- that he wanted to work with opposition leaders and independent Members as well as his own group;
- much detail would come after the 28 November submission;
- information would be shared as and when it could be and questions would be answered; and
- he would look at the timetable with the Chief Executive and meet with Leaders before 21 November.

The Chair read the response she had received from the Chief Executive stating that due process for determining items on the scrutiny work programme be followed.

The Monitoring Officer explained that the Chief Executive was unable to attend this meeting and acknowledged that she ought to be consulted.

Councillor Atkinson proposed an amendment in the following terms:

“to defer the decision to consider the matter until the next scrutiny meeting in order to seek the views of the Chief Executive in discussion with party leaders including independents” and following a vote was NOT CARRIED.

Following a vote on the substantive proposal was NOT CARRIED.

The Chair explained that there had been an item regarding Stagecoach which had previously been allocated to Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee and following the Scrutiny Programme Board had now been allocated to this committee. The Chair stated that during discussion at Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee it had been suggested that the Portfolio Holder report on the information shared by Stagecoach and Devon County Council at Exeter Transport Member Working Group.

During discussion a Member asked that the scope of this proposal be expanded as currently it stated difficulties with the 'P' route. The Chair stated that this could be determined at the scoping stage.

Following a unanimous vote it was **AGREED** that this item be added to the work plan.

Councillor Moore raised that an item on Citywide action on Climate Change had fallen off the work plan agenda and it was agreed that Democratic Services would investigate and the Chair would work with Councillor Moore on this issue. The Chair agreed to update the committee, via email, the outcome of discussions with officers.

Following a vote the plan, as amended, was **AGREED**.

The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and closed at 8.40 pm

Chair

Agenda Item 11

EXECUTIVE

Tuesday 20 May 2025

Present:

Councillor Bialyk (Chair)

Councillors Wright, Asvachin, Foale, Patrick, Vizard, Williams, R and Wood

Also present:

Councillor Darling

Councillor Miller-Boam

Councillor Haigh (as an opposition group Leader);

Councillor Hughes (as an opposition group Leader);

Councillor Holland (as an opposition group Leader);

Councillor M. Mitchell (as an opposition group Leader); and

Councillor Moore (as an opposition group Leader);

Also present:

Chief Executive, Strategic Director for Corporate Resources, Strategic Director of Operations, Strategic Director for People and Communities, Head of Service - Environment and Waste, Head of Service - HR, Workforce Planning and Organisational Development and Democratic Services Manager

37

CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader welcomed Councillor Patrick to the Executive as the Portfolio Holder for City Development.

The Leader also welcomed Councillor Darling as the new Member Champion for Culture and City Centre and Councillor Miller-Boam as the Member Champion for Community Safety & Engagement.

38

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2025, were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

39

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests were made.

40

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 19

No questions from members of the public were received.

41

REQUEST FOR A VARIATION OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

The Executive received the report on a request from the Chair of Exeter St Davids Hackney Carriage Association, to increase the Hackney Carriage Fare Tariff and determine whether to proceed to public consultation based on the proposed tariff table included with the report.

Particular reference was made to:-

- the variation of Hackney carriage charges was the only licensing matter requiring Executive approval, under primary legislation and required periodic review;
- the proposed public consultation was double the minimum requirement of the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act to allow full public input;
- the fare-setting formula used was a nationally recognised system, originally devised by Guildford Borough Council. Local figures had been input into the formula; and
- detailed information and a comparison of current and proposed fares was outlined in Appendix B of the report.

During the discussion, Executive Members raised the following points and questions:-

- there had been a seven-year period where there had been no Hackney fare increases until more recently;
- the current proposal was considered to be a fair and necessary adjustment, especially for the area;
- Appendix B was praised for its clarity, and highlighted that although certain tariffs appeared large, they were offset by increased distance units, meaning passengers travelled further for the same cost;
- issues for Hackney drivers included longer waiting times and short fares, which had impacted on drivers' earnings;
- the inclusion of a luggage cost was supported as being fair, given the additional service provided by drivers;
- the legal basis for the four-week consultation period was questioned, and whether it should be extended to six weeks to align with the Council's consultation charter;
- there was an emphasis on including disability and age-related groups in the consultation due to medium negative risk identified in Equality Impact Assessment;
- the service provided by Hackney Carriage drivers was considered to be excellent and the proposed increase was welcomed;
- the proposed fare figures were based on actual local costs;
- Exeter's Hackney fleet was approximately 50% wheelchair accessible, reflecting strong local control and commitment to accessibility; and
- the quality and presentation of Exeter taxis were praised, notably their reliability and being compliant with Euro 6 or better environmental standards.

An opposition group leader supported the recommendation and noted that the proposed fares would place Exeter in the top quartile nationally. He also highlighted that the proposals had been benchmarked against other authorities and noted the reduction in fuel costs which had also supported making savings.

In response to questions raised, the Head of Service - Environment and Waste advised that:-

- after the first mile, a flat rate was applied. The calculation in combined the first mile and running mile, with an example being the two-mile fare being £7.60;
- the consultation period was set by Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976; and
- extending the consultation period to six weeks would be difficult to meet the Executive meeting deadlines for August, however, it was within the gift of the Executive to amend the recommendation.

The Leader moved and Councillor Wright seconded an amendment to the recommendations to read as follows:-

- (1) the proposals be put out to public consultation to run from 27 May 2025 until 8 July 2025 (6 weeks); and
- (3) where there are representations made, that the matter be brought back to Executive on 23 September 2025 for determination.

The Leader moved the recommendations, which were seconded by Councillor Wright, voted upon, and CARRIED unanimously, as amended.

RESOLVED that the Executive approves that:

- (1) the proposals be put out to public consultation to run from 27 May 2025 until 8 July 2025 (6 weeks);
- (2) a public notice containing the proposed variation table be published in one local newspaper during the consultation period; and
- (3) where there are representations made, that the matter be brought back to Executive on 23 September 2025 for determination.

42

REVIEW OF EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION POLICY

The Executive received the report which sought approval for the adoption of the revised Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Policy, which had been updated to reflect organisational changes and feedback following the EDI Mini Peer Review undertaken in 2024.

The Leader highlighted a recently circulated email regarding the recent Supreme Court judgment, clarifying its implications for the policy.

During the discussion, Executive Members raised the following points and questions:-

- the report highlighted that each Councillor had a personal responsibility to comply with the policy under the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty;
- the EQIA showed the Council workforce data showed a 50:50 male/female gender split across the Council.
- was there variation between different departments of the council?
- it was noted that the People Management system 'iTrent' was not currently set up to allow for non-binary input from users, and it was asked whether there had been any staff feedback on this issue?
- thanks were made to the Chief Executive and officers for report and the work that had been undertaken;
- the review and update of the EDI policy was welcomed and was progressing positively to be accessible for all; and
- whether there was any work being undertaken to support women in the workplace with pre-menopausal or menopausal symptoms?

The Leader highlighted the positive speeches of both the outgoing Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor at the Annual Council meeting, which reflected the city's positive attitude towards EDI.

Opposition group leaders raised the following points and questions:

- what arrangements would be made for Councillor EDI training, and would that training be compulsory?
- the public support expressed by Members at the Annual Council was welcomed and was appreciated by the non-binary community; and
- with the EQIA was it possible to reconsider the specific impact assessment for gender reassignment in the light of the Supreme Court judgment.

In response to questions raised, the Strategic Director for People and Communities advised that:-

- further details on the 50:50 split could be provided at a departmental level and the main variations in the male female ratio could be seen in front line services where more manual workforces operated;
- as part of the EDI review work, a new EDI training programme had been agreed for implementation this year and within the HR Improvement Plan recruitment strategy was being reviewed and this work would be informed by the information provided by staff on their protected characteristics to help the Council to become more reflective of the community;
- through the HR Improvement Plan the Council was engaging with the 'iTrent' system provider to explore options for more inclusive data collection on protected characteristics;
- no specific feedback had been received from staff regarding the inability to select non-binary options, partly because the system currently did not ask;
- the Council was always open to alternative methods for staff to indicate non-binary identity if system changes were not possible;
- HR had run two successful staff campaigns to encourage sharing of personal information regarding sharing information on protected characteristics, and this was reinforced by the Chief Executive, in the new video introducing the EDI training and had been welcomed by staff;
- EDI training includes learning modules for Members who will be strongly encouraged to undertake, advice from Democratic Services would be sought to identify the most accessible delivery methods;
- the request to update the impact assessment on the EQIA for those undergoing gender reassignment could be revised if agreed by the Chair and be re-issued to Members (Revised EQIA appended to minutes); and
- there was a Menopause Policy and a staff support group.

The Leader moved the recommendations, which were seconded by Councillor Wright, voted upon, and CARRIED unanimously.

RECOMMENDED that Council approve the adoption of the revised Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy.

43

DISPOSAL REPORT SEEKING AUTHORITY TO DISPOSE OF THE FORMER CLIFTON HILL LEISURE CENTRE.

The Executive received the report which sought approval for the disposal of the Former Clifton Hill Leisure Centre site to the highest bidder for the delivery of a 100% Affordable Rent Extra Care housing scheme for older people, following receipt of tenders.

Particular reference was made to:-

- Exeter City Council had originally sold the site to Exeter City Living (ECL) for £2.4 million which was considered at that time, to be a significant undervalue compared to the independent market value for best consideration purposes;
- Secretary of State approval had been granted for the sale, enabling the Council to buy back the site back from ECL for approximately £3.03 million;
- the site had since been gone out to tender, and had received a number of bids, in which the highest bid recommended for approval was £3.375 million. Another higher bid submitted was received, but was withdrawn;
- the bid would deliver a 72-unit affordable rent extra care scheme on the site and an independent valuation had been undertaken for best consideration purposes;
- the current sale was deemed to be an undervalue of £425,000;
- due to changes in procurement rules and new subsidy controls, the subsidy control report included in the agenda would be sent to the Government for formal registration as an undervalued sale; and
- a letter of support had been received from Devon County Council for the development of an additional extra care facility in the city.

During the discussion, Executive Members raised the following points and questions:-

- although the report refers to an undervalue, the Council had foregone £425,000 in potential receipts by not permitting student accommodation, demonstrating the Council's commitment to delivering 100% affordable rent, extra care housing and prioritising community needs and a balanced use of the site;
- the letter of support from Devon County Council highlighting the need for extra care schemes was welcomed;
- the preferred buyer was acknowledged for their sustainable building practices, including the use of air source heat pumps and solar PV;
- the approach maintained a balance of maintaining both green spaces and delivering homes;
- there was interest in further community engagement, particularly with residents around Portland Street, regarding the development and planning application process;
- the development would help free up NHS beds, as evidenced by the success of the similar Edwards Court facility;
- the location was in a scenic area adjacent to Belmont Park, and would be a highly desirable living area for future residents; and
- the development would reduce pressure on other facilities and support independent living for residents.

The Leader advised that following an enquiry received that day, that recommendation 2.2 of the report sought delegated authority to the Head of Commercial Assets in consultation with the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources and himself, and that the final terms would be considered appropriately, notably the safety aspects. He further advised that he would notify ward Councillors and the Executive of the outcome of any further discussions with the developer.

Opposition group leaders raised the following points and questions:

- the Leader was thanked for his time in responding to the enquiry and confirming how they would proceed, notably in addressing active travel and bike storage;
- was the sale and receipts money going to be used to address the debt or be used to move projects forward?

- could it be confirmed that recommendation 2.3 of the report is a Council decision?
- the recommendation and the site future use was welcomed; and
- clarification was sought on figures outlined in the report and sequence of events with the selling and buying of the land.

In response to questions raised, the Strategic Director for Corporate Resources advised that:-

- the Council would include opportunities for community engagement in negotiations with the developer, and would be working to develop a programme for ongoing engagement;
- there was an outstanding debt associated with the site of £3.037 million and would be paid off from the capital receipt and monies from the sale of Mary Arches and the majority of the Mary Arches capital receipt, once received, would be available for future capital projects;
- the Council could not leave any outstanding debt once an asset is disposed of;
- the capital receipts from this sale and the Mary Arches sale together would more than cover the outstanding debt related to Exeter City Living (ECL); and
- the outstanding debt was not limited to just Clifton Hill but to other projects and when the Council previously sold the site to ECL, the best consideration value was over £7 million, necessitating that Secretary of State approval was needed due to significant undervalue.

The Leader advised that previous safety concerns, particularly from the police, would be revisited in discussions with the developer and highlighted that the Council could achieve a higher sale price by breaking the Council's promise not to build student accommodation. He confirmed this was not an option being pursued and that the Council was committed to maintaining community trust and honouring prior commitments.

The Leader moved the recommendations, which were seconded by Councillor Wright, voted upon, and CARRIED unanimously

RESOLVED that the Executive agree:

(1) the sale of the Former Clifton Hill Leisure Centre site to Preferred Homes Limited for £3.375 million at an undervalue of £425,000, conditional upon planning approval being granted for the delivery of 100% Affordable Rent Extra Care housing scheme for older people; and

(2) that the Head of Commercial Assets, in consultation with the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources (s.151 officer) and the Leader, be granted delegated authority to approve the final terms of the sale.

RECOMMENDED that Council approve a budget for £50,000, funded by anticipated capital receipts to cover disposal costs (including external agency and legal fees) associated with this sale.

(The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and closed at 6.25 pm)

Chair

The decisions indicated will normally come into force 5 working days after publication of the Statement of Decisions unless called in by a Scrutiny Committee. Where the matter in question is urgent, the decision will come into force immediately. Decisions regarding the policy framework or corporate objectives or otherwise outside the remit of the Executive will be considered by Council on 10 June 2025

DRAFT

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Equality Impact Assessment: *Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy review February 2025*

Updated May 2025

The Equality Act 2010 includes a general duty which requires public authorities, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to:

- **Eliminate discrimination**, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.
- **Advance equality of opportunity** between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
- **Foster good relations** between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not

In order to comply with the general duty authorities must assess the impact on equality of decisions, policies and practices. These duties do not prevent the authority from reducing services where necessary, but they offer a way of developing proposals that consider the impacts on all members of the community.

Authorities which fail to carry out equality impact assessments risk making poor and unfair decisions which may discriminate against particular groups and worsen inequality.

Committee name and date:	Report Title	Decisions being recommended:	People with protected characteristics potentially impacted by the decisions to be made:
SMB 15 April	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy review February 2025	Adoption and implementation of the revised policy	All protected characteristics are impacted.

Factors to consider in the assessment: For each of the groups below, an assessment has been made on whether the proposed decision will have a **positive, negative or neutral impact**. This is must be noted in the table below alongside brief details of why this conclusion has been reached and notes of any mitigation proposed. Where the impact is negative, a **high, medium or low assessment** is given. The assessment rates the impact of the policy based on the current situation (i.e. disregarding any actions planned to be carried out in future).

High impact – a significant potential impact, risk of exposure, history of complaints, no mitigating measures in place etc.

Medium impact –some potential impact exists, some mitigating measures are in place, poor evidence

Low impact – almost no relevancy to the process, e.g. an area that is very much legislation led and where the Council has very little discretion

Protected characteristic/ area of interest	Positive or Negative Impact	High, Medium or Low Impact	Reason
Race and ethnicity (including Gypsies and Travellers; migrant workers; asylum seekers).	Positive Positive	High High	<p>The policy sets out the Council's commitment in promoting equality and tackling social exclusion as a service provider, community leader and employer.</p> <p>Current iTrent HR data shows that of those staff who have provided information 25% are from a Black, Asian or minority ethnic background. The 2021 census, 9.7% of Exeter residents are from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities. The council is in the process of developing minimum standards for collecting data on our customers and staff to understand how many people within protected characteristics would be impacted by our policies and functions.</p> <p>Following the death of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter protests in 2020, and in response to a recommendation from the Council's review of the General Buller Statue, the Senior Management Board and Executive Members have developed an Anti-Racism Statement which is included in the policy at (see Appendix A). This sets out specific commitments in relation to this protected characteristic.</p> <p>There is no hierarchy of rights in the Equality Act 2010 or this policy, however occasionally actions to support one protected characteristic may inadvertently discriminate against people sharing another protected</p>

	Negative Negative	Low Low	<p>characteristic. Where this occurs each case will be looked at with reference to case law and best practice to ensure that the action is proportionate and necessary to achieve a legitimate aim e.g. protection against discrimination.</p> <p>Staff for whom English is an additional language may need additional support to access the policy and be made aware of the protections it affords. The Translation and Interpretation Policy and guidance will address this.</p>
Disability: as defined by the Equality Act – a person has a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse impact on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. This can include mental health issues, learning disabilities, sensory impairments and neurodiversity.	Positive Negative	High Low	<p>The policy sets out the Council's commitment in promoting equality and tackling social exclusion as a service provider, community leader and employer.</p> <p>The council is in the process of developing minimum standards for collecting data on our customers and staff to understand how many people within protected characteristics would be impacted by our policies and functions. Current ITrent HR data shows only 3.8% of staff declared a disability. This is likely to be an element of under reporting within this figure as 2021 census shows 18.2% of people in Exeter declared a disability.</p> <p>There is no hierarchy of rights in the Equality Act 2010 or this policy, however occasionally actions to support one protected characteristic may inadvertently discriminate against people sharing another protected characteristic. Where this occurs each case will be looked at with reference to case law and best practice to ensure that the action is proportionate and necessary to achieve a legitimate aim e.g. protection against discrimination.</p>

	Negative	Low	<p>However the Equality Act gives employers and organisations a responsibility to make 'reasonable adjustments' for people with disabilities.</p> <p>People on long term sick leave may be unaware of the policy. Line Managers have the responsibility to ensure all returning employees from long term leave are properly informed about the council's policy changes and updates upon their return to work. This is outlined in the Sickness Management policy.</p> <p>Some staff may need additional support to access the policy due to a disability such as sensory impairment or dyslexia. The Translation and Interpretation Policy and guidance will address this.</p>
Sex/Gender	Positive	High	<p>The policy sets out the Council's commitment in promoting equality and tackling social exclusion as a service provider, community leader and employer.</p> <p>Current iTrent HR Metrics show that the sex of staff is evenly split 50:50 male and female though this changes when looking at service level. It should be noted that iTrent does not allow for non-binary answers.</p> <p>The 2021 census shows Exeter residents are 51% female and 49% male.</p>
Gender reassignment	Positive	High	<p>The policy sets out the Council's commitment in promoting equality and tackling social exclusion as a service provider, community leader and employer.</p> <p>In the 2021 census 0.6% of people identified as having a different gender to the sex on their birth certificate, trans or non-binary.</p> <p>Following the Supreme Court Ruling in April that the definition of sex in the Equality Act 2010 refers to biological sex only, the Equality and Human Rights Commission is consulting on a revised statutory Code of Practice. This is likely to have an impact on how the Council provides</p>

	Negative	Low	<p>some services and facilities, in particular toilets and changing facilities, for trans people.</p> <p>The Council will explore the impact of the Code once it has been agreed and respond accordingly.</p> <p>Anyone under treatment which keeps them away from work for a long period may be unaware of the policy. Line Managers have the responsibility to ensure all returning employees from long term leave are properly informed about the council's policy changes and updates upon their return to work. This is outlined in the Sickness Management policy.</p>
Religion and belief (includes no belief, some philosophical beliefs such as Buddhism and sects within religions).	Positive	High	<p>The policy sets out the Council's commitment in promoting equality and tackling social exclusion as a service provider, community leader and employer.</p> <p>The 2021 census shows the following information on how Exeter residents identify their religious beliefs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 48.5% No religion • 40% Christian • 0.5% Buddhist • 0.5% Hindu • 0.2% Jewish • 2.2% Muslim • 0.1% Sikh • 0.7% other religion • 7.4% not answered <p>The policy also includes a statement setting out the Council's support for the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of Antisemitism which will have positive impact on Jewish customers and staff.</p>

	Negative	Low	The policy does not include any other such statements for other religions or ethnicities however this does not preclude them from being added in the future as the policy can be reviewed and updated at any time.																																							
Sexual orientation (including heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual).	Positive	High	<p>The policy sets out the Council's commitment in promoting equality and tackling social exclusion as a service provider, community leader and employer.</p> <p>In the 2021 census 86.2% of Exeter residents identified as straight/heterosexual and 5.3% as LGBTQ+. 8.5% did not answer.</p>																																							
Age (children and young people aged 0-24; adults aged 25-50; younger older people aged 51-75/80; older people 81+; frail older people; people living with age related conditions. The age categories are for illustration only as overriding consideration should be given to needs).	Positive	High	<p>The policy sets out the Council's commitment in promoting equality and tackling social exclusion as a service provider, community leader and employer.</p> <p>2021 census data for Exeter residents:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>geography</th> <th colspan="2">Exeter</th> </tr> <tr> <th>measures</th> <th>value</th> <th>percent</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Age</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>130,709</td> <td>100.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aged 4 years and under</td> <td>5,884</td> <td>4.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aged 5 to 9 years</td> <td>6,201</td> <td>4.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aged 10 to 15 years</td> <td>7,293</td> <td>5.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aged 16 to 19 years</td> <td>10,591</td> <td>8.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aged 20 to 24 years</td> <td>16,349</td> <td>12.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aged 25 to 34 years</td> <td>17,990</td> <td>13.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aged 35 to 49 years</td> <td>23,168</td> <td>17.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aged 50 to 64 years</td> <td>21,507</td> <td>16.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aged 65 to 74 years</td> <td>11,178</td> <td>8.6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	geography	Exeter		measures	value	percent	Age			Total	130,709	100.0	Aged 4 years and under	5,884	4.5	Aged 5 to 9 years	6,201	4.7	Aged 10 to 15 years	7,293	5.6	Aged 16 to 19 years	10,591	8.1	Aged 20 to 24 years	16,349	12.5	Aged 25 to 34 years	17,990	13.8	Aged 35 to 49 years	23,168	17.7	Aged 50 to 64 years	21,507	16.5	Aged 65 to 74 years	11,178	8.6
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Pregnancy and maternity including new and breast feeding mothers	Positive Negative	High Low	<p>The policy sets out the Council's commitment in promoting equality and tackling social exclusion as a service provider, community leader and employer.</p> <p>Anyone who is away from work for a long period may be unaware of the policy. Line Managers have the responsibility to ensure all returning employees from long term leave are properly informed about the council's policy changes and updates upon their return to work. This is outlined in the Pregnancy and Maternity Leave Policy.</p>																	
Marriage and civil partnership status	Positive	High	The policy sets out the Council's commitment in promoting equality and tackling social exclusion as a service provider, community leader and employer.																	
<u>Actions identified that will mitigate any negative impacts and/or promote inclusion</u>																				

- Ensure the policy can be made available in additional languages and formats and that managers ensure anyone with additional language needs is made aware of the policy and the protections it affords.
- Review the implications of the revised Equality and Human Rights Commission Code of Practice for how trans people, as well as men and women, access the Council services and facilities.

Officer: Melinda Pogue-Jackson

Date: 17 February 2025

Updated 21 May 2025

Executive Recommendations to Council

Minute No. 42 – Report - Review of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy

- [EDI Policy 2025 Review Final to Executive v2](#)
- [Revised EDI Policy EQIA](#)

Minute No. 43 – Report - Disposal report seeking authority to dispose of the former Clifton Hill Leisure Centre.

- [Appendix 1 - Clifton Hill Red Line Plan](#)
- [Appendix 2 - Preferred Home - Extra Care Housing - Social Economic Impact 2023](#)
- [Appendix 3 - Draft Subsidy Control Report - Clifton Hill - May 2025](#)
- [Appendix 4 - ECH Site Letter 7 May 2025](#)
- [EQIA - Clifton Hill Disposal - May 25](#)

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Agenda Item 12

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 10 June 2025

Report of: Strategic Director of Corporate Resources & s151 Officer

Title: Overview of General Fund Revenue Budget 2024/25 – Quarter 4

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Council

1. What is the report about?

1.1 To advise Members of the overall financial position of the General Fund Revenue Budgets for the 2024/25 financial year and to seek approval for the General Fund working balance, a number of supplementary budgets and the creation of new earmarked reserves.

2. Recommendations:

It is recommended that Council approves

- 1) The net transfer of £1,031,267 from Earmarked Reserves as detailed in paragraph 8.9 and set out in detail in Appendix 3;
- 2) The supplementary budgets of £4,500,520 and budget transfers as detailed in paragraph 8.11 and Appendix 4; and
- 3) The General Fund working balance at 31 March 2025 at £5,305,182.

It is recommended that Council notes

- 1) The Earmarked Reserves at 31 March 2025;
- 2) The Council Tax account and collection rate;
- 3) The outstanding sundry debt, aged debt analysis and debt write-off figures;
- 4) The creditors payments performance; and
- 5) The One Exeter programme update.

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

3.1 To formally note the Council's end of year financial position and carry forward any budgets that were not spent but where the funding is still required.

4. What are the resource implications including non financial resources?

The impact on the General Fund working balance is set out in section 8.10.

5. Section 151 Officer comments:

5.1 Once requests for supplementary budgets are taken into account, the financial position is broadly in line with expectations in the medium-term financial plan. There

were concerted efforts by Officers in a number of teams to reduce the impact of additional costs over the year, which reduced some of the additional expenditure that was projected throughout the year.

6. What are the legal aspects?

6.1 Section 28 of the Local Government Act 2003 imposes a statutory duty on the Council to monitor during the financial year its expenditure and income against the budget calculations. If the monitoring establishes that the budgetary situation has deteriorated, the Council must take such action as it considers necessary to deal with the situation. This might include, for example, action to reduce spending in the rest of the year, or to increase income, or to finance the shortfall from reserves.

The Local Government Finance Act 1992 places a legal requirement on Council to approve not only the budget but also any changes to the budget proposed during the year. Council has a legal duty to ensure that the budget is balanced and that any changes to the budget are fully funded.

7. Monitoring Officer's comments:

7.1 This report raises no issues for the Monitoring Officer.

8. Report details:

8.1 Financial Summary

FUND	Planned Transfer To / (From) Working Balance £	Budget Variance (More) / Less £	Outturn Transfer 2024/25 £
General Fund	(2,862,201)	2,284,820	(577,381)

8.2 General Fund (Appendix 1 & Appendix 2)

During the year, a restructure of the Senior Leadership of the Council has taken place. The restructure was projected to reduce costs by £388,110, which would be used to strengthen areas of the Council requiring investment to meet members' priorities. In 2024/25, the actual reduction totals £350,946 as there were some interim arrangements in place to cover vacant posts.

Net services expenditure is lower than budget by £5,122,543 against a revised budget of £23,181,890. This includes supplementary budgets of £6,431,110. Variances of more than +/- £30,000 are detailed below:

8.3 Chief Executive

Budget Heading	Over / (Underspend)
Active & Healthy People	(£366,435)

Responsible Officer: Executive Office Manager

£292,920 of the lower than budgeted costs relates to unspent grant income, which will be transferred into Sport England reserves and requested as supplementary budgets in 2025/26. There is £56,939 of the approved £700,000 budget for the Wonford Health & Wellbeing Hub remaining, which will also be requested as a supplementary budget.

8.4 Operations

Budget Heading	Over / (Underspend)
Environmental Health & Licensing	(£266,156)

Responsible Officer: Head of Service – Environmental Health & Waste

As Vehicle Licensing is self-financing, £35,172 will be transferred out of the Vehicle Licensing earmarked reserve to cover the additional costs. A new earmarked reserve for unspent funds in Contaminated Land Surveys and Environmental health projects is being requested to enable the funds to be requested as a supplementary budget in 2025/26. A further supplementary budget of £53,860 has been requested in the Neighbourhood Team.

After the movements proposed above, expenditure is £200,773 lower than budget. This is predominantly due to vacancies within the staffing establishment, which has led to many initiatives being put on hold due to lack of resources.

Parks & Green Spaces	(£127,481)
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Responsible Officer: Head of Service – Operations

£56,970 has been requested as a supplementary budget in Children's play areas to enable strategic development work to take place. The balance relates to additional income arising from a 2023/24 invoice for urban grass cutting that wasn't accrued for at the end of the last financial year.

Domestic Refuse Collection	(£656,518)
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Responsible Officer: Head of Service – Environmental Health & Waste

A new grant of £190,340 has been received from Government to support the transition to weekly food waste collections – this will be transferred into an earmarked reserve for use in 2025/26.

A supplementary budget for £78,530 has been requested in 2025/26 to help provide temporary equipment storage, needed because of the demolition of several buildings.

The balance relates to the food waste programme being delayed to ensure adequate resources were in place to deliver an efficient service (e.g. the construction of the food waste bay) therefore less was spent on roles not being filled and vehicles not being leased than was included in the budget. It is anticipated that the service will be in a position to continue to roll out to the remainder of the city in 2025/26. This lower expenditure has more than offset the income the service is unable to claim from DCC's Share Scheme saving fund, to which we have no eligibility until the scheme achieves 100% coverage.

Waste Chargeable Services	£178,128
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Responsible Officer: Head of Service – Environmental Health & Waste

The Service has failed to deliver its income targets in respect the green waste service.	
Materials Reclamation Facility	£65,171
Responsible Officer: Head of Service – Environmental Health & Waste	
<p>There were a number of significant breakdowns due to the age of the MRF site, which meant that the use of secondary reclamation facilities were required in order to comply with the Council's operating permit issued by the Environment Agency.</p> <p>The expenditure budget has been exceeded by £560,000 which is due to an increase in the use of agency staff to cover vacancies, an increase in fleet costs and the cost of using secondary reclamation facilities.</p> <p>However, there has been an offsetting £497,000 surplus to the income budget for Materials & Goods for resale.</p>	
Engineering Services	(£373,088)
Responsible Officer: Head of Service – Operations	
<p>Active recruitment has continued however, there remains a number of vacancies which have been difficult to fill, resulting in a £154,987 underspend on pay. The budget for demolition costs for a footbridge (£134,180) has not been spent and is no longer required.</p>	
Waterways	(£131,561)
Responsible Officer: Head of Service – Operations	
<p>Despite active recruitment, the waterways engineer post remains vacant at year end resulting in £121,350 not being spent of the budget. Alternative recruitment opportunities and/ or consultancy will be pursued in 2025/26.</p> <p>There remains a need for a contingency fund to be available for any inquiry that might follow the application for the Harbour Revision Order. Therefore an £80,000 budget is being requested as a supplementary budget for 2025/26.</p>	
Corporate Property – Assets	(£218,213)
Responsible Officer: Head of Service – Asset Maintenance	
<p>As Members are aware, the property maintenance budget was increased by £200k to allow for the additional costs of managing the Leisure property portfolio. However, the costs of maintaining Leisure properties has continued to be charged directly to Leisure, so this cost centre was expected to not use £200,000 of its budget.</p> <p>There is £71k unspent owing to vacancies in the establishment budget, a planned restructure is expected to be in place by autumn 2025/26. This has offset additional expenditure on repairs and maintenance of the Council's operational properties owing to their age and condition.</p>	
Corporate Support	£237,438
Responsible Officer: Head of Service – Asset Maintenance	
<p>Increases in postage costs mean that £20k more than anticipated has been spent.</p>	

Civic Centre rental income is £217k lower than budget.

A supplementary budget of £100,000 was added during the year to facilitate the work around the Civic Centre office move but no costs have been incurred during 2024/25. This supplementary budget is being requested again for 2025/26.

8.5 Corporate Resources

Budget Heading	Over / (Underspend)
Commercial Assets - Parking Services	£432,124

Responsible Officer: Head of Service – Commercial Assets

The net income generated by Car Parks is lower than anticipated for the following reasons:

- The increase in debit and credit cards and use of the Ringgo App has increased the costs to the Council for using these methods of payment;
- Re-zoning some of the Car Parks from Zone 1 to Central has increased their Business Rates bills;
- Rental income from Devon County Council renting offices at John Lewis car park has been lost after their Parking team moved out;
- The proposed increase in car parking tariffs for 2024/25 were not implemented;
- Seasonal parking permit income is lower than expected.

There has however been a reduction in the costs of electricity, which were £182,000 lower than the budget.

Commercial Assets - Estates	(£1,087,387)
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Responsible Officer: Head of Service – Commercial Assets

Additional backdated rent relating to the turnover from businesses occupying commercial properties has been accounted for, with 2 properties alone contributing £574k additional income.

The Guildhall Shopping Centre continues to perform well with strong occupier demand with additional net income of £611k. This will be transferred to the earmarked reserve as it cannot be used for general expenditure. The income from the Centre has, in addition to covering its own direct costs and capital expenditure, funded the debt costs associated with the purchase and all the costs including compensation payments associated with the sale of Mary Arches.

Commercial Assets - Major Projects	(£42,670)
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Responsible Officer: Head of Service – Commercial Assets

The costs associated with the Bus Station Demolition project were lower than projected. The cost of this project has been funded from the Guildhall Shopping Centre reserve.

Commercial Assets - Markets	(£47,031)
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Responsible Officer: Head of Service – Commercial Assets

Income from commercial contracts at the Matford Centre continue to outperform the budget. Additionally, there has been lower than budgeted expenditure on supplies and services.

This has been offset by the income from the solar array being lower than budget as a result of lower prices for selling the electricity generated and maintenance being required for some of the panels. The Council is looking to rectify the maintenance issue in 2025/26 and a supplementary budget has been requested.

Elections & Electoral Registration	(£224,110)
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Responsible Officer: Head of Service – Legal and Democratic Services

The Council received the funding from Devon County Council early and therefore this funding will be placed in an earmarked reserve and a supplementary budget requested in 2025/26 to match with the costs of running the election. Additionally, as part of the reductions agreed two years ago, the budget was smoothed to reflect the fact that the Council holds elections in three of every four years. Therefore, the balance will be added to an earmarked reserve.

Democratic Representation	(£39,976)
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Responsible Officer: Head of Service – Legal and Democratic Services

There was lower expenditure than budgeted in respect of Members' special responsibility allowances (£26k) as a result of members sharing roles and no member champions claiming allowances. The balance reflect lower pay costs – due to short periods of vacancy.

Unapportionable Overheads (Pension costs)	£982,687
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Responsible Officer: Head of Service – Finance

The Council does not budget for pension strain costs, and therefore these were higher than budget (albeit approved as part of the senior management restructure. The majority of these costs were funded from an earmarked reserve.

Legal Services	(£31,505)
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Responsible Officer: Head of Service – Legal Services

A vacant post plus reductions in working contracts, a change in grades and hours worked have contributed to lower costs in respect of pay.

This has been partially offset by lower than anticipated third party income generated and a reduction of S106 fees.

8.6 People and Communities

Budget Heading	Over / (Underspend)
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Housing Needs and Homelessness	(£873,982)
Responsible Officer: Head of Service - Housing	
<p>The lower than anticipated net expenditure is caused by two significant amounts of funding which are being transferred to earmarked reserves with supplementary budgets requested in 2025/26. These are £760k for the Homes 4 Ukraine project and £220k Winter Pressures grant due to be spent in 2025/26.</p> <p>As per the explanation in quarter 3, continued demand on homelessness services and correlating expenditure in placing households in Temporary Accommodation continues resulting in a £157,161 being spent over budgeted levels. This was highlighted early in 2024/25 but due to management actions to mitigate these pressures the actual figure is significantly less than the £350k projected. Whilst remodelling of some units of temporary accommodation has taken place to reduce the costs the continued demand on the service has necessitated the ongoing use of contracted hotels which incurs an additional cost for providing security services to ensure the safety of all residents.</p> <p>Work continues at pace to bring in a number of temporary accommodation properties under the long lease model which will reduce the cost of providing temporary accommodation. In addition, we will be undertaking a review of the current operating model of the service to look for any efficiencies and corresponding savings.</p>	
GF Housing – Property	(£67,278)
Responsible Officer – Head of Service - Housing	
<p>As reported previously, over the past 12 months we have handed back all of the Private Sector Leased Properties under council management, whilst taking into account any mandatory reimbursement under the terms of the lease. This has now stopped the deficit of rental income against payments to landlords. The EXtralet tenancies have remained stable, meaning that we haven't needed to utilise the handback or voids budgets.</p> <p>However, there is a supplementary budget request for £43k in 2025/26 for remedial works and compensation towards lost revenue in respect of a PSL leased property which was handed back in 2024/25.</p>	
Transportation	(£48,429)
Responsible Officer – Head of HR Workforce Planning & OD	
<p>This net income in respect of the Council's Green Travel initiative will be transferred to earmarked reserves at year-end and will be used to facilitate initiatives under the new Sustainable Travel Policy.</p>	
Central Support	£47,482
Responsible Officer – Head of Service - Digital & Data	
<p>There are £86,860 of redundancy costs which will be covered by reserves. An unused budget of £18,950 funded by an historic Brexit grant has been transferred into an earmarked reserve and requested as a supplementary budget in 2025/26.</p>	
Human Resources	£46,025

Responsible Officer – Head of HR Workforce Planning & OD

Additional costs relate to redundancy payments in respect of the Senior Management restructure. These will be covered by the earmarked reserve.

A £45,000 supplementary budget for 2025/26 has been requested for staff training.

IT Services	(£326,867)
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Responsible Officer – Head of Service - Digital & Data

Strata has not spent all of its funding in 2024/25 as efficiencies have been made in order to prepare for the transfer of Services to the Cloud. Strata have returned the funds to each Council but have requested they are returned in 2025/26. Therefore, they will be transferred into an earmarked reserve and requested as a supplementary budget for 2025/26. Additionally, lower mobile phone charges of £23,721 and an increase in internal income of £28,300 from support service recharges have contributed to the lower costs.

Exeter Community Grants Programme	(£217,608)
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Responsible Officer – Head of Customer and Communities

£151,106 less than budgeted was spent on Wellbeing Exeter and will therefore be transferred into the Wellbeing Exeter earmarked reserve and requested as a supplementary budget in 2025/26. £66.6k is due to CIL-funded initiatives that were budgeted for but have not been started – these funds will remain in the CIL fund for future use.

Customer Service Centre	£50,122
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Responsible Officer – Head of Customer and Communities

The continued use of agency staff within the customer contact centre in 2024/25 caused higher than budgeted expenditure. These contracts arose from demand increases, including the introduction of discretionary schemes such as the household support fund. These long-term agency arrangements ceased, as of October 2024.

An additional supplementary budget of £51,800 has been requested for the Operations Team Leader post (Grade H, 1FTE); this post was removed from the establishment in error during the budget setting process and will be added to the 2026/27 MTFP as an additional pressure on the General Fund.

8.7 Place

Budget Heading	Over / (Underspend)
Culture	(£222,092)

Responsible Officer: Head of Service – Culture

The supplementary budget for the Women's Rugby World Cup was not spent and will be requested in 2025/26.

The Corn Exchange has spent £131,660 less than anticipated as a result of lower utilities and other premises costs; and increased income from event sales and refreshments.

Building Control & Land Charges	£120,840
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Responsible Officer: Head of City Development

Building Control and Land Charges collectively under recovered their costs by £120,840, due to continuing market challenges restricting construction activity and low house sales. As these are self-financing the deficits will be offset against their respective earmarked reserves.

Planning	(£317,409)
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Responsible Officer: Head of City Development

The 2024/25 out-turn for City Development reflects a mixed financial position across key service areas. Within Planning, unused grant income of £230,380 is being transferred to earmarked reserves with supplementary budgets requested for 2025/26. £311,163 from the approved Local Plan evidence base budget is also being transferred to an earmarked reserve with a supplementary budget requested for 2025/26. Funding in respect of CIL admin amounts to £118,658 in 2024/25, leaving a shortfall of £53,208 against budget. Planning fee income was lower than budget by some £277k.

Museum Service	(£320,549)
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Responsible Officer: Head of Service – Culture

At the end of 2024/25, £127,092 of grant monies has been unused so this will be transferred into an earmarked reserve and requested as a supplementary budget for 2025/26. RAMM has continued to show savings against utilities, partly due to the on-going efficiencies review and implementation work of an external consultant. RAMM also over-achieved on income from events, venue hire, school visits and exhibition tickets. In particular, the Dartmoor exhibition, which opened in October and ran for four months, was very successful. This helped to mitigate some of the income lost due to the roof repairs that closed areas of the museum for several months during the year, and loss of café rental income.

In February, a trial in-house café was opened, using existing Council resources. A six-month supplementary budget was added to the 2024/25 budget and a further supplementary budget will be requested in 2025/26 to allow this facility to continue. An external consultant is conducting a review of the museum in early 2025/26, including exploring potential business models and income generating capability.

Leisure & Sport	(£874,025)
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Responsible Officer: Head of Service – Culture

£646,557 of the additional income is in respect of the VAT refund from HMRC; this will be transferred to an earmarked reserve and held in the short term.

Expenditure on salaries was £200,000 lower than expected because of difficulties in recruiting specialised roles such as lifeguards. Income has exceeded budget by £290,000. However, this has been offset by additional premises costs in respect of maintenance.

St Sidwells Point**(£59,850)****Responsible Officer: Head of Service – Culture**

This budget is no longer required.

Liveable Exeter Garden City**(£351,398)****Responsible Officer: Strategic Director for Place**

The unused grant income will remain in the earmarked reserve and a supplementary budget requested in 2025/26.

CCTV & Home Call**£57,873****Responsible Officer: Head of Service – City Centre & Net Zero**

The Home Call alarm service had a drop in income compared to budget and higher costs of non-contractual overtime, needed to maintain required staffing levels. This resulted in an adverse budget variance of £97,630. Surplus income from CCTV monitoring contracts has helped mitigate this and the final out-turn is improved compared to the forecast at quarter three.

Community Safety**(£48,396)****Responsible Officer: Head of Service – City Centre & Net Zero**

£49,043 will be transferred into reserves and requested as supplementary budgets in 2025/26 (this is for grants received as well as a small amount of fine income imposed for breaches of the city's Public Spaces Protection Order).

8.8 Other Financial Variations

Budget Heading	Over / (Underspend)
Net interest	(£129,116)
Interest payable was £58k higher than budgeted. During the year it was necessary to borrow £10m from PWLB for one year to support working balances so PWLB interest was £26k higher than budgeted. The interest element of finance leases was £32k higher than budgeted, largely due to new leases during the year.	
Interest rates on temporary investments and money market funds remained high and offset the reduction in cash balances. This resulted in a net £172k additional interest after paying over interest relating to the HRA and other funds held.	
The CCLA Property Fund yielded £28k higher than budgeted dividends.	

8.9 Earmarked Reserves

During 2024/25 there has been an overall net transfer from Earmarked Reserves of £792,507. The details of all Earmarked Reserve movements are shown in Appendix 3.

Movement	2024/25
Opening Balance, as at 01/04/24	£13,569,370
Net transfer	(£1,031,267)
Balance, as at 31/03/25	£12,538,103

8.10 General Fund Balance

During 2024/25 there has been an overall deficit of £577,381. The minimum requirement for the General Fund working balance was approved by Council in February 2024 at £3.020 million.

Movement	2024/25
Opening Balance, as at 01/04/24	£5,882,563
Net	(£577,381)
Balance at Year End	£5,305,182

8.11 Supplementary Budgets

There is a requirement for some supplementary budgets in 2025/26 as the Council has identified at the end of the year a number of revenue budgets that have not been spent but where a commitment is required in the following financial year.

It is therefore proposed that supplementary budgets totalling £4,500,520 identified in Appendix 4 are approved and added to the 2025/26 budget. The supplementary budgets will be financed from Earmarked Reserves (£3,660,480), and the General Fund working balance (£840,040), or be self-financing.

Appendix 4 also lists proposed budget transfers which have been identified where budgets need to be transferred from one service area to another.

8.12 Outstanding Sundry Debt

An aged debt analysis of the Council's sundry debts is shown in the table below:

Age of Debt	March 2024	March 2025
Up to 29 days (current)	£1,411,457	£1,264,074
30 days – 1 Year	£2,738,947	£1,689,790
1 – 2 years	£299,265	£1,005,233
2 – 3 years	£273,541	£224,732
3 – 4 years	£78,227	£202,422
4 – 5 years	£290,834	£58,784
5 + years	£340,009	£580,916
Total	£5,432,280	£5,025,951

8.13 Council Tax

As at 1 April 2025, arrears amounted to £9.840m, the movements during 2024/25 were as follows:

	£m	£m
Arrears as at 1 April 2024		8.600
Add:		
2024/25 debits raised net of discounts	£90.413	
Less:		
Payments received	(£90.381)	
Refunds and change in pre-payments	£1.489	
Write-offs	(£0.281)	
Arrears as at 31 March 2025		9.840

Against the arrears of £9.840m, a bad and doubtful debt provision of £4.580m has been provided, calculated in accordance with the appropriate accounting guidelines.

The 'in-year' council tax collection rate for 2024/25 was 96.09% compared with 96.20% in 2023/24.

8.14 Debt Write-Offs

The following amounts have been written off during 2024/25:

	2023/24 Total	2024/25
• Council Tax	£236,172	£280,588
• Business Rates	£38,096	£5,829
• Sundry Debt	£2,238	£0
• Housing Rents	£93,187	£51,381
• Non-HRA Rents	£63,376	£33,087
• HB Overpayments	£191,856	£76,146

8.15 Creditor Payments Performance

Creditors' payments continue to be monitored in spite of the withdrawal of statutory performance indicator BVPI8. The percentage paid within 30 days was 95.24% for 2024/25 compared with 95.60% for 2023/24.

9. One Exeter Update

9.1 As Members will be aware, One Exeter is the Council's transformation programme and is a critical priority for the council.

Appendix 5 sets out how the Council performed against the 2024/25 approved cost reductions. At the end of the financial year, of the overall £1.402 million proposed savings £1.108 million were achieved.

A detailed report is included at Appendix 6.

10. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

10.1 This is a statement of the 2024/25 financial position.

11. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

11.1 The risks relate to overspending the Council budget and are mitigated by regular reporting to the Strategic Management Board and Members. Members have a legal responsibility to take action where balances are projected to reach an unsustainable level, and the Strategic Management Board are working to address the current projected shortfall in reserves.

12. Equality Act 2010 (The Act)

12.1 Under the Act's Public Sector Equalities Duty, decision makers are required to consider the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct;
- advance equality by encouraging participation, removing disadvantage, taking account of disabilities and meeting people's needs; and
- foster good relations between people by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

12.2 In order to comply with the general duty authorities must assess the impact on equality of decisions, policies and practices. These duties do not prevent the authority

from reducing services where necessary, but they offer a way of developing proposals that consider the impacts on all members of the community.

12.3 In making decisions the authority must take into account the potential impact of that decision in relation to age, disability, race/ethnicity (includes Gypsies and Travellers), sex and gender, gender identity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, pregnant women and new and breastfeeding mothers, marriage and civil partnership status in coming to a decision.

12.4 In recommending this proposal no potential impact has been identified on people with protected characteristics as determined by the Act because there are no significant equality and diversity impacts associated with this decision.

13. Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

13.1 There are no direct carbon/environmental impacts arising from the recommendations.

14. Are there any other options?

14.1 Not applicable.

Strategic Director of Corporate Resources & s151 Officer, Dave Hodgson

Authors: Michelle White, Nicola Morley, Bridget Kendrick, Claire Hodgson and Suzanne Edwards

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:
None

Contact for enquiries:
Democratic Services (Committees)
Room 4.36
01392 265275

2024/25 GENERAL FUND BUDGET MONITORING - SUMMARY

OUTTURN

	Original Budget £	Supplementary Budgets & Transfers £	Revised Budget £	Year End Outturn £	Variance to Budget £
Chief Executive	827,800	1,357,400	2,185,200	1,794,713	(390,487)
Operations	11,934,600	735,710	12,670,310	11,394,157	(1,276,153)
Corporate Resources	(6,063,790)	936,010	(5,127,780)	(5,175,651)	(47,871)
People and Communities	6,719,430	1,912,050	8,631,480	7,237,277	(1,394,203)
Place	8,472,940	1,534,660	10,007,600	7,993,748	(2,013,852)
less Notional capital charges	(5,140,200)	(44,720)	(5,184,920)	(5,184,898)	22
Service Committee Net Expenditure	16,750,780	6,431,110	23,181,890	18,059,347	(5,122,543)
Net Interest	1,406,000		1,406,000	1,276,884	(129,116)
Revenue Contribution to Capital	0		0	114,619	114,619
Minimum Revenue Provision	1,831,020		1,831,020	2,505,261	674,241
Voluntary Revenue Provision	0		0	(700,000)	(700,000)
General Fund Expenditure	19,987,800	6,431,110	26,418,910	21,256,111	(5,162,799)
Transfer To/(From) Working Balance	(1,313,430)	(1,548,771)	(2,862,201)	(577,381)	2,284,820
Transfer To/(From) Earmarked Reserves	337,000	(4,755,979)	(4,418,979)	(1,031,267)	3,387,712
General Fund Net Expenditure	19,011,370	126,360	19,137,730	19,647,463	509,733
Formula Grant	(6,291,000)		(6,291,000)	(6,291,000)	0
CIL Income	(781,000)		(907,360)	(773,881)	133,479
Business Rates Growth / Pooling Gain	(4,283,880)	(126,360)	(4,283,880)	(4,927,102)	(643,222)
New Homes Bonus	(485,920)		(485,920)	(485,919)	1
Council Tax	(7,169,570)		(7,169,570)	(7,169,560)	10
	0	0	0	0	0
Working Balance March 2024	£ 5,882,563			5,305,182	March 2025

2024/25 GENERAL FUND BUDGET MONITORING - DETAIL

QUARTER 4

ACTUAL TO DATE		HIDE THIS COLUMN BEFORE SUBMITTING	YEAR END OUTTURN				
ACTUAL TO DATE	VARIANCE TO DATE		APPROVED BUDGET	OUTTURN	VARIANCE	QTR 3 FORECAST VARIANCE	
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
18,167,073	(721,648)		TOTAL GENERAL FUND NET EXPENDITURE	28,366,810	23,244,245	(5,122,565)	(497,830)
Chief Executive							
928,027	(3,151)	83C7	ACTIVE & HEALTHY PEOPLE	1,338,760	972,325	(366,435)	0
766,122	96,562	86B7	STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT	846,440	822,388	(24,052)	40,910
1,694,149	93,411		NET EXPENDITURE	2,185,200	1,794,713	(390,487)	40,910
Operations							
351,875	(250,641)	81A1	ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & LICENSING	870,630	604,474	(266,156)	(287,000)
1,391,984	(115,200)	81A6	PARKS & GREEN SPACES	2,001,810	1,874,329	(127,481)	(29,810)
65,947	(254)	81B2	BEREAVEMENT SERVICES	118,370	108,301	(10,069)	5,530
7,812	2,872	81C3	AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT	4,940	(96)	(5,036)	0
0	0	81C5	SUNDRY LANDS MAINTENANCE	112,300	112,300	0	0
89,794	(2,841)	81C9	CORPORATE HEALTH & SAFETY	105,740	102,918	(2,822)	(3,800)
1,881,839	(305,308)	81D2	DOMESTIC REFUSE COLLECTION	3,629,990	2,973,472	(656,518)	(412,460)
1,301,859	10,968	81D4	STREET CLEANING	1,691,910	1,720,074	28,164	(7,930)
137,719	(8,968)	81D5	PUBLIC CONVENIENCES	226,130	212,158	(13,972)	(17,130)
(539,039)	(111,309)	81D6	WASTE CHARGEABLE SERVICES	(430,390)	(252,262)	178,128	(1,910)
299,646	(909)	81D7	WASTE STRATEGY & FACILITIES	355,540	375,400	19,860	7,300
604,455	95,906	81D8	MATERIALS RECLAMATION FACILITY	689,090	754,261	65,171	124,740
239,321	(364,500)	83B4	ENGINEERING SERVICES	837,140	464,052	(373,088)	(210,230)
343,972	(112,523)	83C1	WATERWAYS	676,480	544,919	(131,561)	(134,100)
898,993	(235,651)	83C5	CORPORATE PROPERTY - ASSETS	1,091,690	873,477	(218,213)	(269,380)
602,450	234,204	86B5	CORPORATE SUPPORT	688,940	926,378	237,438	100,000
7,678,628	(1,164,155)		NET EXPENDITURE	12,670,310	11,394,157	(1,276,153)	(1,136,180)
Corporate Resources							
(3,896,320)	508,366	83A1	CORPORATE ASSETS - ESTATES	(5,228,130)	(6,315,517)	(1,087,387)	6,410
(4,443,530)	414,374	83A3	PARKING SERVICES	(6,295,540)	(5,863,416)	432,124	492,180
820,832	125,995	83B8	MAJOR PROJECTS	926,450	883,780	(42,670)	(57,160)
(390,891)	118,587	83B9	MARKETS	(511,220)	(558,251)	(47,031)	(52,460)
2,053,664	153,080	86A1	REVENUES & BENEFITS	2,184,240	2,189,668	5,428	235,220
264,501	(26,987)	86A2	ELECTIONS & ELECTORAL REG	390,180	166,070	(224,110)	46,210
249,045	17,245	86A3	CORPORATE	227,400	252,489	25,089	35,190
478,839	(24,765)	86A5	DEMOCRATIC REPRESENTATION	662,150	622,174	(39,976)	(39,760)
1,865,891	798,964	86A7	UNAPPORTIONABLE OVERHEADS	1,278,500	2,261,187	982,687	883,200
585,029	(61,846)	86B1	FINANCIAL SERVICES	682,570	667,274	(15,296)	0
116,545	7,076	86B2	INTERNAL AUDIT	117,780	125,628	7,848	7,550
473,816	(27,729)	86B4	LEGAL SERVICES	306,950	275,445	(31,505)	(23,850)
137,522	(33,777)	86B8	PROCUREMENT	130,890	117,817	(13,073)	(11,110)
(1,685,057)	1,968,583		NET EXPENDITURE	(5,127,780)	(5,175,651)	(47,871)	1,521,620
People and Communities							
1,362,462	53,387	81C2	HOUSING NEEDS & HOMELESSNESS	2,637,200	1,763,218	(873,982)	350,000
114,229	(61,267)	81E1	GF HOUSING - PROPERTY	199,800	132,522	(67,278)	(53,000)
0	0	83A2	TRANSPORTATION	0	(48,429)	(48,429)	(60,000)
321,972	43,346	86A6	CENTRAL SUPPORT	370,680	418,162	47,482	66,280
677,434	(21,010)	86B3	HUMAN RESOURCES	799,900	845,925	46,025	14,240
2,183,130	(36,813)	86B6	IT SERVICES	2,443,940	2,117,073	(326,867)	(14,440)
510,609	(179,761)	86B9	EXETER COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAMME	937,200	719,592	(217,608)	(180,980)
792,573	57,473	86C3	CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE	922,770	972,892	50,122	79,150
155,533	(26,732)	86C4	ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE PROGRAMME	243,020	261,511	18,491	0
21,919	(7,036)	86C6	PRIVATE HOUSING	76,970	54,810	(22,160)	9,470
6,139,861	(178,413)		NET EXPENDITURE	8,631,480	7,237,277	(1,394,203)	210,720
Place							
339,047	(71,445)	83A4	NET ZERO AND BUSINESS	957,600	939,883	(17,717)	14,970
(136,802)	(524,133)	83A5	CULTURE	503,160	281,068	(222,092)	(127,680)
41,127	41,070	83A6	TOURISM	0	29,919	29,919	29,880
78,021	94,987	83A9	BUILDING CONTROL & LAND CHARGES	65,520	186,360	120,840	90,000
862,249	(13,514)	83B5	PLANNING	1,195,310	877,901	(317,409)	94,200
1,283,856	(356,682)	83C2	MUSEUM SERVICE	2,656,510	2,335,961	(320,549)	(201,710)
817,315	(359,550)	83C3	LEISURE & SPORT	2,811,810	1,937,785	(874,025)	(958,980)
0	(44,888)	83C8	ST SIDWELLS POINT	59,850	0	(59,850)	(59,850)
54,327	(13,874)	83C9	VISITOR FACILITIES	86,000	64,498	(21,502)	(4,960)
207,217	(8,180)	86A4	CIVIC CEREMONIALS	356,370	350,728	(5,642)	(4,320)
224,455	(20,260)	86A8	COMMUNICATIONS	226,330	242,427	16,097	(20)
321,250	(186,770)	86C2	LIVEABLE EXETER GARDEN CITY	677,360	325,962	(351,398)	(100,000)
246,430	24,915	86C5	CCTV & HOME CALL	406,780	464,653	57,873	91,860
1,001	(2,749)	86C7	COMMUNITY SAFETY	5,000	(43,396)	(48,396)	1,710
4,339,493	(1,441,073)		NET EXPENDITURE	10,007,600	7,993,748	(2,013,852)	(1,134,900)

Earmarked Reserves

APPENDIX 3

Account	Account description	Opening Balance £	Transfers In £	Transfers Out £	Closing Balance £
09413	CONSERVATION	(2,339)			(2,339)
09416	VEHICLE LICENSING	(35,172)		35,172	0
09417	S 57 GRANTS	(19,613)			(19,613)
09419	SURE START	(20,000)			(20,000)
09420	BUILDING CONTROL	18,821		91,549	110,370
09427	MALLINSON	(64,671)		29,038	(35,633)
09428	OLD MILL	(5,499)			(5,499)
09434	SHIP	(7,438)			(7,438)
09437	HOUSING ASSESSMENT	(1,245)			(1,245)
09444	Climate Change	(6,709)			(6,709)
09448	DEVON HOME CHOICE	(48,567)	(69,991)		(118,558)
09451	TRANSFORMATION	(1,347,556)		1,301,920	(45,636)
09455	Habitat Assessment	(30,533)	(108,368)		(138,901)
09456	Green Travel	(236,075)	(48,429)		(284,504)
09457	AFU Archiving	(4,352)			(4,352)
09458	Countryside Grants	(14,500)			(14,500)
09460	Redundancy reserve	(628,001)		628,001	0
09463	EBAC	(92,100)		29,923	(62,177)
09464	Museum of the Year	(31,682)			(31,682)
09467	Natura 2000	(202,074)			(202,074)
09473	NHB - Local Community Infra	(73,577)		73,577	0
09475	NHB - Active Exeter	(59,849)			(59,849)
09480	NNDR Deficit	(1,660,213)	(561,240)		(2,221,453)
09487	PINHOE COMMUNITY HUB	(53,756)			(53,756)
09491	IFRS 9	(102,783)		102,783	0
09494	LAND CHARGES	(318,977)		21,387	(297,590)
09495	BUSINESS RATE PILOT	(97,457)		74,201	(23,256)
09496	PLANNING INCOME	(151,688)			(151,688)
09501	RAMM INFRASTRUCTURE RESERVE	(256,585)			(256,585)
09503	GOVERNANCE REVIEW	(55,000)	(102,783)	0	(157,783)
Covid - Acting as principal:					
09504	WELL-BEING SUPPORT FUND	(37,127)		14,000	(23,127)
09505	CEV RESPONSE	(51,030)		51,030	0
09521	Contain Outbreak Management Fund	(9,319)			(9,319)
09522	Protect & Vaccinate	(16,282)		16,282	0
09510	Garden Communities - Grant 2	(289,683)		134,522	(155,161)
09511	Development Corporation Comp	(387,684)		246,440	(141,243)
09514	ECL - Corporate Property Support	(200,000)		0	(200,000)
09515	Net Zero Exeter	(629,666)		220,750	(408,916)
09519	Future events	(99,800)		70	(99,730)
09523	Strata	(74,000)	(245,443)	74,000	(245,443)
09524	Wellbeing Exeter	(90,050)	(151,106)	90,050	(151,106)
09525	Revs & Bens New Burdens	(89,700)		89,700	0
09526	Household Support Fund Admin Grant	(132,970)	(213,025)	75,724	(270,270)
09527	RSAP Revenue Grant	(85,169)		9,914	(75,255)
09528	Homelessness New Burdens	(258,904)		258,904	0
09530	Surplus Guildhall income	(2,175,256)	(724,067)		(2,899,324)
09531	CPO Funding	(800,000)		800,000	0
09532	AIM Reserve	(600,000)		0	(600,000)
09533	Sport England - Core	(138,598)		34,893	(103,705)
09534	Sport England - Pathfinder	(998,068)		806,915	(191,153)
09535	Homes 4 Ukraine Scheme	(796,877)		36,135	(760,742)
NEW	Afghan Household Fund	0	(15,058)		(15,058)
NEW	Winter Pressures	0	(220,413)		(220,413)
NEW	Operations - ECQT Dredging	0	(12,000)		(12,000)
NEW	Operations - Contaminated Land Survey	0	(11,883)		(11,883)
NEW	Operations - Environmental Health Projects	0	(34,813)		(34,813)
NEW	Operations - Food waste collection grant	0	(190,340)		(190,340)
NEW	Digital & Data - Historic Brexit Grant	0	(18,950)		(18,950)
NEW	Community Safety Partnership Fines	0	(300)		(300)
NEW	Community Safety	0	(48,740)		(48,740)
NEW	Planning Digitalisation	0	(50,000)		(50,000)
NEW	Planning Skills & Development	0	(72,000)		(72,000)
NEW	Local Plan Evidence	0	(311,163)		(311,163)
NEW	Liveable Exeter - Atlas funding	0	(55,000)		(55,000)
NEW	Museum Projects	0	(123,180)		(123,180)
NEW	Museum NPO	0	(3,910)		(3,910)
NEW	Custom House surplus	0	(7,740)		(7,740)
NEW	Arts & Events	0	(9,320)		(9,320)
NEW	Leisure VAT refund	0	(646,557)		(646,557)
NEW	Council Elections - grants in advance	0	(259,794)		(259,794)
		(13,569,370)	(4,315,613)	5,346,880	(12,538,103)

Transfer To/(From) Earmarked Reserves

(1,031,267)

PROPOSED SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGETS & BUDGET TRANSFERS FOR 2025/26

Supplementary Budgets

Description	£	Funded by:
Chief Executive		
Local Government Reorganisation	88,000	GF Balances
Exeter Net Zero projects	31,330	Earmarked Reserve
Wonford Health & Wellbeing Hub	56,940	GF Balances
Sport England - Core	103,710	Earmarked Reserve
Sport England - Pathfinder	191,150	Earmarked Reserve
Organisational Change Programme	30,900	Earmarked Reserve
Operations		
Children's Play Area - 24/25 underspend. Needed for strategic development	56,970	GF Balances
Engineering Watercourse work	5,000	GF Balances
Waterways Dredging work - budget smoothed, but work occurs biennially	50,000	GF Balances
ECQT Dredging grant	12,000	Earmarked Reserve
Gap Analysis	1,900	Earmarked Reserve
HRO one-off funding legal fees & disbursements - rollover of unspent balance	11,540	GF Balances
HRO one-off other expenses - contingency (Independent Enquiry)	80,000	GF Balances
Waterways - Waterways Engineer 3 yr FTC	121,350	GF Balances
Contaminated Land Survey	11,880	Earmarked Reserve
Environmental Health Projects	34,810	Earmarked Reserve
Neighbourhood Team - 24/25 supplementary roll forward	53,860	GF Balances
Emergency Planning	9,320	Earmarked Reserve
Weekly Food Waste Collections transitional resource	190,340	Earmarked Reserve
Kerbside recycling - storage (24/25 supplementary budget roll-forward)	78,530	GF Balances
Commercialisation - Advanced ISO Accreditation (RedQuadrant report)	12,840	Earmarked Reserve
Corporate Resources		
Civic Centre re-location	100,000	Earmarked Reserve
Well Being Support Fund	23,130	Earmarked Reserve
Bus Station Wider Options Consultant Fee for Market report	23,250	Earmarked Reserve
CIPFA - asset management plan consultancy	25,000	Earmarked Reserve
Civic Centre relocation and car park cashless advice consultancy	25,000	Earmarked Reserve
Elections - County Council & PCC Elections grants in advance	259,790	Earmarked Reserve
Household Support Fund - Staff Costs	80,500	Earmarked Reserve
Procurement - Legal advice	13,000	GF balances
People & Communities		
Remedial works required to PSL property	43,000	GF balances
Strata	245,440	Earmarked Reserve
Winter Pressures	220,410	Earmarked Reserve
Afghan Household Fund	15,800	Earmarked Reserve
Homes for Ukraine	760,740	Earmarked Reserve
Devon Home Choice new system	4,000	Earmarked Reserve
Domestic Abuse New Burdens Funding - Expenditure	36,218	Self-financing
Domestic Abuse New Burdens Funding - Income	(36,218)	Self-financing
Asylum Dispersal - Expenditure	16,800	Self-financing
Asylum Dispersal - Income	(16,800)	Self-financing
Wellbeing Exeter	151,110	Earmarked Reserve
Operations Team Leader (Grade H, 1FTE)	51,850	GF Balances
Historic Brexit Grant	18,950	Earmarked Reserve
New Burdens Transparency Grant	8,103	Self-financing
New Burdens Transparency Grant	(8,103)	Self-financing
Staff training	45,000	GF Balances
Place		
Community Safety Projects	33,990	Earmarked Reserve
Community Safety Partnerships	14,750	Earmarked Reserve
Antisocial Behaviour Initiative	165,520	Self-financing
Antisocial Behaviour Initiative	(165,520)	Self-financing
Planning Skills	29,000	Earmarked Reserve
Planning Skills Delivery Fund	43,000	Earmarked Reserve
Local Plan Evidence	311,160	Earmarked Reserve
Planning Digitalisation	50,000	Earmarked Reserve
Liveable Garden City	155,160	Earmarked Reserve
Atlas	55,000	Earmarked Reserve
Exeter Development Fund	141,240	Earmarked Reserve
RAMM Café - cost	23,230	Self-financing
RAMM Café - income	(23,230)	Self-financing
Custom House - 24/25 surplus	7,740	Earmarked Reserve
Museum Projects	123,180	Earmarked Reserve
Museum NPO	3,910	Earmarked Reserve
Arts & events	9,320	Earmarked Reserve
Women's Rugby World Cup - payment to rugby union	99,730	Earmarked Reserve
Women's Rugby World Cup - event marketing	75,000	GF Balances
Additional NPO Support (Northcott Theatre)	10,000	GF Balances
	4,500,520	

Funded from:

Earmarked Reserves
GF Balances

3,660,480
840,040

4,500,520

Budget Transfers

South West Council Subscription - transfer from Member Services
South West Council Subscription - transfer to HR

9,380
(9,380)

New Budget for Corporate Consultation & Engagement

120,000

Funded By:

Mobile Phones

(27,980)

Procurement

(1,490)

Democratic Rep

(1,000)

HR

(5,000)

RAMM

(12,000)

Corn Exchange

(20,000)

Advertising & Marketing

(10,000)

Underground Passages

(5,000)

Leisure

(37,530)

Service	Description/Proposal	2024/25 Budget Reduction/ (increase)	Outturn	Variance (shortfall)	Comment
Public and Green Spaces	Allotment fee increase	£20,450	£19,793	(£657)	Full increase in fees phased over 2 years rather than 1; uplift in fees started from 29th September rather than 1st. Full recovery expected to be achieved in 2025/26.
Public and Green Spaces	Street cleansing agile service delivery; saving profiled 50% in 2023/24 and 50% 2024/25	£101,850	£22,450	(£79,400)	£30k saving in C059 12059 NOT achieved; YE actual is £49,400 overspend
Procurement	Shared service with Teignbridge, South Hams and West Devon District Councils	£27,000	£4,000	(£23,000)	Only recharge in 24/25 was to TDC for maternity cover until the end of Sept 24. No other external work was carried out.
Markets and Halls and Visitor Facilities	Additional income at Matford Centre	£8,500	£8,500	£0	Income budget has been achieved so saving has been met.
Revenue & Benefits	Move HRA Rent Collection back to Housing Tenancy Services. Reduce team to level required for HRA/or in-line with recharge level; delete 1 x Income Collection Team Leader 5 x Senior Collection Officers, 1 x Support (effectively removing officer costs met from the GF)	£172,920	£172,920	£0	Saving achieved
Revenue & Benefits	EDDC Hosted Council Tax Adminstration. Delete vacant Local taxation Lead and 3 hours from Post 5089	£55,680	£55,680	£0	Post deleted, saving achieved
Corporate Property	Estates functional review; remove Assistant Estates Surveyor post	£20,230	£20,230	£0	Post removed therefore saving achieved
Housing Needs and Homelessness	Reduction of spot purchase B&B accommodation; relating to unrecoverable HB in Welfare and Benefits	£80,170	£0	(£80,170)	Saving not achieved as continued use of B&B necessary due to delays in long lease arrangements .
SUB TOTAL SERVICE REVIEW REDUCTIONS		£486,800	£303,573	(£183,227)	
Marketing	Additional income	£25,000	£25,000	£0	Income budget achieved so saving achieved
Leisure	VAT ruling Leisure is non-business for VAT	£600,000	£646,560	£46,560	Both claims have been submitted; 1st claim has been received, awaiting decision on second. Full amount accrued at year-end
Corporate	Reduction in Pension Added Years budget in line with reduced spending	£60,000	£60,000	£0	No overspend so saving achieved
RAMM	Restructure per Council approval	£73,000	£73,000	£0	Restructure implemented so saving achieved
Planning	Additional income resulting from Central Government fee increase	£157,000	£0	(£157,000)	Fee increases have not led to the expected increase in income therefore saving not achieved
OTHER PROPOSALS		£915,000	£804,560	(£110,440)	
TOTAL		£1,401,800	£1,108,133	(£293,667)	

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1. One Exeter Update

One Exeter was the council's organisational change programme and it has helped to deliver the council's strategic priority of leading a Well-Run Council.

The programme was structured around five work streams as set out below.

- Our People
- Our Technology
- Our Customers
- Our Services
- Our Governance

To reflect the strategic importance of the work, the programme was sponsored by the Chief Executive and owned by the SMB.

The future of the work programme:

Over the last year, and as part of the Senior Leadership Review, the programme of work has now been embedded within Directorates and the Executive Office. Continuous improvement and transformation are now part of the council's business as usual. There is no longer a requirement to have a standalone programme of work and it is proposed that the One Exeter Programme is now mainstreamed across the council.

Going forward, progress against this work will be reported through the regular meetings that are held with Portfolio Holders and through the committee reporting process where appropriate.

Year end update:

The '**One Council, One Team**' strapline of the One Exeter programme is embedded across the council and the organisational culture is shifting away from silo working to one of collaboration and joined up working. A summary of the progress that has been made over the last year is set out below.

Delivery of the Digital Customer Strategy

During 2024/25 the council continued to deliver the adopted Digital Customer Strategy and work with Strata our IT service solutions company on the enabler projects it identified in their Business Plan. As part of the Senior Leadership Restructure, a Digital and Data team was created, and a new Head of Service was recruited to manage this service and lead digital and data transformation projects. The team works closely with other services and members of the Extended Leadership Team (ELT).

The following work has been undertaken over the last year to deliver the ambitions of the Digital Customer Strategy:

- **My Account Introduction:** Launched in late-January 2025, the "My Account" platform, will provide a single digital front door for customers to contact the council and track their requests.
- **City Development Transformation Project:** Initiated a pilot project to explore digital solution improvements and centralised contact opportunities within the City Development service.
- **End User Computing:** Tested a new computing model which will enable users to work natively on their window laptop and remove the reliance of virtual desktops to work.

- **Rapid Impact Team:** A team was created to look at the Parks and Open Spaces and Waste Management services to determine the potential to reduce the current cost base through service improvement and digitalisation.
- **Resident's survey:** The council conducted a resident's survey and consulted on the budget plans for 2025/26. A new corporate Engagement Manager has been recruited to bring a corporate standard for consultations and how the council seeks feedback.
- **SharePoint:** A pilot in the council's digital team was conducted to store files in a standard that can be rolled out to the wider council. A lesson learnt exercise will be carried out before a full roll out takes place.
- **Telephony Migration:** Preparation was made to migrate users from Skype for Business to Teams, ensuring continuity ahead of Skype's end-of-life in October 2025.

Peer Review of Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion

In June 2024, the Chief Executive invited the Local Government Association (LGA) to undertake a review of the council's work on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and invited recommendations on how to make improvements.

Specifically, the review focused on:

- Does the organisation understand its duties under the Equality Act?
- What is the understanding and support from elected members?
- How does this understanding translate through service delivery?
- What does it feel like to apply for a job with and then work for the council for people from minoritised groups?
- What are we doing and what could we do in future to strengthen our links into communities?
- What do we need to do to address the gaps in our response to the Equality Act?
- What resources do we need to take this forward both in terms of designated EDI role and across the wider organisation within services?

The review took place over three days with four peer assessors from the Local Government Association. This "mini" Peer Review team made the following general observations.

The review identified that there was clear commitment to EDI from the Chief Executive and political leadership and that there were pockets of good practice that could be replicated across the organisation. The review recommended that further work was undertaken to embed EDI across the council, communicate positive EDI initiatives and increased collaboration with community groups to inform service delivery.

An EDI Taskforce has been created under the Lead Strategic Director for People and Communities and a detailed action plan has been developed.

Improved Corporate Governance Arrangements

The council's external auditors recommended that the council should review the alternative delivery models with which it is involved and assess if continuing with these arrangements if appropriate provides best value for money. In response to this recommendation, [a report](#) was brought to Executive in January 2025 and considered by full Council in February 2025. The report provides information concerning those entities connected to the council and the role of the council within those organisations. The report also recommended that the Chief Executive has delegated authority to appoint Directors, Client Leads and Shareholder representatives and that

a report is presented to Council every six months to update councillors on the performance of each company.

The council has also improved its arrangements for tracking and monitoring progress with Internal Audit reports and recommendations. Going forward, all Internal Audit reports with limited assurance will be reported to SMB and tracked via the new Audit Tracker tool. This will ensure that key audit recommendations are implemented and reported against.

In addition, corporate/cross-cutting Internal Audit reports such as the Corporate Governance Audit will be reported to Audit and Governance Committee to provide assurance to councillors that strategic audit recommendations are being actioned.

Completion of Senior Leadership Restructure

The new Senior Leadership Structure has been approved by Council and implemented. The new structure is designed to break down silos and ensure that the council can deliver on its priorities, implement its ambitious transformation programme, provide an excellent customer experience and lead a well-run Council.

The reason for the restructure was to create a more cohesive group of senior leadership, acting as a joint team to enable the delivery of the council's priorities through better balanced portfolios, a co-ordinated and corporate approach and an ability to drive transformation together.

Accommodation Review

The Council has been considering options for a number of years to free up the Civic Centre site and move to new premises. The site could provide much needed new homes and has been identified as part of the Eastgate Liveable Exeter strategic development opportunity, providing a new vibrant mixed-use quarter in the City Centre.

Work is continuing to identify a site for relocation.

Development of a new Corporate Plan

SMB have been working with members of the Executive to develop a new Corporate Plan for the council. The new Corporate Plan will demonstrate how the council will deliver its vision for a happy, healthy and fully engaged city in the future.

To deliver the key priorities, services will focus on setting targets and measuring performance. The Extended Leadership Team (ELT) have been working together to compile a series of meaningful measures that will help assess progress against the priorities.

The plan will adopt a straightforward and strategic approach with a greater emphasis on the outcomes councillors want to achieve for the city.

The outcomes will be delivered through four strategic priorities:

- Local economy
- Sustainable environment
- People
- Homes

These priorities can only be delivered by having a Well-Run Council.

Communication and Collaboration

Over the last year, there has been a focus on improving communication and collaboration across the council. The Chief Executive continues to publish a fortnightly message in the staff newsletter to keep everyone informed about the strategic work that has been taking place as well as personal highlights such as meeting and learning more about the front-line teams.

A series of All Staff Events took place in February 2025 to introduce the new ELT, hear about the council's focus and priorities over the year ahead, learn more about the plans to become a unitary council and to network and ask questions.

The ELT has continued to meet to discuss a number of strategic issues including the financial position, the Corporate Plan, the Strategic Performance Management Framework and the requirement for staff to return to the office base for 40% of their working week.

The Chief Executive now meets with new starters on a quarterly basis to welcome them to the council, talk about the priorities and focus of the council and how the council supports and develops its staff. Meetings are also held with staff to celebrate their long service awards with Strategic Directors and Heads of Service presenting the awards.

The Staff Sounding Board has also continued during 2024 and has offered invaluable feedback to the One Exeter programme. This included helping to inform the work that is currently underway to improve the current working arrangements in the Civic Centre.

Agenda Item 13

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 10 June 2025

Report of: Strategic Director of Corporate Resources & s151 Officer

Title: 2024/25 General Fund Capital Monitoring 2024/25 and Revised Capital Programme for 2025/26 and Future Years

Is this a Key Decision?

No.

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Council.

1. What is the report about?

1.1 To advise members of the overall financial performance of the Council for the 2024/25 financial year in respect of the annual capital programme.

To seek approval of the 2025/26 revised capital programme, including commitments carried forward from 2024/25.

2. Recommendations:

2.1 It is recommended that Council approve:

(1) The overall financial position for the 2024/25 annual capital programme.

(2) The amendments and further funding requests to the Council's annual capital programme for 2025/26 and future years.

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

3.1. Local authorities are required to estimate the total of capital expenditure that it plans to incur during the financial year when it sets the prudential indicators for capital expenditure. This shows that its asset management and capital investment strategies are affordable, prudent and sustainable.

Capital expenditure is a significant source of risk and uncertainty since cost variations, delays and changing specifications are often features of large and complex capital projects.

In order to manage the risks associated with capital programming the annual capital programme is updated every three months to reflect any cost variations, slippage or acceleration of projects.

4. What are the resource implications including non financial resources

4.1 The financial resources required are set out in the body of this report.

5. Section 151 Officer comments:

5.1 The capital programme is showing further progress, and this is expected to improve once the full structure is completed within the General Fund Assets team. Work will continue with budget managers to better profile schemes over a number of years to reflect the likely timing of delivery.

6. What are the legal aspects?

6.1 Monitoring of capital expenditure is required in order to comply with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2003.

The requirements imposed on the Council by the Act are set out in section 3 of the report.

7. Monitoring Officer's comments:

7.1 The Monitoring Officer has no additional comments.

8. Report details:

8.1. REVISIONS TO THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The 2024/25 Capital Programme, including commitments brought forward from 2023/24, was last reported to Council on 25 February 2025. Since that meeting the following changes have been made that have increased the programme:

Description	£	Approval/Funding
Revised Capital Programme, as reported to Council 25 February 2025	32,726,380	
Topsham Museum	182,000	Approved by Council 25 February 2025
Revised Capital Programme	32,908,380	

8.2. PERFORMANCE

Capital expenditure in the year amounted to £8.434 million. There are some schemes where the timing of the spend is uncertain, these schemes have a budget of £7.588 million, of the remaining £25.320 million budget the spend during the year was £8.416 million, which equates to 33.24% of the revised programme. It is proposed to carry forward a total of £20.428 million budget into future years, as indicated in Appendix 1.

8.3. CAPITAL FINANCING

The 2024/25 capital expenditure was financed as follows:

	£
Capital Grants & Contributions	2,304,364

Capital Receipts	571,564
Community Infrastructure Levy	206,767
Revenue Contributions	114,619
Borrowing	5,236,278
TOTAL	8,433,592

8.4. AVAILABLE CAPITAL RESOURCES

The available capital resources for the General Fund for 2024/25 are £3.197 million. Total General Fund capital expenditure is £8.434 million of which £5.236 million will be funded from borrowing.

Appendix 3 sets out the forecast use of the resources available for the General Fund and the likely amounts of borrowing that will be necessary to fund the capital programme over the next three years.

The value of actual capital receipts received in the year in respect of the General Fund are:

General Fund £	
Balance as at 1 April 2024	851
New Receipts	570,713
Use of Capital Receipts	(571,564)
Balance as at 31 March 2025	0

8.5. EXPENDITURE VARIANCES

The main (greater than +/- £30k) variances and issues concerning expenditure are as follows:

Scheme	Variance £
Farm Hill Retaining Walls (23 no.)	(£39,329)
Countess Wear Retaining Wall Rebuild	£39,329
Officer Responsible: Head of Service – Operations	
The Farm Hill scheme will underspend this year to compensate for an overspend on the Countess Wear Retaining Wall project.	
Riverside & RAMM Decarbonisation Projects	(£4,860,850)
Officer Responsible: Head of Service – City Centre and Net Zero	
As per the report that was presented to Executive on 1 October on the Public Decarbonisation Scheme 3b Project which sets out the reasons for this scheme not going ahead. The budget was to be grant funded, so this is not a saving of ECC funds.	
Scheme	Variance £
Leisure Complex Build project	£96,027
Leisure Complex – Fit Out	(£96,027)
Officer Responsible: Head of Service – Asset Management	
The Leisure complex scheme is in its final stages and the variance against the build project can be compensated by the underspend in the fit out budget.	
Scheme	Variance £
Fleet Lease	£666,580
Officer Responsible: Head of Service – Waste, Recycling and Fleet Manager	
Some of the leased items acquired in the first year of the contract have come to the end of their original agreements so have had to be replaced during the year, and the new lease agreements are significantly more expensive than the original costs. There have been fewer additions over the last year or two due to affordability so there has been an element of catch up during 2024/25 to replace fleet which was past its useful life.	
Scheme	Variance £
Right of Use - Rent for Waterways	98,000

A new lease accounting standard, IFRS 16, came in from 1 April 2024. Under the new standard it requires most leases to be accounted for as acquisitions, so that the authority recognises the rights acquired to use an asset. The overspend in respect of Waterways relates to the lease of the Port Constructor, which was previously budgeted as a service cost. In overall terms, there is no overall financial impact to the Council.

8.6. SCHEMES TO BE DEFERRED TO 2025/26 AND BEYOND

Schemes which have been identified as being wholly or partly deferred to 2025/26 and beyond are:

Scheme	Budget to be Deferred. £
Waste Infrastructure	376,343
Improved Recycling Containers	11,672
Depot Enhancement Works	6,141,564
Food Waste Collections	857,140

Officer Responsible: Head of Service – Environment & Waste

The waste depot improvement works including the MRF has been re-profiled in-line with estimated project spend.

Interim works have been completed to allow for further food waste collection now to be conducted during the 2025/26 financial year.

The reprofiling to both Waste Infrastructure and Recycling containers are also linked to the depot development work, as spending is linked to the works.

Parks Infrastructure	155,715
Cemeteries & Churchyards Infrastructure Improvements	35,973
Pinhoe Playing Field Upgrades	38,897
Cricklepit Bridge	38,220
Trews Weir refurb	37,584
District Street Lighting	150,000
Bromhams Farm Playing Fields	48,618
Northbrook Wild Arboretum	221,563
Heavitree Paddling Pools	526,680
Play Areas	73,456

Officer Responsible: Parks & Green Spaces Parks

Parks and Green Spaces Infrastructure, Cemeteries and Churchyard infrastructure, are allocations for schemes where timings of spend against the scheme are dependent on either deterioration of existing assets or the availability of suppliers to provide facilities required with works expected to slow down until the new year.

£126k of play areas improvements have been carried in the 2024/25 financial year. Spending and project progress has had to be paused temporarily, and funding deferred to 2025/26, to allow for contract procurement.

Pinhoe Playing fields were subject to substantive surface and drainage works. The deferment of current capital is a result of the remaining works being seasonal. Additional remedial maintenance programmes are expected to be carried out May – August 2025 and April – August 2026.

Phase one of the works at Cricklepit Bridge have been completed, and final works will be completed in the new financial year.

Delays in delivery for the Trews Wier refurbishment have been caused by complexity of project and need for input and approval of proposals and designs from external partners.

Delivery of works for the District Street Lighting project remain in Devon County Council's control. Minimal works were completed in 2024/25, meaning there remains more work to do in the next financial year.

Works progressing as expected for the Bromhams Farm Playing Fields project with the deferral reflecting the longer contract duration agreed at tender stage to cover ongoing establishment maintenance.

The Northbrook Wild Arboretum scheme deferral reflects a timing delay in respect of commencement of the scheme.

As previously reported the Heavitree Paddling Pools plans were unsuccessful at tender. As a result, the works did not progress in 2024/25. The project will progress pending an additional consultation.

Scheme	Budget to be Deferred £
Bowling Green Marshes Coastal Defence Scheme	68,389
Farm Hill Retaining Walls (23 no.)	128,497
Mallison Bridge	35,632
Bonhay Rd/Andlaw House Footpath	144,635
St James' Weir & Ducks Marsh Meadow banks	75,000
Landfill Gas Extraction Systems	95,999
Mincinglake Valley Park Reed Beds & Pipe Inlet	36,280
Exeter Canal Bank Repairs	43,304

ECC Bridge Repair Programme	230,461
Oxford Road Car Park Retaining Wall	200,000
Canal Basin Bridge Refurbishment	50,000

Officer Responsible: Engineering & Assets Manager

Following an unsuccessful procurement exercise for the Bowling Green Marshes Coastal Defence Scheme an alternative approach has been selected that will increase the programme time into the next financial year.

The scope of the Farm Hill retaining walls project has significantly reduced since the budget was requested, we are currently awaiting tender process.

The Mallison Bridge Project is being led by Devon County Council. The Council's financial contribution has not yet been requested by Devon, due to delays in approving the funding agreement with all funding partners.

The Bonhay Road footpath project has been delayed due to uncertainty over land ownership / responsibilities. Investigations are ongoing.

The St James' Wier and Ducks Marsh budget is precautionary, there is no current need to spend but the asset is being monitored.

The landfill gas extraction system works are postponed due to need for wintertime monitoring of boreholes before the works scope can be finalised.

There have been Delays to the Mincinglake Valley Park works which were caused by the complexity of surveying the culverts which are up to 10 metres below ground. Remote methods have been unsuccessful, and these are not suitable for person-entry. A new approach has now been selected, and works will continue in 2025/26. Resourcing issues have reduced capacity to deliver the bridge programme at the anticipated rate, fewer works planned in this financial year.

Exeter Canal bank repairs have been deferred as an engineer has not been appointed in the previous financial year.

Resourcing issues have reduced capacity to deliver the bridge programme at the anticipated rate, fewer works planned in this financial year.

The budgets for both Oxford Road wall and the Canal Basin Bridge refurbishment are precautionary with no current need to spend at present, but the asset is being monitored.

Scheme	Budget to be Deferred £
Guildhall Shopping Centre Enhancements	4,982,350
St Nicholas Priory Roof	88,120

Officer Responsible: Interim Head of Service – Commercial Assets

Discussions with tenants for the development of the Guildhall Shopping Centre are continuing with spend expected in 2025/26.

In regard to St Nicholas Priory, Historic England have asked that the funding bid needs to be resubmitted for a patch and repair as opposed to a complete replacement. A new bid will be submitted by the end of June 2026.

Cathedral Green Display Cases	35,000
Green Space Depot Site	2,500,000

Officer Responsible: Head of Service – Asset Management

The restructure and recruitment of the Assets team has not yet taken place, so it is that there has been no spend on the above programmes. The restructure is likely to be progressed into 2025/26.

Leighton Terrace & King William Street MSCP	(311,897)
Backlog Maintenance	(97,183)
City Wall	76,454
BLRF – Clifton Hill	(23,070)
Commercial Property Ancillary Accommodation	(57,821)
Riverside Sports Hall Roof	60,870
Topsham Museum	221,074
Leisure Property enhancements	1,027,011
Leisure Equipment Replacement Programme	338,094
RAMM Roof Repair & Insulation	72,527
Corn Exchange Lift	50,000
Bus Station Construction	100,369

Officer Responsible: Head of Service – Asset Management

As reported at quarter three, the budgets for backlog maintenance, Clifton Hill and Commercial Property Ancillary Accommodation were reprofiled into 2025/26. Costs incurred since quarter two includes major concrete repairs at Leighton Terrace car park and the replacement of water mains at Clifton Hill.

Delays to the City Wall have arisen due to the need to negotiate with the landowner who's land we need to access to undertake the works. These works have now commenced & budget will be spent in 2025/26.

The inability to appoint project managers has resulted in delays to the Leisure Property enhancements project work. Restructure is underway to address this, and budget will be spent in 2025/26.

The Topsham Museum project was delayed due to the scope of works changing and waiting for listed building consent to be brought to the full planning committee for a decision.

Inability to appoint project managers has resulted in delays to the leisure property enhancement project. Restructure is underway to address this & budget will be spent in 2025/26.

The leisure equipment replacement programme was under-utilised this financial year, however the full budget will be required in 2025/26 to replace equipment on a rolling basis.

The inability to appoint project managers has resulted in delays to the RAMM Roof Repair & Insulation project work due to staffing pressures. Restructure is underway to address this & budget will be spent in 2025/26. The Riverside Sports Hall Roof project will be consolidated within this budget.

The inability to appoint project managers has resulted in delays in the Corn Exchange Lift project work due to staffing pressures. Restructure is underway to address this & budget will be spent in 2025/26.

The Bus Station scheme budget deferment is due to planned works to revert the traffic flows in Princesshay were awaiting formal Devon County Council Traffic Regulation Order approval. This approval is now in place and the works will be progressed during 2025/26.

Customer Contact Platform	155,539
Idox System for Planning	52,783
Financial Management	144,135
EUC model equipment (replacement laptops)	97,362
ECC Civic Centre HFX Door Access Replacement	35,098
Microsoft Power Apps	30,001

Officer Responsible: Head of Service, Digital and Data

Each of the projects listed are identified in the Strata Business Plan and will each be delivering digital transformation in the council.

The reason for the rollover is due to capacity issues each project is still required but its delivery is now scheduled for during 2025/26.

Customer Contact Platform – procurement of the new customer contact system has begun; implementation will now be during quarter 1 and quarter 2 of 2025/26.

Idox System for Planning – implementation will now take place during 2025/26.

Financial Management – whilst procurement of the system has been completed, the project has suffered significant delays as a result of problems in getting a working test system. The future of the project is currently under consideration based on whether the problems encountered can be resolved.

EUC model equipment (replacement laptops) – invoicing for the new laptops due to the way Strata rebill the council will come in during quarter 1 of 2025/26.

ECC Civic Centre HFX Door Access Replacement - invoicing for the new door access system due to the way Strata rebill the council will come in during quarter 1 of 2025/26.

Microsoft Power Apps – due to capacity issues, this project will be looked at during quarter 3 and quarter 4 of 2025/26.

Disabled Facilities Grant	270,789
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Officer Responsible: Head of Service – Customer Relations Housing

Most of this relate to grants that have been started but require architects designs to be drawn up, planning approval or further occupational therapist input.

8.7 FURTHER FUNDING REQUESTS

Matford Centre (£58,000)

Additional funding is requested for maintenance and access works for the roof mounted solar array at the Matford Centre. As the PV panels are not functioning properly without this maintenance there will be a projected loss in income of £50,000 a year.

Strata Business Plan – Various IT Projects (£452,760)

The Strata business plan for 2025/26 was approved in February 2025. The purpose of this request is to formally add the approved schemes to the capital programme.

Financial Management System (£46,000)

The implementation date for this project has been revised and additional resources are required to fund this change and the extension of dedicated in house officer resources.

Decarbonisation – Riverside Leisure Centre (£4,395,286)

In March 2025 Exeter City Council secured PSDS Phase 4 funding for a much-needed decarbonisation project at the Riverside Leisure Centre. The grant, split over 3 years, has a total project value of £4,395,286.00, with a contribution of £841,286.00 from the City Council Roof replacement Budget. The project is split into three years, Year 1 - 2025/26 £350,000.00 for additional detailed surveys, project design and procurement, Year 2 - 2026/27 £1,750,000.00 and Year 3 - 2027/28 £1,454,000.00 for roof, heating and cooling replacement works. This will be added to the council's own contribution of £900k which has already been approved.

Disabled Facilities Grant (£146,200)

Additional funding has been received to support the expenditure against this activity.

8.8 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2025/26 (Appendix 2)

The revised Capital Programme for 2025/26, after taking into account the carried forward requirements from 2024/25 now totals £45,228,932.

9. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

9.1 The Capital Programme contributes to all of the key purposes, as set out in the Corporate Plan.

10. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

10.1 Areas of budgetary risk are highlighted to committee as part of the quarterly budget monitoring updates.

11. Equality Act 2010 (The Act)

11.1 Under the Act's Public Sector Equalities Duty, decision makers are required to consider the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct;
- advance equality by encouraging participation, removing disadvantage, taking account of disabilities and meeting people's needs; and
- foster good relations between people by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

11.2 In order to comply with the general duty authorities must assess the impact on equality of decisions, policies and practices. These duties do not prevent the authority from reducing services where necessary, but they offer a way of developing proposals that consider the impacts on all members of the community.

11.3 In making decisions the authority must take into account the potential impact of that decision in relation to age, disability, race/ethnicity (includes Gypsies and Travellers), sex and gender, gender identity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, pregnant women and new and breastfeeding mothers, marriage and civil partnership status in coming to a decision.

11.4 In recommending this proposal no potential impact has been identified on people with protected characteristics as determined by the Act because the impact of each scheme is considered prior to approval. Any significant deviation from this will be noted within the body of this report.

12. Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

12.1 We are working towards the Council's commitment to carbon neutral by 2030. The impact of each scheme is considered prior to approval.

13. Are there any other options?

13.1 There are no other options.

Strategic Director of Corporate Resources & s151 Officer, Dave Hodgson

Author: Nicola Morley and Paul Looby

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:

None

Contact for enquiries:
Democratic Services (Committees)
Room 4.36
01392 265275

Service	Scheme	Total 2024/25 Capital Programme	2024/25 Budget to be Carried Forward to 2025/26 and Beyond	2024/25 Programme Variances (Under)/Over
		2024/25 Spend		
Operations				
Environment & Waste	Waste Infrastructure	411,750	35,407	376,343 0
	Improved recycling containers	123,470	111,798	11,672 0
	Depot Improvement Works	6,170,870	29,307	6,141,564 0
	Food Waste Collections	857,140	0	857,140 0
	Noise Monitoring Equipment	28,760	24,466	4,294 0
	DEFRA Air Quality Grant	13,000	13,000	0 0
Operations Service	Capitalised Staff Costs	150,000	0	150,000 0
	Bowling Green Marshes Coastal Defence Scheme	100,000	31,611	68,389 0
	Parks Infrastructure	182,580	26,865	155,715 0
	Cemeteries & Churchyards Infrastructure Improvements	50,000	14,027	35,973 0
	Bank Repairs & Stabilisation to Watercourses	20,000	770	19,230 0
	Pinhoe Playing Field Upgrades	42,050	3,153	38,897 0
	Parks Anti-Intrusion Measures	12,560	2,411	10,150 0
	Cricklepit Bridge	100,000	61,780	38,220 0
	Trews Weir refurb	130,000	92,416	37,584 0
	District Street Lighting	150,000	0	150,000 0
	Exeter Quay Cellars cliff face	282,810	253,405	29,405 0
	Ash Die Back Tree Replacement	100,000	90,388	9,612 0
	Fleet Lease costs	910,290	1,576,870	0 666,580
	Right of Use - Rent for Waterways	129,010	227,530	0 98,520
	Bromhams Farm Playing Fields	313,840	265,222	48,618 0
	Longbrook Street wall behind 30-38	5,000	0	5,000 0
	Northbrook Wild Arboretum	272,480	50,917	221,563 0
	Farm Hill Retaining Walls (23 no.)	200,000	32,174	128,497 (39,329)
	Mallison Bridge	64,670	29,038	35,632 0
	Bonhay Rd/Andlaw House Footpath	144,810	175	144,635 0
	St James' Weir & Ducks Marsh Meadow banks	75,000	0	75,000 0
	Heavitree Paddling Pools	526,680	0	526,680 0
	Play Areas	200,000	126,544	73,456 0
	Landfill Gas Extraction Systems	100,000	4,001	95,999 0
	Mincinglake Valley Park Reed Beds & Pipe Inlet	50,000	13,720	36,280 0
	Exeter Canal Bank Repairs	76,890	33,586	43,304 0
	ECC Bridge Repair Programme	350,000	119,539	230,461 0
	Countess Wear Retaining Wall Rebuild	135,120	174,449	0 39,329
	Oxford Road Car Park Retaining Wall	200,000	0	200,000 0
	Canal Basin Bridge Refurbishment	50,000	0	50,000 0
	Harbour Workboat (Port Constructor)	165,000	165,000	0 0

Service	Scheme	Total 2024/25 Capital Programme	2024/25 Spend	2024/25 Budget to be Carried Forward to 2025/26 and Beyond	2024/25 Programme Variances (Under)/Over
		£		£	£
Asset Maintenance	Leisure Complex - Build Project	15,750	111,777	0	96,027
	Riverside Leisure Centre	29,000	0	29,000	0
	Fire Risk Assessment Works	0	2,297	(2,297)	0
	Leisure Complex - Fit Out	442,670	0	346,643	(96,027)
	Riverside Sports Hall Roof	60,870	0	60,870	0
	Leighton Terra & KW St MSCP	0	311,897	(311,897)	0
	Civic Centre Phase 3 Roof Rep	263,380	247,676	15,704	0
	City Wall	85,000	8,546	76,454	0
	Backlog Maintenance	0	97,183	(97,183)	0
	BLRF - Exeter Canal Basin	0	1,842	(1,842)	0
	BLRF - Mary Arches Car Park	0	4,037	(4,037)	0
	BLRF - Belle Isle	0	2,071	(2,071)	0
	BLRF - Clifton Hill	0	23,070	(23,070)	0
	Guildhall roof replacement	0	3,653	0	3,653
	Cathedral Green Display Cases	35,000	0	35,000	0
	Topsham Museum	424,680	203,606	221,074	0
	Leisure Property enhancements	1,047,440	20,429	1,027,011	0
	Commercial Property Ancillary Accommodation flat roof recovering	0	57,821	(57,821)	0
	RAMM Roof Repair & Insulation	711,170	638,643	72,527	0
	Corn Exchange Lift	50,000	0	50,000	0
TOTAL		16,058,740	5,344,117	11,483,377	768,753
Corporate Resources					
Commercial Assets	Bus Station Construction	207,710	107,341	100,369	0
	Improved Car Park Security Measures at King William Street & Arena Park	19,670	0	19,670	0
	Wat Tyler House - resolving ongoing water ingress with new rainwater system	0	3,100	(3,100)	0
TOTAL		227,380	110,441	116,939	0
People & Communities					
	Customer Contact Platform	161,030	5,491	155,539	0
	Annual Contribution to Strata	53,910	53,904	0	(6)
	Idox System for Planning	60,680	7,897	52,783	0
	Financial Management	239,040	94,905	144,135	0
	AV Equipment - Hybrid Meeting Rooms	48,800	67,933	0	19,133
	IT Replacement Programme	10,000	34,692	0	24,692
	Contact Centre Telephony	17,970	19,998	0	2,028
	Core telephony	17,970	1,123	16,847	0
	EUC model staff	14,370	5,184	9,186	0
	EUC model equipment (replacement laptops)	242,310	144,948	97,362	0

Service	Scheme	Total 2024/25 Capital Programme		2024/25 Budget to be Carried Forward to 2025/26 and Beyond	2024/25 Programme Variances (Under)/Over
		2024/25 Spend	£		
Digital & Data	Booking	17,970	0	17,970	0
	Sharepoint resource	21,560	36,226	0	14,666
	Chatbot	17,970	0	17,970	0
	Print & post review	7,190	0	7,190	0
	PSTN Replacement	40,370	12,600	27,770	0
	ECC Civic Centre HFX Door Access Replacement	85,060	49,962	35,098	0
	System Upgrade Cost 2012 Server replacement	3,480	104	3,376	0
	GIS Cloud Migration	230	0	230	0
	Microsoft Purview	9,000	0	9,000	0
	Microsoft Power Apps	35,930	5,929	30,001	0
	Software Upgrade	28,750	16,419	12,331	0
	Sharegate	5,750	2,347	3,403	0
Housing	Right of Use - GF Housing Rents	160,350	159,095	0	(1,255)
	Disabled Facility Grants	1,580,390	1,309,601	270,789	0
TOTAL		2,880,080	2,028,359	910,979	59,257
Place					
City Centre & Net Zero	CCTV improvements	97,110	89,129	7,981	0
	Shared Prosperity Fund	178,550	179,440	0	890
	Riverside & RAMM Decarbonisation Projects	5,170,850	291,146	0	(4,879,704)
Culture & Leisure	Council Signage Improvement	9,850	10,777	0	927
	Right of Use - Haven Road Storage Rent	36,040	38,969	0	2,929
	Leisure Equipment Replacement Programme	661,660	323,566	338,094	0
TOTAL		6,154,060	933,028	346,075	(4,874,957)
SUB TOTAL PLANNED CAPITAL PROGRAMME		25,320,260	8,415,944	12,857,369	(4,046,946)
APPROVED COMMITTED SCHEMES WITH EXTERNAL FACTORS THAT IMPACT ON DELIVERY TIMESCALES					
Asset Maintenance	Green Space Depot Site (Belle Isle)	2,500,000	0	2,500,000	0
Commercial Assets	Guildhall Shopping Centre Enhancements	5,000,000	17,648	4,982,352	0
	St Nicholas Priory Roof	88,120	0	88,120	0
TOTAL		7,588,120	17,648	7,570,472	0
GENERAL FUND SERVICES TOTAL		32,908,380	8,433,592	20,427,841	(4,046,946)

BUDGETS CARRIED FORWARD TO 2025/26 AND BEYOND

Service	Scheme	2025/26 Budget as per Budget Book/Council Approvals	Proposed Budget to be Carried Forward to 2025/26 and Beyond	Proposed Budget Reprofiled to Future Years	Total 2025/26 Capital Programme	2026/27 Budget as per Budget Book/Council Approvals
		£	£	£	£	£
Operations						
Environment & Waste	Waste Infrastructure		376,343		376,343	
	Improved recycling containers		11,672		11,672	
	Depot Improvement Works	1,675,000	6,141,564		7,816,564	
	Food Waste Collections		857,140		857,140	
	Noise Monitoring Equipment		4,294		4,294	
Operations Service	Capitalised Staff Costs	150,000	150,000		300,000	150,000
	Bowling Green Marshes Coastal Defence Scheme	150,000	68,389		218,389	217,870
	Parks Infrastructure	99,390	155,715	(75,000)	180,105	75,000
	Cemeteries & Churchyards Infrastructure Improvements	84,790	35,973		120,763	
	Bank Repairs & Stabilisation to Watercourses		19,230		19,230	
	Pinhoe Playing Field Upgrades		38,897		38,897	
	Parks Anti-Intrusion Measures		10,150		10,150	
	Cricklepit Bridge	53,750	38,220		91,970	
	Trews Weir refurb	300,000	37,584		337,584	3,099,510
	District Street Lighting	796,140	150,000	(200,000)	746,140	200,000
	Piazza Terracina		0		0	158,560
	Exeter Quay Cellars cliff face		29,405		29,405	
	Ash Die Back Tree Replacement	147,910	9,612	(75,000)	82,522	75,000
	Fleet Lease costs	1,251,280	0		1,251,280	2,329,910
	Bromhams Farm Playing Fields		48,618		48,618	
	Longbrook Street wall behind 30-38		5,000		5,000	
	Northbrook Wild Arboretum		221,563		221,563	
	Farm Hill Retaining Walls (23 no.)	646,040	128,497	(265,000)	509,537	265,000
	Mallison Bridge		35,632		35,632	
	Bonhay Rd/Andlaw House Footpath		144,635		144,635	
	St James' Weir & Ducks Marsh Meadow banks		75,000		75,000	
	Heavitree Paddling Pools		526,680	(426,675)	100,005	426,675
	Play Areas	200,000	73,456		273,456	166,900
	Landfill Gas Extraction Systems	159,350	95,999	(80,000)	175,349	80,000
	Mincinglake Valley Park Reed Beds & Pipe Inlet	131,510	36,280	(100,000)	67,790	100,000
	Exeter Canal Bank Repairs		43,304		43,304	

Service	Scheme	2025/26 Budget as per Budget Book/Council Approvals	Proposed Budget to be Carried Forward to 2025/26 and Beyond	Proposed Budget Reprofiled to Future Years	Total 2025/26 Capital Programme	2026/27 Budget as per Budget Book/Council Approvals
		£	£	£	£	£
	ECC Bridge Repair Programme	200,000	230,461		430,461	200,000
	Oxford Road Car Park Retaining Wall		200,000	(200,000)	0	200,000
	Canal Basin Bridge Refurbishment		50,000		50,000	
	Outdoor Leisure Facilities - Newcourt	121,270	0		121,270	
	Riverside Walls at Quay	50,000	0		50,000	
	Leisure Complex - Build Project	650,000	0		650,000	
	Civic Centre Air Conditioning Replacement	25,000	0		25,000	
	Riverside Leisure Centre		29,000		29,000	
	Fire Risk Assessment Works	1,626,810	(2,297)		1,624,513	
	Leisure Complex - Fit Out		346,643		346,643	
	Exmouth Buoy Store	212,720	0		212,720	
	Riverside Sports Hall Roof		60,870		60,870	
	Guildhall MSCP	883,400	0		883,400	
	John Lewis MSCP	357,760	0		357,760	
	Princesshay 2 MSCP	424,400	0		424,400	
	Leighton Terra & KW St MSCP	618,000	(311,897)		306,103	
Asset Maintenance	Civic Centre Phase 3 Roof Rep		15,704		15,704	
	City Wall	477,740	76,454		554,194	
	Backlog Maintenance	530,030	(97,183)		432,847	
	BLRF - Exeter Canal Basin	591,240	(1,842)		589,398	
	BLRF - Mary Arches Car Park	1,289,460	(4,037)		1,285,423	
	BLRF - Belle Isle	663,940	(2,071)		661,869	
	BLRF - Clifton Hill	225,000	(23,070)		201,930	
	BLRF - Lower Wear Road	293,390	0		293,390	
	Cathedral Green Display Cases		35,000		35,000	
	Topsham Museum		221,074		221,074	
	Leisure Property enhancements	1,000,000	1,027,011		2,027,011	
	Commercial Property Ancillary Accommodation flat roof recovering	104,540	(57,821)		46,719	
	RAMM Roof Repair & Insulation		72,527		72,527	
	Corn Exchange Lift		50,000		50,000	
TOTAL		16,189,860	11,483,377	(1,421,675)	26,251,562	7,744,425
Corporate Resources						
Commercial Assets	Bus Station Construction		100,369		100,369	
	Improved Car Park Security Measures at King William Street & Arena Park		19,670		19,670	
	Wat Tyler House - resolving ongoing water ingress with new rainwater	272,270	(3,100)		269,170	
	Commercial Properties - capital improvements to enable ongoing income (compliance with EPC legislation)	120,000	0		120,000	
TOTAL		392,270	116,939	0	509,209	0
People & Communities						
	Customer Contact Platform		155,539		155,539	
	Annual Contribution to Strata	53,910	0		53,910	53,910

Service	Scheme	2025/26 Budget as per Budget Book/Council Approvals	Proposed Budget to be Carried Forward to 2025/26 and Beyond	Proposed Budget Reprofiled to Future Years	Total 2025/26 Capital Programme	2026/27 Budget as per Budget Book/Council Approvals
		£	£	£	£	£
Digital & Data	Idox System for Planning		52,783		52,783	
	Financial Management		144,135		144,135	
	Datacentre Relocation	35,940	0		35,940	
	NCSC Zero Trust	53,910	0		53,910	
	IT Replacement Programme	10,000	0		10,000	10,000
	Core telephony		16,847		16,847	
	EUC model staff		9,186		9,186	
	EUC model equipment (replacement laptops)	150,000	97,362		247,362	150,000
	Booking		17,970		17,970	
	Chatbot		17,970		17,970	
	Print & post review		7,190		7,190	
	PSTN Replacement		27,770		27,770	
	ECC Civic Centre HFX Door Access Replacement		35,098		35,098	
	System Upgrade Cost 2012 Server replacement		3,376		3,376	
	GIS Cloud Migration		230		230	
	Microsoft Purview		9,000		9,000	
	Microsoft Power Apps		30,001		30,001	
	Software Upgrade		12,331		12,331	
	Sharegate		3,403		3,403	
Housing	Disabled Facility Grants	800,000	270,789		1,070,789	800,000
TOTAL		1,103,760	910,979	0	2,014,739	1,013,910
Place						
City Centre & Net Zero	CCTV improvements		7,981		7,981	
	Riverside & RAMM Decarbonisation Projects	900,150	0		900,150	
Culture & Leisure	Leisure Equipment Replacement Programme	100,000	338,094		438,094	100,000
	Pinhoe Community Hub	1,276,470	0		1,276,470	
TOTAL		2,276,620	346,075	0	2,622,695	100,000
SUB TOTAL PLANNED CAPITAL PROGRAMME		19,962,510	12,857,369	-1,421,675	31,398,204	8,858,335
APPROVED COMMITTED SCHEMES WITH EXTERNAL FACTORS THAT IMPACT ON DELIVERY TIMESCALES						
Asset Maintenance	Green Space Depot Site (Belle Isle)	375,970	2,500,000		2,875,970	
Commercial Assets	Guildhall Shopping Centre Enhancements	5,884,280	4,982,352		10,866,632	
	St Nicholas Priory Roof		88,120		88,120	
TOTAL		6,260,250	7,570,472	0	13,830,722	0
GENERAL FUND SERVICES TOTAL		26,222,760	20,427,841	(1,421,675)	45,228,926	8,858,335

GENERAL FUND AVAILABLE RESOURCES

GENERAL FUND	2024-25 £	2025-26 £	2026-27 £	2027-28 £	FUTURE YEARS £	TOTAL £
CAPITAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE						
Capital Receipts Brought Forward	851					851
GF Capital Receipts	570,713	8,460,000	0	0	0	9,030,713
Revenue Contributions to Capital Outlay	114,619	174,388	0	0	0	289,007
Disabled Facility Grant	1,309,601	800,000	800,000	800,000	800,000	4,509,601
Community Infrastructure Levy	206,767	8,186,647	476,899	0	0	8,870,314
Other - Grants/External Funding/Reserves/S106	994,764	4,868,855	867,380	0	0	6,730,999
Total Resources Available	3,197,315	22,489,890	2,144,279	800,000	800,000	29,431,484

GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME						
Capital Programme	32,908,380	26,222,760	7,436,660	3,330,430	1,263,910	71,162,140
Overspends/(Savings)	(4,046,946)					(4,046,946)
Slippage	(20,427,841)	19,006,166	1,421,675			0
Total General Fund	8,433,592	45,228,926	8,858,335	3,330,430	1,263,910	67,115,194

UNCOMMITTED CAPITAL RESOURCES:						
Capital Receipts Brought Forward	851	0	5,080,537	2,436,717	56,287	851
Resources in Year	3,196,464	22,489,890	2,144,279	800,000	800,000	29,430,633
Less Capital Receipts to carry forward	0	(5,080,537)	(2,436,717)	(56,287)	(56,287)	(56,287)
Less Spend in Year	(8,433,592)	(45,228,926)	(8,858,335)	(3,330,430)	(1,263,910)	(67,115,194)
Borrowing Requirement	5,236,278	27,819,573	4,070,236	150,000	463,910	37,739,997

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REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 10 June 2025

Report of: Strategic Director Corporate Resources

Title: 2024/25 HRA Budget Monitoring Report – Outturn

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Council

1. What is the report about?

1.1 To advise Members of any major differences, by management unit, between the approved budget and the outturn for the financial year up to 31 March 2025 in respect of the Housing Revenue Account and the Council's new build schemes.

An outturn update in respect of the HRA Capital Programme is also incorporated into this report in order to help provide a comprehensive financial update in respect of the Housing Revenue Account.

2. Recommendations:

2.1 It is recommended Council approves:-

- The HRA financial position for 2024/25 financial year.
- The revision of the HRA Capital Programme to reflect the reported variations detailed in Appendix 3.
- A supplementary revenue budget request for £19k in 2025/26 to increase the electrical testing budget in order to meet statutory requirements.
- Supplementary revenue budgets of £122,806 for interest and £183,816 for voluntary repayment of debt, offset by £306,622 in additional annual rental income in respect of the long lease (see capital request below).
- Further funding requests as set out in paragraph 8.14 for the following capital spend.
- £2m grant funding from Devon Combined Authority to support energy conservation works at 127 Council properties.
- £400k funded from s106 affordable housing receipts to purchase an adapted property.
- £400k to acquire a property for a family with specific needs to be funded from capital receipts, and on completion of the transfer the vacated property will be sold.
- £75k required in 2025/26 for the Hamlin Gardens retention payment.
- £2,645,792 for the long leases of a number of properties to sit within the HRA to help alleviate financial pressures on temporary accommodation. This will also require annual revenue budgets for the interest and repayment of debt, which are anticipated to be fully offset by additional rental income

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

3.1 To formally note the HRA's projected financial position and to approve the reported variations to the HRA Capital Programme.

The Housing Revenue Account is a statutory account and local housing authorities have a duty to keep a HRA in accordance with proper accounting practices and to review the account throughout the year. Members are presented with a quarterly financial update in respect of the HRA and this is the final update for 2024/25.

4. What are the resource implications including non financial resources

4.1 The financial resources required to deliver both housing services to Council tenants and to invest in new and existing housing stock during 2024/25 are set out in the body of this report.

The impact on the HRA's available financial resources is set out in Appendix 2.

5. Section 151 Officer comments:

5.1 The overall position has improved as a result of management action on rent recovery. The budgets for repairs and maintenance have been increased in 2025/26 to address the significant overspends seen during this financial year. This of course has an impact on the funding available for the capital programme.

6. What are the legal aspects?

6.1 The statutory requirement for a Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is set out in Part VI of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. Section 74 of the Act sets out the duty to keep a Housing Revenue Account as a ring-fenced fund and sets out the structure within which the HRA operates. Part VI of the Act sets out the detailed statutory provisions on the operation of the HRA, including credits to the account (income) and debits to the account (expenditure). Section 76 sets out the duty to prevent a debit balance on the HRA. The authority must implement proposals that will secure that the account for each financial year will not show a debit balance. Members will also note the provisions of Schedule 4 of the Act which sets out the requirements concerning 'The Keeping of the Housing Revenue Account'.

7. Monitoring Officer's comments:

7.1 The Monitoring Officer has no additional comments.

8. Report details:

HRA FINAL ACCOUNTS TO 31 MARCH 2025

8.1 Background to the HRA

The HRA records expenditure and income relating to council dwellings and the provision of services to tenants. Housing authorities have a statutory duty to maintain a HRA account, which is primarily a landlord account, in order to account to their tenants for income and expenditure on council housing separately from other functions and services of the Council. This includes tenancy management, repairs and maintenance, council house building and council house retrofits.

8.2 Projected transfer from the working balance

	£
Approved Budgeted transfer from the working balance	208,360*
Supplementary budgets – Council approved 16th July 2024	50,000
Virement - Council approved 15th October 2024	23,828
Revised Budgeted transfer from the working balance	282,188

*2024/25 Approved Budget Represented By	£
85A1 MANAGEMENT	2,114,770
85A11 EDWARDS COURT	(131,410)
85A2 TENANCY SERVICES	1,863,110
85A3 SUNDRY LANDS MAINTENANCE	507,430
85A4 REPAIR & MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME	7,062,000
85A5 REVENUE CONTRIB TO CAPITAL	2,500,000
85A6 CAPITAL CHARGES	3,745,650
85A7 HOUSING ASSETS	2,709,130
85A8 RENTS	(21,633,420)
85B2 INTEREST	1,471,100
85B4 MOVEMENT TO/(FROM) WORKING BALANCE	(208,360)

The HRA had working balances of £5,669,065 as of 31st March 2024. This is higher than the £3.525 million contingency resolved to be retained. In 2024/25 there was a revenue contribution of £2.5 million to capital.

8.3 Revenue Monitoring

The 2024/25 financial year has ended with an overall net deficit of £763,678, which is £481,490 more than budgeted, but represents an improvement of £836,700 compared to the projected outturn at Quarter 3. The reasons for this and the main deviations from budget for the financial year are set out below. Please also refer to Appendix 1.

Budget Heading	Forecast Variance at Q3 (Under) / Overspend	Actual Budget Variance (Under) / Overspend
Resident Involvement	(380)	(£138,299)

Officer Responsible: Head of Housing		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The £138k underspend is due to staff savings and reduced spend on supplies and services. 		
Management	£70,210	(£86,915)
Officer Responsible: Head of Housing		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is an underspend of £5k on general HRA overhead costs, a £76k overspend of tenant decant costs has been offset by savings in other areas including internal recharges, publications, training, consultants, and contribution to pension back-funding. The Corporate Recharge is £4k below budget as the statutory officer recharge has reduced since the re-structure. Older Person's Accommodation is £78k underspent as utilities were lower than budgeted and replacement Home Call alarms were sourced at lower cost than anticipated. 		
Edwards Court	£10,000	(£203,655)
Officer Responsible: Head of Housing		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edwards Court is underspent due to high occupancy levels, savings on catering staff vacancies, and general savings on premises, supplies and services. 		
Tenancy Services	(£63,440)	(£267,358)
Officer Responsible: Head of Housing		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are general savings across this area including £14k for Right to Buy admin team which includes additional admin fees; £29k for Lettings & Home Ownership teams due to staff savings and lower tenants removal and legal expenses than budgeted; £162k savings on the Tenancy Services team due to reduced spend on utilities and premises costs, staffing, supplies and services; and £62k on the Income Collection team due to vacancies in the establishment. 		
Rents	-	(£766,536)
Officer Responsible: Head of Housing		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dwelling rents are £754k higher than budgeted due to void levels being lower than anticipated and a concerted effort from management and the team resulting in higher rent recovery rates. Garage rents have increased by £41k, although other rents have decreased as a result of removal of telecoms equipment on Rennes House. 		
Repairs and Maintenance Programme	£1,444,160	£2,287,491
Officer Responsible: Head of Asset Maintenance		

- General Maintenance £1,088k – the response budget has experienced high demand with the projected overspend being in part due to an increase in stock condition surveys highlighting issues which need to be addressed. There have also been larger numbers of tenants transferring from/to properties which have had major repairs refused previously and this necessitates increased investment and corresponding repairs. Additionally, the service is receiving requests for more expensive works, including roofing and window repairs which whilst extensive, do not qualify as capital investment so the costs for such fall to this budget area. This area includes a £244k overspend on damp and mould works due to intensive proactive surveying. Problems can recur, and remedial work including plastering is sometimes required.
- Repairs to void properties £786k – there has been continued pressure on the voids budget throughout the winter, which includes a number of properties with a significant amount of work required before re-letting.
- Low Maintenance & Painting Flats £584k – whilst on site during the retrofit programme additional essential works were identified resulting in an overspend.
- These overspends are partly offset by savings in Re-pointing (£89k), Communal Decorations (£18k) and planned Asbestos removal (£74k), with small overspends on electrical testing and service contracts totalling £10k.

Sundry Land Maintenance	-	(117,844)
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Officer Responsible: Head of Asset Maintenance

- There has been an underspend of £73k on estate maintenance with reduced demand for work on shrubs and trees within the HRA estate, and £45k underspend on the garden assistance budget.

Capital Charges	(20,968)	(20,968)
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Officer Responsible: not applicable (statutory accounting charge)

- Depreciation is a real cost to the HRA as it represents the amount of money which needs to be set aside in the Major Repairs Reserve to provide for future capital works or to repay debt. A lower depreciation charge results in a revenue saving in the year, but less funding available for future capital spend.

Housing Assets	£45,410	£121,996
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Officer Responsible: Head of Asset Maintenance

- Social Housing Delivery has overspent by £27k as a result of expenditure on support to deliver the retrofit programme and new housing delivery. Planned works has overspent by £7k on salary and agency costs. Reactive Repairs has overspent by £223k due to agency staff covering vacancies, these posts are being recruited to on a permanent basis which will address this budget area. Health & Safety Compliance has underspent by £144k due to the re-

<p>structure and vacancies. £9k of asset maintenance overhead costs have been charged to this area since the organisational re-structure which previously were coded to general management.</p>		
Interest	(£166,800)	(£326,422)
<p>Officers Responsible: Heads of Service – Housing & Asset Maintenance</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The budget included interest costs for an additional £3.9m approved borrowing. To date this has been funded internally, and no further external borrowing has been arranged, resulting in a saving in interest and repayment costs in the year. Interest receivable on balances has been higher than budgeted as rates remained elevated throughout the year. 		
Total budget (underspend)/overspend	£1,318,190	£481,490
2024/25 HRA Deficit / (Surplus)	£1,600,378	£763,678

8.4 Impact on HRA Working Balance

The HRA Working Balance represents amounts set aside to help facilitate service improvements, repay debt or to provide investment in the stock in future financial years.

The forecast balance, as of 31 March 2025, is set out below:

Movement	2024/25
Opening HRA Working Balance, as of 1 April 2024	£5,669,065
Deficit for 2024/25	(£763,678)
Balance resolved to be retained (HRA contingency)	(£3,525,000)
Balance Available, as of 31 March 2025	£1,380,387

The transfer from the working balance for 2024/25 brings the working balance as of 31 March 2025 closer to the HRA balance resolved to be retained of £3.525m.

8.5 Supplementary Budgets

Analysis of the electrical testing budgets has identified a shortfall of £120k over the next four years in order to meet statutory requirements. A supplementary approval is therefore requested for £19k in 2025/26 to provide sufficient budget.

8.6 Major Repairs Reserve

Councils are expected to set aside some of their income each year into the Major Repairs Reserve, in order to ensure appropriate provision is made towards financing future capital works or to repay debt. The balance held in the reserve at the end of the financial year is set out below:

Movement	2024/25
Opening Major Repairs Reserve, as of 1 April 2024	£12,455,749
Revenue monies set aside during 2024/25	£3,724,682
Amount used to finance capital expenditure during 2024/25	(£11,162,363)
Balance as of 31 March 2025	£5,018,068

8.7 HRA Available Resources over the Medium Term

The forecast HRA available resources for delivering both housing services and capital investment are set out in Appendix 2 for the period to 2028/29.

The total available resources are made up of several reserve balances; the HRA working balance, the Useable Capital Receipts reserve and the Major Repairs Reserve.

The HRA working balance is the movement on revenue budgets, contributions can be made from this reserve towards financing capital budgets in the form of 'Revenue Contributions to Capital'. The useable capital receipts reserve is made up of both the Right-to-Buy (RTB) receipts reserve and the non-RTB receipts reserve; these reserves are available to finance capital spend; some restrictions apply. The Major Repairs Reserve is increased each year by the HRA depreciation charge to revenue, this reserve is then available to spend on the HRA capital programme.

The total forecast HRA available resources is impacted by variances in both revenue budgets detailed in section 8.3 above, and variances in capital budgets detailed in sections 8.12 & 13 below.

The forecast total available resources over the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) have increased £652k since last reported at 2024/25 Quarter 3 largely due to the overspend in year not being as high as projected throughout the year.

Total available reserves over the MTFP are now expected to be £2,896,577 after deducting the £3.525 million balance resolved to be retained (HRA contingency).

8.8 HRA Debt

In October 2018 the Government formally removed the HRA debt cap, which restricted the amount of borrowing stock-holding local authorities could have for the purposes of the HRA. The lifting of the 'debt cap' means that local authorities are now able to borrow for housebuilding in accordance with the Prudential Code.

Executive on 8 October 2019 approved the first Council House Building Programme to deliver 100 new homes into the HRA at a cost of £18 million. On 5 April 2020, the Council took out a loan of £15.36 million from the PWLB to support this programme, with the remaining £2.64 million to be funded by capital receipts.

As of 31 March 2024, the HRA's borrowing stood at £73.242 million. The total of the £15.360 million new loan and the former 'debt cap' level of £57.882 million.

The HRA currently has approval to borrow a further £7.7 million, this has been deferred but will likely be required in the next two years.

8.9 HRA Capital Programme

The 2024/25 HRA Capital Programme was last reported to Council on 25th February 2025. Since that meeting the following changes have been made that have increased the 2024/25 programme.

Description	2024/25	Approval / Funding
HRA Capital Programme	£23,566,062	
Q3 programme variances	£212,614	Council 25 th February
Revised HRA Capital Programme	£23,778,676	

8.10 Performance

HRA Capital expenditure in the year amounted to £22,402,312 which equates to 94% of the revised approved capital programme (as set out above). The nature of capital investment in the financial year comprised:

HRA Capital Expenditure	£
Capital investment in existing stock	15,323,788
Capital investment in the provision of new council homes	7,078,524
Total HRA Capital Expenditure	22,402,312

8.11 HRA Capital Financing

The total HRA capital expenditure for 2024/25 will be financed as follows:

HRA Capital Finance	£
Major Repairs Reserve	11,162,363
Revenue Contribution to Capital	2,500,000
Capital Receipts	5,577,859
Commuted sums (S106)	18,778
Borrowing	0
Grants	3,143,312
Total HRA Capital Financing	22,402,312

The impact on the capital resources available to the HRA over the next 4 years is set out in Appendix 2.

8.12 Capital Budget Variances

The details of key (greater than +/- £50k) variances from budget are set out below.

Scheme	Overspend / (Underspend)
Balcony walkway improvements	(451,027)
Energy conservation	£658,437
Re-roofing – Flats	(£166,338)
Re-roofing – Houses	£82,805
Porch canopies	(£79,404)
Structural repairs	£170,141
Window replacements	£350,746
Officer Responsible: Head of Asset Maintenance / Planned Maintenance Lead	
Balcony walkways, re-roofing flats & porch canopies – Some of this work has been delayed due to the process of leaseholder consultation.	
Retrofit - not all properties which were deemed eligible for funding were, therefore resulting in additional contributions from ECC as they did not qualify for grant funding	
Re-roofing Houses, Structural repairs, Window replacements – significantly more work was required than originally scoped due to the age & condition of the respective properties.	

Bathroom replacements	(£64,438)
Plastering	(68,547)
Officer Responsible: Head of Asset Maintenance / Response & Voids Lead Bathrooms & Plastering – the requirements were slightly less requirement in year than originally planned for.	
Fire Risk Assessment Works (total) (£335,603)	
Lift Upgrades	(£88,729)
Officer Responsible: Head of Asset Maintenance Fire Risk Assessment Works – Works commenced later in the year due to the procurement process & the mobilisation of the successful contractor. Lift Upgrades – Additional lift condition information was required to enable to the procurement process to proceed, works will now be scheduled in 25/26 and a carry forward of £50k is included in section 8.13 below.	

8.13 Schemes to be deferred to 2025/26 and beyond

Schemes identified as being wholly or partly deferred to 2025/26 and beyond are:

Scheme	Budget deferred to / (brought forward from) future years
Council House Building Programme – Vaughan Road Phase A	£969,707
Officer Responsible – Head of Asset Maintenance / Asset Management Lead There has been some slippage in the Vaughan Road project, but the in-year underspend will be required in 2025/26 when Phase A will complete.	
Kitchens	(£480,000)
There was an overspend on kitchens during 2024/25 to address identified hazards, but this has been brought forward from future years' budgets.	
Fire Risk Assessment Works	£300,000
Lift Upgrades	£50,000

Officer Responsible – Head of Asset Maintenance	
The Fire Risk Assessment budget has not been fully spent in year; however, an inspection of sprinkler systems has identified that £300k is likely to be needed in 25/26 for sprinkler servicing and remedials.	
£50k is required to be carried forward for the lift upgrade at Amersham Court which has not been completed in 24/25.	
Local Authority Housing Fund - 3	£580,789
Officer Responsible: Head of Housing	
LAHF Round 3 has been used to purchase a further 2 homes during 24/25, with the balance of the approved budget to be spent in 2025/26 in accordance with the terms of the grant.	

8.14 Further funding requests

In February 2025 up to £2m grant funding was made available from the Devon Combined Authority to support energy efficiency works undertaken by the Council not eligible for the SHDF funded project. Claims for expenditure works have now been submitted, approved and paid for the full £2m.

Two properties are required to be purchased to meet the needs of families with specific requirements, and £800k needs to be added to the Social Housing Acquisitions budget in 2025/26. There are sufficient s106 affordable housing funds to cover one property, and the other will need to be met from HRA capital receipts.

The Hamlin Gardens development (Brook House) completed in November 2024, and £75k is required in 2025/26 to pay the retention payment due in November 2025.

The Council is acquiring the long lease on a number of properties to reduce the financial pressures on temporary accommodation. Due to the length of the leases these have to be accounted for within the HRA, this requires a capital budget of £2,645,792 in 2025/26 and revenue budgets in year 1 £122,806 for interest and £183,816 for voluntary repayment of debt, offset by £306,622 in additional annual rental income.

8.15 Historic Council own build Final Accounts to 31 March 2025

The Council's own build properties at Rowan House and Knights Place form part of the overall Housing Revenue Account, but separate income and expenditure budgets are maintained in order to ensure that they are self-financing.

As the 21 units were built using HCA funding in conjunction with borrowing (£998k), they are accounted for separately in order to ensure that they are self-financing. A separate COB working balance and Major Repairs Reserve are maintained until such time as a

sufficient balance has been accumulated to repay the debt attributable to these properties, at which point the units can be accounted for with the wider HRA stock.

Key Variances from Budget

The 2024/25 year has ended with an overall net surplus of £16,898, which will be transferred to the COB working balance. This represents a change of £33,028, compared to the budgeted transfer from the working balance of £16,130.

The variance is largely due to lower than budgeted management and repairs costs, and higher interest receivable on balances. Please refer to Appendix 1 for more details.

9. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

9.1 The Housing Revenue Account contributes to a key purpose, as set out in the Corporate Plan; Building great neighbourhoods.

10. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

10.1 For clarity, these are specific financial risks, alongside the risks captured in the corporate risk register.

It is not permissible for the HRA to go into an overall financial deficit position, it is therefore important to ensure that an adequate level of HRA balances is maintained as a contingency against risks. The HRA resolve to retain a working balance at no less than £4 million to mitigate against financial risks.

Areas of budgetary risk are highlighted to committee as part of the quarterly budget monitoring updates.

11. Equality Act 2010 (The Act)

11.1 Under the Act's Public Sector Equalities Duty, decision makers are required to consider the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct;
- advance equality by encouraging participation, removing disadvantage, taking account of disabilities and meeting people's needs; and
- foster good relations between people by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

11.2 In order to comply with the general duty authorities must assess the impact on equality of decisions, policies and practices. These duties do not prevent the authority from reducing services where necessary, but they offer a way of developing proposals that consider the impacts on all members of the community.

11.3 In making decisions the authority must take into account the potential impact of that decision in relation to age, disability, race/ethnicity (includes Gypsies and Travellers), sex and gender, gender identity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, pregnant women and new and breastfeeding mothers, marriage and civil partnership status in coming to a decision.

11.4 In recommending this proposal no potential impact has been identified on people with protected characteristics as determined by the Act because there are no significant equality and diversity impacts associated with this decision.

12. Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

12.1 We are working towards the Council's commitment to carbon neutral by 2030. The impact of each scheme is considered prior to approval.

13. Are there any other options?

13.1 None.

Strategic Director Corporate Resources, David Hodgson

Author: Claire Hodgson, Lead Accountant - Housing

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:-

None

Contact for enquiries:
Democratic Services (Committees)
Room 4.36
01392 265275

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APPENDIX 1

MANAGEMENT UNIT	YEAR END FORECAST					
	APPROVED BUDGET	Q3 FORECAST OUTTURN	2024/25 OUTTURN	VARIANCE SINCE QUARTER 3	OVERALL VARIANCE TO BUDGET	VARIANCE TO BUDGET %
	£	£	£	£	£	£
PEOPLE & COMMUNITIES - HRA HOUSING						
RESIDENT INVOLVEMENT	315,980	315,600	177,681	(137,919)	(138,299)	-44%
MANAGEMENT	1,798,790	1,869,000	1,711,875	(157,125)	(86,915)	-5%
EDWARDS COURT	(131,410)	(121,410)	(335,065)	(213,655)	(203,655)	155%
TENANCY SERVICES	1,886,938	1,823,498	1,619,580	(203,918)	(267,358)	-14%
RENTS	(21,633,420)	(21,633,420)	(22,399,956)	(766,536)	(766,536)	4%
HRA ASSET MAINTENANCE						
- GENERAL MAINTENANCE	2,545,320	3,345,320	3,633,773	288,453	1,088,453	43%
- REPAIRS TO VOID PROPERTIES	1,346,000	1,946,000	2,132,046	186,046	786,046	58%
- SERVICE CONTRACTS	1,278,440	1,378,290	1,285,234	(93,056)	6,794	1%
- OTHER	1,942,240	1,886,550	2,348,438	461,888	406,198	21%
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME	7,112,000	8,556,160	9,399,491	843,331	2,287,491	32%
SUNDRY LAND MAINTENANCE	507,430	507,430	389,586	(117,844)	(117,844)	-23%
REVENUE CONTRIBUTION TO CAPITAL	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	0	0	0%
CAPITAL CHARGES	3,745,650	3,724,680	3,724,682	2	(20,968)	-1%
HOUSING ASSETS	2,709,130	2,754,540	2,831,126	76,586	121,996	5%
INTEREST	1,471,100	1,304,300	1,144,678	(159,622)	(326,422)	-22%
MOVEMENT TO/(FROM) WORKING BALANCE	(282,188)	(1,600,378)	(763,678)	836,700	(481,490)	171%
Net Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	0
Working Balance 1 April 2024	5,669,065	31 March 2025	4,905,387			

COUNCIL OWN BUILD SITES

MANAGEMENT UNIT	YEAR END FORECAST					
	APPROVED BUDGET	Q3 FORECAST OUTTURN	2024/25 OUTTURN	VARIANCE SINCE QUARTER 3	OVERALL VARIANCE TO BUDGET	VARIANCE TO BUDGET %
	£	£	£	£	£	£
MANAGEMENT	98,080	97,700	87,855	(9,845)	(10,225)	-10%
ROWAN HOUSE	(13,200)	(13,200)	(14,898)	(1,698)	(1,698)	13%
KNIGHTS PLACE	(78,700)	(78,700)	(91,956)	(13,256)	(13,256)	17%
INTEREST	(7,510)	(7,510)	(15,028)	(7,518)	(7,518)	100%
CAPITAL CHARGES	17,460	17,130	17,129	(1)	(331)	-2%
MOVEMENT TO/(FROM) WORKING BALANCE	(16,130)	(15,420)	16,898	32,318	33,028	-205%
Net Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	0
Working Balance 1 April 2024	322,146	31 March 2025	339,044			

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APPENDIX 2

HRA AVAILABLE RESOURCES 24/25

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT	2024-25 £	2025-26 £	2026-27 £	2027-28 £	2028-29 £	TOTAL £
CAPITAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE						
Usable Receipts Brought Forward						7,745,744
Major Repairs Reserve Brought Forward						12,455,749
Other HRA Sales	564,000	936,000	0	0	0	1,500,000
RTB sales	2,490,015	1,500,000	0	0	0	3,990,015
Surrender back to DLUHC - pending investment in replacement affordable housing						
Major Repairs Reserve	3,724,682	3,724,680	3,724,680	3,724,680	3,724,680	18,623,402
Revenue Contributions to Capital	2,500,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	2,100,000	1,900,000	8,500,000
Grants and external contributions		960,500				960,500
Devon Combined Authority retrofit grant	2,000,000					2,000,000
s106 funding	18,778	697,000				715,778
LAHF grant from MHCLG	310,210	283,790				594,000
Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund	833,102					833,102
Commuted sums	0					0
Borrowing	0	7,748,380				7,748,380
Long leases	0	2,645,792				2,645,792
Total Resources available	12,440,787	19,496,142	4,724,680	5,824,680	5,624,680	68,312,462
CAPITAL PROGRAMME						
HRA Capital Programme	22,402,312	18,222,074	9,973,253	6,966,569	5,525,867	63,090,075
Further Funding Requests		3,445,792				3,445,792
Total Housing Revenue Account	22,402,312	21,667,866	9,973,253	6,966,569	5,525,867	66,535,867

UNCOMMITTED CAPITAL RESOURCES:

Usable Receipts Brought Forward	7,745,744	5,221,900	538,228	538,228	538,228	7,745,744
Major Repairs Reserve Brought Forward	12,455,749	5,018,069	7,530,017	2,281,444	1,139,555	12,455,749
Resources in Year	12,440,787	19,496,142	4,724,680	5,824,680	5,624,680	48,110,969
Less Estimated Spend	(22,402,312)	(21,667,866)	(9,973,253)	(6,966,569)	(5,525,867)	(-66,535,867)
Uncommitted Capital Resources	10,239,968	8,068,245	2,819,672	1,677,783	1,776,596	1,776,595

WORKING BALANCE RESOURCES:

Balance Brought Forward	5,669,065	4,905,387	4,325,317	4,539,818	4,232,338	5,669,065
HRA Balance Transfer - to/(from) Working Balance	(282,188)	(561,070)	269,001	(264,480)	416,144	(422,593)
Under/(over)spend 2024-25	(481,490)					(481,490)
Supplementary budget request for electrical testing		(19,000)	(54,500)	(43,000)	(3,500)	(120,000)
Balance Carried Forward	4,905,387	4,325,317	4,539,818	4,232,338	4,644,982	4,644,982
Balance Resolved to be Retained	(3,525,000)	(3,525,000)	(3,525,000)	(3,525,000)	(3,525,000)	(3,525,000)
Uncommitted HRA Working Balance (after balance resolved to be retained of £4m)	1,380,387	800,317	1,014,818	707,338	1,119,982	1,119,982

TOTAL AVAILABLE CAPITAL RESOURCES (after balance resolved to be retained of £4m)	11,620,355	8,868,562	3,834,490	2,385,121	2,896,578	2,896,577
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2024-25
CAPITAL MONITORING - OUTTURN

	2024-25 Capital Programme	2024-25 Spend	2024-25 Budget to be Carried Forward to Future Years	TO 2025-26	TO 2026-27	TO 2027-28	TO 2028-29	2024-25 Programme Variances Under ()
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
HRA CAPITAL								
EVERYONE HAS A HOME								
Adaptations	965,164	1,013,060						47,896
Balcony Walkway Improvements	531,250	80,223						- 451,027
Bathroom Replacements (inc. Communal)	750,000	685,563						- 64,438
Boiler Replacement Programme & Central Heating	1,016,723	1,006,271						- 10,452
Common Area Footpath & Wall Improvements	152,445	170,047						17,602
Communal Area Improvements - New Flooring	60,096	65,937						5,841
Communal Door and Screen Replacements	159,570	128,611						30,959
Door Replacements (inc. Outbuildings)	457,090	446,094						- 10,996
Communal Door Entry System	112,600	87,600						- 25,000
Electrical Central Heating	14,091	15,245						1,154
Electrical Rewires - Domestic & Communal	1,248,974	1,264,201						15,227
Energy Conservation	2,479,580	3,138,017						658,437
Fire Risk Assessment Works - Compliance	802,706	299,245	(300,000)	300,000				- 203,461
Fire Risk Assessment Works	333,340	201,199						- 132,141
Fire Safety Storage Facilities	998	998						-
Kitchen Replacements (inc. Communal)	1,359,762	1,843,352	480,000	(120,000)	(120,000)	(120,000)	(120,000)	3,590
LAINGS Refurbishments	350,000	357,176						7,176
Lift Upgrades	237,400	98,671	(50,000)	50,000				- 88,729
Reroofing - Flats	846,350	680,012						- 166,338
Reroofing - Houses (outbuildings, chimney, gutters, downpipes, fascia)	633,057	715,862						82,805
Porch Canopies	103,924	24,520						- 79,404
Rennes House	100,000	92,502	(7,498)	7,498				- 0
Soil Vent Pipe Replacement	4,686	4,686						-
Structural Repairs	987,308	1,157,449						170,141
Window Replacements	1,240,050	1,590,796						350,746
Plastering	225,000	156,453						- 68,547
HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT TOTAL	15,172,164	15,323,788	122,502	237,498	(120,000)	(120,000)	(120,000)	29,122
COUNCIL OWN BUILD CAPITAL								
Social Housing Acquisitions - Open Market	350,000	350,000						-
St Loyes Extracare Scheme	19,739	11,107						- 8,632
Local Authority Housing Fund	909,778	328,989	(580,789)	580,789				- 0
Council House Building Programme - Bovemoors Lane	32,345	17,740	(14,605)	14,605				-
Council House Building Programme - Hamlin Gardens	1,393,563	1,391,978						- 1,585
Council House Building Programme - Vaughan Road Phase A	4,430,672	3,460,965	(969,707)	969,707				- 0
Council House Building Programme - Vaughan Road Phases B and C	1,470,415	1,517,746						- 47,331
COUNCIL OWN BUILD TOTAL	8,606,512	7,078,524	(1,565,101)	1,565,101	0	0	0	37,113
OVERALL HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT TOTAL	23,778,676	22,402,312	(1,442,599)	1,802,599	(120,000)	(120,000)	(120,000)	66,235

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REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 10 June 2025

Report of: Strategic Director of Corporate Resources & s151 Officer

Title: Treasury Management 2024/25

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Council

1. What is the report about?

1.1 To report on the current Treasury Management performance for the 2024/25 financial year and the position regarding investments and borrowings at 31 March 2025. The report is a statutory requirement and is for information only with no key decisions required.

2. Recommendations:

2.1 It is recommended that Council notes the content of this report.

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

3.1 It is a statutory requirement for the Council to publish regular reports on Treasury Management to Council. This includes an annual Treasury Management Strategy and half yearly report and a year-end report as a minimum.

4. What are the resource implications including non financial resources

4.1 The report is an update on the overall performance in respect of treasury management for the 2024/25 financial year. Therefore, there are no financial or non-financial resource implications.

5. Section 151 Officer comments:

5.1 Whilst the Council has undertaken some short-term borrowing and base rate is falling, the impact is not being seen in Government borrowing rates which remain high. This is being mirrored in Local authority lending and borrowing meaning that the Council has actually generated a better interest position than it budgeted for. This has been shared across the General Fund and HRA. The General Fund's repayment of debt was also slightly lower reflecting a smaller repayment required for the vehicle lease. At present interest rates remain high with 50-year funds attracting a rate of 6.19% (5.50% for the HRA) meaning every £1m borrowed would cost the Council £65,000 a year.

6. What are the legal aspects?

6.1 The CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) Treasury Management Code of Practice recommends that members be updated on treasury

management activities regularly. This report, therefore, ensures this Council is implementing best practice in accordance with the Code. Adoption of the Code is required by regulations laid under the Local Government Act 2003.

Chapter 1 of the Act sets out capital finance and accounts requirements. Section 1 states that local authorities have the powers to borrow money for any purpose relevant to its functions under any enactment or for the purposes of the prudent management of its financial affairs. Sections 2 to 6 of the Act cover the duty to control borrowing and the duty to determine affordable borrowing limits. Section 12 covers the power to invest.

The Treasury Management Strategy is based on the requirements of MHCLG's Guidance on Local Government Investments and the CIPFA Treasury Management code.

This report confirms that the section 151 Officer is satisfied that Council borrowing is affordable and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2003, the MHCLG's Guidance and CIPFA Code of Practice.

7. Monitoring Officer's comments:

7.1 This report is for Members' information. The Monitoring Officer has no additional comments.

8. Report details:

8.1 The Economy and Interest Rates

Forecasts from our Treasury Management advisers (MUFG Corporate Markets) at the time of approval of the Treasury Management Strategy report for 2024/25 were as follows:

MUFG Corporate Markets Interest Rate View 05.02.24													
	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26	Mar-27
BANK RATE	5.25	5.25	4.75	4.25	3.75	3.25	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
3 month ave earnings	5.30	5.30	4.80	4.30	3.80	3.30	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
6 month ave earnings	5.20	5.10	4.60	4.10	3.70	3.30	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10
12 month ave earnings	5.00	4.90	4.40	3.90	3.60	3.20	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.20	3.20
5 yr PWLB	4.50	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.10	4.00	3.80	3.70	3.60	3.60	3.50	3.50	3.50
10 yr PWLB	4.70	4.50	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.10	4.00	3.90	3.80	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.70
25 yr PWLB	5.20	5.10	4.90	4.80	4.60	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.20	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10
50 yr PWLB	5.00	4.90	4.70	4.60	4.40	4.20	4.10	4.00	4.00	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.90

The most recent projections from our advisers were:

MUFG Corporate Markets Interest Rate View 10.02.25													
	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26	Mar-27	Jun-27	Sep-27	Dec-27	Mar-28
BANK RATE	4.50	4.25	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
3 month ave earnings	4.50	4.30	4.30	4.00	3.80	3.80	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
6 month ave earnings	4.40	4.20	4.20	3.90	3.70	3.70	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
12 month ave earnings	4.40	4.20	4.20	3.90	3.70	3.70	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.60
5 yr PWLB	5.00	4.90	4.80	4.70	4.60	4.50	4.40	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.20	4.10	4.00
10 yr PWLB	5.30	5.20	5.10	5.00	4.90	4.80	4.70	4.70	4.60	4.50	4.50	4.40	4.40
25 yr PWLB	5.80	5.70	5.60	5.50	5.40	5.30	5.20	5.10	5.00	5.00	4.90	4.90	4.80
50 yr PWLB	5.50	5.40	5.30	5.20	5.10	5.00	4.90	4.80	4.70	4.70	4.60	4.60	4.50

UK inflation has proved somewhat stubborn throughout 2024/25. Having started the financial year at 2.3% in April, the CPI measure of inflation briefly dipped to 1.7% in September before picking up pace again in the latter months. February data showed CPI rising by 2.8%, but there is a strong likelihood that figure will increase to at least 3.5% by the Autumn of 2025.

Against that backdrop, and the continued lack of progress in ending the Russian invasion of Ukraine, as well as the potentially negative implications for global growth as a consequence of the implementation of US tariff policies by US President Trump in April 2025, Bank Rate reductions have been limited. As of 31st March, the Bank Rate stood at 4.5%, despite the Office for Budget Responsibility reducing its 2025 GDP forecast for the UK economy to only 1% (previously 2% in October). The Bank Rate has since been reduced to 4.25%

Borrowing has become increasingly expensive in 2024/25. Gilt yields rose significantly in the wake of the Chancellor's Autumn Statement, and the loosening of fiscal policy, and have remained elevated ever since, as dampened growth expectations and the minimal budget contingency (<£10bn) have stoked market fears that increased levels of borrowing will need to be funded during 2025.

The Bank of England sprung no surprises in their March meeting, leaving Bank Rate unchanged at 4.5% by a vote of 8-1, but suggesting further reductions would be gradual. The Bank of England was always going to continue its cut-hold-cut-hold pattern by leaving interest rates at 4.50% but, in the opposite of what happened at the February meeting, the vote was more hawkish than expected. This suggested that as inflation rises later in the year, the Bank cuts rates even slower, but the initial impact of President Trump's tariff policies in April 2025 on the financial markets underpin our view that the Bank will eventually reduce rates to 3.50%.

From a fiscal perspective, the increase in businesses' national insurance and national minimum wage costs from April 2025 is likely to prove a headwind, although in the near-term the Government's efforts to provide 300,000 new homes in each year of the current Parliament is likely to ensure building industry employees are well remunerated, as will the clamp-down on immigration and the generally high levels of sickness amongst the British workforce.

8.2 Treasury Management Strategy Statement

The Council approved the 2024/25 Treasury Management Strategy at its meeting on 20th February 2024. The Council's stated investment strategy was to continue to hold small surplus funds and to seek to utilise its Call Accounts, Money Market Funds, use the Government's Debt Management Office and use short-dated deposits which would be placed with Local Authorities, Banks or Building Societies which are on the Council's counterparty list.

The Council's stated borrowing strategy was to defer long-term borrowing and to reduce the size of the Council's investment balance instead, however some targeted long-term borrowing can be undertaken where the costs will be offset against future income streams.

The Council is currently maintaining an under-borrowed position; so, the actual borrowings of the Council are below the Council's borrowing requirement, as it has taken advantage of internal borrowings. This means that the Council's borrowing need (the Capital Financing Requirement), has not been fully funded with loan debt, as cash supporting the Council's reserves, balances and cash flow has been used as a temporary measure instead of borrowing at elevated levels.

During the year £10m was borrowed from PWLB for 1 year to support working balances. This will need to be re-financed over a longer period when long-term borrowing rates have reduced.

8.3 Investments

A number of Money Market Funds have been set up by the Council, which also allow immediate access to our funds and spreads risk as it is pooled with investments by other organisations and invested across a wide range of financial institutions.

Property Funds

The Council has made two investments, totalling £5m, in the CCLA – LAMIT property fund (April and November 2016). The investment in the property fund is a long-term commitment which will mean that there will be fluctuations in the return over the period of the investment.

Amount	Investment	Dividend Yield
£5,000,000	CCLA – LAMIT Property Fund	5.05%

The value of the investment as of 31 March 2025 was £4,500,103. At the end of the financial year the value of the investment in the Property Fund is adjusted to equal the number of units held multiplied by the published bid price, with the gain or loss taken to the Available for Sale Reserve. Movements in the unit price therefore have no impact on the General Fund until the investment is sold or impaired.

The Council's investments as of 31st March 2025 were:

Money Market Funds

Amount	Investment	Interest rate*
£9,000,000	Federated Short-Term Sterling Prime Fund	4.95%
£10,000,000	Aberdeen Standard Liquidity Fund	4.96%
£nil	CCLA - The Public Sector Deposit Fund	5.03%
£nil	Black Rock Institutional Sterling Liquidity Fund	4.90%
£19,000,000		

* Interest rate is variable, therefore rates quoted are an average of 2024/25 rates.

The Council had no Fixed Term Deposits as of 31st March 2025.

8.4 Borrowings

The Council's long-term borrowing is currently £163.232m (£90.988m General Fund and £72.244m HRA). In addition, during 2024/25 £10m was borrowed from PWLB for one year. Details of loans are set out below.

The Council made a one-off payment on 28 March 2012, to buy itself out of the HRA subsidy system. The final settlement figure of £56.884m was confirmed in February 2012. The amount was borrowed from the Public Works Loans Board over a 50-year period and is repayable on maturity at the end of the loan term. The interest rate was 3.48% fixed for the term of the loan.

Existing loans

Due to the costs of borrowing no further long-term PWLB loans were taken out during the year, although £10m was borrowed for 1 year to support working balances. The section 151 Officer confirms that long-term borrowing has only been undertaken for a capital purpose and that Council borrowing is affordable and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2003 the MHCLG's Guidance and CIPFA Code of Practice.

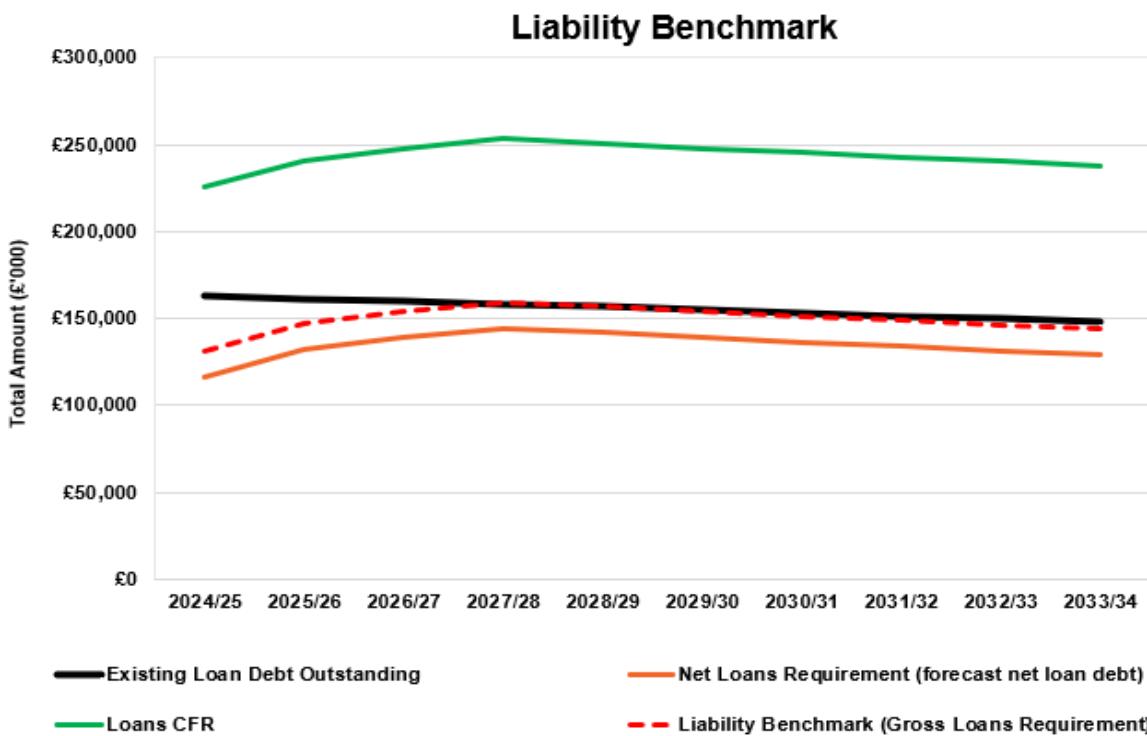
Amount as at 31/3/2025	Lender	Interest rate	End date
£56,884,000	PWLB maturity (HRA)	3.48%	28/03/2062
£1,782,267	PWLB 25-year annuity	2.34%	11/01/2044
£1,767,489	PWLB 25-year annuity	2.08%	04/04/2044
£3,956,024	PWLB 30-year annuity	1.61%	26/09/2049
£7,739,639	PWLB 35-year annuity	1.71%	26/09/2054
£33,427,926	PWLB 50-year annuity	1.80%	26/09/2069
£15,360,000	PWLB maturity (HRA)	1.31%	14/04/2070
£42,314,696	PWLB 50-year annuity	1.78%	24/12/2071
£10,000,000	PWLB 1 year maturity	4.87%	12/03/2026

8.5 Compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits

During 2024/25 the Council has operated within the treasury and prudential indicators set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement and no difficulties are envisaged for the current or future years in complying with these indicators.

All treasury management operations have also been conducted in full compliance with the Council's Treasury Management Practices. The approved limits within the Annual Investment Strategy set out in the TMSS were not breached during the year ended 31st March 2025.

To support the risk management of the capital financing requirement a graphical indication of the Council's borrowing liability and actual loans for the General Fund and HRA combined is shown overleaf.



8.6 Net Interest Position

The General Fund shows a slight improvement against the estimate for net interest payable, the position is:

	2024/25 Budget £	Outturn £	Variatio n £
Interest paid	1,841,500	1,899,788	58,288
Interest earned			
Temporary investment interest	(1,200,000)	(1,425,332)	(225,332)
Other interest earned	(9,500)	(9,485)	15
Science Park Loan	-	(8,569)	(8,569)
CVS Loan	(4,000)	(4,293)	(293)
Guildhall		(£54,367)	(£54,367)
Less			
Interest to HRA	1,000,000	1,085,213	85,213
Interest to deposits held	5,000	14,554	9,554
Interest to Trust Funds	10,000	31,988	21,988
Lord Mayors Charity	500	103	(397)
GF interest (received) / paid out	(198,000)	(370,189)	(172,189)
Net Interest	1,643,500	1,608,159	(35,341)

CCLA – LAPF Dividend	(225,000)	(252,716)	(27,716)
Net Interest after dividends	1,418,500	1,276,884	(141,616)

Net interest payable for 2024/25 was £142k lower than budget. An expected underspend of £33k was reported in the Treasury Management half year update to Council at its meeting on 17th December 2024.

The key reasons for the variance to budget are as follows:

Interest payable was £58k higher than budgeted. During the year it was necessary to borrow £10m from PWLB for one year to support working balances so PWLB interest was £26k higher than budgeted. The interest element of finance leases was £32k higher than budgeted, largely due to new fleet leases during the year, and on leases classified as Right of Use assets in accordance with IFRS16.

Interest rates on temporary investments and money market funds remained high and offset the reduction in cash balances. This resulted in a net £172k additional interest after paying over interest relating to the HRA and other funds held. The CCLA Property Fund yielded £28k higher than budgeted dividends.

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) earned £1,085k interest on its balances compared with the budget of £1,000k. This is calculated on the following:

- HRA working balance.
- The balance of funds in the Major Repairs Reserve and Useable Capital Receipts

The Council borrowed £56,884k to buy itself out of the HRA subsidy scheme since the borrowing cap was lifted in October 2018, and the HRA has since borrowed a further £15,360k towards new Council housing development projects.

The HRA had approval to borrow a further £7.7m however due to currently high interest rates no external borrowing has been undertaken during 24/25 and the borrowing has been delayed to future years, so interest payable was £213k lower than the £2,394k originally budgeted for 24/25. £9k has been charged on the borrowing used to fund the Council's Own Build properties which was included in the budget.

8.7 Repayment of debt

Repayment of Debt	Estimate 2024/25 £	Outturn £	Variation £
Minimum Revenue Provision	2,531,020	2,505,261	25,759
Voluntary Revenue Provision	(700,000)	(700,000)	-
TOTAL	1,831,020	1,805,261	25,759

There has been a small increase in MRP compared with budget as a result of additional leases being included in compliance with IFRS 16.

8.8 Future Position

The approved capital programme for 2025/26 includes a borrowing requirement of £32.463m (£26.185m General Fund and £6.278m HRA). The decision of whether to take external long-term borrowing will be made in light of current and forecast interest rates and the decision is delegated to the section 151 Officer and Leader of the Council.

The short-term investments that are made through the call accounts and money market funds ensure cash can be accessed immediately. This has an ongoing impact on returns but increases the security of our cash.

The Council's four Money Market Funds, which are AAA, rated, currently offer rates circa 4.3%, but these rates are likely to be impacted with the projected further reductions in base rate during 2025/26.

We will also lend, when possible, to institutions on the Council's counterparty list which includes other Local Authorities, UK and Foreign owned banks and the Debt Management Office.

Officers will continue to liaise to treasury advisors in respect of new investment opportunities. Any decisions taken will comply with the code of practice that requires the council to invest its funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its investments before seeking the highest rate of return, or yield. In addition to these 3 core principles the Council will also consider Environmental, Social and Governance risks in accordance with the approved Environmental, Social and Governance Policy. If an amendment to the current treasury management strategy is required, a report will be presented to committee requesting the necessary amendments.

9. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

9.1 Treasury Management supports the Council in generating additional funds for investing in Services, whilst minimising the amount of interest paid on borrowings. It does not in itself contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan.

10. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

10.1 The council uses treasury management advisors who continually provide updates on the economic situation, interest rates and credit ratings of financial institutions. They also provide a counterparty list which details the financial institutions which meet the council's treasury management strategy.

11. Equality Act 2010 (The Act)

11.1 Under the Act's Public Sector Equalities Duty, decision makers are required to consider the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct;
- advance equality by encouraging participation, removing disadvantage, taking account of disabilities and meeting people's needs; and

- foster good relations between people by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

11.2 In order to comply with the general duty authorities must assess the impact on equality of decisions, policies and practices. These duties do not prevent the authority from reducing services where necessary, but they offer a way of developing proposals that consider the impacts on all members of the community.

11.3 In making decisions the authority must take into account the potential impact of that decision in relation to age, disability, race/ethnicity (includes Gypsies and Travellers), sex and gender, gender identity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, pregnant women and new and breastfeeding mothers, marriage and civil partnership status in coming to a decision.

11.4 In recommending this proposal no potential impact has been identified on people with protected characteristics as determined by the Act because there are no significant equality and diversity impacts associated with this decision.

12. Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

12.1 We are working towards the Council's commitment to carbon neutral by 2030. The impact of each new investment is considered prior to approval.

13. Are there any other options?

13.1 None.

Strategic Director of Corporate Resources & s151 Officer, David Hodgson

Author: Claire Hodgson: Finance Manager - Corporate

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:-

None

Contact for enquiries:
Democratic Services (Committees)
Room 4.36
01392 265275

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REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 10 June 2025

Report of: Strategic Director for Corporate Services

Title: Update of Exeter City Council's Companies, Alternative Delivery Models and Charities.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Council

1. What is the report about?

This report provides Members with the following:

1.1 An update on companies, alternative delivery models and charities connected with or controlled by Exeter City Council so that Members are aware of their activities and financial performance;

2. Recommendations:

2.1 That Council notes the report.

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

3.1 In January 2025 a detailed report on each of the companies in which the Council has an interest was presented to Executive and Council. In the report officers committed to providing an update every six months to Council therefore this report addresses that commitment.

4. What are the resource implications including non financial resources

4.1 There are none arising out of the report.

5. Section 151 Officer comments:

5.1 The report sets out the position in respect of the Companies in which the Council has an interest. Other than Exeter Business Centre, which is subject to the review, there are no issues of significance to highlight.

6. What are the legal aspects?

6.1 Under the Local Government Act 2003, local authorities may trade in activities related to their ordinary functions for commercial purposes via a company (as defined under the Companies Act 2006).

6.2 Under the Localism Act 2011 local authorities are granted the General Power of Competence (GPC) and are permitted to do anything that an individual may do, including

engaging in commercial activities. However, in accordance with section 4 of the Act any commercial activities under the GPC must also be conducted through a company.

6.3 Exeter City Group Limited and Exeter City Living Limited

On 18th February 2025 Council resolved to :‘grant delegated authority to the Chief Executive as shareholder representative to issue and sign the written special resolutions in...to amend the Articles of Association of Exeter City Group (ECG) and Exeter City Living (ECL) to:-

- a) reduce the objectives of both companies to holding and managing property;
- b) operate with a minimum of one Director;
- c) to delegate authority to the Chief Executive as shareholder representative to make any further amendments to the constitutional documents of ECG and ECL and where appropriate any subsidiaries of ECG to reduce the company structure to a single company;
- d) to delegate authority to the Chief Executive as shareholder representative to wind-up and dissolve the dormant subsidiaries of ECG namely Exeter City Homes Limited and Exeter City Living Property Limited and, at a later date ECG, itself;
- e) to approve the Business Plan for 2025-26; and
- f) to delegate authority to the Strategic Director for Corporate Resources to annually agree the management fee percentage with the Director of ECL to ensure that the Company remains solvent but does not generate profits.

The Management Agreement provides that the appointment and removal of directors is a reserved matter for the Council’s shareholder representative.

The Companies must comply with the filing requirements at Companies House once any changes are made.

Additionally, the other companies in the Group, Exeter City Homes Limited and Exeter City Living Property Limited, are dormant and performing no activities and have not done so since their incorporation in 2018. Accordingly, they will be dissolved.

7. Monitoring Officer’s comments:

7.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on Council-owned and related companies.

8. Report details:

8.1 Exeter City Council Companies and Charities:

8.1.1 ECC has a range of interests in a number of Companies (and a Charity) for a range of purposes. This report provides information to Members concerning those entities connected to Exeter City Council and the role of the Council within those organisations.

8.1.2 Attached at Appendix 1 of this report is a list of the Companies and a Charity in which ECC has an interest, along with details as to who fills the key roles in respect of interactions with the various entities with. Appendix 2 provides the financial information in respect of each of the entities. Set out below is a short summary of activities and financial performance of by the organisation in the financial year 2024-25.

Strata Service Solutions Limited (Incorporated 15 May 2014)

Strata is the Council's ICT Company and is owned in equal shares with East Devon District Council and Teignbridge District Council. Strata has been successful in delivering the savings it was required to achieve in its early period of existence and has continued to adapt with the aim of delivering the services each Council wants.

Strata have made significant progress into the transformation set out in the business plan for 25/26. These include replacement of the councils aged laptop estate and infrastructure, testing of the new phone system and decommission of skype for desktop users, enhancement of the councils digital from door and CRM. The Business plan is set to deliver its objectives by 2026.

Draft accounts for 2024-25 can be found in Appendix 2. In the financial year the company underspent against the Budget by £683k mainly due to delayed onboarding of new roles and initiatives created by the transformation programme as well as increased interest and grant income compared with the Budget. Strata will request that the Councils return the savings in 2025-26 to fund the transition to a cloud-based server solution as set out in the 2025-26 Business Plan. Strata also delivered £713k of capital improvements during the year.

After distribution of the savings Strata's Balance Sheet has Net Assets of £774k, a reduction of £33k on the previous year as a result of an increase in the company pension scheme liability.

Exeter Science Park Limited (ESPL) (Incorporated 24 February 2009)

ESPL is a company in joint ownership between Exeter City Council, Devon County Council, the University of Exeter and East Devon District Council. There are different shareholdings amongst the four owners.

ESPL is one of the most commercially driven Companies in which the Council has an interest, but under the agreement the Council is unable to take dividends from any profits.

- The draft Balance Sheet as of 31 March 2025 is included in Appendix 2 and shows Net Assets of £14.9m. The Net Asset position has improved significantly from the position on 31 March 2024 of £6.2m mainly due to the long-term loans of the company being cleared. This has allowed the Company and Shareholders to start to plan for the future development of the Park and how that may be achieved.

Exeter City Group Limited (Incorporated 7 June 2018) and Exeter City Living Limited (Incorporated 12 June 2018)

ECG and ECL now exists with the limited role of holding and managing property. It now holds and manages the six flats at the Guildhall Shopping Centre.

The Council resolved on 18 February 2025 to approve the Shareholder Representative to issue and sign written special resolutions in order to amend the Articles of Association of ECG and ECL. A resolution by the Board of ECG to action this is expected to be proposed by July 2025.

During the financial year 2024-25 ECL has continued to rent the six leased flats to residential tenants with the flats occupied for 97% of the year. A Management Fee of 54.1% was recharged to the Council by ECL for 2024-25 before net rental proceeds were paid over to the Council. The increased Management Fee was required to cover business running costs in 2024-25 which were higher than anticipated in future years due to the transition from development activity to solely residential rental activity. The draft accounts for ECL can be found in Appendix 2 and show a small profit of £22 for the year, and Net Assets of £117,256.

Exeter City Homes Limited and Exeter City Living Property Limited (Both incorporated 12 June 2018)

These companies are the two other subsidiaries of Exeter City Group Limited. Both companies are dormant, perform no activities, and have not done so since they were incorporated in 2018. Council approved a recommendation to delegate authority to the Shareholder Representative to wind up and dissolve the companies on 18 February 2025 and work is continuing to proceed this.

South West Audit Partnership Limited (SWAP) (Incorporated 14 September 2012)

South West Audit Partnership provides Internal Audit Services to Councils, Police Forces, Fire & Rescue Services and Police and Crime Commissioners across the Country. The Council joined the Partnership in April 2024. SWAP has continued to grow, with three more partners joining in the last year, in addition to Exeter taking the total to 27. As such the Council's ownership is very small and we continue to have no involvement in the day to day running of the Company. In the last year, the Chief Executive has retired and been replaced by Rich Clarke who has 25 years' experience.

At the time of writing the Accounts for 2024-25 have not been published, but the Council is not aware of any issues.

Exeter Business Centre (EBC) (Incorporated 5 March 1986)

EBC is based in a warehouse on the Marsh Barton Industrial Estate that the Company leases from a third party. The original intention of the company is to provide office space and workshops to 'start ups' on short-term leases to allow Companies that don't succeed to exit without significant leasehold obligations.

In the first report on Companies, funding was allocated to allow a review of the Business Centre to be undertaken. This review, being undertaken by Local Partnerships, is underway and is expected to report back in July 2025. The review will look at all options

for the Company to determine if there is a course of action that can be taken to ensure that it returns to profit and delivers its stated objectives.

A draft statement of Income and Expenditure for 2024-25 can be found in Appendix 2. EBC is projected to make a small loss in 2024-25 of around £20,000. As the Balance Sheet is small, this will push the Company into a negative Balance Sheet position. Rents have therefore increased to address this in 2025-26.

DextCo Limited (Incorporated 1 December 2016)

Dextco limited is a Company which was set up with partners in the City (Devon County Council, Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust as well as Teignbridge District Council) with the intention of jointly procuring partners to deliver a City Centre district heat network and an additional district heat network in the West Exe part of the City (including Teignbridge). The proposals did not go ahead and there are no current projects being progressed by the Company. The company is not presently undertaking any projects and the future of Dextco needs to be reviewed with the other shareholders.

There has been no activity to report in the financial year 2024-25 and it is likely that a proposal to formally wind up the company will be made in the financial year 2025-26. Draft accounts for the financial year to 31 December 2024 are not available to report.

Monkerton Heat Company Limited (Incorporated 3 November 2015)

Monkerton Heat Company was set up with each Developer at Monkerton in relation to the District Heat Network which was installed by various developers with Eon as condition of Section 106 agreements for construction of residential developments at Monkerton. The Company exists for two principal purposes. Firstly, holding the Head Lease of the land for the pipework comprising the district heat network and granting a sub-ease to E.on. Secondly to administer the Master Agreement with E.on. As each developer completes their involvement in their scheme, they will resign as Directors and relinquish their shareholdings, and ultimately ECC will be the sole owner. Although it is an active company, it does not trade.

During the financial year 2024-25 the Developer shareholders have re-instructed Clarke Willmott solicitors to administer the company, who have filed the Annual Statement and Accounts for a Dormant Company.

It is anticipated that the financial accounts for the year to 30 November 2024 will look very similar to previous but draft accounts are not available to report.

Exeter Canal and Quay Trust Limited (Incorporated 17 December 1981)

Exeter Canal and Quay Trust Limited is a charity which was set up in December 1981 to manage and improve a range of properties primarily at the Quay. The properties are owned by Exeter City Council and let to ECQT primarily on long leases with decades to run. In some instances, the freehold interests have been transferred to ECQT.

There are no significant issues to highlight at this time. The individual who looks after ECQT's interest in the Estates team is retiring later this year and ECQT is considering

whether to procure its commercial property advice directly from the individual rather than via the Council. This would bring this in line with how it procures other Services.

A draft statement of Income and Expenditure for 2024-25 can be found in Appendix 2.

9. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

- 9.1 The recommendation in this report supports the Council's Corporate Priorities of Leading a Well-Run Council – Well Managed Assets: In reviewing the activities of the companies and the proposals to reduce or cease certain activities, the Council is taking a proactive approach to managing those alternative business structures where it has an interest.
- 9.2 It also supports the Corporate Priority of a Balanced budget by reviewing the activities of companies and by making recommendations to reduce financial exposure and company activities where that is seen to be necessary.

10. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

10.1 The Companies may fall into administration if they are unable to meet their financial liabilities placing considerable pressure on Directors.

11. Equality Act 2010 (The Act)

11.1 Under the Act's Public Sector Equalities Duty, decision makers are required to consider the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct;
- advance equality by encouraging participation, removing disadvantage, taking account of disabilities and meeting people's needs; and
- foster good relations between people by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

11.2 In order to comply with the general duty authorities must assess the impact on equality of decisions, policies and practices. These duties do not prevent the authority from reducing services where necessary, but they offer a way of developing proposals that consider the impacts on all members of the community.

11.3 In making decisions the authority must take into account the potential impact of that decision in relation to age, disability, race/ethnicity (includes Gypsies and Travellers), sex and gender, gender identity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, pregnant women and new and breastfeeding mothers, marriage and civil partnership status in coming to a decision.

11.4 In recommending this proposal no potential impact has been identified on people with protected characteristics as determined by the Act because: because

11.4.1 The report's recommendations address Companies not individuals.

12. Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

12.1 Important to complete this section in light of the Council declaring a Climate Emergency. Consider whether the recommendations you are making in the report will

help, hinder or have no direct impact on delivering our carbon reduction target (carbon neutral by 2030).

12.2 You should think about things like:-

- Travel (and, if travel is unavoidable, whether lower carbon options will be pursued e.g. walking, public transport, electric car);
- Infrastructure (e.g. LED lighting, energy efficient heating/hot water, solar panels, electric car charging points);
- Waste (e.g. recycling, composting, reducing non-recyclable waste); and
- Any other specific carbon reduction initiatives.

12.3 No direct carbon/environmental impacts arising from the recommendations.

13. Are there any other options?

None

Director Strategic Director Corporate Resources

Author: Finance Lead - Commercial

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:-

None

Contact for enquires:

Democratic Services (Committees)

Room 4.36

01392 265275

Appendix 1 ECC Group Interests

ECC Group interests

Company No.	Ownership	Shareholder Rep	Appointed Director	Client Lead	Status	Purpose
Strata	09041662	33% Leader via JEC	Strategic Director for People	Head of Digital & Data	Active	Provision of IT Services
ESPL	06828415	20% PH Climate	Head of City Centre & Net Zero	N/A	Active	To develop and manage Exeter Science Park
Exeter City Group	11404047	100% ChiefExecutive	Finance Manager - Commercial	N/A	Active	Holding Company for ECL
ECL	11410540	*100% ChiefExecutive	Finance Manager - Commercial	Head of Commercial Assets	Active	To manage rental properties for Council
Exeter City Homes	11410363	*100% ChiefExecutive	Finance Manager - Commercial	N/A	Dormant	To manage residential rental properties
Exeter City Living Property	11410214	*100% ChiefExecutive	Finance Manager - Commercial	N/A	Dormant	To manage commercial rental properties
SWAP	08215338	4% Chair of A&G	N/A	Head of Finance	Active	Provision of Internal Audit Services
EBC	01995933	100% Not Determined	3 Councillors	N/A	Active	To Provide Start Up space for new Companies
ECQT	Charity	N/A	N/A	8 Councillors	Not determined	Active
Exeter City Quay Trust						To enhance and promote the Canal & Quay area of the City
Dextco	10506296	20% Not Determined	Howard Smith	N/A	Dormant	To encourage inward investment in low carbon energy projects
Monkerton Heat Co	09853521	16.66% Not Determined	Howard Smith	N/A	Deemed dormant	To hold the head lease for district Heating network pipelines

* Holding Company owns these subsidiaries

Strata Service Solutions Limited**Profit and Loss Account**

Period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

	2024-25	2023-24
	£	£
TURNOVER	9,932,782	9,453,192
COST OF SALES	(4,096,521)	(3,835,815)
GROSS PROFIT	5,836,260	5,617,377
ADMIN EXPENSES	(5,899,497)	(5,673,764)
Other operating income	0	0
OPERATING PROFIT / (LOSS)	(63,237)	(56,387)
Exceptional items	0	0
Interest Received	70,394	82,589
Interest Payable and similar charges	26,000	(18,000)
PROFIT/(LOSS) ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION	33,157	8,202
Corporation Tax	(15,279)	(18,136)
PROFIT/(LOSS) FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD	17,878	(9,934)
STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS & LOSSES		
Period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024		
	£	£
Profit/(Loss) for the financial period	17,878	(9,934)
Defined Liability Movement	(51,000)	451,000
Total recognised Gains & Losses relating to the period	(33,122)	441,066

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STRATA BALANCE SHEET
as at 31 March 2025

	2024-25	2023-24
Fixed Assets		£
STRATA INTANGIBLE ASSETS	1,303,920	1,307,206
STRATA PPE	598,522	493,094
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,902,441	1,800,300
Current Assets		£
STRATA STOCK	28,810	24,970
STRATA DEBTORS	2,935,768	2,892,506
STRATA CASH	807,713	1,005,616
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3,772,290	3,923,092
STRATA CREDITORS	<hr/>	<hr/>
	(2,457,494)	(2,633,037)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,314,796	1,290,055
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	3,217,238	3,090,295
Deferred Income	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Assets excluding Pension Liability	(2,248,551)	(2,094,492)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	968,687	995,803
STRATA PENSIONS	<hr/>	<hr/>
	(195,000)	(189,000)
Net Assets	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
	773,687	806,803
	£	£
Called up Share Capital	3	3
STRATA P&L ACCOUNT	773,684	806,800
Shareholders' Surplus	<hr/>	<hr/>
	773,687	806,803
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

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Balance Sheet — Exeter Science Park Limited



MAR 2025

	Mar 2025		Mar 2024	
	Actuals	Actuals	Variance	% Variance
100 · Fixed Assets				
110 · Tangible Assets	18,548,314	16,975,924	1,572,391	9%
120 · Intangible Assets	3,007	10,524	(7,518)	(71%)
Total Fixed Assets	18,551,321	16,986,448	1,564,873	9%
200 · Current Assets				
210 · Trade Debtors	210,863	222,613	(11,750)	(5%)
220 · Other Debtors	355,503	332,671	22,832	7%
230 · Cash	1,022,199	1,745,141	(722,942)	(41%)
Total Current Assets	1,588,564	2,300,425	(711,861)	(31%)
300 · Creditors				
310 · Short Term Creditors	695,633	680,087	(15,546)	(2%)
310.1 · Trade Creditors	110,072	143,609	33,537	23%
310.2 · Other Creditors	585,561	536,478	(49,083)	(9%)
320 · Long Term Creditors	4,540,258	12,448,538	7,908,280	64%
320.1 · Loans	0	7,671,965	7,671,965	100%
320.2 · Grants	48,895	239,205	190,310	80%
320.3 · Deferred Tax	2,404,822	2,404,822	0	0%
320.4 · UoE Long Term Lease	2,086,541	2,132,546	46,005	2%
Total Creditors	5,235,892	13,128,626	7,892,734	60%
Net Assets	14,903,993	6,158,247	8,745,746	142%
500 · Equity				
510 · Share Capital	13,275,230	4,401,100	8,874,130	202%
520 · Profit & Loss Account	1,628,763	1,757,147	(128,384)	(7%)
Total Equity	14,903,993	6,158,247	8,745,746	142%

Account Tree ESPL Management Accounts

Account Types Asset, Liability, Equity

Using actuals up to Mar 2025



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CITY LIVING

Exeter City Living Limited

Statement of Income and Retained Earnings

Period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

	2024-25	2023-24
	£	£
Turnover	-	10,905,211
Cost of sales	18,252	-
GROSS PROFIT	18,252	655,222
Admin expenses	-	59,422
Other operating income / (expenses)	32,232	-
OPERATING PROFIT / (LOSS)	- 8,937	170,219
Interest Received	11,487	72,853
Interest Payable and similar charges	-	2,299
PROFIT/(LOSS) ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION	250	251,506
Corporation Tax	-	228
PROFIT/(LOSS) FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD	22	251,506
Retained earnings brought forward	117,234	-
Capital Contribution	4,392,332	4,392,332
Retained earnings carried forward	4,509,588	117,234

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CITY LIVING

Exeter City Living Limited

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

	2024-25	2023-24
	£	£
Fixed Assets	-	-
Current Assets		
Work in progress	-	-
Debtors	4,397	4,305
Cash	135,437	1,717,230
	<hr/> 139,834	<hr/> 1,721,535
Creditors; Amounts falling due within one year	-	22,577
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	117,257	117,235
Creditors; Amounts falling due after more than one year	-	-
Provisions	-	-
Net Assets	<hr/> 117,257	<hr/> 117,235
	£	£
Called Up Share Capital	1	1
CAPITAL CONTRIBUTION RESERVE	4,392,332	4,392,332
I&E Account	- 4,275,076	- 4,275,098
Shareholders' Funds	<hr/> 117,257	<hr/> 117,235

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EXETER BUSINESS CENTRE
EXPENDITURE AND INCOME 2024/25
12 months to 31 March 2025

	Annual Budget £	Pro rata Budget £	Actual as at 31/03/25 £	Variance £	Year End Forecast £	Year End Forecast Variance £	Proposed 25/26 Budget £
EXPENDITURE							
Employees							
PAY	18,116	18,116	17,534	(583)	19,128	1,011	20,000
NATIONAL INSURANCE	641	641	685	44	747	106	750
	18,758	18,758	18,218	(539)	19,875	1,117	20,750
Premises							
SUB-CONTRACTORS	35,000	35,000	32,776	(2,224)	33,000	(2,000)	35,000
SECURITY PATROL	6,500	6,500	5,814	(686)	5,815	(685)	6,800
PEST CONTROL	300	300	0	(300)	0	(300)	300
ELECTRICITY	73,500	73,500	56,563	(16,937)	60,000	(13,500)	42,000
GAS	18,500	18,500	21,312	2,812	21,312	2,812	21,000
CLEANING MATERIALS	170	170	1,095	925	1,095	925	1,000
WATER	6,000	6,000	9,621	3,621	9,621	3,621	10,000
OFFICE CLEANING CONTRACTS	9,500	9,500	10,357	857	10,357	857	11,000
BUILDINGS INSURANCE	6,300	6,300	5,448	(852)	5,448	(852)	5,500
TRADE REFUSE	12,000	12,000	9,325	(2,675)	10,000	(2,000)	10,000
RENTS	104,200	104,200	104,200	0	104,200	0	119,200
RATES	5,000	5,000	(3,013)	(8,013)	(3,013)	(8,013)	0
	276,970	276,970	253,500	(23,470)	257,835	(19,135)	261,800
Supplies & Services							
MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT	3,000	3,000	3,686	686	3,686	686	3,000
ADVERTISING	2,000	2,000	0	(2,000)	0	(2,000)	1,000
PHONE CALLS FOR FIXED PHONES	900	900	1,007	107	1,100	200	1,000
INSURANCES	400	400	0	(400)	0	(400)	400
MOBILE TELEPHONE RENTAL/CALLS	144	144	73	(71)	81	(63)	150
LICENCES	16	16	0	(16)	16	16	16
COMPANIES HOUSE	20	20	34	14	34	14	40
LEGAL FEES	2,000	2,000	0	(2,000)	0	(2,000)	2,000
	8,480	8,480	4,801	(3,679)	4,917	(3,563)	7,606
Support Services							
FINANCIAL SERVICES	8,000	8,000	8,000	0	8,000	0	8,000
INTERNAL AUDIT	170	170	170	0	170	0	170
ESTATES SERVICES	10,510	10,510	10,510	0	10,510	0	10,510
	18,680	18,680	18,680	0	18,680	0	18,680
Total Expenditure							
	322,888	322,888	295,199	(27,689)	301,307	(21,581)	308,836
INCOME							
ELECTRICITY / GAS		0	(4,770)	(4,770)	(4,229)	(4,229)	
RENT	(327,888)	(327,888)	(274,548)	53,340	(281,385)	46,503	(344,433)
BAD DEBT WRITE OFFS	5,000	0	0	0	5,000	0	5,000
Total Income		(322,888)	(327,888)	(279,318)	53,340	(280,614)	42,274
EXCESS EXPENDITURE / (INCOME) FROM ACTIVITIES		(0)	(5,000)	15,880	25,651	20,693	(30,597)
GRANT FROM EXETER CITY COUNCIL							
EXCESS EXPENDITURE / (INCOME) AFTER GRANT FROM ECC							
RESERVES BROUGHT FORWARD		(6,294)		(6,294)		(6,294)	14,399
RESERVES CARRIED FORWARD		(6,294)		9,587		14,399	(16,198)

NOTES

1 Net current assets at 1st April 2024 £6,294. Total Reserves at 1st April 2024 £6,296
 2 Net current assets at 1st April 2025 £9,587. Total Reserves at 1st April 2025 £9,585

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INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
1 APRIL 2024 TO 13 February 2025

	Annual Budget £	Profiled Budget £	Actual £	Variance £
INCOME				
Rent	(225,000)	(187,500)	(188,405)	(905)
Insurance	(50,000)	(50,000)	(29,463)	20,537
Bank interest	(24,000)	(20,000)	(15,516)	4,484
Total	(299,000)	(257,500)	(233,384)	24,116
EXPENDITURE				
Running Costs				
Rent	41,170	41,170	41,172	2
Insurance	84,510	77,558	78,484	926
Services	22,000	20,167	11,669	(8,497)
Legal fees	5,000	4,583	75	(4,508)
Professional Services	36,000	36,000	42,700	6,700
Maintenance/Enhancement Works	80,000	80,000	89,425	9,425
Bank charges	170	156	100	(56)
External Consultancy/Revaluation	10,000	9,167	4,320	(4,847)
VAT	25,000	25,000	40,498	15,498
Total	303,850	293,801	308,445	14,644
(Surplus)/Deficit Available	4,850	36,301	75,061	38,760
Charitable Use of Funds				
Programme Co-Ordinator	25,520	21,267	21,026	(240)
Social Media & Digital	10,800	9,000	9,585	585
Heritage Harbour Development Officer	22,000	18,333	12,027	(6,307)
Custom House Grant	90,000	90,000	85,000	(5,000)
Grants Approved	30,000	30,000	16,786	(13,214)
Summer Programme	25,000	25,000	24,372	(628)
Heritage Harbour	11,060	11,060	13,505	2,445
Heritage Grant Expenditure	10,000	10,000	10,002	2
Other Events & Projects	51,000	51,000	50,002	(998)
Total	275,380	265,660	242,304	(23,356)
One-Off Items				
Macaines - Income	(177,220)	48,370	48,375	5
Cricklepit Bridge Maintenance	70,000	70,000	61,293	(8,707)
Mallison	150,000	150,000	0	(150,000)
Escrow Repayment	150,000	150,000	150,000	0
Kings Wharf Payment to ECC	27,500	0	0	0
Total	220,280	418,370	259,668	(158,702)
(SURPLUS)/DEFICIT	500,510	720,331	577,033	(143,298)
BANK BALANCE				
Brought forward 01/04/24	1,548,784	1,548,784	1,548,784	0
Carried forward 31/03/25	1,048,274	828,454	971,751	143,298
REPRESENTED BY :				
Bank Details				
Current account	1,000	1,000	1,000	0
Business Reserve account	697,784	(22,546)	120,751	143,298
Investments	850,000	850,000	850,000	0
TOTAL	1,548,784	828,454	971,751	143,298

NOTES:

Monies are invested as follows:

£700,000 with Charles Stanley
£150,000 with Santander in a 120 day notice account - interest rate 4.42% - notice given to withdraw all remaining
 Remainder held at NatWest - interest rate 1.45% to 27/10/24 then 1.35% from 28/10/24

Reserves designated as follows:	Proposed: £
Property sinking fund	400,000
Mallison	100,000
Cricklepit Bridge Maintenance	84,000
Cultural Partners	50,000
Heritage Harbour 2025/26	16,000
Working general reserve	200,000
Available Funds	198,274
	1,048,274

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REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 10 June 2025

Report of: Strategic Director for Corporate Services

Title: Generating income to fund Net Zero activity

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Council

1. What is the report about?

1.1 To request a budget to undertake the works required to provide a temporary car park on the former bus station site. The net income generated will provide an ongoing budget to fund the net zero team and its activities at the Council.

2. Recommendations:

2.1 That Council approves a capital budget of £75,000 to undertake the works including highways works to enable the car Park to be constructed; and

2.2 That Council agrees that from 2026-27, the net income generated will be ring-fenced to support the Net Zero work at the Council.

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

3.1 In line with the approved parking places order, the recommendations will allow the temporary car park to be delivered whilst meeting the Council's aspiration to continue funding the Net Zero team. This will formally approve the commitment to use the additional funds to continue the work of the Council's net zero team.

4. What are the resource implications including non financial resources

4.1 It is intended that the net income received in 2025-26, will be used as a revenue contribution to capital to offset the costs of delivering the Car Park. Going forward it is proposed to use the net income to fund the Net Zero team formalising the commitments made by Councillors.

5. Section 151 Officer comments:

5.1 The additional funding will be used to continue funding the existing Net Zero teams and their activities. At this stage the estimated income of around £220,000 is considered sufficient to fund the activity.

6. What are the legal aspects?

6.1 The report seeks authority for approval of a capital budget to undertake work to enable the car park to be constructed to undertake works at the site in order to make it ready to be used as a car park. The authority for the area to be designated as a car park

was approved by Executive on 3rd March 2025. The area will be officially designated as a car park when the parking places order amendment takes effect.

6.2 Any expenditure on works to the new car park must be procured in accordance with the Procurement Act 2023 and the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedures.

7. Monitoring Officer's comments:

7.1 Members will note the legal aspects above. The Monitoring Officer has no additional comments.

8. Report details:

8.1 In 2024, the demolition of the former bus station site in the City Centre was completed. The Council has long term plans to develop the site and medium-term aspirations to provide an affordable meanwhile use.

8.2 On 5 March 2025, Executive approved the latest Parking Places Order, which allowed for a new car park on the site of the former bus station in Paris Street. Whilst this allowed the Council to legally make use of the site for a car park. No approval was sought for a budget to undertake the works.

8.3 The costs of the works is projected to be £75,000 and this will cover on-site works, off-site highways works around the junction, highways design and consents, planning costs, and a risk budget to cover unknowns such as drainage clearance works.

8.4 The car park will have around 50 spaces and is allocated in the Central Zone for charging purposes. This should provide an income of around £220,000. It is important to remember that with the sale of Mary Arches and other planned changes to improve active travel, the Council will lose close to 500 parking spaces in the City.

8.5 The current funding for the Net Zero team has been taken from an earmarked reserve allocated a number of years ago. This funding ends after 2025-26. It is anticipated that the net income from this park (£220,000) will be sufficient to allow the continued funding of the team and its activities and the external work currently undertaken. Any surplus will be held in an earmarked reserve to ensure it is available to fund net zero once the car park has ceased.

8.6 The maximum length that the car park will operate is expected to be 3 years.

9. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

9.1 The provision of car parking helps to support a prosperous local economy.

10. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

10.1 Given the location and performance of car parks in the vicinity and the loss of central spaces, it is considered the risk of financial non-performance is low. Good marketing of the new location will be useful to minimise the risk.

11. Equality Act 2010 (The Act)

11.1 Under the Act's Public Sector Equalities Duty, decision makers are required to consider the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct;
- advance equality by encouraging participation, removing disadvantage, taking account of disabilities and meeting people's needs; and
- foster good relations between people by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

11.2 In order to comply with the general duty authorities must assess the impact on equality of decisions, policies and practices. These duties do not prevent the authority from reducing services where necessary, but they offer a way of developing proposals that consider the impacts on all members of the community.

11.3 In making decisions the authority must take into account the potential impact of that decision in relation to age, disability, race/ethnicity (includes Gypsies and Travellers), sex and gender, gender identity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, pregnant women and new and breastfeeding mothers, marriage and civil partnership status in coming to a decision.

11.4 In recommending this proposal no potential impact has been identified on people with protected characteristics as determined by the Act because it is requesting funding for a new car park, not amending the charging for parking.

12. Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

12.1 Important to complete this section in light of the Council declaring a Climate Emergency. Consider whether the recommendations you are making in the report will help, hinder or have no direct impact on delivering our carbon reduction target (carbon neutral by 2030).

12.2 You should think about things like:-

- Travel (and, if travel is unavoidable, whether lower carbon options will be pursued e.g. walking, public transport, electric car);
- Infrastructure (e.g. LED lighting, energy efficient heating/hot water, solar panels, electric car charging points);
- Waste (e.g. recycling, composting, reducing non-recyclable waste); and
- Any other specific carbon reduction initiatives.

12.3 The provision of a car park will potentially attract additional vehicle movements in the City. However, it is likely that these movements will have occurred anyway and be offset by the loss of substantially more parking spaces within the City.

12.4 There will be some impact from the changes required to prepare the land for use as a car park.

12.5 The net income will be used to fund the Net Zero team at the City Council and will therefore contribute to the furthering of work and projects to provide carbon reduction schemes in the City.

13. Are there any other options?

13.1 The land could remain unused.

13.2 The Council could identify an alternative use for the land.

13.3 The Council could actively market and sell the land.

Strategic Director Corporate Resources, David Hodgson

Author: Strategic Director Corporate Resources

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:-

None

Contact for enquiries:

Democratic Services (Committees)

Room 4.36

01392 265275

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 10 June 2025

Report of: Strategic Director Place

Title: Extension of the Public Spaces Protection Order

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Council

1. What is the report about?

1.1 The current Public Spaces Protection Order (“PSPO”) is due to expire on the 19 June 2025. This report seeks support from Council to seal a new order for the maximum of 3 Years, with no changes to the existing PSPO boundary or prohibitions.

2. Recommendations:

Council resolves:

2.1 That the current PSPO order is extended for a further period of 3 years from the commencement date of 20 June 2025, with no changes to the PSPO boundary or prohibitions. The draft PSPO 2025 is attached.

2.2 To continue the current policy of funding received by the Council from fixed penalty notices issued for a breach of any PSPO to be ring-fenced for initiatives to address anti-social behaviour and that this funding continues to be administered through the Exeter Community Safety Partnership.

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

3.1 There is continued justification for renewal of the PSPO based on data and intelligence from Devon & Cornwall Police, the City Council, Exeter Community Safety Team and the Exeter Community Safety Partnership. Whilst the PSPO has had some impact since its introduction in 2017, the prevalence of persistent and problematic anti-social behaviour (ASB) continues to be high in the PSPO.

3.2 Data from Police logs provides evidence that anti-social behaviour is of such a volume that it continues to have or is likely to have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those within the PSPO area, such as residents, workers and visitors.

3.3 Organisations that represent the community commented that the PSPO is integral to the vibrancy of the City Centre. ASB is a major concern for businesses located within the PSPO and impacts their ability to trade.

3.4 Responses received from the consultation warrants the renewal of the PSPO for a further 3 years.

3.5 Under the PSPO, control measures are used which address the anti-social behaviour without necessarily criminalising a perpetrator in breach of the PSPO. This could not be easily achieved without the PSPO. Since the introduction of the PSPO in 2017 the order has been applied in conjunction with other interventions, so it can be used to engender positive behaviour change by offering the option of a restorative or positive alternative to a penalty fine such as an Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC).

3.6 Where the PSPO control measures fail to improve behaviour, it is used to demonstrate to the courts that every opportunity has been given to modify behaviour before resorting to other tools under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 such as Injunctions and Criminal Behaviour Orders.

3.7 Officers are satisfied that there are sufficient grounds to extend the PSPO for a further 3 years; to prevent occurrence and reoccurrence of the prohibitions outlined in the current order and this is supported by the data received from partners and stakeholders.

4. What are the resource implications including non financial resources

4.1 Operationally, the Police will continue to be the principal agency enforcing the PSPO powers on the ground, with support of the City Council's Community Safety Team. The number of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued, and the resultant income is expected to continue be small, and it is proposed that income from FPNs will continue to be ring-fenced for use by the Exeter Community Safety Partnership to support Community Safety initiatives within the City. Therefore, any intervention and enforcement costs in pursuit of breaches of the Order will continue to be met by existing Police and/or Council resources.

5. Section 151 Officer comments:

5.1 There are no additional financial implications for Council to consider.

6. What are the legal aspects?

6.1 The provisions relating to PSPO powers fall under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 ('the Act'), for use by councils and their partners to address ASB in their local areas. The Act gives councils the authority to draft and implement PSPO's in response to issues affecting communities.

6.2 Section 59 of the Act provides that a local authority may make a PSPO if satisfied on reasonable grounds that two conditions are met.

6.3 The first condition is that activities carried on in a public place within the authority's area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life in the locality; or it is likely that activities will be carried on in a public place within that area and that they will have such an effect.

6.4 The second condition is that the effect or the likely effect of the activities;

- a) is, or is likely to be of a persistent nature;
- b) is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable; and
- c) justifies the restrictions imposed by the notice.

6.5 Section 60 of the Act provides that a PSPO may be extended (section 60 (2)) 'if satisfied on reasonable grounds that doing so is necessary to:

- a) prevent occurrence or recurrence after that time of the activities identified in the order; or
- b) an increase in the frequency or seriousness of those activities after that time.

6.6 An extension to the PSPO may only be for a maximum period of 3 years, and Section 60 (4) provides that it may be extended under Section 60 more than once.

6.7 Section 72 (1) of the Act provides that when deciding to extend the period a PSPO has affect the local authority must have regard to the rights of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly set out in Articles 10 and 11 of the Convention under section 21(1) of the Human Rights Act 1998.

6.8 Section 72 (3) requires the authority prior to extending the PSPO to carry out the necessary consultation, publication and notification procedures. Once the order is made then it must be published.

7. Monitoring Officer's comments:

7.1 The Monitoring Officer has no additional comments.

8. Report details:

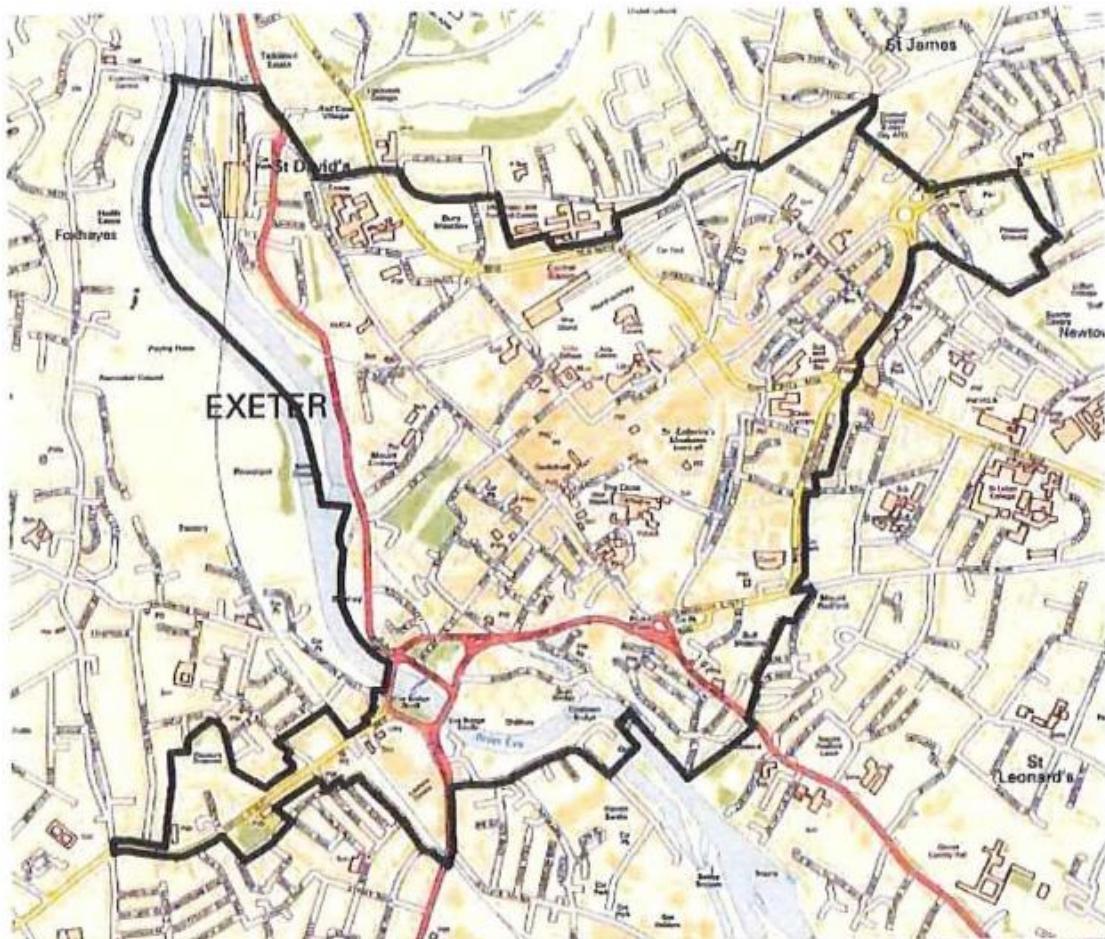
8.1 The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced powers to tackle anti-social behaviour, including Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO's). PSPO's are intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a particular area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life, by imposing conditions on the use of that area which apply to everyone. They are designed to ensure the law-abiding majority can use and enjoy public spaces, safe from anti-social behaviour.

8.2 PSPO's are flexible and can be applied to a much broader range of issues, with local authorities having the ability to design and implement their own prohibitions or requirements where certain conditions are met. These conditions centre on the impact to the quality of life in the locality, persistence, and whether the impact makes the problem behaviour unreasonable.

8.3 The Council has had regard to the rights of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly set out in Articles 10 and 11 of the Convention under section 21(1) of the Human Rights Act 1998. In terms of the joint protocol on enforcement and positive/restorative pathways for the PSPO, and the training that takes place, the importance of these two freedoms is made explicit. In addition, both the protocol and training have regard to Article 1 of the First Protocol of the Human Rights Act 1998 (protection of property) in relation to the surrendering of intoxicants to authorised persons, contained within the PSPO.

8.4 In practical terms, this means that the application of the PSPO is not used to restrict a lawful Trade Union picket, an organised peaceful protest, a religious assembly, or someone preaching in a public space. Nor is it used to confiscate alcohol from someone who had just made a purchase from an off-licence with the intention of taking that purchase home for consumption.

8.5 The first Exeter PSPO was introduced 20 June 2017, with a one-year extension granted in 2020 and 2021. In 2022, Prohibition E of the PSPO was amended so that any individual whether or not in a group who is causing harassment, alarm and distress may be required to leave the area of the PSPO for a maximum of 24 hours. A copy of the area covered by the PSPO is below:



8.6 PSPO's can be introduced for a maximum of three years and may be extended beyond this for further three-year period(s). The proposed length should reflect the need for an appropriate and proportionate response to the problem issue.

8.7 From the adoption of the PSPO in 2017 the following uses of the powers have taken place:

	2017-2021	2021-2025
People dispersed using the powers	592	688

8.8 The Police report ASB logs within the PSPO area. Whilst figures show some reduction in logs, it does fluctuate. Also, not all anti-social behaviour concerns are logged with the Police. Exeter Business Against Crime (EBAC) also logs concerns from its members within the PSO boundary. It should be noted that despite less footfall in the PSPO area due to Covid-19 restrictions, anti-social behaviour reports did not significantly decrease.

Anti-Social Behaviour logs	Devon & Cornwall Police	Exeter Business Against Crime (concerns)	Community Safety Team
Original PSPO Introduced			
2017	2,066	1,193	N/A
2018	2,036	1,320	N/A
2019	1,761	1,678	N/A
Original PSPO renewed for 1 year			
2020	1,867	1,410	N/A
Original PSPO renewed for 1 year			
2021	1,024	1,817	N/A
Amended PSPO introduced			
2022	1,903	900	N/A
2023	1,795	900	N/A
2024	2,269	1,233	N/A
2025	641	598	65

8.9 To renew the PSPO for a further 3 years the City Council is obliged to consult with the local chief officer of police, the police & crime commissioner, owner or occupiers of land (public open spaces) and appropriate community representatives (defined broadly in the Act as 'any individual or body appearing to the authority to represent the views of people who live in, work in or visit the restricted area). The following were contacted by both letter and email, with a copy of the PSPO and map, for a consultation response on the renewal, they were given 4 weeks to respond:

- Safer Exeter (Community Safety Partnership);
- Individual members of Safer Exeter;
- Devon County Council;
- Devon & Cornwall Police & Crime Commissioner;
- Chief Officer of Devon & Cornwall Police;
- Devon Public Health;
- InExeter;
- Exeter Chamber

8.10 Responses to the consultation were received from Devon & Cornwall Police & Crime Commissioner, CoLab, Devon & Cornwall Police, InExeter, Exeter Chamber, Devon Public Health, Exeter Community Safety Partnership (Safer Exeter) and are included within Appendix A. There is support to the extension of the PSPO.

8.11 Devon & Cornwall Police have provided a comprehensive response to the consultation, they have seen firsthand the positive impact the PSPO has had since its implementation. The PSPO has given officers the necessary tools to deal with persistent ASB more effectively, from aggressive begging to alcohol-related disorder. These are problems that, if left unchecked, can have a serious effect on how safe people feel in our city.

8.12 The consultation to renew the PSPO has followed the statutory consultation process governed by legislation. Whilst the PSPO consultation was not advertised on the City Council's website, the consultation followed the 'Gunning Principles' of the City Council's Consultation Charter, which dictate that a consultation:

- i. must happen before the decision is made;
- ii. must give sufficient context and information;
- iii. should provide enough time for people to think things over – 4 weeks was provided; and
- iv. should demonstrate real deliberation and thought over the results

8.13 The PSPO allows Devon & Cornwall Police to address behaviours proportionately and fairly, often giving individuals the chance to change their conduct before formal action is taken. The goal has always been to protect the wider community while offering support to those who need it, and the PSPO is an important part of that balanced approach.

8.14 The results of the 2024 (September) residents survey highlights safety as an area of concern:

- Safety was the number one suggested improvement for the youngest category (16–24-year-olds).
- Respondents were asked to suggest one thing that would improve life for themselves and their family - safety was the most popular.
- Analysis of the survey showed that those living in Central wards were more likely to feel unsafe outside after dark, particularly when compared with those in the South area.
- Deprivation levels seem to be a factor in feelings of safety too, with those in areas of higher deprivation more likely to feel unsafe than those in areas of lower deprivation.
- Females were also more likely to feel unsafe outside after dark than males.
- Nine in ten respondents felt safe outside in their local area during the day and this was on a par with the national picture, with 91% reporting they felt safe during the day in the LGA residents benchmarking survey.
- Although six in ten (59%) said they felt safe outside in the local area after dark, a quarter did not, with 17% saying they felt 'fairly unsafe' and 9% 'very unsafe'. This is higher than in the LGA residents benchmarking survey, which found 16% felt unsafe in their local area after dark.

8.15 As part of the Government's Safer Streets Mission, the Prime Minister has recently announced details of the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee, aimed at restoring and strengthening local policing in every community by the end of this Parliament. A key component of the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee is restoring confidence in local communities and taking visible action tackling ASB and increasing the safety of town centres and high streets. The government has written to all Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables about ensuring every area is maximising all opportunities, including taking forward immediate steps this summer, in partnership with councils, schools, health services, business, transport and community organisations. Extending the existing PSPO can be seen as one of those responses.

8.16 Over the next 2 years, the PSPO will be thoroughly reviewed to determine the appropriateness of the prohibitions and the area covered by the PSPO. This will involve a wider consultation with partners, stakeholders and statutory consultees.

9. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

9.1 The main contribution of the designation of a PSPO is to reduce problematic anti-social behaviour in the City Centre. In doing so, it supports the new corporate priorities of 'Local Economy' and 'People – 2025-28'.

9.2 In supporting the City Council's Corporate Plan 2025-28, it is necessary to work with partners who make up the Community Safety Partnership to ensure that any Order is effectively implemented alongside other interventions.

10. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

10.1 Any legal challenge presents a risk to the Authority. The legislation supporting implementation of the new Orders states that "interested persons" may challenge the validity of any Order in the High Court. This means that the Council could face a challenge against its decision to make the Order. An application of this nature must be made within six weeks beginning on the day the Order is made or varied. The grounds upon which a challenge could be made are:

- that the local authority did not have the power to make the order or variation, or to include prohibitions or requirements imposed by the order (or by the order as varied).
- that a requirement under this part of the legislation was not complied with in relation to the order or variation.

The High Court has the power to suspend, quash, amend or uphold the order.

10.2 This risk has been mitigated by the Council adhering to the provisions of the Act about to the formulation, consultation and implementation process of an order, in response to evidence of continuing and unreasonable anti-social behaviours occurring in the City Centre area encapsulated within the proposed PSPO boundary.

10.3 There is also a risk that public expectations will be raised by this Order that agency resources cannot fully meet; the Order is unlikely to remove the issues in total but can act to support and augment other initiatives. The inclusion of a positive/restorative option in the crafting of a fixed penalty notice will be an innovative use of the legislation by the Council in helping to change negative behaviours, reduce re-offending and help readily engage the support of partner agencies.

10.4 Continuation of this Order could lead to problem-displacement. Officers from the Council, Police, and other agencies have continually reviewed this and believe that the area of the proposed Order is sufficiently large to minimise any acute problems arising from any displacement.

11. Equality Act 2010 (The Act)

11.1 In recommending this proposal potential impact has been identified on people with protected characteristics as determined by the Act and an Equalities Impact Assessment is attached to the report for Member's attention.

12. Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

12.1 There are no direct carbon or environmental impacts arising from the recommendations.

13. Are there any other options?

13.1 not renewing the current PSPO and leave it to expire – this is not being recommended.

13.2 renew the current PSPO, with variations to prohibitions – this is not being recommended.

13.3 consult on a new PSPO with changed prohibitions and, or boundaries – this is not being recommended at this time as it would require extensive research and consultation that could not be completed prior to the 20 June 2025.

Strategic Director Place , Ian Collinson

Author: Head of Service City Centre & Net Zero

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:-

None

Contact for enquiries:

Democratic Services (Committees)

Room 4.36

01392 265275

Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act

2014

The Public Spaces Protection Order – Exeter City Council

2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Exeter City Council in exercise of its powers under the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 has extended and varied the Public Spaces Protection Order.

This Order may be cited as the Public Spaces Protection Order – Exeter City Council 2025.

This Order comes into force on 20th June 2025 and shall have effect for a period of 3 years to end on 19th June 2028. The Council is satisfied on reasonable grounds that extending and varying the Order is necessary to prevent and or reduce the continuation, occurrence or recurrence of the detrimental activities identified in the Order.

The Council hereby makes the following Public Spaces Protection Order which applies to any place to which the public have access within the area as shown edged in black on the map at Schedule One (“the PSPO area”).

Any person within the PSPO area being the area edged black on the map at Schedule One whilst situated in the street or other public space where the public have access without payment shall:

- A. Surrender any intoxicating substance* in their possession to an authorised person** when requested to do so by that authorised person, if:**
 - (a) They are found to be ingesting, inhaling, injecting, smoking or otherwise using an intoxicating substance or substances; or**
 - (b) They are in possession of such intoxicating substance or substances with the intent of using such intoxicating substance within this area; or**
 - (c) The authorised person has reasonable grounds to believe that such person is using or intends to use the intoxicating substance or substances within the said area.**

*Intoxicating Substance is given the following definition (which includes alcohol and ‘new psychoactive substances’ i.e. substances with the capacity to stimulate or depress the central nervous system).

Exemptions shall apply in cases where the substances are used for a valid and demonstrable medicinal use, given to an animal as a medicinal remedy, are cigarettes or vaporisers (tobacco products), or are food stuffs regulated by food safety legislation, or where the use of the intoxicating substance when alcohol falls within the curtilage of a premises licenced for the sale and consumption of alcohol, and within the operating hours of such. Section 63 (1) and (2) of the Act provides that where a constable or authorised person reasonably believes that a person is or has been consuming alcohol or intends to consume the alcohol in breach of this prohibition, that constable or authorised person may require the person not to consume the alcohol or to surrender

the alcohol or container for alcohol to that constable or authorised person. Upon being provided with evidence that the constable or authorised person has the appropriate authorization, a person who fails to comply with the requirement of the constable or authorised person shall commit an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale. A constable or an authorised person may dispose of anything surrendered in whatever way he or she thinks appropriate.

** An authorised person shall be a Police Constable, Police Community Support Officer or authorised Exeter City Council Officer, who must be able to present their authority upon request.

B. Not urinate in a street* or public open space.

The term 'street' includes any road, footway, beach or other area to which the public have access without payment. It also includes a service area as defined in Section 329 of the Highways Act 1980. Other areas will include parks and retail car parks to which the public have access without payment. Exemptions shall apply where authorised temporary public urinals/toilets have been provided in accordance with any specification issued by Exeter City Council and with its agreement

C. Not carry out aggressive begging-

Aggressive begging is defined as behaviour that a reasonable person would regard as intimidating and which is designed to cause a member of the general public to offer money to a person not known to them. Exeter City Council would define that behaviour as: (1) clearly intimidating, i.e. through the use of threatening language or gestures, or (2) intimidating by being passive aggressive, such as standing or sitting in close proximity (i.e. within 5 metres) of a cash machine or pay station either singularly or in a group of two or more i.e. where people expect privacy and/or feel vulnerable with their money, bank cards, wallets or purse on display.

D. Not behave (either individually or in a group of two or more people) in a manner that has caused or is likely to cause a member of the public to suffer harassment, alarm or distress by that behaviour.

E. Person or persons within this area who breach Prohibition D shall when ordered to do so by an authorised person leave the area either immediately or by such time as may be specified and in such a manner as may be specified.

The manner specified by the authorised person may include a requirement not to re-enter a defined zone within the PSPO area until a certain time, which shall be no later than 24 hours from the time that an authorised person orders a person to leave the area and or persons to disperse from that area.

- It is an offence for a person without reasonable excuse to do anything that the person is prohibited from doing by the PSPO or to fail to comply with a requirement to which the person is subject under the PSPO. By virtue of section 67 (2) of the Act a person guilty of an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale or a Fixed Penalty Notice may be issued by virtue of section 68 (1) of the Act up to a current maximum of £100.
- Any person who lives in the area of the PSPO or who regularly works in or visits that area may apply to the High Court to question the validity of the PSPO if that person believes that the authority did not have power to make the order or that a requirement in the Chapter of the Act relevant to the PSPO was not complied with. This application under section 66 of the Act must be made within six weeks of the date the PSPO is made.

The Common Seal of)

EXETER CITY COUNCIL)

was hereunto affixed)

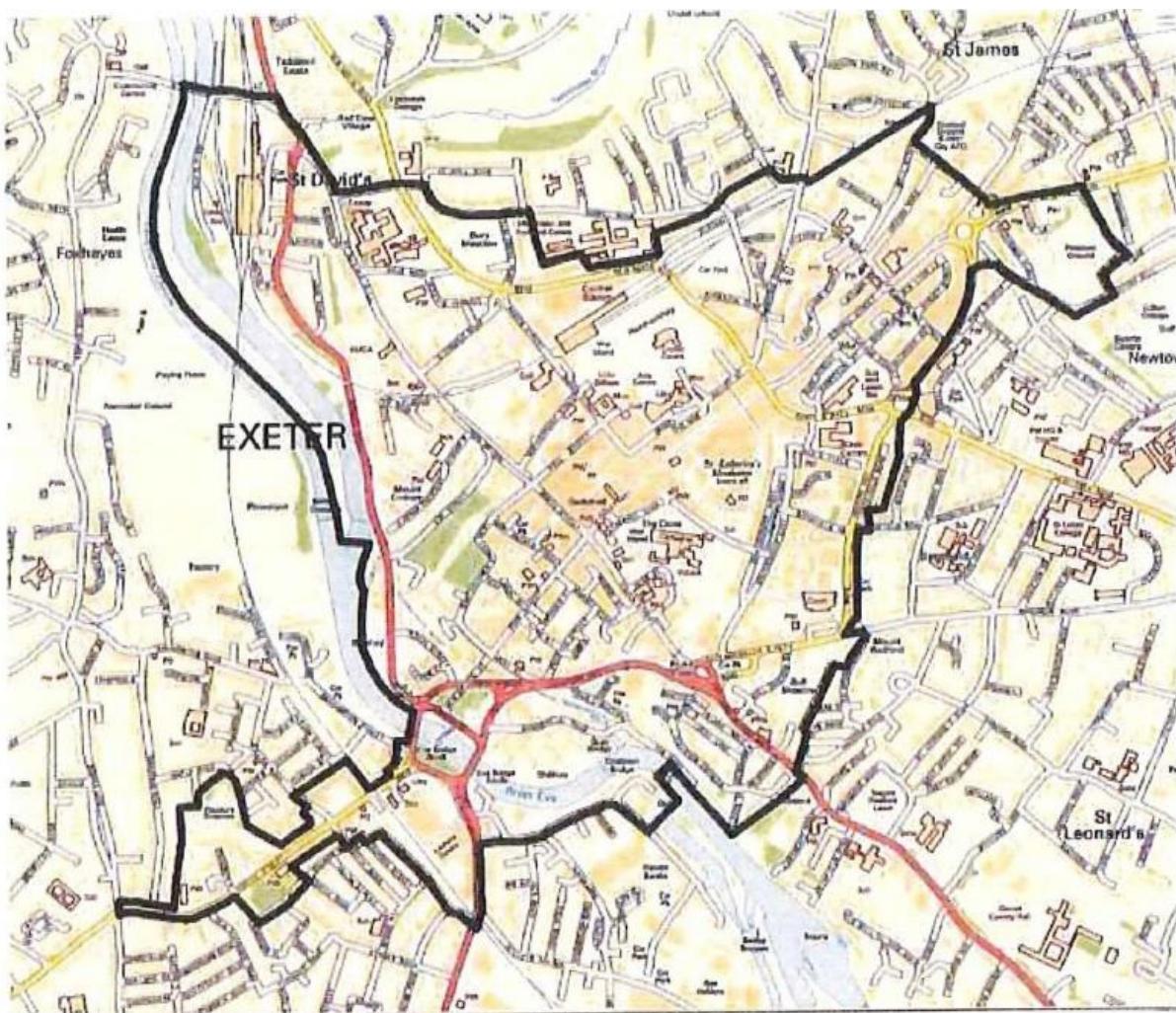
on this day:

in the presence of:-)

Authorised Signatory

DRAFT

SCHEDULE ONE



Appendix – Consultation Response received from individuals

[REDACTED]
Exeter Police Station
Middlemoor
EX2 7HQ
30th April 2025

Subject – Exeter PSPO consultation

Dear Victoria,

As per our brief discussion during the Exeter TIMS meeting on Monday 28th April, I have consulted further with our geographic and strategic commands and on behalf of Devon and Cornwall Police would like to formally support the renewal of the Exeter PSPO.

Over the last three weeks I have consulted with a variety of roles and ranks based within Exeter and had an overwhelmingly positive response from all officers and staff that have access to, and use, the order. The unanimous feedback confirms that the order is proportionate, necessary and ethically used, particularly when tackling anti-social behaviour and consumption of alcohol, but also offers an additional tool in our toolbox when dealing with begging and street urination.

The powers provided by the order are used in the city daily – I have reviewed a sample of over 100 dispersals served so far this calendar year and am encouraged by its effectiveness in preventing an escalation of behaviour by removing subjects from the city. I worked an evening and night time economy shift on 12th April and was with an officer that issued a PSPO to a male as his behaviour was likely to cause revellers within the city to feel harassed, alarms and distressed - the subject has intelligence relating to violence against women and girls and is listed within the project Nighteye briefing - having access to this order provided an immediate mitigation of future risk without the requirement of waiting for offences to be committed.

In terms of the area covered within the map, it is again believed this encapsulates the key streets in the City without needlessly incorporating areas of lower risk. We therefore would be in support of keeping the current map as it is without any additional changes.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

Dear Victoria

Colab would be keen to be involved in any consultation regarding an extension of the current PSPO.

We fully appreciate the benefits to the police of the powers the PSPO gives them and have seen many occasions where these are used positively to disperse ASB. However our observation would be that it is not possible to police the current PSPO in any consistent way due to resourcing and the area the PSPO covers.

We would also like to see consideration given to a tolerant space within the city, otherwise the problem is just being moved around, often just away from Cathedral Green, rather than addressed. A tolerant space would allow the consumption of alcohol within a particular area and would enable organisations to outreach to one location to engage with the people who were street drinking and try and connect them in with services

I would be happy to talk further about experiences of our visitors and indeed ourselves as we are in the PSPO area if it is helpful.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Welcome Team Leader

Colab

King William Street

Exeter

EX4 6PD

[REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Welcome Team Mobile: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 April 2025 20:46
To: Victoria Hatfield <victoria.hatfield@exeter.gov.uk>
Subject: PSPO Consultation

Victoria

As Chair of the Community Safety Partnership, Safer Exeter, Please record my response in support in renewing the PSPO for the City.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 April 2025 09:28
To: Victoria Hatfield <victoria.hatfield@exeter.gov.uk>
Subject: PSPO Exeter Chamber Response

Hi Victoria

I hope you are well. Further to the PSOP consultation, please find a response from Chamber attached.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

In line with the request for views on the “**Consultation on the Public Spaces Protection Order for Exeter City Centre (“the PSPO”)**” I have been requested by the Board of Exeter Chamber to write in support of the proposed extension/renewal.

At Exeter Chamber we believe that the extension of the PSPO will ensure the continued delivery of a vibrant experience for all type of visitors to Exeter City Centre, and will give businesses of all types (both hospitality businesses looking to welcome local residents and visitors) and office-based employers (concerned for the welfare of their staff while travelling through the City Centre) the confidence that they can grow and expand within the City Centre within the right social environment.

We believe that it is vital for businesses of all types within Exeter City Centre to ensure that their visitor/guest/staff experience is of the highest quality and that extending the PSPO will support this, hence wishing to voice our support for the proposal.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Chair, Exeter Chamber

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 April 2025 14:23
To: Freya Branley <Freya.Branley@exeter.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: PSPO Consultation - Community Safety Partnership

Hi Freya

Public Health's only comment is:

We would expect that if individuals are intoxicated and in possession of alcohol or illicit substances that an offer to refer to the person to Together the commissioned Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Service, is made.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 09 April 2025 17:32

To: Freya Branley <Freya.Branley@exeter.gov.uk>

Cc: Victoria Hatfield <victoria.hatfield@exeter.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: PSPO Consultation

Dear Freya and Victoria,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this consultation on the extension of the PSPO.

InExeter, representing the business community wholly support the continuation of the PSPO in the city centre and welcome the recent enforcement of it which has been carried out by the recently mobilised Community Safety Team.

The PSPO is integral to the vibrancy of Exeter City Centre. Anti-social behaviour is a key concern for businesses and this order allows for the authorities to be able to effectively respond to ASB.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 May 2025 16:18
To: Freya Branley <Freya.Branley@exeter.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: PSPO Consultation

Victoria Hatfield

Head of Service, City Centre & Net Zero

Exeter City Council

By email: Victoria.hatfield@exeter.gov.uk

2 May 2025

Dear Victoria

Re: Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 ('the Act')

Consultation on the Public Spaces Protection Order for Exeter City Centre ('the PSPO')

Thank you for the invitation to contribute to the consultation surrounding the proposed renewal of the Public Spaces Protection Order for Exeter City Centre. I have been asked to provide a response from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), as follows.

Our annual public survey indicates that ASB is one of the biggest concerns for the public in the region and the OPCC is therefore supportive of the various tools and initiatives to address this in our communities. Equally the strong leadership shown by local authorities is welcomed in order to tackle what is a serious and persistent issue for the people of Devon and Cornwall.

The OPCC is supportive of providing the police and local authority partners with suitable additional powers to tackle ASB in our communities and we recognise that PSPOs can be an effective, visible deterrent, often working well to reduce ASB. PSPOs can also provide opportunities to engage with individuals who may be in breach of the order to address underlying causes, as well as through enforcement and the issuing of fines.

The OPCC also understands the challenges in enforcing PSPOs which are put in place and seeks assurance from local authorities that appropriate investment and resources are allocated to support enforcement using relevant powers. This enforcement should be focused on key areas, where these behaviours are displayed, and ensure that councils and the police work together to tackle anti-social behaviour, supporting community safety and the quality of life for residents.

The Commissioner will continue to encourage and hold the Chief Constable to account for maintaining high levels of visible policing, alongside safer streets and hotspot policing investment. However, it is essential that councils similarly dedicate suitable resources to enforcing PSPOs.

With regards to the current order in place for Exeter City Centre, the local policing team have evidenced that this has been and should continue to be, an effective tool utilised on a daily

basis to prevent, tackle and de-escalate antisocial behaviour. The geographical area covered by the PSPO also encapsulates the key areas within the city that can attract ASB.

As part of the government's plans to keep town centres safe this summer, we understand all relevant authorities are being encouraged to maximise the use of existing ASB powers, including increased enforcement of breaches of Public Space Protection Orders and use of Community Protection Notices. The OPCC is therefore supportive of this approach and the proposal to renew the PSPO for Exeter City Centre.

If you require any further information, please let me know.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 28 April 2025 11:54

To: Victoria Hatfield <victoria.hatfield@exeter.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: FW: PSPO Consultation

Victoria

On behalf of the Exeter city Centre Police I have seen firsthand the positive impact the PSPO has had since its implementation.

It has given my officers and me the necessary tools to deal with persistent issues more effectively, from aggressive begging to alcohol-related disorder. These are problems that, if left unchecked, can have a serious effect on how safe people feel in our city.

The PSPO allows us to address these behaviours proportionately and fairly, often giving individuals the chance to change their conduct before formal action is taken. Our goal has always been to protect the wider community while offering support to those who need it, and the PSPO is an important part of that balanced approach.

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Equality Impact Assessment: Renewal of the Public Spaces Protection Order

The Equality Act 2010 includes a general duty which requires public authorities, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to:

- **Eliminate discrimination**, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.
- **Advance equality of opportunity** between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
- **Foster good relations** between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not

In order to comply with the general duty authorities must assess the impact on equality of decisions, policies and practices. These duties do not prevent the authority from reducing services where necessary, but they offer a way of developing proposals that consider the impacts on all members of the community.

Authorities which fail to carry out equality impact assessments risk making poor and unfair decisions which may discriminate against particular groups and worsen inequality.

Committee name and date:	Report Title	Decisions being recommended:	People with protected characteristics potentially impacted by the decisions to be made:
Council 10 June 2025	Renewal of the Public Spaces Protection Order	That the current PSPO order is extended for a further period of 3 years from the commencement date of 19 June 2025, with no changes to the PSPO boundary or prohibitions.	Race and ethnicity Disability Sex / Gender Age

		To continue the current policy of funding received by the Council from fixed penalty notices issued for a breach of any PSPO to be ring-fenced for initiatives to address anti-social behaviour and that this funding continues to be administered through the Exeter Community Safety Partnership.	
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Factors to consider in the assessment: For each of the groups below, an assessment has been made on whether the proposed decision will have a **positive, negative or neutral impact**. This is must be noted in the table below alongside brief details of why this conclusion has been reached and notes of any mitigation proposed. Where the impact is negative, a **high, medium or low assessment** is given. The assessment rates the impact of the policy based on the current situation (i.e. disregarding any actions planned to be carried out in future).

High impact – a significant potential impact, risk of exposure, history of complaints, no mitigating measures in place etc.

Medium impact –some potential impact exists, some mitigating measures are in place, poor evidence

Low impact – almost no relevancy to the process, e.g. an area that is very much legislation led and where the Council has very little discretion

Protected characteristic/ area of interest	Positive or Negative Impact	High, Medium or Low Impact	Reason
Race and ethnicity (including Gypsies and Travellers; migrant workers; asylum seekers).	Potential negative impact	Medium	There is a risk that a number of people aggressively begging may be asylum seekers as they have not secured fixed accommodation at that time. The Council would make an assessment for temporary accommodation to someone in this position and the enforcement officers would first be trying to sign-post individuals into the services offered rather than simply enforce.
Disability: as defined by the Equality Act – a person has a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term	Potential positive and negative impact	Medium	The Order may well have a positive effect and ensure that people who may be sleeping rough and have an addiction, engage with the support that is available and this in turn will deliver positive health benefits to them.

adverse impact on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.		<p>A disproportionate number of street homeless (street attached) people suffer mental ill health and addiction, and therefore present a higher risk of breaching the PSPO. To mitigate this, the Community Safety Partnership has developed a co-ordinated approach to weaken 'street attachments' and engender the positive movement of an individual into sustainable accommodation with necessary support for issues of mental health, physical health and addiction.</p> <p>The measures that have been proposed that will restrict the consumption of alcohol, and NPS's on the street could also affect those that are alcohol dependent and/or drug dependent.</p> <p>The Order may well have a positive effect and ensure that people with a street attachment and have an addiction, engage with the support that is available and this in turn will deliver positive health benefits to them. The inclusion of an ABC option within any FPN, will give a positive pathway to engagement with support services, and away from detrimental behaviour.</p>
Sex/Gender	Potential positive and negative impact	<p>Medium</p> <p>The Order may serve to help engage members of each gender that have alcohol and substances addictions with support services, thereby having a positive impact on their health.</p> <p>The majority of people sleeping rough are male. Males are also more likely to have an alcohol or substance addiction. The alcohol/intoxicating substances, and street encampment elements could disproportionately affect men. However the Order may also serve to engage those affected with support services and have a positive impact on their health.</p> <p>There is an increasing number of residents, businesses and visitors to the city who are feeling unsafe in the PSPO area due to unacceptable behaviours that are taking place. Therefore in having a clear set of measures to deal with unacceptable behaviours seeks to have a positive impact on people being able to enjoy the city safely.</p>
Gender reassignment	Neutral	<p>There is no evidence that this will impact on any specific person based on this group of individuals.</p>

Religion and belief (includes no belief, some philosophical beliefs such as Buddhism and sects within religions).	Neutral		There is no evidence that this will impact on any specific person based on their beliefs or religion.
Sexual orientation (including heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual).	Neutral		There is no evidence that this will impact on any specific person based on their sexual orientation.
Age (children and young people aged 0-24; adults aged 25-50; younger older people aged 51-75/80; older people 81+; frail older people; people living with age related conditions. The age categories are for illustration only as overriding consideration should be given to needs).	Potential positive impact		Through the residents' survey, this age group reports the feeling of unsafe in the city centre sometimes. The impact of the PSPO and Community Safety Team will address this.
Pregnancy and maternity including new and breast feeding mothers	Neutral		There is no evidence that this will impact on any specific person based upon pregnancy and maternity.
Marriage and civil partnership status	Neutral		There is no evidence that this will impact on any specific person based on marriage and civil partnership status.
<u>Actions identified that will mitigate any negative impacts and/or promote inclusion</u>			

Officer: **Victoria Hatfield Head of Service City Centre & Net Zero**
 Date: **June 2025**

SEATING IN THE GUILDHALL

		Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Rolstone (L)	Chief Executive	Lord Mayor Councillor Jobson (C)	Democratic Services Manager	Service Lead Legal Services	S151 Officer
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Democratic Services Officer				Strategic Directors	Strategic Directors	Strategic Directors
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<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillors</u>		<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillors</u>
Darling (L)	Miller (L)	Bialyk (L)		Moore, (G)*	Holland (C)
Atkinson (L)	Snow (L)	Wright (L)		Mitchell, M.N. (LD)*	Sheridan (C)
Begley (L)	Hussain (L)	Wood (L)	TABLE	Fullam (LD)*	Palmer (LD) *
Harding (L)	Parkhouse (L)	Williams, R.T. (L)		Mitchell, K (LD)*	Banyard (G) *
Cookson (L)	Pole (L)	Vizard (L)		Read (G)*	Wetenhall (G) *
	Knott (L)	Foale (L)		Rees (G)*	Bennett (G)*
				Ketchin (G)*	

	Clr Williams M.J. (L)	Clr Wardle (L)	Clr Asvachin (L)	Clr Patrck (L)	Clr Payne (R)		Haigh (I)**	Hughes(I)**
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Portfolio Holders

L:	Labour:	22
G:	Green:	7*
LD:	Liberal Democrat	4*
C:	Conservative:	3
I:	Independent	2"
R:	Reform	1

Bialyk:	Leader
Wright:	Deputy Leader and Corporate Services, Community Safety & City Centre
Vizard:	Climate, Ecological Change and Communities
Williams, R.T:	City Management
Asvachin:	Housing, Homelessness Prevention & Customer Services
Wood:	Leisure Services and Healthy Living
Foale:	Arts, Culture & Tourism
Patrick:	City Development

* Known as the
Progressive Group

** Known as the
Independent
Equity Group