



Agenda

Executive

Tuesday, 19 March 2024 at 10.30 am

Cumbria House, 117 Botchergate, Carlisle, CA1 1RD

The press and public are welcome to attend for the consideration of any items which are public.

**Enquiries and requests for supporting papers to: Rachel Plant Democratic Services
Manager
Email: rachel.plant@cumberland.gov.uk**

Membership

Cllr M Fryer, Leader of the Council

Cllr L Brown, Deputy Leader (Statutory) and Executive Member - Adults and Community Health

Cllr E Williamson, Deputy Leader (Non Statutory) Statutory Lead for Children's Services and Executive Member for Children's, Family Wellbeing and Housing

Cllr Dr B Kelly, Executive Member - Cumberland Policy and Regulatory Services

Cllr E Lynch, Executive Member - Lifelong Learning and Development

Cllr B Cannon, Executive Member - Financial Planning and Assets

Cllr MD Campbell-Savours, Executive Member - Governance and Thriving Communities

Cllr A Quilter, Executive Member - Vibrant and Healthy Places

Cllr D Rollo, Executive Member - Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places

Cllr C Southward, Executive Member - Digital Connectivity and Customer Focus

Access to Information

Agenda and Reports

Copies of the agenda and Part A reports are available for members of the public to inspect prior to the meeting. Copies will also be available at the meeting.

The agenda and Part A reports are also available on the [Cumberland Council website](#).

PART A - ITEMS CONSIDERED IN PUBLIC

1. Apologies for absence

To receive apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations by Councillors of disclosable pecuniary interests, personal interests, other registerable interests or any other interests in respect of items on the agenda.

3. Exclusion of Press and Public

To consider whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any items of business on the agenda.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting (Pages 7 - 18)

To receive the minutes of the Executive held on 13 February 2024.

5. Public Participation

To receive any questions or representations which have been received from members of the public.

6. Executive Announcements

To receive announcements from the Leader, Deputy Leaders and Members of the Executive.

7. Permission to Procure the Supply of Natural Gas to Corporate Properties (Pages 19 - 26)

(Key Decision)

The Governance and Thriving Communities Portfolio Holder to submit a report regarding permission to procure a contract for the supply of Gas to Cumberland Council Corporate Properties.

(Report enclosed)

8. Transfer of the Local Economic Partnership functions, Joint Committee, and related agreements (Pages 27 - 48)

(Key Decision)

The Leader to submit a report regarding the transfer of the Local Economic Partnership functions, Joint Committee, and related agreements.

(Report enclosed)

9. Amendments to the Inter Authority Agreement (Pages 49 - 56)

(Non Key Decision)

The Governance and Thriving Communities Portfolio Holder to submit a report regarding the proposed amendments to the Inter Authority Agreement between Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council.

(Report enclosed)

10. Member and Officer Indemnities (Pages 57 - 62)

(Non Key Decision)

The Governance and Thriving Communities Portfolio Holder to submit a report regarding the provision of indemnities for officers and Members when carrying out all of their duties for or on behalf of Cumberland Council.

(Report enclosed)

11. Quarter 3 (April to December) 2023 (Pages 63 - 100)

(Non Key Decision)

The Financial Planning and Assets Portfolio Holder to submit a report regarding the financial performance against budget for the period April to December 2023 along with the forecast position to 31 March 2024.

(Report enclosed)

12. Corporate Key Performance Indicators (Pages 101 - 124)

(Non Key Decision)

The Cumberland Policy and Regulatory Service Portfolio Holder to submit proposals for a corporate suite of key performance indicators centred on the Council Plan priorities. This suite of indicators will form part of a performance framework that monitors progress on the Council Plan through a blend of actions and performance measures reported quarterly.

(Report enclosed)

13. Calendar of Meetings 2024/25 (Pages 125 - 142)

(Non Key Decision)

The Governance and Thriving Communities Portfolio Holder to submit the draft calendar of meetings for 2024/25 for recommendation to Council.

(Report enclosed)

PART B - TO BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE

- NIL -



Executive

Date: Tuesday, 13 February 2024

Time: 10.30 am

Location: Bainbridge Room, Copeland Centre, Catherine Street, Whitehaven, CA28 7SJ

Present: Cllr M Fryer (Chair), Cllr L Brown (Vice-Chair), Cllr E Williamson (Vice-Chair), Cllr E Lynch, Cllr B Cannon, Cllr MD Campbell-Savours, Cllr D Rollo and Cllr C Southward

In Attendance Director of Business Transformation and Change
Chief Legal Officer (Monitoring Officer)
Policy and Scrutiny Officer
Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer)
Chief Executive
Director of Resources
Director of Public Health and Communities
Assistant Chief Executive - Director of Strategy, Policy and Performance
Director of Adult Social Care and Housing
Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods
Assistant Director (Service Provision) – Adult Social Care and Housing

EX.73/23 Call In

The Leader reported that the Chair of the Business and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee had, on 6 February 2024, agreed that agenda item 8. Budget 2024-25 and Medium Term Financial Plan, should be exempt from call-in as call-in procedures would overlap the Cumberland Council meeting on 6 March 2024 when the matter was scheduled for consideration.

Date of Publication: 15 February 2024

Call-in Period Ends: 22 February 2024 @16:00hours

Notes: Information regarding call-in procedures can be viewed in Paragraph 13 of Part 3 – Section 5 Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in the Council's Constitution: [Cumberland Council Constitution](#)

EX.74/23 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor B Kelly, Councillor A Quilter, the Director of Place, Sustainable Growth & Transport and the Director of Children & Family Wellbeing.

EX.75/23 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

EX.76/23 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED – It was agreed that items in Part A be dealt with in the public and the items in private to be dealt with in Part B when the public and the press are excluded.

EX.77/23 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 11 January 2024 be approved and signed by the Leader.

EX.78/23 Public Participation

There were no questions, petitions or deputations submitted by members of the public.

EX.79/23 Executive Announcements

There were no announcements from the Leader, Deputy Leaders and Members of the Executive.

EX.80/23 Motion referred from Council

(Non Key Decision)

Subject:

Consideration was given to the following Motion, submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12, which had been referred to the Executive by Council at its meeting on 16 January 2024:

Motion on Plastic Free Cumberland

Proposer: Cllr Brian Wernham

Seconder: Cllr Chris Wills

Council Notes:

The environmental impact of single-use plastics poses a significant threat to our community's well-being, wildlife, and ecosystems.

Plastics that end up in our oceans are having a catastrophic effect on marine life, sea birds and once degraded into micro plastics, contaminate the food chain including our own.

The existing good work which has been done by our predecessor authorities to reduce the amount of single use plastics in use.

Council recognises the importance of taking proactive measures to reduce plastic waste and promote sustainable practices.

Council ask the Executive: -

1. to undertake an audit of single-use plastics used by the Authority and seek to replace them with sustainable or reusable alternatives where practicable by the end of 2024;
2. to encourage staff and council members to adopt plastic-free practices in their daily activities;
3. to use its communications channels to raise public awareness about the dangers of single-use plastics;

4. collaborate with our public sector partners, local schools, business and community organisations to promote plastic-free practices;
5. recognise and celebrate businesses and individuals making significant efforts to reduce plastic usage;
6. to ask that the Climate and Nature Advisory Group be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the plastic-free initiative;
7. regularly assess and report on the progress of the plastic-free initiative to the Council and community.

The Executive debated the motion, noting that most of the asks were already being actioned across the authority. The Executive felt that the motion should be referred to the Climate and Nature Advisory Group who were preparing one policy for the Council and were best placed to action any of the matters not already being carried out and include any changes in the new policy.

The Adults and Community Health Portfolio Holder moved that the motion be referred to the Climate and Nature Advisory Group for consideration and inclusion in the work being carried out on the new Council Policy. The Lifelong Learning and Development Portfolio Holder seconded the motion.

Alternative Options: That no further action be undertaken

DECISION:

That the motion regarding Plastic Free Cumberland be referred to the Climate and Nature Advisory Group for consideration and inclusion in the work being carried out on the new Council Policy.

Reason for decision:

To respond to a Motion referred to the Executive by Council.

EX.81/23 Budget 2024-25 and Medium-Term Financial Plan

In accordance with Paragraph 14.1 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the Chair of the Business and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee has agreed that call-in procedures should not be applied to this item.

(Key Decision)

Portfolio: Financial Planning and Assets

Relevant Scrutiny: Business and Resources Overview and Scrutiny

Subject:

The Financial Planning and Assets Portfolio Holder submitted the draft budget 2024 – 25 and medium term financial plan for Cumberland Council.

The Financial Planning and Assets Portfolio Holder reported that the budget was the first time that the Executive had the opportunity to fully shape the budget, having inherited the spending plans of the former local councils from 1 April 2023.

In the first months of operation, the Council had placed a focus on integrating the four councils and stabilising the organisation to ensure that its services continued to be delivered effectively for all of its communities. Along with local authorities across the country, the Council had been hit hard by inflation and rising demand for services resulting in the need for difficult decisions, including £37m of savings in 2024-25.

The Council had a well-developed Transformation Plan to maximise opportunities and discussions were taking place with the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities to continue the request for Exceptional Financial Support. In addition the Council would manage the increasing demands for services by addressing the need early through supporting people earlier, differently and by promoting independence.

The Financial Planning and Assets Portfolio Holder gave an overview of the consultation and the 536 responses received. Increasing the council tax was a difficult decision and the consultation showed that the majority of residents recognised how important it was to ensure the Council continued to deliver the essential services that many people relied on.

The Financial Planning and Assets Portfolio Holder reported that the net budget proposed, after service specific grants, fees and charges was £319m. To continue to provide the services that residents needed, the budget proposed a rise in its portion of council tax by 2.99%, with a further 2% rise for the Adult Social Care Levy. The Council also proposed a 100% council tax premium on second homes to double the bill from 1 April 2025 providing an estimated additional £4m per year to help fund services and tackle the affordable housing crisis.

The proposed Capital Programme outlined £257m in capital investment for the following two financial years. This would continue to be reviewed and further reports would be considered by the Executive.

The budget setting process had been incredibly challenging however, the Council was committed to putting health and wellbeing for its communities at the heart of everything it did.

The Financial Planning and Assets Portfolio Holder moved the recommendations as set out in the report.

The Executive thanked the Section 151 Officer and her team for their hard work and dedication in preparing the budget in difficult circumstances.

In seconding the recommendations the Leader reiterated that the Council had to make difficult decisions to address the financial situation and continue to provide services that were relied on by residents. He commented that the Transformation Plan was robust and achievable as long as Members and Officers had ownership of the Plan and their budgets.

The Deputy Leader (Statutory) stated that it was vital that Government recognised the power of local government and the impact it had on local communities. She drew attention to the Council's Council Tax Reduction Scheme which supported the most vulnerable in the community.

The Deputy Leader (Non Statutory) added that it was a once in a lifetime opportunity for the Council to engage with the public and shape its children and family services to provide early prevention, working with partners, to increase efficiency and maximise the use of resources.

The Lifelong Learning and Development Portfolio Holder acknowledged the increase in demand for children services adding that the Council was working on the issues through partnership working.

Alternative Options: The Council had a legal duty to set a balanced budget each year and the proposals fulfilled the requirement.

DECISION:

That the Executive approved the 2024-25 Budget for recommendation to Council for approval and adoption including: -

- The General Fund net revenue budget for 2024-25 of £319,014,005, as outlined in Appendices A to G
- Noted the position on Directorate budgets, and delegate any final amendments between Directorates to the Section 151.
- Approved the calculation of the Authority's Council Tax Base for the financial year 2024-25, including determining the appropriate council tax discounts, of 89,966.79.
- Approved the determination to introduce a second home Council Tax premium of up to 100% with effect from 1st April 2025, in accordance with the requirements of The Levelling up and Regeneration Act.
- Band D Council Tax in 2024-25 of £1,816.80 for Cumberland Council which represents an increase of 4.99% on Council Tax levied across the Cumberland area (2.99% increase in core council tax and 2% Adult Social Care precept)
- Delegated the approval of fees and charges to the S151, in consultation with the Finance and Assets Portfolio Holder, to ensure they are set in line with the approved fees and charges policy.
- The capital programme as set out in Appendix H
- Noted the consultation feedback on the budget as set out in Appendix I
- Noted the S25 statement of the Chief Finance Officer as set out in Section 12 and the risk-based assessment of the level of General Fund Balances

Reason for decision:

To produce the Executive's budget proposals for 2024/25 for recommendation to Cumberland Council.

EX.82/23 Permission to Procure Food Vouchers for Families in receipt of Free School Meals During School Holidays

(Key Decision)

Portfolio: Adults and Community Health

Relevant Scrutiny: People Overview and Scrutiny

Subject:

The Adults and Community Health Portfolio Holder submitted a report regarding the procurement and delegation to Award Framework or Contract for the purchase and distribution of Food Vouchers.

The report sought permission for a regulated procurement exercise for a provider of food vouchers for Families in receipt of Free School Meals for 3 years from 18 March 2024 to 17 March 2027, with an estimated maximum value of £12m, along with delegation to the Director of Public Health and Communities to appoint the provider.

The Adults and Community Health Portfolio Holder moved the recommendations, and the Leader seconded them.

Alternative Options: Not to procure the contract.

DECISION:

That the Executive agreed to:

- (1) Commence a regulated procurement exercise by running a mini-competition under the Crown Commercial Payment Solutions Framework (RM 6248) for a provider of food vouchers for Families in receipt of Free School Meals for 3 years with an estimated maximum value of £12m.
- (2) Delegate authority to the Director of Public Health and Communities to award the subsequent call off contract under the Framework to the successful provider.

Reason for decision:

To enable the Council to respond to changing need and demand and have a method to distribute funds to vulnerable children and families.

EX.83/23 Draft Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Cumberland

(Key Decision)

Portfolio: Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places

Relevant Scrutiny: Place Overview and Scrutiny

Subject:

The Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places Portfolio Holder submitted a report regarding the commencement of public consultation on a draft Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Cumberland.

The Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places Portfolio Holder reported that PSPOs could be used to prohibit specified activities within a defined public area and were important tools in addressing anti-social behaviour.

The development of the draft PSPO had sought to be responsive to the needs of residents but it would be important to further test proposals with agreement now sought to undertake a public consultation on the draft order.

The Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places Portfolio Holder moved the recommendations, and the Leader seconded them.

Alternative Options: Not to agree the PSPO for consultation.

DECISION:

That the Executive:

1. Reviewed the content of the report and draft PSPO included in Appendix 1 and agreed that public consultation on the draft PSPO can be undertaken; and
2. Agreed that finalisation of the consultation documents are delegated to the Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, Leader and Portfolio Holder.

Reason for Decision:

The Cumberland Plan was explicit in promoting the happiness, health and safety of its communities throughout their lives. In meeting this aim; it highlighted the leadership role of the Council and importance of working effectively with partners. The development and implementation of the PSPO would directly support the ambitions and ways of working.

EX.84/23 Early Years Funding Formula 2024-25

(Key Decision)

Portfolio: Lifelong Learning and Development, Children and Family Wellbeing

Relevant Scrutiny: People Overview and Scrutiny

Subject:

The Lifelong Learning and Development Portfolio Holder presented a report setting out the proposed arrangements for early years funding in 2024/25 and provided an update on the outcome of a recent consultation with early years providers.

The Lifelong Learning and Development Portfolio Holder reported that the government were extending the eligibility to free early years education provision so that all eligible working parents would be able to access 30 hours of free entitlement for 38 weeks of the year from the term after their child turns 9 months old.

The DfE had consulted local authorities on its proposals for funding local authorities for the new early years free entitlement and the local authority was obliged to consult Schools Forum and all early years providers in Cumberland on the funding formula to be used to allocate the new entitlement funding to providers in 2024/25.

All early years providers in Cumberland were consulted on the proposed distribution of the new early years free entitlements and at its meeting on 15 January 2024 Cumberland Schools Forum recommended that the Executive, as the statutory decision maker on the formula through which funding was allocated to early years providers, should accept the recommendations set out in the report.

The Lifelong Learning and Development Portfolio Holder moved the recommendations, and the Leader seconded them

Alternative Options: Propose an alternative methodology to fund Early Years providers for the new 2 Year Olds and Under 2s entitlement.

DECISION:

That the Executive allocated the new 2 Year Olds and Under 2s funding in 2024/25 to early years providers in Cumberland, after taking into account the budget for centrally provided services and the SEN Inclusion Fund, by using a base rate of funding of £7.12 per hour for 2 Year Olds and £9.77 per hour for Under 2s and a deprivation supplement of £0.21 per hour to be based on children living in IDACI Bands A to F which should also be adopted as the methodology used to allocate the deprivation supplement in the existing 3-4 year old funding formula.

Reason for decision:

The recommendation had been made by the Cumberland Schools Forum following a consultation with all affected schools and academies in Cumberland.

EX.85/23 Cumberland Care Review

(Key Decision)

Portfolio: Adults and Community Health

Relevant Scrutiny: People Overview and Scrutiny

Subject:

The Adults and Community Health Portfolio Holder submitted a report regarding the recommendations relating to the internal review of Cumberland Care services in-House Provision.

The report sought permission to implement elements of Phase 1 of a review into Cumberland Care. The first phase of the plan included recommendations relating to the future of Moot Lodge care home in Brampton.

Further phases of work had been identified as part of the wider review of Cumberland Care. Updates and further decisions in relation to those areas would be reported to Executive in line with the project plan and decision milestones.

The Adults and Community Health Portfolio Holder drew attention to the vision statement for Cumberland Care which stated: "We want every Cumberland resident to live better, healthier and more independent lives". The review of Cumberland Care services had included detailed consideration of the three Cumberland Care residential care homes in North Cumbria against the key priorities.

It was identified that Moot Lodge, although providing excellent care, could not be redeveloped to meet the priority areas for delivery. The building was old and could not be refurbished to a modern standard that would meet the vision statement. It was proposed that a public consultation exercise commence around the potential closure of Moot Lodge.

The Adults and Community Health Portfolio Holder had visited the facility and was impressed by the level of care provided but had seen the difficulties in the building. She encouraged

everyone in the Brampton area to respond to the consultation. The Adults and Community Health Portfolio Holder moved the recommendations.

In seconding the recommendations the Leader advised that he had also been impressed by the level of care provided at Moot Lodge and acknowledged that the building was no longer suitable.

Alternative Options: To continue delivering residential services at Moot Lodge without further investment; a full refurbishment of Moot Lodge.

DECISION:

That the Executive:

- (1) Noted and supported the strategic intention to re-shape residential provision delivered by Cumberland Care in order to re-focus on dementia care, intermediate care and respite services;
- (2) Approved the commencement of a public consultation on the potential closure of Moot Lodge residential care home in Brampton;

Reason for decision:

To ensure that care services delivered by Cumberland Care met the Council's strategic and financial objectives, including providing accessible and trusted services; listening, involving and engaging our communities and focusing services which support prevention and early intervention.

EX.86/23 Permission to Procure - and Delegation to Directly Award Contract via Joint Commissioning of Cumbria's Integrated Sexual Health Service

(Key Decision)

Portfolio: Adults and Community Health

Relevant Scrutiny: Health Overview and Scrutiny

Subject:

The Adults and Community Health Portfolio Holder submitted a report regarding permission to procure Cumberland's Integrated Sexual Health Service as a Cumbria-wide service for 4 years (plus two optional 12-month extensions). The recommendation was to jointly commission the service with Westmorland & Furness Council. Approval was required to allocate resources, to directly award the contracts to North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust, to delegate subsequent award decision to Director of Public Health and Communities in consultation with the relevant portfolio holder, and to approve jointly commissioning with Westmorland & Furness Council with Westmorland & Furness Council acting as lead authority.

The Adults and Community Health Portfolio Holder moved the recommendation, and the Leader seconded it.

Alternative Options: Commission new arrangements jointly to commence on 1 October 2024 by tendering two separate lots reflecting the new local authority footprints; separately commission new arrangements to commence on 1 October 2024 as two independent services for each respective local authority, no joint arrangements.

DECISION:

That the Executive

1. Approved permission to procure Cumberland's Integrated Sexual Health Service for a term of 4 years plus two optional 12-month extensions. Authorisation was requested to allocate resources to fund the service for a maximum term of 6 years at an estimated value of £6.624m based on 2023/24 contract values. The contract would commence on 1st October 2024.
2. Approved Cumberland Council to jointly commission the service with Westmorland & Furness Council via a Direct Award to North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust (NCIC) under NHS Provider Selection Regime (PSR) Regulations. Westmorland & Furness Council had agreed to act as lead authority for the purposes of commissioning the service. The service would be Cumbria-wide under a single service specification, but each Council would hold its own contract to ensure appropriate protections for each authority. If approved, a joint commissioning agreement would be prepared between Cumberland and Westmorland & Furness Councils.
3. Granted permission that subsequent approval to award the contract and, agree the terms of and enter into the joint commissioning agreement with Westmorland and Furness Council, was delegated to Cumberland's Director of Public Health and Communities in consultation with the relevant portfolio holder.

Reason for decision:

Public Health and Strategic Commissioning had reviewed a range of options related to the recommissioning of Cumbria's Integrated Sexual Health Service. To comply with PSR legislation, direct award to NCIC is recommended.

To provide stability in Cumbria and to provide optimal services to its population, it was recommended that Cumberland Council jointly commission the service with Westmorland & Furness Council

EX.87/23 Devolvement of Community Centre Grants to Community Panels

(Key Decision)

Portfolio: Governance and Thriving Communities

Relevant Scrutiny: Place Overview and Scrutiny

Subject:

The Adults and Community Health Portfolio Holder presented a report to devolve existing grant funding totals in relation to Community Centres to the Neighbourhood Investment Fund.

The report covered the devolvement of grant arrangements for 11 Community Centres in Carlisle Brampton and Longtown to their respective Community Panels. Historically the centres had received funding from the former Carlisle City Council and 9 of the 11 centres were in Cumberland Council ownership.

Cumberland Executive had the power to devolve funds to Community Panels which in this case would be Carlisle West, Petteril and Border, Fellside and North Carlisle Community Panels

The decision would better align grant provision to the Council Plan and values in relation to the following:

- the prosperity of our communities;
- accessible and trusted services;
- local economies that work for local people;
- local first; sustainability;
- collaborative working, and
- delivering excellent public services
- -

In addition there would be opportunities to more closely align community centre activity with the councils operating model and Community Network/Neighbourhood Investment Plan approaches.

The Adults and Community Health Portfolio Holder moved the recommendations and the Governance and Thriving Communities Portfolio Holder seconded them.

Alternative Options: The creation of elements ringfencing within the fund.

DECISION:

That the Executive agreed to devolve the existing Community Centre grant funding totals to the Neighbourhood Investment Funds under the management of the corresponding 3 Community Panels as follows:

Petteril	£80,400
Border, Fellside and North Carlisle	£59,700
Carlisle West	£45,100

Reason for decision:

The resolution puts the decision on onward funding of activity firmly in the hands of the local members through the Community Panels and offers the opportunity for Community Centres to be more integrated in Community Networks and Neighbourhood Investment Plan activity.

The meeting finished at 11.40 am

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Report to Executive

Meeting Date – 19th March 2024
 Key Decision – Yes
 Public/Private – Public

Portfolio – Governance and Thriving Communities
 Directorate – Business Transformation & Change
 Lead Officer – Debbie Heard -Service Manager Procurement & Contract Management

Title – Permission to Procure the Supply of Natural Gas to Corporate Properties

Summary:

The paper seeks permission to procure a contract for the supply of natural gas to Cumberland Council (**CC**) corporate properties by calling off from Lot 2 of the Crown Commercial Services (CCS) Framework Agreement (**FA**) RM6251- Supply of Energy 2, which is a single Supplier FA with Total Energies Gas & Power Limited being the single Supplier. It also seeks to delegate the award of the contract to the Director of Business Transformation and Change.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Executive agrees:

1. To give permission to commence a regulated procurement exercise to call-off a contract for the supply of natural gas to the Council’s corporate properties only, through Lot 2 of the Crown Commercial Services (CCS) Framework Agreement RM6251-Supply of Energy 2, for a period of 4 years, with effect from 1st April 2025.
2. To also grant delegated authority to the Director of Business Transformation and Change to award the contract to the Framework’s single supplier for gas, Total Energies Gas & Power Limited, sign the Customer Agreement and enter into the relevant energy buying baskets.

Tracking

Executive:	19 th March 2024
Scrutiny:	
Council:	

1. Background

- 1.1 CC's contract for the supply of natural gas is currently hosted by Westmorland and Furness Council and is due to expire on 31 March 2025.
- 1.2 As energy buying is a complex and volatile market, and as the council does not have a dedicated and/or experienced energy buyer, it is considered appropriate to use a recognised public sector buying organisation (PSBO) who have a dedicated, experienced energy buying team and can facilitate a route to market, compliant with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (PCR2015).
- 1.3 Following a review of various PSBO's, it has been established that Crown Commercial Services (CCS), (which is Central Government's buying arm), offers access to the largest public sector energy consortium. The amalgamation of spend is greater than other PSBO's, thus giving CCS significant flexibility and influence in the market with their trading strategies. This minimises risk and secures good 'basket pricing' for their clients.
 - CCS trade 33TWh, which equates to 45-50% of the public sector gas market.
 - CCS has been trading in the wholesale market since 1980 and has a team of specialised traders and risk managers
 - Audited by the National Audit Office
 - A fully transparent 'not for profit service'
- 1.4 Historically, all four legacy councils used a 'flexible purchasing in advance' strategy. Both Central Government and The Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy have highlighted the benefits of using a flexible purchasing strategy as it provides mitigation against the potentially extreme volatility of energy prices that can be found with 'spot buying'. CCS would purchase tranches of gas (on our, and the rest of the wider national consortiums behalf), up to one year in advance of the initial date of supply. Their energy team would purchase more tranches of gas when the wholesale gas market is low and less when the wholesale gas market is high. This limits the risks associated with spot buying. This advance purchasing means that the council need to have a firm commitment up to 12 months prior to the actual supply dates to allow this forward, flexible buying to happen.
- 1.5 Once permission to procure has been granted the Council will receive support from CCS to establish which of their options is most suitable and permission to award the contract will be sought, as referenced in Recommendation 2 above, from the Director of Business Transformation and Change.

1.6 In addition to the above CCS's energy frameworks include:

- Supplier commitment to Social Value (Fighting Climate Change and Wellbeing) and carbon net zero. With green options available.
- Compliant procurement process and contract drafting supported through specialist legal advice
- Commercial benefits achieved by CCS aggregated buying of approximately £51bn of public sector energy
- Named account manager and a dedicated customer service team
- Receive regular reports on energy prices and how they impact your budgets
- Access educational webinars, bulletins and events to let you know the latest insight on key energy market developments
- Provides a digital portfolio management service with online access to information such as site lists, invoices and consumption data.

1.7 It is recommended that the new contract will be for corporate properties only. Whilst the current Gas Contract has also been used to scope in non-corporate sites e.g. Schools, Charities, and Cumbrian Association of Local Councils (CALC), the recommendation will be to procure Gas for the corporate properties only as the current arrangement has brought risk to the council:

- the council signs-up with the supplier, therefore, ultimately, if a non-council site defaults on payment the council becomes liable (and this has happened historically).
- it takes resource to support non-council sites. This contract is particularly resource intensive, especially at the start of new contracts/new supplier, and at each new pricing year.
- when prices spike, as they did earlier in the year, and the council becomes the 'middle man' when disputes and issues arise.
- Non-council sites have to align with our strategy as it is the council's contract, in the best interests of the council. This proved contentious earlier in the year when prices were volatile and non-council sites wanted to go in their own direction but we unable to make their own decisions for their own sites as they were linked to the council contract.

1.8 Based on the comments in paragraph 1.7 above, in terms of mitigation, the council would support all non-council sites to make this change, and by starting communications with them at this early juncture, it would allow them some 12 months to decide on their options. The council could suggest alternatives routes to market for them i.e. there are various public sector frameworks available to meet differing needs, for instance, the Department of Education have an approved buying solution dedicated for schools (who have a unique buying pattern with reduced use in evening and in school holidays that

does not necessarily align with our corporate needs). Furthermore, CCS have offered to provide a support service to the individual establishments to assist in getting them onto the CCS framework as individual establishments, and on the correct purchasing strategy option that best meets their needs, (and YPO can do the same). This approach would allow non-council sites the flexibility to decide on their own contract length, their own strategy and make their own decisions.

1.9 The current contract value is approx. £4.5m per annum, which includes corporate and non-corporate property spend.

The new proposed contract is estimated to be circa £1.5m Per annum, based on the corporate property element of the current contract. The £1.5m estimate is broadly in-line with the Cumberland gas energy cost budgets for 2023/24.

This Contract itself will continue to be managed by the Procurement & Contract Management team initially, with the costs being met from the Cumberland gas energy cost budget(s).

2. Proposals

2.1 It is recommended that permission to procure is granted to undertake a call off award through Lot 2 of the CCS single supplier Framework Agreement RM6251-Supply of Energy 2, for the supply of Gas to the CC’s corporate properties only, for a period of 4 years, with effect 1st April 2025. The supplier is Total Energies Gas & Power Limited. It is also recommended to grant delegated authority to the Director of Business Transformation to award the contract, sign the Customer Agreement and enter into the relevant energy buying baskets.

3. Alternative options considered

3.1

<p>Option 1: Not to Re-Tender / No Contract for Supply</p>	<p>This is not considered appropriate due to the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council would be in breach of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 • We would be non-compliant with the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules • Uncontrolled purchasing would mean no benefit from aggregation of consumption and spend, reducing the chance for best possible deals.
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<p>Option 2: To procure through a framework managed by a PSBO</p>	<p>This is our preferred option due to the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This offers competitive pricing, allied to effective management of risk. Utilising their expertise means we can manage risk in a volatile market by purchasing flexibly up to 12 months in advance and offers the stability of annual pricing, we can manage the pricing risks effectively by enabling purchases to be timed to avoid unusual market price spikes and take advantage of any sudden dips in the market. • Using PSBO will allow us to consolidate our requirements with others, allowing for aggregation of spend and better pricing for all. We will be part of a large consortium, ensuring that suppliers will see us as a key customer and act accordingly. • We will benefit from the experience of specialist utility buyers employed by the PSBO.
<p>Option 3: To carry out own tender exercise</p>	<p>This is not considered appropriate due to the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This would mean carrying out a full tender exercise which would incur Council time and the use of additional resources (using a National Framework reduces this time and cost because the initial assessment tender exercise has already been carried out). • The energy market is a highly complex and volatile market, and to carry out our own tender exercise and/or use an energy broker would mean a fixed price contract option only – if all of the volume of energy is bought at one point and fixed on one day there is a chance we get it wrong, and prices fixed at a high price for the contract duration.
<p>Option 4 Use a Private Brokerage Service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of tendering the broker services on top of the supply.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fees/charges (PSBO are not for profit) • Advice was taken from the National Energy Category Strategy for Local Government 2022 – energising procurement Local Government Association around the potential risks for a company of our size engaging with a Broker.
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4. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

4.1 To grant permission to use the CCS Framework Agreement RM6251-Supply of Energy 2 and award a contract to the single supplier under that CCS Framework Agreement, namely Total Energies Gas & Power Limited, for the supply of Gas for CC’s corporate properties only, for a period of 4 years, with effect 1st April 2025.

4.2 Grant delegated authority to the Director of Business Transformation to award the contract, sign the Customer Agreement and enter into the relevant energy buying baskets.

Implications:

Approving the permission to procure and the delegated authority to award for a Corporate Gas Supply for CC’s Corporate Properties through the CCS framework ensures that the Council is legally compliant with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 for the 4 years, commencing 1st April 2025.

Contribution to the Cumberland Plan Priorities - Sustainability & Local First

Sustainability was considered by CCS in the establishment of the framework. This framework was open to National and Local Suppliers.

Relevant Risks –

The energy market is now very volatile and affected by things outside of our control. We need to ensure that we procure through an established National Framework who have experts in this field to ensure that we get the best possible prices for Gas for our Corporate Properties.

Consultation / Engagement -

No statutory consultation or engagement is required. There isn’t an energy team anymore within the Council to discuss this with.

Legal –

The estimated value of CC's Gas requirements for its Corporate premises for the proposed term of four (4) years will be circa £6 million. In accordance with Rule 5.23 of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules (as amended on 16 January 2024), the decision to commence a procurement exercise for contacts with a value of £5,000,000 and above is a decision for the Executive.

The Executive is responsible for the award of the contract but may delegate authority to award the call off contract to TotalEnergies Gas & Power Limited to the Director Business Transformation & Change. (Paragraph 1.4 of part 3 – section 2 - Executive Procedure Rules).

As the estimated contract value exceeds the applicable value threshold under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (**PCR15**) it will be required to be procured using a method, which complies with the PCR15. In this case, utilising the Crown Commercial Service's (CCS) Framework Agreement RM6251- Supply of Energy 2 via to Call Off for CC's Gas corporate premises requirements, is a PCR15 compliant route.

Framework Agreement RM6251 does not utilise CCS's standard public sector Call-Off contract and Schedules. Legal services have reviewed the framework documentation provided namely the Customer Access Agreement between the Council and CCS, which governs the services CCS is providing, and the Call Off Contract between the Council and energy supplier.

The terms of both agreements include indemnities which, in accordance with the Constitution, need to be authorised by the Monitoring officer and Chief Finance Officer before the contract is entered into.

The main terms of the agreements are considered to be acceptable provided the rules of the Framework Agreement are followed. It is essential that officers calling off under the Framework fully acquaint themselves with the terms of the Customer Access Agreement and Call Off Contract to ensure adequate contract management.

The approval to commence the procurement is a key decision and the key decision process must be followed.

Finance –

As noted above the estimated contract value is within the available budget. The financial implications will only be known once tender prices are received and reviewed.

Due to the CCS route to market, it is not expected that the removal of non-corporate property will impact on the tender prices.

Information Governance – N/A

Impact Assessments – N/A

Contact details:

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Appendices attached to report:

- None

Background papers:

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government Act 1972 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:



Report to Executive

Meeting Date – 19th March 2024

Key Decision – Yes

Public/Private – Public

Portfolio – Cllr Mark Fryer, Leader

Directorate – Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport

Report Author – Darren Crossley – Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport

Title – Transfer of the Local Economic Partnership functions, Joint Committee, and related agreements

1. Brief Summary:

- 1.1 This report provides an update following the Government announcement that it would cease to provide core funding for the Local Economic Partnership (LEP's) from 1 April 2024 and instead would support local authorities to take on the functions currently delivered by LEPs. This report provides an overview of the plans and activity to integrate Cumbria LEP functions into the Local Authorities, following the latest Government guidance.

Executive is being asked to approve proposals as developed by the LEP Integration Programme and set out in the Integration Plan for Cumberland Council to act as the Delivery Authority and Accountable Body in respect of current Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership (CLEP) functions and programmes, and enter into a Collaboration Agreement with Westmorland and Furness Council in respect of this, with Westmorland and Furness Council providing monitoring and assurance pertaining to existing CLEP programmes and funds for which LEPs are responsible. Executive is also asked to agree that the Joint Executive Committee provides the basis of joint working and collaboration on strategic economic growth across the Cumbria geography.

2. Recommendations

For the reasons set out in this report, Executive is recommended to:

- 2.1 Agree to the transfer of the LEP functions as required by government guidance and for the Joint Committee between Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council to oversee these functions; and
- 2.2 Delegate the drafting of proposals for Terms of Reference for the Joint Committee to the Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport following consultation with the Lead Executive member and Chief Legal Officer
- 2.3 Delegate the process of determining the arrangements for the nomination of co-opted members to the Joint Committee to the Chief Legal Officer following consultation with the Lead Executive Member; and
- 2.4 Agree that Cumberland Council is the Delivery Authority and Accountable Body and responsible for the integration of LEP functions in line with the government guidance; and
- 2.5 Agree that Westmorland and Furness Council is providing the assurance support to Cumberland Council's S151 Officer; and
- 2.6 Delegate authority to enter into an Agreement between Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council to the Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport following consultation with the Lead Executive Member and the Chief Legal Officer; and
- 2.7 Agree to the LEP continuing to undertake some activities as part of the transition and to delegate the finalisation and entering into of agreement with the LEP which specifies the nature and duration of those activities to the Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport following consultation with the Lead Executive Member, S151 Officer and the Chief Legal Officer; and
- 2.8 Authorise officers to develop and assurance framework with Westmorland and Furness Council that will provide the governance for the decision making and transparency of funding and investment after 1st April which shall be brought back to the Joint Committee; and
- 2.9 Delegate authority to the Director of Resources and S151 Officer following consultation with the Lead Executive Member to agree with Westmorland and Furness Council the budget for expenditure on county-wide economic functions for 2024/ 2025; and
- 2.10 Delegate the establishment of an appointment panel to the Joint Committee to enable the selection and appointment of members to join the Cumbria Economic Growth Board; and
- 2.11 Delegate the novation of all contracts required to give effect to the transfer of functions and services to the Chief Legal Officer following consultation with the Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport.

Tracking

Executive:	19 th March 2024
Scrutiny:	20 th February 2024 – Westmorland and Furness Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee 26 th February 2024 – Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee 27 th February 2024 – Cumberland LEP Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Council:	N/A

3. Information: the Rationale & Evidence for the Recommendations

Role of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)

- 3.1 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) are the bodies across England tasked with leading economic growth activities in their local areas. The Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership (CLEP) operates across the whole of the Cumbria footprint and has been in existence since 2014.
- 3.2 Following a ministerial review of LEPs, the Government published the 'Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships' Report in July 2018. The report set out a number of recommendations around governance and operation including the need for LEPs to have a legal personality and a single accountable body.
- 3.3 CLEP became a company limited by guarantee in December 2018, and shortly after all of Cumbria's then Local Authorities became Directors of the company and were entitled to appoint directors to CLEP Local Enterprise Partnership Board. Following LGR, both Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness Councils have acceded to the Board with the Leader of Westmorland and Furness now holding the position of Vice Chair, reflecting the financial assurance responsibilities that the authority had assumed in its accountable body role.
- 3.4 CLEP has an extensive governance structure reflecting its responsibilities for strategy, investment, delivery, co-ordination and advocacy.
- 3.5 CLEP's role as the strategic lead for economic growth has resulted in the production of a number of key policies and plans, all of which have been consulted on widely and ensured input and ownership from business, the third sector and public sector partners. Most recently, it developed Restart, Reboot, Rethink in response to the need to deliver post-pandemic economic recovery.
- 3.6 CLEP also leads on specialist economic intelligence and modelling work, partnering with Local Authority officers. Activity includes the purchase, management and analysis of key datasets including Experian forecasts and the DfE Data Cube.
- 3.7 Separate to LEP functions, each unitary authority has its own responsibilities for economic development and will continue to lead and deliver economic development within their own geographies. Examples include economic development and inclusive growth activities, economic growth strategies, programmes, projects, town deals, UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), Strategic Infrastructure and Local Plan
- 3.8 LEPs were originally established to facilitate the management of major capital funding programmes in local areas. In total, almost £80m of Government funding was delivered in Cumbria by CLEP between 2015 and 2021, mainly across the following key programmes:
 - Cumbria Infrastructure Fund (Growing Places Fund) – A £6.16m evergreen, revolving investment fund which was originally focussed on creating jobs and homes. All funding has been invested and is in the repayment stage which leaves it as 'recycled, clean' money for more flexible future investments.

- Growth Deal (Local Growth Fund) – £60.3m capital programme which is financially complete and in the benefits realisation stage with regular reporting to Government until March 2025. Growth Deal supported a range of projects including Barrow Waterfront, investment in flood defence works at strategic employment sites and creation of new skills facilities.
- Getting Building Fund – A £10.5m capital programme which is financially complete and in the benefits realisation stage with regular reporting to Government until March 2025. The programme supported two projects – A595 improvements at Bothel and Marina Village.
- Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund – £15m legacy fund launched by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) in August 2017. Its primary funding goals were to encourage sustainable cultural and creative regeneration in the North of England and to benefit areas in the North of England that have historically had low levels of cultural and creative investment.

3.9 Cumbria County Council acted as Accountable Body for CLEP from its inception. This wide-ranging role incorporated significant support to CLEP in terms of assessment, assurance, programme financial management, contracting, monitoring and reporting. After Local Government Reorganisation, Westmorland and Furness Council took over the role of providing monitoring and assurance. Whilst the majority of the capital programmes are financially complete, that Council has continued to provide ongoing monitoring, reporting and compliance support.

3.10 More recently, Government has elected to channel larger economic growth programmes such as the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) through Local Authorities and LEPs have transitioned to deliver revenue-based, specialist skills and business programmes. Westmorland and Furness Council, through its Assurance and Economic Programmes Team, currently acts as Accountable Body for a number of these and provides ongoing support for their compliant management.

These current programmes are as follows;

- Growth Hub – Delivery of the Government’s ‘free at the point of access’ business support service. CLEP received £0.231m for 2023/24 to deliver a range of low, medium and high intensity assists through a combination of in-house and sub-contracted provision.
- Careers Hub – Supported by DfE and local match funding, the Hubs bring together a range of education, local authority and business partners to deliver high quality careers advice to help young people prepare for the next step on their learning or employment journey. The budget for 2023/24 is circa £0.2m.
- Skills Bootcamps – Provision of flexible courses of up to 16 weeks to help people aged 19+ achieve sector-specific skills between levels 3-5 and fast-track to an interview with a local employer. Valued at circa £1m p.a. CLEP is currently delivering Wave 4 with £1.7m in place for Wave 5 for delivery in 2024/25.
- Department for Business and Trade Key Account Management –£50,000 p.a. to engage with and maintain effective relationships with key foreign-owned businesses.
- Innovating for Success - £1m programme utilising recycled funding from the Cumbria Infrastructure Fund focusing on innovation and decarbonisation in businesses. Programme has supported 32 businesses and is in the benefits realisation phase.

Future of LEPs – Transfer of Functions to Local Authorities

- 3.11 CLEP has been in existence since 2014, however on 17 March 2023 Government launched a consultation into the ‘Future of LEPs’ noting ‘it was minded’ to cease core funding to LEPs and to integrate LEP functions into local democratic institutions in line with government’s commitment to extend devolution across England.
- 3.12 On 4 August 2023, the Government announced that it would cease to provide core funding the LEPs from 1 April 2024 and it would support local authorities to take on the functions currently delivered by LEPs. Government support local authorities to deliver the core functions currently delivered by LEPs – namely, business representation, strategic economic planning, and the delivery of government programmes where directed.
- 3.13 Government expects these functions to be exercised by upper tier local authorities (working in collaboration with other upper tier local authorities as appropriate), where they are not already delivered by a combined authority, or in areas where a devolution deal is not yet agreed.
- 3.14 To support the policy change, Government published technical guidance in August 2023 and on 19th December 2023 published the final piece of guidance on the core functions of business representation and local economic planning. Both guidance documents should be used by local authorities in developing their integration and delivery plans for 2024/25 and beyond.
- 3.15 A letter from Minister Young and Minister Hollinrake dated 19th December is attached as **Appendix 2**, the letter contains the links to the guidance available and confirms Government will provide up to £240,000 to a single local authority who will act as the Accountable Body, and deliver the functions previously delivered by LEPs – namely business representation, local economic planning, and the delivery of Government programmes where directed – subject to final business case and integration plan approvals.
- 3.16 This core funding is separate to any programme funding that may be provided to support the delivery of, for example, Growth Hubs or Careers Hubs. Funding for the delivery of Government programmes as directed will be communicated to authorities by the responsible Government department or body as per usual processes
- 3.17 The guidance sets out the following key messages;
- (a) That government’s sponsorship and core funding of LEPs will cease in April 2024.
 - (b) LEPs may continue to operate as private enterprises but government will no longer fund LEP’s and will instead support local authorities to take on LEPs core functions, namely business representation, strategic economic planning and responsibility for the delivery of government funded programmes where directed.

- (c) The Government expects the creation of an Economic Growth Board for a functional economic area (FEA) geography (minimum 500,000 population) made up of local business leaders and representative bodies to create an economic strategy for the area.
- (d) Government expects areas to publish their (existing, new, or updated) strategy within six months of receiving funding. The strategy should be published on the combined authority website or where multiple upper tier local authorities are working together, the authority appointed to be the accountable body should publish the strategy on their website.
- (e) Delivery of Growth Hub Activity - Local Authorities are expected to work together to ensure seamless Growth Hub provision across the area, which will continue to support businesses and to provide a convening point for broader business support provision. The delivery area must be broadly related to the business and economic area footprint.
- (f) Delivery of Careers Hubs – Local Authorities to work together to ensure Careers Hubs delivery continues so far as possible over existing geographies.
- (g) Management of Legacy Capital Programmes – the Accountable Body to be responsible for ongoing monitoring requirements.
- (h) Existing Enterprise Zones - The future functioning, management, and governance of these should be agreed locally, in line with any pre-existing arrangements and to ensure a smooth transition of operation and funding.

3.18 At the Joint Executive Committee (JEC) on 13th November 2023 the JEC noted that further work would be required to develop the transitional arrangements between Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership and the Joint Executive Committee before 31 March 2024 and to plan for further integration beyond 1 April 2024.

3.19 On 13th November 2023, the Joint Executive Committee (JEC) agreed the following recommendations:

- a) That the Joint Executive Committee is the best governance structure to take on responsibility for the transition of LEP functions to the two Authorities to continue on a Cumbria geographical footprint and the delivery of those functions across Cumbria and recommends to the Cumberland Executive and the Westmorland and Furness Cabinet that they agree a change to the terms of reference of the Joint Executive Committee to reflect this.
- b) To the continuation of the Accountable Body and Assurance Team operating as a hosted service under the Inter Authority Agreement to support the management of LEP legacy funding and management of future funding from 1st April 2024 and to amend the Service Strategy in the Inter Authority Agreement relating to the Accountable Body and Assurance Team to reflect this. The Service Strategy provided for an initial period of 1 year through 2023/24 with the option to extend if required.

- c) Delegating authority to the Chief Executives of both Authorities in consultation with the Leaders of the Councils for approval of the integration plan for submission by 30th November 2023 (since updated to reflect the latest Government Guidance)
 - d) Note that further work will be required to develop the transitional arrangements between CLEP and the Joint Executive Committee before 31 March 2024 and to plan for further integration beyond 1 April 2024.
 - e) Programme to integrate LEP activities into Local Authorities for Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness Councils.
- 3.20 Since the Joint Executive Committee decision and on receipt of more detailed Government guidance, senior officers from Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness Councils have been working with the CLEP to develop a transition programme to integrate LEP activities into Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness Councils by 1st April 2024.
- 3.21 This has included an overarching LEP Integration Programme Board and setting up the following core workstreams:
- a. Assurance and Contracts led by Assistant Chief Executive, Westmorland and Furness Council
 - b. Finance led by Section 151 Officers in Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness Councils
 - c. Staffing and TUPE led by Assistant Director HR and OD, Cumberland Council and working with Cumbria LEP as transferor.
 - d. Joint Executive Committee and Economic Growth Board led by Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport, Cumberland Council and Director of Thriving Places, Westmorland and Furness Council, working with the CLEP Board and a small CLEP working group.
 - e. Communications and Website led by Communications and Digital teams
- 3.22 Each Workstream is currently identifying and delivering on critical activities for 1st April 2024, whilst also acknowledging the actions that will fall post-1st April 2024 to deliver on the Implementation Plan.
- 3.23 The Chief Executives of both Authorities in consultation with the Leaders of the Councils submitted the integration plan into central government, noting that further work will be required to develop the transitional arrangements between CLEP and JEC before 31st March 2024. This has been further amended and submitted to take into account discussions and delegated authority from both Authorities to develop proposals for Cumberland Council to act as the Delivery Authority and Accountable Body, and for Westmorland and Furness Council to retain responsibilities for an Assurance Function. The final integration plan can be accessed in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.24 The integration plan includes the interim governance arrangements leading to the CLEP Board responsibilities transitioning to the Joint Executive Committee and a future Cumbria Economic Growth Board. The delivery of LEP functions, including the accountable body role for Government funding, will transfer Cumberland Council. Westmorland and Furness will provide Assurance support to Cumberland Council's S151 Officer.

- 3.25 There will be a transition period of six months to ensure that the governance arrangements are in place and well-embedded. The implication of this will mean that, during the transition period, the current CLEP Board members and associated sub-groups will continue to be the primary consultative and advisory body on strategic economic growth for the functional economic area of Cumbria, providing insight and advice in shaping the future Cumbria Economic Growth Board and any sub-boards/advisory groups. The current board, and the Cumbria Economic Growth Board when formed, will report into the Joint Executive Committee which will have decision-making powers as outlined below.
- 3.26 From the 1st April 2024, the interim governance structure will also include the Joint Officer Board. The Joint Committee will set the strategic direction and oversight of the Cumbria-wide core economic functions formerly delivered by Cumbria LEP, namely business representation, strategic economic planning, and responsibility for the delivery of government programmes where directed.
- 3.27 Terms of reference are being developed and agreed. Following the publication of Government guidance on the integration of Local Enterprise Partnerships into local authorities, we are now in the process of agreeing the governance for a Joint Committee that will have responsibility from 1st April 2024 for strategic economic planning across Cumbria. The Joint Committee will have the oversight on the delivery of activities previously undertaken by the LEP, including provision of business support, careers promotion and skills bootcamps. To ensure we maintain a strong business voice for Cumbria, we are working with the current CLEP Board to set up a new Economic Growth Board and together we will be developing a new economic strategy for Cumbria.
- 3.28 As a result of these changes, Cumbria will be at level 1 on the Government's Devolution Framework. Level 1 on the Framework is where Local authorities agree to work together across a Functional Economic Area or whole county area for e.g. through a joint committee. The LEP integration will provide the foundations for further dialogue on devolution and how the two Councils work with partners to support sustainable and inclusive growth. Building on this the Councils have the option to progress discussions with Government on how to unlock new powers, opportunities and funding for the benefit of residents, businesses and visitors.
- 3.29 On 27th February 2024, the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) received a report to update them on progress in implementing the transfer of functions and programmes for 1st April 2024. The respective scrutiny committees in Cumberland Council, Westmorland and Furness Council as well as joint arrangements through the JOSC will continue to receive updates during the transition period.

Cumberland Council as the Delivery Authority and Accountable Body

- 3.30 The integration plan recommends that Cumberland Council will act as the Accountable Body and Delivery Authority. To ensure seamless delivery of LEP programmes and functions, the delivery arm will take place through the Cumbria Economic Growth Team. A Collaboration Agreement is being agreed between both Councils relating to the county-wide economic development functions.

3.31 Under the Collaboration Agreement, Cumberland Council will have the responsibility for managing the following programmes through the Cumbria Economic Growth Team:

Programme Delivery	Other Functions
Careers Hub	Business and Stakeholder Engagement (Cumbria Functional Economic Area)
Local Energy Hub	Data, economic forecasting and modelling
Innovating for Success	Kingmoor Park Enterprise Zone
Department for Business and Trade Key Account Management Foreign Owned Business Support	Development and management of Economic Strategy
Growth Hub	
Skills Bootcamps	
Growth Deal	
Getting Building Fund	
Legacy Growing Places	
UK Shared Prosperity Fund Business Support	

3.32 In line with the above, most of the current Cumbria LEP team will transfer to Cumberland Council from 1st April 2024 under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations following consultation and engagement. Structurally, they will be located within the Directorate of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport.

3.33 There are also a number of contracts that the LEP have that need to be novated to Cumberland Council from 1st April 2024.

Economic Growth Board

3.34 It will be necessary to have a transition period of six months to ensure a seamless transition. During this period and to comply with the Government guidance a Cumbria Economic Growth Board (CEGB) will be formed, as a partnership of key stakeholders

from the public, private and third sector with a scope and remit across all areas of inclusive growth in Cumbria. The primary role of the CEGB will be to provide a business sector perspective and strategic insight and advice on the Cumbria wide economic programmes and initiatives, shaping business, trade and investment support around local business and economic needs.

- 3.35 This Board will fulfil the principles set out in the Government's guidance ensuring that there is a business voice within a democratically accountable governance structure, and will support the integration of LEP functions into Local Authority. A series of thematic sub boards and advisory groups will sit underneath the Economic Growth Board. The sub boards and advisory groups will provide a powerful business voice, for the wider business community and representatives of key economic growth sectors. The sub boards and advisory groups will include organisations, businesses, and individuals with the ability to identify and respond to local economic challenges and opportunities.
- 3.36 Through an open and transparent appointment process, applying Nolan principles, the Joint Committee will be expected to appoint the Members, Chair and Vice Chair of the Cumbria Economic Growth Board and agree the Terms of Reference.
- 3.37 Government expects areas to publish their economic strategy within six months of receiving funding to support the development of Economic Functional Areas (EFAs). The strategy should be published on the authority's website which will act as the Accountable Body. The Economic Growth Board and affiliated sub-groups is expected to lead and shape the development and delivery of relevant pan Cumbria economic strategies and interventions, including the Cumbria Economic Growth Strategy. The strategy will be approved by the Joint Committee.

4. Alternative options considered

- 4.1 Executive to not agree to the recommendations. This would risk non-compliance with Government decisions in respect of the Cumbria Functional Economic Area not having in place the suitable governance, Accountable Body, Delivery Authority and Assurance arrangements for 1st April 2024.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 5.1 The reason for the recommendation is to ensure that appropriate governance arrangements for the discharge of economic growth functions and effective joint working and collaboration between Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council on strategic economic growth across the Cumbria geography.
6. **Implications:** The implications of Executive agreeing to the recommendations is that Cumberland Council will act as the Delivery Authority and Accountable Body and enter into a Service Level Agreement with Westmorland and Furness Council in respect of this and Assurance arrangements.
7. **Contribution to the Cumberland Plan Priorities** - Cumberland Council's vision is that it takes a fresh approach to the delivery of inclusive services that are shared by

residents and communities. By enabling positive outcomes for health and wellbeing, prosperity and the environment, it is possible to fulfil the potential of people and area. The Council believes passionately in the delivery of excellent public services, and in order to this it is essential to be clear about the values and behaviours needed to drive change and achieve high standards.

8. Relevant Risks and explain how risks can be mitigated –

- 8.1 Executive not agreeing to the recommendations would risk non-compliance with Government decisions in respect of the Cumbria Functional Economic Area not having in place the suitable governance, Accountable Body, Delivery Authority and Assurance arrangements for 1st April 2024.
- 8.2 There is a risk that the transition to the governance structure (i.e. Development of the Economic Growth Board) and closure of the Cumbria LEP company are not completed. The mitigation for this is – Programme management approach with regular programme board meetings, chaired by SROs, take place.

9. Consultation / Engagement –

- Workstream engagement and Programme Boards weekly
- Joint Executive Committee – 13th November 2023
- Westmorland and Furness Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 20th February 2024
- Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 26th February 2024
- Cumberland LEP Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 27th February 2024
- Westmorland and Furness Cabinet – 26th March 2024
- Joint Executive Committee – 28th March 2024

10. Legal

- 10.1 Pursuant to Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972, and to their powers under section 9EB LGA of the Local Government Act 2000 and Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012, the Authorities' Executives are being requested to transfer functions to a Joint Committee with responsibility for the exercise of the functions being developed between the Councils.
- 10.2 There will be 2 legal agreements firstly a Collaboration Agreement between Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council relating to the accountable body and delivery authority roles and responsibilities being delivered by Cumberland Council, in return Westmorland and Furness Council will provide the assurance role for Cumberland Council. Secondly, there will be an agreement between the LEP and Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council for the

transition period. These agreements are currently being negotiated between the parties.

11. Finance

- 11.1 Cumbria LEP will transfer the majority of its functions and the economic growth team to Cumberland Council on 1 April 2024. Cumberland Council will become the Accountable Body for those functions and programmes of activity. They will be responsible for monitoring and reporting on the delivery and outcomes of those programmes to the relevant government departments. Assurance for the monitoring and reporting of these programmes will be provided by the Westmorland and Furness assurance team and the costs and expectations of this support will be determined in an updated service schedule for the service within the IAA with Cumberland Council.
- 11.2 In addition Cumberland Council will deliver the other core functions of business representation and strategic economic planning working in collaboration with Westmorland and Furness Council. For the period 1 April – 30 September it is expected that CLEP will continue to deliver the business representation role and this will be managed through a legal agreement between all three parties. As part of that the agreed cost envelope for that period will be agreed in advance with the CLEP. The monitoring of compliance with the agreement will be led by Westmorland and Furness Council as the legacy Accountable Body.
- 11.3 The Core funding grant from Government will be received by Cumberland Council and will be used to fund the costs of the Economic Growth team and the associated activities. A budget for 2024/25 is being developed and will be approved as part of the recommended delegations within in this report and the report to the Joint Executive Committee.
- 11.4 As part of the transition the CLEP reserves (and assets) will transfer as ring fenced reserves to Cumberland Council for the specific purpose of supporting delivery of the Economic Growth Board and development and implementation of the Economic Growth Strategy. Utilisation of the ring fenced reserve will be approved by the Section 151 Officer in Cumberland, in consultation with the Section 151 for Westmorland and Furness Council and as agreed by the Economic Programme Board. It is expected that the Joint Executive Committee (in it's new role) will receive financial monitoring reports on a six monthly basis.
- 11.5 The collaboration agreement between the two Councils will establish the principle that neither partner should incur financial detriment in delivering the Economic Growth responsibilities. It is recognised that both Councils will continue to deliver their own economic growth activities and that this principle applies to the collaborate activities as agreed through the agreement and JEC. Any amendments to the approved budget will be agreed by both Section 151 officers, in consultation with the relevant Directors and approval for increased budgets will be through the Economic Growth Board and Joint Executive Committee.

12. Information Governance

12.1 No information governance issues arise from this report. Any issues that may arise thereafter will be dealt with as appropriate.

13. Impact Assessments –

Have you screened the decision for impacts using the Impact Assessment? Yes

If you have not screened the decision using the Impact Assessment, please explain your reason. Impact assessment has been developed to inform approach during transition period and beyond.

Lead Officer Contact details:

Contact Officer: Darren Crossley, Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport

Email: Darren.crossley@Cumberland.gov.uk

Background papers:

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government Act 1972 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:

LEP integration guidance 4th August 2023 [LINK TO GUIDANCE](#)

LEP integration guidance 19th December 2023 [LINK TO GUIDANCE](#)

Appendices attached to report:

Appendix 1: Integration Plan

Appendix 2: Letter from Minister Young and Minister Hollinrake dated 19th December

LA / LEP INTEGRATION PLAN TEMPLATE

INTRODUCTION AND GUIDANCE

Government has [confirmed](#) that Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) core functions – namely, business representation, local economic planning, and the delivery of Government programmes where directed – from April 2024 should be delivered by local authorities.

This template is intended to aid the process of integration and inform the direction of any future government funding. This document should be read in parallel with the [guidance](#) published on the integration of LEP functions into local and combined authorities on 4 August 2023. Government expects decisions on the transfer and delivery of current LEP functions to be made locally.

Government expects functions to be delivered over current or potential devolution deal geographies so far as possible. Outside of areas with an agreed devolution deal, it is expected that functions will be exercised by the upper tier local authority, working with other upper tier local authorities as appropriate. Where multiple upper tier local authorities operate within an area, only one return is necessary. The authority which submits the return on behalf of the whole area should ensure all upper tier local authorities have agreed to the return and copy it to the LEP Chair.

It is recognised that the formal process of transferring any assets, loans, investments, or liabilities between existing LEP(s) and local democratic institutions will require agreement between both parties. All parties must follow the relevant laws and regulations that apply, including having due regard for the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Any commercially sensitive information may be submitted in parallel to the main integration plan. The use of annexes is also recommended for non-sensitive issues where more detail is required.

Completed plans should be sent to the central LEP Integration inbox (LEP.Integration@levellingup.gov.uk), copying all relevant parties (all upper tier local authorities and LEP Chair) and the relevant Area Lead in the Cities and Local Growth Unit.

The deadline for submission of this plan to Government is **23:59hrs on Thursday 30 November 2023** or earlier if possible, to help inform future funding decisions.

SECTION 1: CORE INFORMATION

Core details and current arrangements	
1.1 Name of LEP which is to be integrated.	<i>Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership (CLEP)</i>
1.2 Name(s) of upper tier authority or authorities into which LEP functions are being integrated.	<i>Cumberland Council Westmorland and Furness Council</i>
1.3 Current relationship with the LEP	<i>An elected Member from each Authority are non-Executive Directors of CLEP. Westmorland and Furness Council acts as Accountable Body for CLEP.</i>
Integration leads	
1.4 Contact details for integration leads	<i>Jo Lappin, Chief Executive, CLEP Alison Hatcher, Assistant Chief Executive, Westmorland and Furness Council Angela Jones, Director of Thriving Places, Westmorland and Furness Council Darren Crossley, Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport, Cumberland Council</i>

SECTION 2: GEOGRAPHY

Geography
<p>2. Please set out the proposed geography for the delivery of LEP functions from April 2024. Answers should confirm whether the proposed geography is coterminous with the current LEP geography. If not, answers should confirm that the proposed geography constitutes a functional economic area (FEA), with reference to the size of population, local travel to work areas (TTWAs) and any other relevant drivers of the local economy.</p> <p>Where multiple upper tier local authorities operate across the proposed geography, you should confirm the governance arrangements and that service provision will be ensured across the whole geography – no authority should be left out and all parties should agree the arrangements.</p> <p><i>The proposed geography is for the delivery of LEP functions is the former county of Cumbria that is co-terminus with the current CLEP boundaries and fully inclusive of the two new unitary Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness Council areas.</i></p> <p><i>The approach to joint governance is set out in 3 below which confirms a robust partnership approach between the two Councils and CLEP to deliver a smooth transition.</i></p>

SECTION 3: BUSINESS VOICE

Current and future activity

3. Please set out how you intend to embed a strong, independent, and diverse local business voice into local decision-making across the area. Answers should cover the following points:

- (a) Proposed model & governance structure** (e.g., a stand-alone business board, sub-board, or other structure)
- (b) Membership** (including the mix, balance and diversity of independent business members and any other partners drawn from outside of the business community)

Following Local Government Reform in Cumbria, the two new unitary authorities formed a Joint Executive Committee (JEC) to provide oversight for hosted services that continue to operate on a shared basis across the Cumbria geography. The JEC met on 13th November 2023 and agreed in principle to extend the remit of the committee so that it can provide the democratic leadership for strategic economic planning in the county. This aligns with Level 1 of the Devolution Framework. To meet the requirement for Local Authorities to take on delivery of key government-funded programmes from 1 April 2024, Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness will ensure robust mechanisms are in place to deliver a seamless service. Locally it has been agreed that Cumberland will take on Accountable Body responsibilities as well as hosting the CLEP team and being responsible for delivery of pan-Cumbrian programmes.

These include;

Growth Hub (including Barrow Town Deal business support programme and Westmorland and Furness UKSPF business support)

- *Careers Hub*
- *Skills Bootcamps*
- *Department for Business and Trade Key Account Management*
- *Local Energy Hub*

Discussions are continuing at pace with Working Groups established to look at Delivery, Strategic Impact, Governance and Legal and Contractual issues. Final decisions will be underpinned by advice from Legal and Finance to ensure contractual compliance and vital considerations such as TUPE are complied with.

The CLEP Board and elements of its governance structure will continue to operate on an interim basis through the transition period. Through the interim arrangements, CLEP Board members will be the primary consultative and advisory body to the Joint Executive Committee on strategic economic growth for the functional economic area of Cumbria. The existing CLEP Board is made up of local business leaders and representative bodies. CLEP's wider governance structure also brings together businesses, third sector representatives and young people from all key sectors, of all business sizes, all parts of the Cumbrian geography and are representative of groups with protected characteristics. The existing Board would be able to provide insight and advice in shaping the future Economic Growth Board, as well as providing continuity of knowledge and expertise.

The Board's interim role would include, but not be limited to, the following key elements;

- *Providing strategic direction for the development of a new pan-Cumbrian Economic Strategy.*
- *Ensuring future structures have businesses representative of the Cumbrian economy fully embedded.*

- *Providing input to major policy development, large-scale funding programmes and initiatives.*
- *Acting as a consultative and engagement forum for central government.*
- *Ensuring delivery of funding programmes, policies and strategies aligns with local business need and opportunity.*
- *Providing continuity of knowledge on delivery of legacy and current revenue programmes.*

This approach has a number of benefits including the ability to meet the key government requirement of a transition of activities by 1 April 2024, providing continuity of delivery of existing LEP activity and inclusion of a ‘business voice’. It is currently anticipated this interim arrangement will last for a period of 6 months.

SECTION 4: PROJECTS, PROGRAMMES AND SERVICES

Current and future activity

4.1 Please list the projects, programmes and services currently delivered by the local LEP. *In each case you should indicate whether, subject to receiving equivalent funding, the upper tier local authority/authorities would continue to undertake each activity. Where a different set of functions/services is being delivered for a neighbouring area, you should repeat the exercise for that area. You do not need to include LEP activity delivered in a private capacity.*

Title	Short Description (1-2 sentences)	Will the activity continue once the LEP is integrated? (subject to future funding)	
		Yes	No
Growth hub	Provision of free at the point of access, government funded business support.	x	
Skills Bootcamps	Delivery of sector-specific skills provision to meet key local economic needs.	x	
Careers Hub	Delivery of government-funded careers advice and guidance coordination and support.	x	
Dept for Business and Trade Key Account Management	Provision of key account management service for foreign-owned businesses HQ in Cumbria.	x	
Low Carbon Hub	Delivery of coordinated advice to develop low carbon projects.	x	
Local Growth Fund	Ongoing management of monitoring requirements for the fund to 2025 – this will transition to local authority.		X
Getting Building Fund	Ongoing management of monitoring requirements for the fund to 2025 - this will transition to local authority.		X

Growing Places Fund	Ongoing management of the evergreen fund including programmes delivered using its funds - this will transition to local authority.		X
Other Local Priority Programmes			
UKSPF Business Support	Provision of business start-up and support across Westmorland and Furness aligned with BEIS Growth Hub.	x	
Barrow Town Deal	Provision of targeted business and social enterprise support in Barrow.	x	

SECTION 5: DELIVERY AND APPROVALS

Governance of the integration process
5.1 (a) What mechanisms will be in place to manage the integration process at the local level?
<p><i>Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness Councils have an established Joint Executive Committee (JEC) which is responsible for the ongoing management of activities linked to the Local Government Reorganisation process. The JEC is attended by senior elected members and officers including the Leader and Deputy Leader from both Authorities.</i></p> <p><i>The integration of LEP activities will fall under the purview of the JEC to ensure integration and alignment with wider pan-Cumbria activities, aspirations and needs. The CLEP Chair will be invited to join the JEC in a non-decision-making capacity to ensure the views, advice and guidance of the CLEP Board and its wider business network are fully considered.</i></p> <p><i>The JEC will be supported by an officer working group led by the Assistant Chief Executive, Westmorland and Furness Council and Darren Crossley, Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport, Cumberland Council, together with the S151 Officer from the Accountable Body which will meet on a regular basis and will also include senior specialists from economic development, legal, finance and HR. The Working Group will consider and respond to key items including, but not limited to the following;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Delivery of existing LEP projects and programmes including legacy responsibilities, performance and risk.</i> <i>• Future priorities, activity and opportunity.</i> <i>• Company requirements and liabilities.</i> <i>• HR, staffing and TUPE.</i> <i>• Financial implications.</i> <i>• Business engagement.</i> <i>• Data, economic forecasting and modelling.</i> <i>• Stakeholder management.</i>
5.1 (b) If the existing LEP is intending to formally cease operation and dissolve following its integration, who will be responsible for managing the transition and any legacy issues?
<i>The Directors of CLEP are working closely with the Local Authorities to agree the optimum timeline to cease operations, In doing so, discussions are centred around two key aims; 1) to wind up the</i>

company with full regard for all legal, financial and personal liabilities and 2) to provide any necessary interim support to enable a seamless transition to the new arrangements.

The workstream is led by the CLEP Chief Executive with close support from both S151 officers, Legal and HR reflecting the assurance implications involved with transferring not only LEP activities, but public sector finances.

Approvals

5.2 Has this integration plan been agreed by the relevant boards/persons in both the local LEP(s) and local authority/authorities?

Yes

No

Please copy all relevant parties (including the Chair of the local LEP(s)) when you submit this plan.

Yes.

Agreed at JEC Meeting 13 November 2023.

Considered at CLEP Board 24 November 2023. Delegation provided to CLEP Chair to review and agree final submission and actioned 30/11/23.



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Jacob Young MP
Minister for Levelling Up
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF



Department for
Business & Trade

Kevin Hollinrake MP
*Minister for Enterprise, Markets and Small
Business*
Old Admiralty Building
London
SW1A 2DY

19 December 2023

To: Combined Authority Mayors, Local Authority Leaders, the Mayor of London, and LEP Chairs

Dear all,

TRANSFER OF LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP (LEP) CORE FUNCTIONS TO COMBINED AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

On 4 August 2023, Minister Hollinrake and the then Minister for Levelling Up wrote to you to confirm that, from April 2024, the Government's sponsorship and funding of LEPs will cease, and we will instead support combined and upper tier local authorities to deliver the functions currently delivered by LEPs. This empowers democratically elected local leaders to work with the private sector to support local businesses and drive local economic growth.

To support you through this policy change, we published [technical guidance](#) in August 2023. We have now published the final piece of [guidance](#) on the core functions of business representation and local economic planning. These two pieces of guidance should be viewed as complementary, with both documents relevant to the integration of LEP functions. As such, any statements in the original guidance are still applicable and both guidance documents should be used by local authorities in developing their integration and delivery plans for 2024/25 and beyond.

In October 2023, our officials issued a local authority / LEP integration plan template for completion by the end of November. The purpose of the template was to aid the process of integration and transition and inform the direction on any future government funding. We would like to thank you for providing the necessary information in response to this request. Our officials are now reviewing these plans as part of the approvals process, which will conclude early next year.

We are now pleased to confirm that in 2024/25, Government will provide eligible combined authorities and upper tier local authorities with up to £240,000 to deliver the functions previously delivered by LEPs – namely business representation, local economic planning, and the delivery of Government programmes where directed – subject to final business case and integration plan approvals (where plans are required and/or not yet approved). We recognise that this represents a small reduction in 2023/24 funding levels – this reflects the efficiencies we expect the integration of functions into combined and local authorities to deliver.

Eligibility for funding is conditional on LEP functions being delivered over sensible functional economic areas or whole county geographies. Where multiple upper tier local authorities are working together over a single functional economic area, they have selected one local authority to take responsibility for submitting the integration plan. Subject to approval of the plan, that authority will now be considered the accountable body for funding in 2024/2025. Funding beyond 2024/25 will be subject to future Spending Review decisions.

This core funding is separate to any programme funding that may be provided to support the delivery of, for example, Growth Hubs or Careers Hubs. Funding for the delivery of Government programmes as directed will be communicated to authorities by the responsible Government department or body as per usual processes.

We are also pleased to confirm that in 2024/25, Government will provide the LEP Network with up to £150,000, subject to business case approval, so they can continue to provide their support to aid the transition process.

To ensure the integration process already underway continues to progress as smoothly as possible, please do continue to direct questions and queries via the LEP Network or to your Area Lead within the Cities and Local Growth Unit. We would also like to take this opportunity to reconfirm that local authorities and LEPs should seek their own legal advice on issues related to staff; that LEP Directors should seek their own legal advice regarding personal liabilities; and that the management and transfer of any LEP assets should be agreed locally between the LEP and its Accountable Body, in line with any pre-existing arrangements and in accordance with any legal requirements. Where there are no existing arrangements, Government expects that any reserves and assets built up using public funds will remain within the public domain.

Government remains committed to empowering democratically elected local leaders by integrating LEP functions into local democratic institutions. We would like to thank LEP Chairs, their Boards, and their staff for all the work they have done to drive and support local growth across England since 2010. In addition, we would like to thank you all for your work to date and your continued efforts to facilitate this transition.

Jacob Young MP
Minister for Levelling Up

Kevin Hollinrake MP
Minister for Enterprise, Markets and Small Business



Report to Executive

Meeting Date – 19 March 2024
Key Decision – No
Public/Private – Public

Portfolio – Councillor Markus Campbell-Savours, Governance and Thriving Communities
Directorate – Resources
Report Author – Clare Liddle, Chief Legal Officer and Monitoring Officer

Title – Amendments to the Inter-Authority Agreements

Brief Summary:

The Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) between Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council was entered into on 31 March 2023 with the purpose of providing the arrangements for the governance and delivery of hosted services and functions. The IAA has been in place for nearly a year and there are several changes that have happened since entering into the agreement. The purpose of this report is to request approval to a number of changes and for Executive to agree to enter a Deed of Variation to enable the changes to be made to the IAA.

The report also seeks approval to extend, for a further 12 months, the Service Level Agreement between Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council under s.113 of the Local Government Act 1972 which governs the arrangements between the two Authorities in respect of a number of shared roles.

Recommendations:

For the reasons set out in this report, Executive is recommended to:

- 1) Agree to enter in to a Deed of Variation relating to the Inter Authority Agreement between Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council to implement the following changes:
 - Note Service Strategies for hosted services that will disaggregate by 31 March 2024.
 - Update Service Strategies for hosted services in accordance with changes agreed by the Joint Executive Committee.

- Revisions to the Hosted Service budget for 2024/25 and updated finance information within Service Strategies.
- 2) Agree to extend the existing Agreement between Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council under s.113 of the Local Government Act 1972 for a further 12 months.
 - 3) Delegate authority to agree final terms of the Deed of Variations for both the Inter Authority Agreement and the s.113 Agreement to the Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Finance Portfolio Holder.

Tracking

Executive:	19 March 2024
Scrutiny:	
Council:	

1. Background to the Inter Authority Agreement

- 1.1. Cumberland Shadow Executive and Westmorland and Furness Shadow Cabinet separately agreed to enter into an Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) on 31 March 2023. The authorities agreed that for varying periods of time the exercise of their duties would be served by certain functions and services being discharged and delivered as a number of shared services. The IAA sets out the arrangements for the Joint Executive Committee (JEC) to undertake responsibility for the governance of those functions and services, and the arrangements and general terms on which the authorities administer and exercise responsibility. A Service Strategy is in place for each hosted service. This is the schedule that details the agreed approach to delivering the functions described within the IAA in terms of service provision, performance monitoring and costs.
- 1.2. Following the initial year of operation through the Joint Disaggregation Programme and amendments to functions and services, Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council are seeking to agree a Deed of Variation relating to the IAA.
- 1.3. The disaggregation of services has been implemented in accordance with the terms set out in the IAA. The JEC has also approved recommendations to bring disaggregation dates forward, postpone the date of disaggregation, implement revised delivery arrangements, and move to long-term hosting.
- 1.4. The following services have been successfully disaggregated since the programme commenced on 1 April 2023:

Hosted service	Host authority	Disaggregation date
Global Resettlement Team	Cumberland	30 September 2023
School Organisation and Admissions	Westmorland and Furness	30 September 2023
Customer Service Team (former County Service Centre)	Westmorland and Furness	31 October 2023
Human Resources / Organisational Development (HR/OD) Centralised Resourcing	Westmorland and Furness	31 October 2023
HR/OD Pay and Reward and Pension Advisor	Westmorland and Furness	31 October 2023
HR/OD Organisational Development and Workforce Training	Cumberland	31 October 2023
Children's Services - Improvement / Quality Assurance	Cumberland	30 September 2023
Children's Services - Integration and Partnerships	Cumberland	31 October 2023

Hosted service	Host authority	Disaggregation date
Children's Services - Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)	Cumberland	31 December 2023

1.5. The following services are expected to disaggregate on 31 March 2024 (subject to the safe and legal requirements of both authorities):

Hosted service	Host authority	Disaggregation date
Public Health – Education Infection and Prevention and Control Team	Cumberland	31 March 2024
Public Libraries – Operational Leadership and Delivery Lead, and Culture and outreach management	Cumberland	31 March 2024 (partial disaggregation)
Former county HR/OD – Social Work Academy	Cumberland	31 March 2024
Human Resources (HR) Payroll Administration: Recruitment and DBS	Cumberland	31 March 2024 or 31 July 2024 (at the latest)
Independent Placement Team (Commissioning)	Westmorland and Furness	31 March 2024
Finance – former county Insurance Team	Westmorland and Furness	31 March 2024
Digital Innovation and Customer Experience	Westmorland and Furness	31 March 2024
Economic Programmes - Accountable Body Assurance	Westmorland and Furness	31 March 2024 (linked to LEP arrangements)

1.6. It is proposed that the Service Strategies for the services described in paragraphs 1.4 and 1.5 are noted as having disaggregated following the disaggregation of these services.

1.7. For hosted services continuing after 1 April 2024, Senior Responsible Owners have reviewed Service Strategies to ensure they reflect the current service provision, performance arrangements and budget. Adjustments also need to be made following approval of changes to disaggregation dates and arrangements by the JEC. Following these changes and to provide updated costs for 2024/25, amendments are required to the following Service Strategies:

Hosted service	Host authority	Disaggregation date
Apprenticeship Service (Workforce planning and resourcing)	Westmorland and Furness	30 September 2024
Adults Urgent Care Team	Cumberland	30 September 2024 or 31 March 2025 (at the latest)

Children's Emergency Duty Team	Westmorland Furness	and	No date specified
Apprenticeship Service (apprenticeship levy)	Westmorland Furness	and	31 March 2025
Finance – Core Financial Systems	Cumberland		31 March 2025
Finance – Purchase to Pay/Accounts Payable/Account Receivable	Cumberland		31 March 2025
Finance – School's Finance Team	Westmorland Furness	and	31 March 2025
County Records Management	Cumberland		31 March 2025
County ICT	Cumberland		At least 31 March 2025
Human Resources (HR) Payroll Administration: Payroll and HR Administration Services	Cumberland		31 March 2025
Digital Infrastructure / Connecting Cumbria	Cumberland		31 December 2025
Registration Service	Cumberland		31 March 2026
Active Cumbria	Cumberland		Long-term hosted service
Active Travel	Cumberland		Long-term hosted service
Adoption	Cumberland		Long-term hosted service
Adult Learning	Westmorland Furness	and	Long-term hosted service
Archive Service	Cumberland		Long-term hosted service
Emergency Planning and Resilience	Westmorland Furness	and	Long-term hosted service
Fostering	Cumberland		Long-term hosted service
Residential and Edge of Care Homes	Cumberland		Long-term hosted service
Waste Disposal	Cumberland		Long-term hosted service
Public Libraries Back Office & Stock Management, and Library Services for Schools (LSS)	Cumberland		Long-term hosted service from 1 April 2024

1.8. Updates to the IAA will be detailed in the Deed of Variation relating to Inter Authority Agreement to ensure that it reflects changes to the Service Strategies and financial information.

1.9. It is proposed that delegated authority to agree final terms of the Deed of Variation is given to the Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Leader

of the Council and the Finance Portfolio Holder. The amended Service Strategies and updated Schedules to the Inter Authority Agreement will be appended to the Deed of Variation once final terms are agreed.

2. Background to the s.113 Agreement

2.1 Cumberland Shadow Executive and Westmorland and Furness Shadow Cabinet separately agreed to enter into an agreement under s.113 of the Local Government Act 1972 on 31 March 2023 for a duration of 12 months. The authorities agreed that because of the specialist nature of key roles which formerly sat in the County Council, the allocation of these roles to one or other authority would leave either Cumberland or Westmorland and Furness Council exposed to risk in terms of service delivery or skills shortage. It was proposed that to address this further recruitment and/or training would take place with a view to ending these roles within a 12-month period.

2.2 Whilst for the majority of these roles the requirement for staff to work across both authorities is at an end, there are still some service areas where it has not been possible, for a variety of reasons, to address the gaps in service provision. As such, both Authorities have agreed via the Service Assistant Directors and in consultation with staff concerned, that the shared roles should continue for a further limited period, up to a maximum of 12 months. There are approximately 20 staff employed by Westmorland and Furness and 39 staff employed by Cumberland in this position who are proposed remain in shared roles. This is a reduction to the original number of shared roles of 333.

2.3 The arrangements put in place to govern the shared roles, enabling the authorities to work effectively together, with appropriate protections in place for each will continue to mean that costs of the shared roles are met equally between both authorities.

3. Proposals

3.1. It is proposed that executive agree to enter into Deeds of Variation relating to the Inter Authority Agreement and the s.113 Agreement between Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council to implement the changes set out above.

4. Alternative options considered

4.1. Executive could choose to maintain the Inter Authority Agreement as agreed by Cumberland Shadow Executive and Westmorland and Furness Shadow Cabinet on 31 March 2023 and choose not to extend the s.113 Agreement.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

5.1. The recommendations ensure that the Inter Authority Agreement is updated to reflect the progress of the Joint Disaggregation Programme, implement changes agreed by the Joint Executive Committee and provide revised budget costs for hosted services. The

s.113 Agreement governs the arrangements between the two Authorities where there is agreement for staff to work safely and lawfully across the other Authority.

Implications:

Contribution to the Cumberland Plan Priorities - The report sets out the arrangements in place for the governance of hosted functions and services and the staff working on those services and jointly, and the arrangements and general terms on which the authority will administer and exercise responsibility. These arrangements provide the opportunity to deliver the services in a way that contributes towards the council plan priorities.

Relevant Risks and explain how risks can be mitigated - Changes in hosting arrangements must be reflected in the Inter Authority Agreement. This includes the payments for services hosted between the two authorities, as set out in the Service Strategies. The Joint Disaggregation Programme has identified that there is a risk that the financial costs of disaggregation impact negatively on the financial plans of the two councils and the fire service. Approval of the Variation to the Inter Authority Agreement, including revision of budget costs and updating finance information will act to mitigate the risk outlined above.

A risk register is maintained for each individual service disaggregation project, if there is a risk to delivery of the safe and legal disaggregation, the Senior Responsible Owner and relevant Programme Manager are responsible for escalating risks to the Joint Disaggregation Group, the Joint Officer Board and to the Joint Executive Committee.

Consultation / Engagement - Approval of the Variation to the Inter Authority Agreement and amendments will also be sought from Westmorland and Furness Council Cabinet.

Legal – The Inter Authority Agreement and the s.113 Agreement, agreed by both Councils in March 2023 are the legal Agreements which govern the discharge of functions and terms upon which they are discharged and staffing arrangements between Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness Council. The Local Government Act 1972 (s.101 and s.113) provides that the functions of Local Authorities can be discharged in the manner proposed and the basis and limitations of doing so.

Finance – The Inter Authority Agreement and the s.113 Agreement along with the associated schedules set out the services that are to be provided and include the financial management arrangements.

Agreeing the recommendations set out in this report will provide the necessary delegated authority for the agreements to be varied and will ensure sound financial arrangements remain in place, as part of the IAA and s113 agreement, to protect the Councils financial position.

Information Governance – There are no direct information governance implications arising from this report.

Impact Assessments – There are no direct equality and diversity implications arising from this report. Individual Equality Impact Assessment screenings are being undertaken for service disaggregation projects.

Lead Officer Contact details:

Name: Clare Liddle
Email: Clare.liddle@cumberland.gov.uk
Phone Number: 01228 470241

Background papers:

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government Act 1972 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:

Appendices attached to report: None



Report to Executive

Meeting Date – 19 March 2024

Key Decision – No

Public/Private – Public

Portfolio – Cllr Markus Dale Campbell-Savours, Governance and Thriving Communities

Directorate – Resources

Lead Officer – Clare Liddle, Chief Legal Officer/Monitoring Officer

Title – Member and Officer Indemnities

Summary:

To provide indemnities for officers and members when carrying out all of their duties for or on behalf of Cumberland Council.

Recommendations:

To approve the grant of an indemnity for officers and members at Appendix 1 of this report.

Tracking

Executive:	19 March 2024
Scrutiny:	
Council:	

1. Background

- 1.1. There is longstanding statutory protection afforded to both members and officers when carrying out their duties to ensure that they do not have a personal liability. This covers any civil liabilities and costs associated with such liabilities that may be incurred.
- 1.2. There was however a gap prior to 2004 as the existing law did not cover the situation where members and officers were acting outside of the Council's powers or where they were exercising their functions on an external body.
- 1.3 Cumberland Council has several outside bodies to which councillors and officers are appointed.
- 1.4 To enable extension of the indemnities for any personal liability, the Local Authorities (Indemnities for Members and Officers) Order 2004 ("the Order") was introduced and adopted by predecessor authorities. This Order clarifies and extends the existing law setting out the circumstances where local authorities are permitted (but not required to) provide an indemnity for personal liabilities incurred by members and officers when acting on behalf of their authority.
- 1.5 Councils have always been able to indemnify officers and members and take out insurance cover when an officer or member acts within his or her powers for the Council, in order to protect the Council in the event of an individual's actions or omissions giving rise to a claim. The Order extends this protection and allows the Council to indemnify officers and members where they have acted outside of the powers of the authority but reasonably believed that the action was within the powers at the time they were taken, or where they are acting on outside bodies for the Council.
- 1.6 The Order enables the Council to provide an indemnity to members and officers in relation to any personal financial liability arising from an action or a failure to act which:
 - is authorised by the Council or
 - forms part of any powers or duties as a consequence of any function being exercised by that members or officer either at the request of or with the approval of the Council or for the purposes of the Council
- 1.7 There are some restrictions placed on this power, an indemnity cannot cover:
 - an action which constitutes a criminal offence;
 - an offence which results from fraud or other deliberate wrongdoing or recklessness;
 - any claim brought which relates to an alleged defamation of a member or officer - an indemnity, however it can be provided to defend a defamation claim made against them.

2. Proposals

- 2.1 To approve the indemnity at Appendix 1 for Officers and Members.

3. Alternative options considered

3.1 Not to approve the indemnity. Failure to do so may result in individual officers and members not being covered for personal liabilities arising from their conduct or decisions when acting on behalf of or pursuant to any appoint agreed by the Council in circumstances where they would otherwise be covered by the indemnity, as set out in the report.

4. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

4.1 Failure to indemnify Officers and members may result in individuals being reluctant to work for or with or be appointed to outside bodies or other external organisations if there is a potential associated personal liability.

Implications:

Contribution to the Cumberland Plan Priorities - The proposals seek to improve officer and member health and wellbeing to ensure that they are not subject to unjustified potential financial liabilities when carrying out their appointed duties. Having indemnities for council representatives on outside bodies helps to ensure the council's representation on local community groups and organisations which benefit local people.

Relevant Risks – Cumberland Council has procured Officials Indemnity and Professional Indemnity insurance as part of its suite of insurance policies.

Officials Indemnity insurance provides coverage for individuals who hold public or official positions, such as government officials, board members, directors, or trustees. It protects these individuals against claims made against them for wrongful acts or omissions committed in the course of their official duties. This policy is subject to an excess of £250k per claim with the exception of legal liability arising in connection with the conduct of running any elections where the excess is reduced to nil.

Professional Indemnity insurance provides coverage for professionals who provide services or advice to clients. It protects professionals against claims made against them for professional negligence, errors, or omissions in the performance of their professional duties. This policy is subject to an excess of £5k per claim with the exception of legal liability arising in connection with the conduct of running any elections where the excess is reduced to nil.

Where negligence is identified that is not covered by the policy or for any liability up to the value of the excess within the insurance policy, the Council would be liable for incurred expenses through the application of the proposed indemnity. The Council retains appropriate and prudent levels of specific reserves for self- insured risks that would be expected to cover such costs.

Consultation / Engagement - None

Legal

Where members and officers act within their own local authority, within their powers and acting in good faith, they have statutory immunity against personal liability under s.265 of the Public Health Act 1875. This immunity however does not apply where they act on outside bodies and in the circumstances set out in this report.

Under section 101 of the Local Government Act 2000, the Secretary of State can provide an indemnity to their members and officers. In relation to local authorities in England, the Secretary of State has made the Local Authorities (Indemnities for Members and Officers) Order 2004 .

This statutory power and the proposed indemnity at Appendix 1 seeks to remedy the injustice that would otherwise occur if a member or officer engaged in council business incurred personal liability for legal costs. The exemptions and areas not covered by the indemnity are set out in the body of this report.

Finance – Finance implications are set out in the ‘Relevant Risks’ section of the report.

Information Governance – None

Impact Assessments – None

Contact details:

Kate Turner, Senior Manager Legal and Democratic Services

Appendices attached to report:

- Appendix 1 – Indemnity for Officers and Members

Background papers:

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government Act 1972 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:

None

APPENDIX 1 – INDEMNITY FOR OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF CUMBERLAND COUNCIL

- 1) Cumberland Council (“The Council”) hereby indemnifies its employees (“Officers”) and elected members, co-opted members, independent members and independent persons (“Members”), against any costs, claims or expenses (“Costs”), subject to the conditions set out in this document, where such Costs arise from any action or omission when acting in the capacity of a Member or Officer of The Council.

- 2) The indemnity is effective to the extent that the Officer or Member in question –
 - (a) having not received advice from an officer to the contrary, believed that the action, or failure to act, was within the powers of The Council; or
 - (b) where the action or failure comprises the issuing or authorisation of any document containing any statement as to the powers of The Council, or any statement that certain steps have been taken or requirements fulfilled, believed that the contents of that statement were true,And
 - (c) it was reasonable for that Officer or Member to hold that belief at the time when he or she acted or failed to act.

- 3) The costs, claims and expenses (“Costs”) are those which arise from, or in connection with, any action of, or failure to act by, the Officer or Member in question, which:
 - (a) is or has been authorised by The Council; or
 - (b) forms part of, or arises from, any powers conferred, or duties placed, upon that Officer or Member, as a consequence of any function being exercised by that Officer or Member (whether or not when exercising that function he or she does so in his or her capacity as an Officer or Member of The Council) –
 - (i) at the request of, or with the approval of, The Council; or
 - (ii) for the purposes of The Council.

- 4) The Council will not provide an indemnity in the following circumstances:-
 - (a) Where any action or failure to act on the part of any Officer or Member:
 - (i) constitutes a criminal offence; or
 - (ii) is the result of fraud, or other deliberate wrongdoing or recklessness on the part of that Officer or Member; or
 - (iii) is a failure by the Member to comply with the Code of Conduct for Members or a failure by the Officer to comply with the Code of Conduct for Officers.

 - (b) This indemnity will not extend to any advice or representation in respect of any claim or threatened claim in defamation to be brought by a Member or an Officer, but will extend to defending a claim for defamation.

(c) The indemnity will not cover any loss or expense for which the Member or Officer can obtain re-imburement from any other source, including insurance, whether taken out by The Council, Member or Officer, or by any other person.

5) Decisions on the granting of all indemnities:

(a) The Chief Legal Officer (Monitoring Officer) has delegated authority to make decisions on the granting of indemnities

(b) The indemnity is subject to the Officer or Member notifying the Chief Legal Officer (Monitoring Officer) immediately of any claim being made or intimated against him or her, and of any circumstances arising which may give rise to a claim

(c) The indemnity will only extend to cover actual loss and expense incurred and evidenced by the Officer or Member to the satisfaction of Chief Legal Officer (Monitoring Officer)

(d) The indemnity will not automatically apply if the Officer or Member without the written authority of the Chief Legal Officer (Monitoring Officer) and The Council's insurers, as appropriate, admits liability or negotiates or attempts to negotiate a settlement of any claim falling within the scope of this indemnity

(e) The indemnity shall not extend to any loss or damage directly or indirectly arising from any motor vehicle claims in which an Officer or Member using his or her own private vehicle on The Council's business has been involved in an accident

(f) The Council or its insurers will be entitled to take over and conduct in the name of the Officer or Member the defence of any proceedings brought against the Officer or Member

6) The indemnities granted by The Council is without prejudice to the rights of The Council to take disciplinary action against an officer in respect of any act or failure to act.

7) The indemnities apply retrospectively to any act or failure to act which may have occurred before this date and shall continue to apply after the Member or Officer has ceased to be a Member or Officer of The Council for any acts or omissions which took place at a time when they were a Member or Officer of The Council.

March 2024

Report to Executive

Meeting Date – 19 March 2024

Key Decision – No

Public/Private – Public

Portfolio – Cllr Barbara Cannon, Executive Member - Financial Planning & Assets

Directorate – Resources

Lead Officer – Catherine Bell, Chief Finance Officer

Finance Report – Quarter 3 (April to December) 2023

Summary:

This report informs members of the Council's financial performance against budget for the period April to December 2023 along with the forecast position to 31 March 2024.

Recommendations:

- Members are asked to note the contents of this report
- To approve the adjustments to the capital programme totalling £41,810,279 as detailed in section 3 of the report

Reason for Recommendation:

The reason for this recommendation is to ensure that members are fully briefed on the Council's financial performance against budget for the period April to December 2023 along with the forecast position to 31 March 2024.

Tracking

Executive:	March 2024
Scrutiny:	N/A
Council:	N/A

1. Background and Introduction

- 1.1 The Council's Financial Regulations require the Section 151 Officer to report to Executive on a quarterly basis, the latest financial position against budget.
- 1.2 This report outlines for the Council's revenue budget:
- actual (net) expenditure during the period April to December 2023
 - the projected net expenditure (full year forecast/forecast outturn) against budget for the year to 31 March 2024
 - reasons for significant variances between the full year forecast and the approved estimates (budget) for 2023-24.
- 1.3 The report also provides an update on quarterly reporting arrangements relating the Council's Capital programme and treasury management activities.

2. Key Messages

- 2.1 The headline messages at the end of the second quarter of 2023-24 are:

Revenue Budget

- (i) The quarter 3 projected outturn will require an un-budgeted contribution from general fund balances of £5.809m, consisting of:
- forecast £5.171m adverse variance - after application of exceptional financial support (EFS) / use of Capitalisation Direction
 - an improvement of (£3.703m) when compared to Q2
 - an adverse variance of £0.638m in respect of income from business rates and non-specific grants
 - an adverse change of £1.027m when compared to the Q2
- (ii) Overall, this represents a favourable change of (£2.676m) when compared to Q2 (which forecast a contribution of £8.485m from General Fund)
- (iii) This improved position, when compared to Q1 and Q2, reflects the on-going work undertaken to identify and deliver budget mitigations across the Council

Capital Budget

- (iv) Expenditure from the capital budget is forecast to be underspent by £176.973m,
- (v) £173.879m of this underspend relates to budgets which are subject to re-profiling adjustments (budgets that will be carried forward), the majority of which (£146,637) is included as part of the 2024/25 budget report, leaving an additional £27.242m that will need carried forward to future years at the end of March 2024.
- (vi) This has resulted in an overall favourable variance (net of re-profiling/carry forward requests) of £3.095m.

Treasury Management

- (vii) Treasury management activities during the period were carried out in accordance with the Council's treasury management and investment strategies and within the limits established by the approved Treasury and Prudential Indicators for 2023-24.

3. Revenue Outturn Position

Summary of Projected Revenue Outturn Position

3.1 Table 1 shows the Council's overall projected 2023-24 revenue outturn position at the end of quarter three (Q3):

- current net budget expenditure on services of £299.769m
- a forecast net expenditure of £304.940m (£317.790m less £12.850m EFS)
- resulting in an adverse variance of £5.171m - after application of EFS
 - an improvement of (£3.703m) when compared to Q2
- an adverse variance of £0.638m - in respect of income from business rates and non-specific grants
 - an adverse change of £1.027m when compared to the Q2
- overall, this will require an un-budgeted contribution from general fund balances of £5.809m, consisting of:
 - a favourable change of (£2.676m) when compared to Q2 (which forecast a contribution of £8.485m from General Fund)
- There is £7.000m CCH additional income contributed to general fund, inline with the 2024/25 budget setting process and budget report

Table 1 - Summary of Projected Outturn against Annual Budget

	Approved Budget	Current budget	Projected Outturn	Projected Variance
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Net Expenditure on Services	303.279	299.769	304.940	5.171
Parish Precepts	0.000	4.954	4.954	0.000
Net Expenditure on Services & Parish Precepts	303.279	304.723	309.894	5.171
Less: Planned Use of Earmarked Reserves / GF	(11.723)	(11.723)	(11.723)	0.000
Less: Additional Use of Earmarked Reserves	-	(3.490)	(3.490)	0.000
Contribution (to) General Fund (CCH)	0.000	7.000	7.000	0.000
Net Budget Requirement / Projected Outturn	291.556	296.510	301.681	5.171
Funding:				
Taxation & Government Grants	(291.556)	(291.556)	(290.918)	0.638
Council tax from parish precept	0.000	(4.954)	(4.954)	0.000
Contribution from General Fund	0.000	0.000	(5.809)	(5.809)
Total Funding	(291.556)	(296.510)	(301.681)	(5.171)

3.2 The table shows the approved Net Expenditure on Services budget of £303.279m is now £299.769m. All adjustments, including those between directorates, are summarised in Appendix A

Analysis of Net Expenditure on Services against Budget

3.3 A summary of the projected adverse variance of £5.171m, by Directorate, is shown in the following table below. This comprises :

- £18.021m initial projected outturn variance, including expenditure funded from earmarked reserves, planned contributions to balances along with forecast transformation plan expenditure
- £12.850m application of exceptional financial support
- This has resulted in a adverse variance of £5.171m

3.4 This represents an improvement of £3.703m, when compared to the adverse variance of £8.874m reported at Q2

Table 2 - Summary of Variances by Directorate

Directorate – Q3	Current Budget	Full Year Forecast	Forecast Variance	EFS	Net Variance
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Assistant Chief Executive	3.123	2.807	(0.316)	0.000	(0.316)
Business Transformation & Change	15.274	24.532	9.258	(5.221)	4.037
Resources	58.250	47.435	(10.815)	(0.200)	(11.015)
Place, Sustainable Growth & Transport	72.104	72.560	0.456	0.000	0.456
Public Health & Communities	7.720	7.712	(0.008)	0.000	(0.008)
Adult Social Care & Housing	77.693	77.604	(0.089)	0.000	(0.089)
Children & Family Wellbeing	65.372	84.907	19.535	(7.429)	12.106
Chief Executive	0.233	0.233	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total before un-allocated EFS	299.769	317.790	18.021	(12.850)	5.171

Change in variance since Q2

3.5 The overall favourable change of £3.703m since Q2, comprises:

Table 3 – Change in variance since Q2

	Variance at Quarter 2			Change since Q2 (Variance at Quarter 2 compared to Table 2 above)
	Forecast Variance exc' EFS)	EFS	Net Variance	Forecast Variance (exc' EFS)
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Assistant Chief Executive	(0.294)	0.000	(0.294)	(0.022)
Business Transformation & Change	9.388	(4.310)	5.078	(0.130)
Resources	(7.648)	0.000	(7.648)	(3.167)
Place, Sustainable Growth & Transport	0.144	0.000	0.144	0.312
Public Health & Communities	0.000	0.000	0.000	(0.008)
Adult Social Care & Housing	1.871	0.000	1.871	(1.960)
Children & Family Wellbeing	18.263	0.000	18.263	1.272
Chief Executive	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total before un-allocated EFS	21.724	(4.310)	17.414	(3.703)
Service expenditure covered by EFS	0.000	(8.540)	(8.540)	0.000
Net Expend. on Services	21.724	(12.850)	8.874	(3.703)

3.6 The EFS support has now been allocated across directorates, rather than being included as a general item, but the overall amount of EFS has not change since Q2

3.7 Excluding changes due to allocation of EFS between directorates, the favourable change of £3.703m since Q2 relates to:

- (£3.167m) favourable change in Resources Directorate, mainly due to a favourable change on treasury management (reduced borrowing costs and additional income from investments)
- (£1.960m) favourable change Adult Social Care & Housing Directorate, the majority of this change is a result of on-going budget mitigation work
- £1.272m adverse change Children & Family Wellbeing Directorate, the majority of this change is a result of continued staff pressure across Send, Education and Inclusion and shortfall in delivery of mitigations which were forecast to be fully achieved at Q2.
- £0.152 smaller overall adverse changes across other directorates

2023/24 Service expenditure covered by EFS (capitalisation)

- 3.8 As noted above, EFS support is included within the budget monitoring position covering both transitional and transformation expenditure
- 3.9 The Cumberland budget included £10.000m recurring budget for LGR Transition Pressures:
- £1.000m pressure from non-staffing budgets relating to the legacy operating models.
 - £6.000m Recruitment and Staffing – pressure to support the requirement to continue to deliver statutory responsibilities in both Adults and Children’s services, including the recruitment of required statutory officer roles being disaggregated from the county. Also, to ensure there is sufficient capacity within corporate support and enabling services to deliver safe and legal services.
 - £3.000m ICT costs for licensing and staffing costs relating to maintaining sovereign ICT systems whilst developing new ones for the new council. This allocation ensures Cumberland has sufficient resources available to cover the Cumberland share of additional costs for licensing and staffing that were expected to be incurred as a result of disaggregating the ICT service. In line with the IAA and SLA, as part of the Hosted ICT service, W&F and Fire will meet their own share of these additional costs.
- 3.10 In order to finance this budget, a request was made to the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) for exceptional financial support (EFS) to assist the council in managing the transition and transformation - DLUHC confirmed this support would be available for 2023/24, allowing the authority to use capital resources to fund this revenue investment.
- 3.11 In setting the MTFP, the Council recognised that these £10.000m pressures would be recurring and that these would need to be included in the budget for 2024/25 onwards, but that alternative financing, or savings, would need to be identified through the transformation programme to enable the Council to continue to finance these pressures on a recurring basis.
- 3.12 As reported at Q2, the Council has reviewed its priorities for 2023/24 based on the latest forecast financial position and in addition to the budget mitigations, it was anticipated that £10.000 of service expenditure included within the Q2 forecast would be covered by the LGR Transition Pressures budget and would therefore be financed by the EFS (capitalisation direction), comprising :

- £1.460m for ICT costs, and
- £8.540m for other service costs

3.13 This has undergone a detailed review since Q2 and the current breakdown of EFS included at Q3, including an update on the transitional ICT, transitional other service costs (other SC) and forecast Transformation Plan expenditure is included in the table below:

Table 4 : EFS in 2023/24

	Transformation	Transition	Total EFS
Business Transformation & Change			
Transformation	2.850	-	2.850
ICT	-	1.268	1.268
PMO	-	0.749	0.749
HR/OD	-	0.354	0.354
Business Transformation & Change	2.850	2.371	5.221
Resources (Legal and Finance)	-	0.200	0.200
Adult pressure	-	0.000	0.000
Children pressure	-	7.429	7.429
Total EFS	2.850	10.000	12.850

3.14 The use and allocation of EFS will continue to be reviewed and the final position will be reported as part of the Outturn for 2023/24.

Directorate Variances

3.15 A breakdown and analysis of significant variances between the current budget and full year forecast analysed by Directorate is set out in the following paragraphs.

Assistant Chief Executive Directorate

3.16 The forecast net favourable variance against the Assistant Chief Executive Directorate budget is (£0.316). This is a favourable change of (£0.022m) when compared to the (£0.294m) favourable forecast variance reported at Q2.

3.17 As reported at Q2 the variance is largely due to an underspend on staffing as a result of vacancies, secondments and income from staff currently shared with W&F.

Business Transformation & Change Directorate

3.18 The adverse variance of £4.037m at Q3, comprises:

- £4.123m is the most significant variance and relates to corporate savings, with no change being reported since Q2. Whilst this savings target for 2023/24 has not been achieved, a savings programme has been developed during the year and has now been incorporated into the 2024/15 budget and MTFP.
- (£0.086m) net favourable variance in relation to service budgets, consisting of :
 - £2.285m adverse position in relation to service expenditure,
 - (£2.371m) application of EFS to cover transitional pressures. As reported at Q2, the transitional pressures now off-set through the application of EFS, include:
 - Programme Management Office (PMO) costs that were not part of the sovereign organisations staffing budgets but which are essential to development and delivery of the Transformation plan,
 - additional ICT staffing, operational and legacy system expenditure, and
 - HR/OD expenditure in relation to Trade Union facility time and use of agency cover for the vacant Assistant Director post
- £2.850m Transformation Plan expenditure, reducing to no variance after the application of £2.850m EFS

Resources Directorate

3.19 The favourable variance of (£11.015m) comprises:

- (£12.468m) favourable variance across the resources service areas
- £1.453m adverse variance on corporate vacancy management savings, as the savings have not yet been allocated across directorate service budgets.

3.20 The favourable service area variance of (£12.468m) comprises:

- (£10.565m) favourable variance in relation to treasury management, comprising reduced borrowing costs and additional income from investments. This represented a favourable change of (£4.028m) when compared to Q2

- (£2.220) favourable position across property services, comprising a favourable position in relation to the corporate landlord and corporate accommodation operational and utility budgets, underspends in relation to vacant posts and savings identified at Q2 as a result of capital financing changes (using prudential borrowing to finance school enhancement expenditure, rather than using revenue budget contributions). The latter has been made possible through the re-prioritising of underspends identified across the capital programme that were reported at Q2.
 - £0.317m remaining adverse variance is made up of small variances, including adverse variances in relation to the business support service, car parking income, ceremony income and HM Coroners and favourable variances including staff vacancies within democratic, elections service, internal audit and other areas.
- 3.21 The £1.453m saving relates to corporate vacancy management savings, included within the 2023/24 base budget. Currently the savings budget is reported as part of the Resources Directorate, but the underspends to off-set this saving are reported as part of individual directorate variances. It is expected that the saving will be allocated across directorate budgets before the end of the financial year, to ensure this is in place for 2024/25.
- 3.22 The Pay, Inflation and Contingency budget is included within the resources directorate and was approved at £25m, consisting of £7.5m pay, £16.5m inflation (including £0.5m inflation risk allowance) and £1.0m contingency. The pay and inflation budget is fully committed and has therefore been forecast to budget with no under or overspend being reported at Q3.
- 3.23 The main balance still to be allocated from the Pay, Inflation and Contingency budget at quarter 3 relates to the pay-award. Now the pay-award has been agreed, this is in the process of being allocated to service budgets and will be complete before the end of the financial year.
- 3.24 The £7.5m allowed for a 5% pay award which is not sufficient to meet the full cost of the agreed pay award. The potential impact has been modelled and could result in a shortfall for circa £1.2m, which would require the use of all of the remaining inflation risk allowance and contingency budget not yet allocated. This is only an estimate at this stage and the final impact will be reported within the 2023/24 outturn, once all of the remaining service budget allocations are complete.

Place, Sustainable Growth & Transport

3.25 The adverse variance of £0.456m comprises:

- (£0.232m) favourable variance in relation to Climate and Waste, consisting of:
 - £0.988m adverse variance in relation to Waste Collection, comprising and overspend of £0.331m due to the use of Agency staff to meet service demand within the in-house service delivery teams and lower trade refuse fees & charges income of £0.551m. The remaining adverse net variance of £0.106m relates to smaller variances including additional income from the sale of recyclable material.
 - (£1.216m) favourable variance in relation to Waste Disposal, comprising reduced costs of (£0.643m) in relation to the waste disposal contract, as a result of lower landfill sites costs, gainshare costs and disposal costs than has been included in the budget estimates. A saving has been identified in relation to surplus budget of (£0.362m) when reviewing the sovereign income / expenditure budgets for recycling credits. The remaining favourable net variance of (£0.211m) relates to smaller variances, including staff vacancies and landfill management costs.
 - (£0.004m) remaining favourable variance is due to smaller variances within Climate, Decarbonisation and Flooding
- (£0.069m) favourable variance in relation to Highways and Transport, underpinned by:
 - £1.281m adverse net variance in relation to road lighting energy, verge maintenance, mobile plant costs, traffic signal maintenance and operational materials costs exceeding budget. This is under review to identify options for addressing this position ahead of the final outturn position, so is subject to change before the end of the financial year
 - (£1.441m) favourable net variance in relation to Transport services, due to due to fewer journeys being undertaken as part of the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS) than allowed for within the budget
 - £0.091m remaining adverse variance is due to a number of smaller variances

- £0.462m adverse variance in relation to Neighbourhoods, underpinned by:
 - £0.268m Countryside Access pressure, with work on-going to secure grant income to off-set these costs so the position is subject to change before the final outturn.
 - £0.194m remaining adverse variance is due to a number of smaller variances, including street cleansing, bereavement services, grounds maintenance, green spaces and leisure services.
- £0.277m adverse variance in relation to Thriving Places. This net position is underpinned by both a reduction in income across building control and development management which has been partially off-set by underspends in relation to vacant posts across both services.

Public Health & Communities

- 3.26 At Quarter 3 the forecast net favourable variance is (£0.008), with no significant variances to report.

Adult Social Care & Housing Directorate

- 3.27 The favourable variance of (£0.089m) being forecast at Q3 represents an improved position of (£1.960m) when compared to Q2 adverse variance of £1.891m.
- 3.28 This improved financial position is due to the on-going budget mitigation work that has taken place throughout Q3, both to address the previous projected adverse budget position reported at Q1 and Q2 and in preparation for the service review savings to be delivered in 2024/25.
- 3.29 Whilst the service is still subject to demand and pricing pressures, as reported at Q2, this has been mitigated by ensuring all available resources are maximised to ensure the cost of these pressures can be contained within the available budget and funding envelope.

Children and Family Wellbeing Directorate

- 3.30 Children & Family Wellbeing adverse variance of £12.106m, comprises:
- £19.535m adverse variance, before the application of EFS, and
 - (£7.429m) application of EFS to cover transitional pressures.
- 3.31 The adverse variance of £19.535m is underpinned by:

- £0.139m adverse variance, including pressure of £0.066m associated with consultancy work from an experienced Ofsted inspector, with the remaining balance of £0.073m mainly due to subscription costs,
- £1.246m adverse variance for Send, Education and Inclusion. Underpinned by overspends for SEND relating to Area Inclusion due to the demand pressures on Direct Payments. The number of children in receipt of a Direct Payment at the beginning of January 2024 was 206. This represents an increase of 6.2% during Q3 and an overall increase of 12.6% since April 2023,
- £1.500m savings not being delivered in 2023-24. Whilst this savings target for 2023/24 has not been achieved, a savings programme has been developed during the year and has now been incorporated into the 2024/15 budget and MTFP,
- £3.682m adverse variance for Quality and Resource. Mainly due to overspend of £3.114m on Home to School and SEND transport, based on underlying commitments in this service. Work is underway to transformation processes and procedures within this area, which is expected to significantly improve the financial position leading into 2024/25,
- £12.968m adverse variance, due to pressure in relation to Children and Families, Mainly due to:
 - £10.787m adverse variance in relation to Cared for Children (CFC), and
 - £2.273m adverse variance in relation to Support and Protect Services,
 - (£0.092) net favourable variance due to a number of smaller variances across C&F management, early help, youth offending, prevention and other services.

Cared for Children (CFC) - £10.787m adverse variance

3.32 The Cared For Service has a budget of £34.232m and a forecast outturn pressure of £10.787m, underpinned by the following variances:

- (i) Cared for Children (CFC) placement costs - £7.491m – overspend
- (ii) Other Cared For Children costs - £3.296m overspend, comprising:
 - staff costs- £0.673m – overspend
 - Pathways Pressure - £1.209m – overspend
 - SGO allowances - £0.650m – overspend
 - Travel and transport £0.272m – overspend
 - other service areas - £0.492m combined net adverse variance

(i) Cared For Children Placement Costs - £7.491m – overspend

- 3.33 The budget for 2023-24 included £5.000m to fund ongoing pressures within the service. It also included £1.916m of budget growth for price inflation. Despite this additional funding, at Q3 there is a forecast (full year) overspend on CFC costs of £7.491m, a decrease of (£0.367m) when compared to the adverse variance reported at Q2.
- 3.34 The reduction is due mostly to an expected increase in contributions of from North East and North Cumbria ICB towards a complex care package and backdated to November 2021.
- 3.35 The service continues to face demand pressure. At Q3 the number of CFC is 503, an increase of 17 from the 486 reported at the start of the year
- 3.36 The 503 CFC is a small reduction from the 506 reported at Q2.
- 3.37 As well as increasing demand, there are a number of key issues contributing to the CFC placement cost pressure:
- Two exceptional bespoke packages of care (one ended in October 2023): required for CFCs with very complex needs for whom no suitable external placement could be found or maintained. The forecast cost for these two packages alone is £0.813m (3% of the total CFC placement cost budget).
 - An increase in the number of high-cost packages: excluding the two bespoke packages, at Q3 there were 10 packages with a cost to social care of £7,000 or more per week. The forecast cost for these 10 is £3.265m (12% of the total CFC placement cost budget).
 - A high number of external residential packages: at Q3 there were 70 external residential packages with a forecast cost of £18.362m. The number of packages was 72 at Q2 and then reduced by two to 70 at Q3. Although the 70 represent just 14% of the 503 CFCs, the forecast cost equates to 68% of the £26.921m CFC placement cost budget.
- 3.38 Sufficiency of placements and the ability to place CFCs in the preferred setting has become very challenging. Unavailability of external foster placements in particular has seen CFCs placed in residential placements because there was no alternative.

(ii) Other Cared for Children Costs - £3.296m overspend

- 3.39 In addition to the CFC placement cost pressures, the forecast Cared for Children Service overspend of £10.787m also includes a projected full year

overspend of £3.296m in respect of Other Children & Families costs – an increase of £0.461m when compared to the adverse variance reported at Q2. Key items underpinning this overspend include:

- £0.673m staff cost pressure at Q3, a decrease of (£0.109m) compared with Q2. Agency costs of £1.362m are offset by staffing underspends of (£0.689m) resulting in a net pressure of £0.673m. At Q3 Cared For Children had 16.6 FTE agency staff and 16.9 permanent staff vacancies.
- £1.209m Pathways payments pressure at Q3, an increase of £0.306m compared to Q2. The pressure includes £0.620m specifically in relation to 48 UASC care leavers who are unable to leave their CLA placements due to delays in processing their asylum claims. Once a UASC turns 18, the Home Office funding received by the Council falls from between £798 - £1,001 to £270 per week. This leaves a shortfall compared to the £1,153 average weekly cost of the CLA placements in which they remain.
- £0.650m Special Guardianship Order (SGO) payments pressure at Q3, an increase of £0.058m compared with Q2. In 2021/22 SGO payment pressures were funded by the realignment of funding from other Children and Families budgets. Despite this, the continued growth in SGOs qualifying for means tested financial support has resulted in a £0.650m pressure at Q3. At December 2023 the Service was funding SGO allowances for 261 children. However, SGO payments are still seen as a more cost-effective alternative to children and young people being looked after.
- £0.000m Adoption Inter Agency Fees £0.000m, unchanged compared with Q2.
- £0.078m CFC other agency services pressure, an increase of £0.024m compared with Q2. The pressure relates to other agency costs for external support provided to CFCs outside their main placement package. These include therapy and other professional support services.
- £0.272m Travel and transport pressures at Q3 an increase of £0.087m compared with Q2. The biggest areas of travel cost pressures are home to school transport £0.070m, contact visits £0.053m, staff care hire £0.049m, and EPWs travel £0.040m.
- £0.414m Other net pressures make up the remaining balance. This is an increase of £0.095m compared with Q2. This includes a pressure of £0.166m on adoption allowances.

Support & Protect Services - £2.273m adverse variance

- 3.40 The budget for Support and Protect Services totals £6.814m and has a forecast pressure of £2.273m at Q3, a reduction of (£0.079m) compared with Q2.
- 3.41 Agency costs of £3.955m are only partially offset by staffing underspends. The forecast agency spend includes £0.406m for a managed team of six EPWs in the Allerdale and Copeland district which has been put in place pending the ongoing recruitment of overseas social workers. At Q3 Support and Protect had 38.8 FTE agency staff with 39.3 FTE permanent staffing vacancies.

Taxation and Non-specific grant income

- 3.42 Details of the Council's taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure for the year compared with budget, are shown in the following table. This includes income received from:
- Non-ringfenced government grants, such as Revenue Support Grant and New Homes Bonus
 - Council tax and Non Domestic Rates (NNDR).

Table 5 - Taxation and Non-specific grant income

	Original Budget £m	Projected Outturn £m	Variance £m
Revenue support grant	11.380	11.380	0.000
Rural Services Delivery Grant	2.499	2.793	0.294
New Homes Bonus	0.957	0.957	0.000
Other Gov. grants (Lower Tier Services Grant)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Other Gov. grants (Services Grant)	2.324	2.419	0.095
Social Care Grant	25.101	25.101	0.000
CNFR - PFI grant	11.882	11.882	0.000
Focused Families	0.825	0.825	0.000
Other smaller Grants	0.620	0.620	0.000
NNDR funding	84.041	82.988	(1.027)
Council tax – excluding parish element	152.883	152.883	0.000
Collection fund surplus/(deficit) - Council Tax	(0.930)	(0.930)	0.000
Use of/(contribution to) General Fund Balances	0.000	0.000	0.000
	291.556	290.918	0.638

NNDR Funding (Business Rates)

- 3.43 The amount of NNDR income available to the Council's general fund and taken into account when setting the budget, is based on an estimate made in January preceding the start of the financial year and included in the government return NNDR 1 (i.e. January 2023 for the 2023-24 Financial Year). The estimate of business rate income, reported in the government return NNDR 1, also determines how much the Council must pay to central government and the Cumbria Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner during the course of the year.
- 3.44 Although the NNDR1 return fixes a significant portion of NNDR income available to the Council's General Fund for the financial year, it does not fix:
- the grant it receives from central government to compensate for certain business rate reliefs (section 31 grant)
 - the balance of amount payable or receivable in respect of the preceding years disregarded income (renewable energy and designated areas disregarded income reconciliation adjustments).

The 2024/25 local government finance settlement

- 3.45 In addition to setting out the financing for 2024/25, the 2024/25 local government finance settlement and associated announcement included an update to the 2024/25 NNDR income:
- (i) The top-up grant received by Cumberland is being reduced by £0.732m on a recurring basis. The allocations provided by the 2023/24 settlement, and included in the Cumberland budget, were based on governments initial calculations following the 2023 business rates revaluation. Government have now recalculated the amount of grant due to each local authority and provided amended allocations through the 2024/25 settlement, with the changes to be made retrospectively to include 2023/24.
 - (ii) Section 31 grant – compensation based on top-up, has reduced by £0.124m, due to the overall reduction in the level of top-up grant now allocated to Cumberland.
 - (iii) The final settlement also announced a one-off allocation to be made in 2023/24 from the business rates levy account. This will be a national allocation of £100m to be distributed based on government Strategic Funding Assessment (SFA). This funding is to be accounted for in 2023-24, not 2024-25.

Section 31 grant – other compensation

- 3.46 In addition to the changes notes above, there is also a projected reduction in s31 grant receivable, mainly due to a reduction in grant receivable in relation to the award of retail, hospitality and leisure relief in 2023-24 and prior years. This follows significant reductions in the rateable values (RVs) of retail properties (supermarkets) following successful appeals against the 2017 list. This reduction in RVs has also been a significant contributory factor to the estimated 2023-24 collection fund deficit (NNDR) included in the 2024-25 budget.
- 3.47 The composition of funding available from business rates in 2023-24, including related s31 grants is summarised in the table below:

Table 6 - Composition of NNDR (Business Rates) Funding

Funding element	Original Budget £m		Projected Outturn £m	Variance £m
Fixed Elements:				
Cumberland share of NNDR Income		51.956	51.956	0.000
Amounts retained in respect of Designated Areas		0.289	0.289	0.000
Amounts retained in respect of renewable energy schemes		1.238	1.238	0.000
Qualifying relief in Designated Areas		0.182	0.182	0.000
Net top-up (tariff) payable to Central Government		12.208	11.476	(0.732)
Share of estimated collection fund surplus/(deficit)		(6.807)	(6.807)	0.000
Total 'Fixed' element of NNDR income		59.066	58.334	(0.732)
Variable Elements:				
Recon adj. re PY disregarded income - Designated areas		(0.007)	(0.007)	0.000
Recon adj. re PY disregarded income - Renewable Energy		0.021	0.021	0.000
Section 31 grant – compensation based on top-up	2.079	1.955		(0.124)
Section 31 grant – other compensation	20.341	19.701		(0.640)
Total Variable element of NNDR income		22.434	21.670	(0.764)
Total Fixed & Variable Elements		81.500	80.004	(1.496)
Transfer from Earmarked Reserves		2.515	2.515	0.000
Share of Levy Account Funding – additional funding		0.000	0.469	0.469
NNDR income		84.015	82.988	(1.027)

4. Capital budget

4.1 The current capital budget is £331.153m, comprising:

- £174.107m approved budget for 2023-24 (approved February 2023)
- £73.674m budget carry forward from 2022-23
- £40m approved for exceptional financial support
- Budget adjustments of £1.562m as approved in the Quarter 2 report
- Further budget adjustments of £41.810m as detailed in the table below:

Table 7 Capital Budget Adjustments

Adjustments:	Director Approval	Executive Approval	Council Approval
	£	£	£
Repayment of Sustainable Warmth Grant		(1,807,732)	
Lawn Tennis Association Grant		80,402	
Carlisle Southern Link Road Grant		40,854,556	
Family Hubs Grant		167,000	
Additional Roads Funding Grant		1,949,000	
National Highways Contribution		100,000	
S106 contribution to William Howard School Improvements		467,053	
Virement from Major Projects Match Funding (recommended by SPP)		(361,578)	
Virement to Carlisle Station Gateway (recommended by SPP)		361,578	
	0	41,810,279	0

4.2 The projected Capital Outturn position for 2023-24 is summarised in the table below. This shows:

- a projected outturn position of £154.180m
- an underspend compared to budget of £176.973m
- expected budget carry forward requests (re-profiling adjustments) of £173.879m (£141.637m of which has been requested for carry forward as part of the 2024-25 budget setting process)
- an overall favourable variance (net of carry forward requests) of £3.095m.

Table 8 – Capital Programme – Projected Outturn by Portfolio

	Current Budget £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Outturn Variance £'000	Projected Reprofiting/ Carry Fwd £'000	Variance £'000
Capital Expenditure					
Adult Wellbeing and Housing	16,967	11,922	(5,045)	3,954	(1,091)
Business Transformation and Change	1,382	721	(661)	661	0
Children and Family Wellbeing	17,436	12,943	(4,493)	4,180	(313)
Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport	242,098	111,639	(130,459)	128,996	(1,463)
Resources	13,270	4,105	(9,165)	8,938	(227)
Exceptional Financial Support	40,000	12,850	(27,150)	27,150	0
Total - Capital Expenditure	331,153	154,180	(176,973)	173,879	(3,094)
Capital Financing					
Capital Grants	232,493	121,451	(111,042)	110,826	(216)
Capital Receipts	1,541	97	(1,444)	1,392	(52)
Earmarked Reserves	1,872	476	(1,396)	1,423	27
General Fund Balances	1,479	394	(1,085)	983	(102)
Borrowing	93,768	31,762	(62,006)	59,255	(2,751)
Total - Capital Funding	331,153	154,180	(176,973)	173,879	(3,094)

4.3 A breakdown of the projected budget reprofiling and year end carry forwards is shown in the table below:

Table 9 project reprofiling

	Reprofiling as part of 2024/25 Budget Process £'000	Projected Carry Fwd at Year End £'000	Projected Budget Reprofiting/ Carry Fwd £'000
Capital Expenditure			
Adult Wellbeing and Housing	0	3,954	3,954
Business Transformation and Change	0	661	661
Children and Family Wellbeing	0	4,180	4,180
Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport	119,487	9,509	128,996
Resources	0	8,938	8,938
Exceptional Financial Support	27,150	0	27,150
Total - Capital Expenditure	146,637	27,242	173,879
Capital Financing			
Capital Grants	97,423	13,403	110,826
Capital Receipts	162	1,230	1,392
Earmarked Reserves	1,400	23	1,423
General Fund Balances	0	983	983
Borrowing	47,652	11,603	59,255
Total - Capital Funding	146,637	27,242	173,879

- 4.4 After the reprofiling exercise carried out for the 2024/25 budget process, it is projected that a further £27.242m will need carried forward to future years at the end of March 2024.
- 4.5 Details of the capital programme are set out in Appendix B.
- 4.6 The £3.094m underspend, mainly relates to schemes previously expected to be financed by Borrowing. The majority of this underspend is due to the reduction in expenditure forecast across a number of budget lines, where there is no existing commitments, but where a budget has been included because it had formed part of the sovereign Council's Capital Programme.
- 4.7 The impact of this position is that :
- the delay in the Councils need to borrow £59.255m, as a result of the projected budget carry forward, is instrumental in being able to achieve the favourable position reported against the treasury management (borrowing and investment) budget included in the revenue forecast
 - the reduction in the Councils overall need to borrow of £2.751m, as a result of the underspend, has allowed the Council to review its overall capital financing and has allowed a number of mitigations included in the revenue budget forecast

5. Impact on General Fund and Earmarked Reserve Balances

- 5.1 Reserves provide the cushion to deal with uncertainty, risks and unforeseen events in the year, and the opportunity to respond to service changes outside existing plans. They provide flexibility and are key to a financially sustainable Council.
- 5.2 The Councils policy on reserves is that wherever possible reserves should not be used to fund recurring expenditure, but that where it is, this should be made explicit, and steps taken to address the situation in the following years.
- 5.3 The position needs to be reviewed constantly throughout the financial year and early corrective action may be required should any forecast indicate the reserves and balances will fall to, or below, the minimum levels deemed to be prudent by the Section 151 officer.
- 5.4 The impact of current budget forecasts on the Council's General Fund and Earmarked Reserve balances is summarised in the following table.

Table 10 - Forecast movement on General, Earmarked and DSG Reserve

	General Fund (GF) £m	Earmarked Reserves (EMR) £m	Schools Earmarked Reserves £m	DSG Adj. Unusable £m	Total £m
Opening Balances April 2023	28.350	80.426	4.806	(12.290)	101.292
Transfer between reserves	(1.381)	1.381	0.000	0.000	0.000
Amended Opening Balances April 2023	26.969	81.807	4.806	(12.290)	101.292
Transfers to/(from) Reserves:					
Use for capital programme	0.000	(0.471)	-	-	(0.471)
Planned use to support Revenue Budget	(11.723)	-	-	-	(11.723)
Unplanned contribution to GF (CCH)	7.000	-	-	-	7.000
Unplanned use to support Revenue Budget	(5.809)	-	-	-	(5.809)
To/(from) Earmarked Reserves	-	(3.490)	-	-	(3.490)
EMR to be released to GF - Grants	2.626	(2.626)	-	-	0.000
EMR to be released to GF - Other	13.188	(13.188)	-	-	0.000
GF to be transferred to EMR for NNDR	(5.000)	5.000	-	-	0.000
Transfer from Earmarked Reserve - 2022-23 s31 grant and Copeland retained business rates safety-net	-	(2.515)	-	-	(2.515)
Addition to DSG unusable reserve 2023-24	-	-	-	(3.043)	(3.043)
Movement in maintained school balances	-	-	(3.532)	-	(3.532)
Increase/(Decrease) in Balance	0.282	(17.290)	(3.532)	(3.043)	(23.583)
Forecast Balance at 31 March 2024	27.251	64.517	1.274	(15.333)	77.709

5.5 General Fund forecast balance of £27.251m, at 31 March 2024, consists of:

- £0.964m to support the 2024-25 Revenue Budget

5.6 There would be a remaining General Fund balance of £26.287m compared to £12.858m included in the 2024/25 budget report – an improved position of £13.429m, due to:

- (£0.357m) not currently forecast to support the 2023/24 capital programme,
- (£3.036m) not currently forecast to support the 2023/24 revenue budget (£8.845m at Q2 compared to £5.809m at Q3)
- (£10.036m) not used to support 2024/25 revenue budget (£0.964m compared to £11.000m in the high level budget report estimate). This is largely due to £10.000 being included in the 2024-25 Revenue Budget as potentially being required, pending outcome of the EFS application, which has now been confirmed

- 5.7 Earmarked Balance forecast balance of £64.517m, at 31 March 2024, consists of:
- £22.245m Carlisle North Development Road (CNDR) PFI reserves
 - £18.328m Grants and contributions from third parties for specific scheme/projects
 - £7.043m Self Insurance reserve
 - £5.000m to be released to support 2024/25 budget (NNDR income)
 - £2.101m related to hosted service and held on behalf of all authorities within the agreement(s)
 - £9.800m other earmarked balances

Schools Earmarked Reserves

- 5.8 Schools Earmarked Reserves in the above table, relate to Maintained Schools Balances, which comprise unspent balances of budgets delegated to individual schools.
- 5.9 At 1 April 2023 the net surplus balances on maintained schools was (£4.806m).
- 5.10 Based on school submitted October budget plans for 2023/24 the net surplus balance for maintained schools is projected to be (£1.274m) as at 31 March 2024. The table below shows a breakdown of these figures separately by surpluses and deficits:

Table 11 - Projected Maintained Schools Balances 31 March 2024

	Opening Balance	Opening Balance	Forecast Balance at 31.3.24	Forecast Balance at 31.3.24	Change in value
	No.	£m	No.	£m	£m
Maintained Schools with Surpluses	108	(8.010)	107	(5.867)	2.413
Maintained Schools with Deficits	19	3.204	19	4.593	1.389
Total	127	(4.806)	126	(1.274)	3.532

- 5.11 One school has applied for academy status with a provisional conversion date of 1 November 2023. There was a net surplus for this school at the end of 31 March 2023, meaning if the conversion goes ahead this will have a negative impact on the maintained schools’ net surplus balance in 2023-24.
- 5.12 Schools that have proposed deficit budget plans are required to submit a deficit recovery plan and regular budget monitoring reports to the finance team for review.

Dedicated School Grant (DSG) balances

Background and Treatment of DSG balances

- 5.13 The Council's expenditure on schools is funded primarily by grant monies provided by the Education Funding Agency, the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).
- 5.14 DSG is ringfenced and can only be applied to meet expenditure properly included in the Schools Budget, as defined in the School Finance and Early Years (England) Finance Regulations 2020. The Schools Budget includes elements for a range of educational services provided on an authority-wide basis and for the Individual Schools Budget, which is divided into a budget share for each maintained school.
- 5.15 Regulations effective from 1 April 2020 require that a Schools Budget deficit must be carried forward to be funded from future Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) income, unless permission is sought from the Secretary of State for Education to fund the deficit from the General Fund. They also require that where a local authority has a deficit on its Schools Budget (i.e. any deficit between the DSG grant and sixth form grant received in year and the schools budget expenditure) relating to its accounts for the financial years 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23, it must not charge that deficit to the general fund, but instead record that deficit in a separate (unusable) reserve account - The Dedicated Schools Grant Adjustment Account. The account also includes any cumulative deficit carried at the end of financial year 2019-20.
- 5.16 The new accounting practice has the effect of separating schools budget deficits from the local authorities' general fund for a period of three financial years. In 2023, the period covered by regulations was extended for a further three years through to 31 March 2026. If in any of the years 2021-22 to 2025-26 there is a surplus on the schools budget i.e. the DSG grant and sixth form grant received exceeds schools budget expenditure, this is not taken to the unusable reserve noted above but should be held from a budgetary perspective as a ring-fenced reserve.

DSG forecast 2023/24

- 5.17 The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) budget has a forecast in year overspend of £3.042m at Q3 (compared to £2.084m at Q2). This variance comprises:
- £3.480m overspend on the High Needs Block
 - (£0.438m) underspend on Central DSG

- 5.18 The forecast cumulative deficit at 31 March 2024 is therefore £15.333m (compared to the opening deficit balance of £12.290m)
- 5.19 The statutory override means that the Council’s general reserves are not impacted by the deficit on the DSG which has been extended to 31 March 2026.
- 5.20 The table below shows the position on both the Central DSG and High Needs Block (this excludes individual school balances):

Table 12 - DSG Central DSG and High Needs Block forecast outturn

	Central DSG £m	High Needs Block £m	Total £m
DSG Balance at 31 March 2023	4.305	(16.595)	(12.290)
Forecast (over)/under spends on DSG in 2023-24	0.438	(3.480)	(3.042)
Forecast DSG balance at 31 March 2024	4.743	(20.075)	15.333

Central DSG

- 5.21 Central DSG reserve is forecast to increase by (£0.438m). The key variances are:
 - Contingency Fund (£0.324m), based all known calls on contingencies to date.
 - Nursery Grants (£0.314m). Based on actual take-up of provision. The forecast is net of additional funding of relating to the final adjustment to the 2022/23 Early Years Block allocation to reflect the Spring 2023 actual take-up.
 - The remaining balance relates to individually non-material variances totalling a net overspend of £0.200m.

High Needs Block

- 5.22 The budget deficit on the High Needs Block is forecast to increase by £3.480m
- 5.23 The pressure against the High Needs Block continues to be due to specific budget pressures relating to the growth in demand for Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs) for children and young people with SEN.
- 5.24 The number of children with EHCPs as at Q3 is 2,709. This figure provisional pending the completion of the disaggregation of cases between the two new authorities.

- 5.25 Cumberland's percentage of pupils with EHCPs is higher compared to the national and statistical neighbours rates, although the rate of increase for Cumbria overall is largely matched by the rate of increase both nationally and against our statistical neighbours
- 5.26 Cumbria took part in the Department for Education's Delivering Better Value for SEND programme and successfully applied and received approval for a £1m grant for each new authority to support their improvement plans the impact of which will be incorporated into Cumberland's DSG management plan in due course.
- 5.27 The key variances underlying the forecasted High Needs Block deficit (overspend) include:
- **Special Schools £0.563m.** The pressure, which represents an increase of £0.044m compared to Q2, mainly relates to new and amendments to EHCP top-ups since the start of the year of £0.369m additional costs associated with the expansion of new places of £0.121m, the remaining balance relates to pre-existing budget pressures of £0.073m.
 - **Independent Specialist Placements (ISPs) & Other Placements £0.329m.** This represents an increase in forecast expenditure of £0.255m compared to Q2. The forecast is based on current and known new non-residential ISPs coming through the system. The forecast expenditure for ISPs is predicted to be £3.395m which represents an increase of £0.252m compared to Q2 and mainly relates to 5 new placements that started during Q3. The current overall number of ISPs is 65 and the average full year cost of a non-residential ISP is £55,509 as at Q3. Also included within this budget line is forecast EHCP top-ups for children placed in Westmorland & Furness schools of £0.563m, children placed in other local authorities of £0.223m and forecast costs associated with children being educated other than at a school (EOTAS) of £0.588m representing a net increase of £0.130m compared to Q2.
 - **Residential ISPs (£0.330m).** This represents a decrease in forecast expenditure of £0.228m compared to Q2. The forecast is based on current and known new placements. The current overall number of residential placements as at Q3 is 20. Since Q2 there have been 2 ceased placements. The average full year cost of a residential placement is £83,336 as at Q3 which is an increase of 2.4% compared to 2022/23.

- **Post-16 ISPs (£0.121m).** The forecast, which represents an increase in forecast expenditure of £0.58m is based on current and known new placements. The current overall number of Post-16 ISPs at Q3 is 25. There have been 3 new placements since Q2. The average cost of a post-16 ISP is £37,595 as at Q3 increase of 8.3% compared to 2022/23.
- **Post-16 Further Education (FE) Colleges £0.238m.** This represents an increased forecast overspend compared to £0.308m in Q2. The forecast expenditure includes estimated top-up payments to FE Colleges of £0.587m, other FE education providers of £0.428m and top-ups in mainstream post-16 schools of £0.088m. The movement of £0.419m compared to Q2 mainly relates to FE and other education providers of £0.127m and reduction in DSG of £0.906m following updated grant allocations to reflect recoupment of HN place funding for the academic year 2023/24.
- **High Needs Invest to Save Initiatives £0.202m.** The forecast expenditure here relates to the Early Intervention Programme which was rolled out to Mayfield and James Rennie in academic year 2022/23. The forecast includes a re-charge for the leadership provided by Sandgate for the two Hub schools of £0.031m.
- **EHCP top-ups for pupils in mainstream schools and Early Years Providers £2.463m.** The forecast, which represents an increase of £0.236m compared to Q2, is based on current EHCP costs and predicted number of new and amended EHCPs in-year. Since the start of the year there have been amendments to existing EHCPs of £0.206m, payments to PVIs of £0.390m, and new and forecasted new EHCPs based on known children coming through the system totalling £1.593m.
- **Pupil Referral Units £0.170m.** This pressure mainly relates to an additional 25 places with effect from September 2023 for West Cumbria Learning Centre of £0.146m.
- The remaining balance relates to individually non-material variances totalling a net overspend of (£0.034m).

6. Treasury Management

Treasury Management Activity

6.1 A summary of treasury management activity during the nine months to 31 December 2023, including details of investment and borrowing transactions and information about the Council's investment and loans portfolios, is contained in Appendix C. During the period ending 31 December 2023:

- treasury management activities were carried out in accordance with the Council's treasury management and investment strategies
- no new external borrowing was undertaken.

Treasury and Prudential Indicators

6.2 The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Council to determine and keep under review, limits on how much money it can afford to borrow by way of loans and other forms of credit. The processes the Council must follow in setting these limits (the 'Authorised Limit for External Debt') is set out in the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities to which the Council is required to 'have regard to' under provisions contained in the 2003 Act. In addition to the Authorised Limit, CIPFA's Prudential and Treasury Management Codes and accompanying sector guidance, include a number of other key treasury management indicators designed to support and record local decision making in connection with capital and treasury activities.

6.3 The Council's Authorised Borrowing Limit (the statutory limit on borrowing under the Local Government Act 2003), Operational Boundary (the limit beyond which external debt is not expected to exceed) and other indicators and limits required by CIPFA's Prudential and Treasury Management Codes, were set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Investment Strategy for 2023-24.

6.4 During the period April to December 2023, the Council has operated within the limits established by the treasury and prudential indicators set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2023-24. Further details relating to the treasury and prudential indicators, including performance against all forward looking prudential indicators are set out in Appendix C.

7. **Alternative options considered**

7.1 Not applicable to this decision/report.

8. **Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

8.1 The reason for this recommendation is to ensure that members are fully briefed on the Council's financial performance against budget for the period April to December 2023 along with the forecast position to 31 March 2024.

8.2 Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

8.3 To approve the capital programme amendments of £1,561,706 detailed in section 3

9. **Implications**

Contribution to the Cumberland Plan Priorities - Sound financial management is essential to successful delivery of the Council's financial plans, achievement of value for money, financial sustainability and the stewardship and safeguarding of public money.

Relevant Risks - Not applicable to this decision/report

Consultation / Engagement - Not applicable to this decision/report.

Legal - There are no legal or governance issues arising from this decision/report.

Finance - Financial issues and implications are included within the main body of this report.

Information Governance - There are no information governance issues arising from this decision/report.

Impact Assessments - Not applicable to this decision/report.

10. Contact details:

Contact Officer: Catherine Bell, Chief Finance Officer
Email: Catherine.Bell@cumberland.gov.uk

11. Appendices attached to this report

- Appendix A – Budget Amendments
- Appendix B - Capital Programme
- Appendix C – Treasury Summary

12. Background papers - None.

Revenue Budget Amendments Quarter 3 (Q3)

1.1 The revenue budget approved by the Shadow Authority on 1 March. Subsequent adjustments made to the approved budget are summarised in the table below. The only changes to the overall budget approved by the Shadow Authority relates to :

- transfers from earmarked reserves totalling £3.490 (to cover service expenditure included within the directorate forecast)
- addition of parish precept expenditure to the budget (no impact on Cumberland resources, as these are financed from parish precept council tax income that has been added to the revenue budget financing)
- updates to the allocations of services/cost centres between directorates (no impact on total budget)
- reallocation of centrally held contingency budgets in respect of inflation and pension costs (no impact on total budget).

Table 1 - Summary of Budget Adjustments

Directorate	Approved budget	Release of E/M Reserves	Parish Precepts	Service Allocations	Reallocate Contingencies	Current budget [Dec 23']
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Assistant Chief Executive	2.812	0.000	0.000	0.171	0.140	3.123
Business Transformation & Change	13.663	0.045	0.000	0.870	0.696	15.274
Resources	82.344	0.527	0.000	(5.683)	(18.938)	58.250
Place, Sustainable Growth & Transport	67.516	(0.082)	0.000	1.304	3.366	72.104
Public Health & Communities	5.024	2.905	0.000	(0.327)	0.118	7.720
Adult Social Care & Housing	68.095	0.095	0.000	(1.499)	11.002	77.693
Children and Family Wellbeing	63.594	0.000	0.000	(1.831)	3.609	65.372
Chief Executive	0.231	0.000	0.000	(0.005)	0.007	0.233
Net Expenditure on Services	303.279	3.490	0.000	(7.000)	0.000	299.769
Parish Precepts	0.000	0.000	4.954	4.954	0.000	4.954
Net Expenditure on Services & Parish Precepts	303.279	3.490	4.954	(7.000)	0.000	304.723
Less: Planned Use of Earmarked Reserves / GF	(11.723)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	(11.723)
Less: Additional Use of Earmarked Reserves	0.000	(3.490)	0.000	0.000	0.000	(3.490)
Contribution (to) General Fund (CCH)	0.000	0.000	0.000	7.000	0.000	7.000
Net Budget Requirement / Projected Outturn	291.556	0.000	4.954	0.000	0.000	296.510

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Capital Budget Monitoring 2023/24 - Period April to December 2023

Description	Approved Budget £	Carry fwd from 2022/23 £	Virements / Adjustments £	Current Budget £	Actual Year to Date £	Commitments (PO's Raised but not yet paid) £	Department Forecast £	Projected Outturn £	Projected Outturn Variance £	Budget C/F £	Variance £
Adult Wellbeing and Housing											
Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Adaptations	427,500	(192,090)	0	235,410	204,052	0	31,358	235,410	0	0	0
Cumbria Care Residential	1,135,293	3,011,500	0	4,146,793	840,926	0	162,460	1,003,386	(3,143,407)	3,143,407	0
Extra Care Housing / Accommodation with Care & Support	772,500	0	0	772,500	0	0	0	0	(772,500)	772,500	0
Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants & Housing Grants	3,533,105	2,422,277	1,190,345	7,145,727	3,211,258	0	2,843,269	6,054,527	(1,091,200)	0	(1,091,200)
Community Equipment	1,551,000	0	0	1,551,000	0	0	1,551,000	1,551,000	0	0	0
Social Housing Decarbonisation	0	40,000	0	40,000	0	0	40,000	40,000	0	0	0
Empty Properties	0	52,300	0	52,300	14,000	0	0	14,000	(38,300)	38,300	0
Sustainable Warmth - LAD3 & HUG1	0	15,032,500	(12,008,736)	3,023,764	2,513,061	0	510,703	3,023,764	0	0	0
TOTAL - Adult Wellbeing and Housing	7,419,398	20,366,487	(10,818,391)	16,967,494	6,783,297	0	5,138,790	11,922,087	(5,045,407)	3,954,207	(1,091,200)
Business Transformation and Change											
ICT Infrastructure/Investment	520,000	861,960	0	1,381,960	19,216	0	701,331	720,547	(661,413)	661,413	0
TOTAL - Business Transformation and Change	520,000	861,960	0	1,381,960	19,216	0	701,331	720,547	(661,413)	661,413	0
Children and Family Wellbeing											
Basic Need schemes	1,100,960	535,000	0	1,635,960	75,858	0	195,924	271,782	(1,364,178)	1,364,178	0
High Needs Provision	2,052,400	806,000	0	2,858,400	233,933	0	41,425	275,358	(2,583,042)	1,111,307	(1,471,735)
Inclusion Strategy	1,250,000	0	0	1,250,000	194,154	0	0	194,154	(1,055,846)	1,055,846	0
North Carlisle Primary School - Design	500,000	0	0	500,000	0	0	0	0	(500,000)	500,000	0
William Howard School	0	0	467,053	467,053	0	0	467,053	467,053	0	0	0
Prioritised Capital Maintenance Projects/Schools Maintenance	5,814,320	666,960	253,796	6,735,076	4,610,711	0	2,124,365	6,735,076	0	0	0
Devolved Formula Capital	0	2,493,680	637,191	3,130,871	0	0	3,130,871	3,130,871	0	0	0
SEND facilities 2022	0	341,000	0	341,000	1,812,734	0	0	1,812,734	1,471,734	0	1,471,734
Basic Need schemes - Pennine Way 3 classrooms	0	95,000	0	95,000	23,495	0	30,000	53,495	(41,505)	0	(41,505)
Residential Provision for Children & Young People	0	149,000	0	149,000	0	0	0	0	(149,000)	149,000	0
DSG Funded CMF - Contributions to Schools	0	104,720	0	104,720	2,248	0	0	2,248	(102,472)	0	(102,472)
Healthy Pupil Capital Fund	0	2,000	0	2,000	0	0	0	0	(2,000)	0	(2,000)
Family Hub	0	0	167,000	167,000	0	0	0	0	(167,000)	0	(167,000)
TOTAL - Children and Family Wellbeing	10,717,680	5,193,360	1,525,040	17,436,080	6,953,133	0	5,989,638	12,942,771	(4,493,309)	4,180,331	(312,978)
Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport											
A595 Bothel	0	923,000	0	923,000	597,720	0	134,334	732,054	(190,946)	190,946	0
Active Travel Funding	0	0	1,363,128	1,363,128	0	0	200,000	200,000	(1,163,128)	1,163,128	0
Additional Pot Hole Action/Roads funding	4,598,550	(167,850)	5,337,057	9,767,757	3,916,234	0	5,851,523	9,767,757	0	0	0
Affordable Homes	0	600,800	0	600,800	0	0	0	0	(600,800)	600,800	0
Area Planning	0	720,000	0	720,000	113,514	0	373,542	487,056	(232,944)	0	(232,944)
Bereavement Services	0	97,042	0	97,042	7,149	0	89,893	97,042	0	0	0
Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure Programmes	0	10,628	0	10,628	0	0	10,628	10,628	0	0	0
Bits Park Improvements	0	0	80,402	80,402	63,437	0	16,965	80,402	0	0	0
Bits Park Public Realm	0	38,400	0	38,400	46,628	0	0	46,628	8,228	0	8,228
Carlisle Southern Link Road (CSLR)	11,321,000	4,980,000	40,854,556	57,155,556	33,199,769	0	18,955,787	52,155,556	(5,000,000)	5,000,000	0
Carlisle Station Gateway	3,703,000	(687,000)	361,578	3,377,578	985,850	0	1,511,926	2,497,776	(879,802)	518,224	(361,578)
Cemetery Infrastructure	0	35,700	0	35,700	0	0	0	0	(35,700)	35,700	0
Coastal Programme - Phase 1 and 2	0	1,317,986	0	1,317,986	409,685	0	908,301	1,317,986	0	0	0
Countryside Access Improvements	40,000	0	2,711	42,711	32,240	0	10,471	42,711	0	0	0
Crematorium Infrastructure	875,000	2,125,000	0	3,000,000	0	0	0	0	(3,000,000)	3,000,000	0
Cumbria Coastal Community Forest - Non-LEP	511,000	723,000	(1,234,000)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Devolved to Local Committees - Non-Principal Road Network (NPR)	6,263,000	(32,400)	479,954	6,710,554	2,989,660	0	3,720,894	6,710,554	0	0	0
DfT funded Flood Recovery Scheme	327,750	277,000	214,597	819,347	43,643	0	7,742	51,385	(767,962)	767,962	0
Energy Coast Resilient Routes (Levelling Up)	17,827,000	0	(303)	17,826,697	755,263	0	3,504,737	4,260,000	(13,566,697)	13,566,697	0
Engineering Safety Studies and implementation measures	135,000	101,700	110,536	347,236	4,249	0	342,987	347,236	0	0	0
Future High Street Fund - Carlisle	6,609,900	2,242,000	13	8,851,913	228,427	0	2,445,163	2,673,590	(6,178,323)	6,178,555	232
Future High Street Fund - Maryport	3,866,332	7,618,523	(75,000)	11,409,855	1,643,437	0	3,641,118	5,284,555	(6,125,300)	6,125,300	0

Capital Budget Monitoring 2023/24 - Period April to December 2023

Description	Approved Budget £	Carry fwd from 2022/23 £	Virements / Adjustments £	Current Budget £	Actual Year to Date £	Commitments (PO's Raised but not yet paid) £	Department Forecast £	Projected Outturn £	Projected Outturn Variance £	Budget C/F £	Variance £
Highways & Transport - Bridges & Structures	1,642,460	6,560	68,351	1,717,371	571,859	0	1,145,512	1,717,371	0	0	0
Highways & Transport - Principal Road Network (PRN) Schemes	3,267,450	220,050	336,115	3,823,615	950,089	0	2,873,526	3,823,615	0	0	0
Land/Port/Waste Statutory Standards	3,019,000	172,000	32,490	3,223,490	(15,025)	0	105,025	90,000	(3,133,490)	3,133,490	0
Leachate Management - various closed landfill sites	0	32,490	(32,490)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lead Local Flood Authority	0	706,000	2,549,000	3,255,000	781,728	0	340,306	1,122,034	(2,132,966)	2,132,966	0
Industrial Solutions Hub (iSH) Enterprise Campus (Levelling Up) / Leconfield Development	28,000,000	(2,241)	0	27,997,759	233,036	0	679,342	912,378	(27,085,381)	27,085,381	0
Levelling Up Parks Funding Projects	0	56,600	5,016	61,616	59,140	0	2,476	61,616	0	0	0
Lillyhall - Infrastructure	0	252,407	0	252,407	0	0	0	0	(252,407)	0	(252,407)
Lillyhall North - LEP	0	358,000	(358,000)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Major Projects Match Funding / Infrastructure Deficit support to District Councils (ITB)	255,786	0	0	255,786	171,795	0	83,991	255,786	0	0	0
Major Projects Match Funding	1,660,946	(679,000)	(446,105)	535,841	0	0	0	0	(535,841)	0	(535,841)
Maryport Regeneration (HAZ)	56,218	327,434	0	383,652	389,226	0	0	389,226	5,574	0	5,574
North Cultural Regeneration Fund - LEP	0	2,000	0	2,000	0	0	2,000	2,000	0	0	0
Planning Software	0	150,000	0	150,000	0	0	0	0	(150,000)	150,000	0
Play Area Improvements	0	30,700	0	30,700	61,632	0	0	61,632	30,932	0	30,932
Recycling Containers	45,000	0	0	45,000	63,536	0	0	63,536	18,536	0	18,536
Sands Centre Development	0	2,179,300	0	2,179,300	182,999	0	1,996,301	2,179,300	0	0	0
Solway Coast Pathway	0	22,485	0	22,485	0	0	22,485	22,485	0	0	0
Storm Damage	225,000	(204,000)	0	21,000	0	0	21,000	21,000	0	0	0
Strategic Highways Match Funding	0	146,250	0	146,250	0	0	0	0	(146,250)	0	(146,250)
Street Lighting	0	32,000	0	32,000	13,766	0	18,234	32,000	0	0	0
Town Deal - Cleator Moor	16,533,000	5,584,394	0	22,117,394	860,623	0	2,393,742	3,254,365	(18,863,029)	18,863,697	668
Town Deal - Millom	12,353,000	634,747	(965,086)	12,022,661	151,448	0	3,469,898	3,621,346	(8,401,315)	8,401,315	0
Town Deal - Carlisle	2,859,400	1,810,600	2,809,000	7,479,000	266,711	0	2,576,630	2,843,341	(4,635,659)	4,635,540	(119)
Town Deal - Workington	10,100,000	9,140,269	(112,000)	19,128,269	1,207,179	0	855,137	2,062,316	(17,065,953)	17,073,411	7,458
Town Deal Accelerated Funds - Caldew Riverside	0	581,300	0	581,300	20,298	0	79,702	100,000	(481,300)	481,300	0
Traffic signals and Network traffic systems	106,400	(7,840)	6,785	105,345	84,793	0	20,552	105,345	0	0	0
Tullie House	0	500,000	0	500,000	0	0	0	0	(500,000)	500,000	0
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	0	190,800	1,192,727	1,383,527	115,023	0	1,268,504	1,383,527	0	0	0
Whitehaven Cemetery Extension	0	164,000	0	164,000	0	0	0	0	(164,000)	164,000	0
Whitehaven Harbour Flood Defence WHC	0	159,037	0	159,037	0	0	159,037	159,037	0	0	0
Workington Gateway (Levelling Up)	9,587,000	(21,734)	84,304	9,649,570	194,982	0	397,894	592,876	(9,056,694)	9,056,694	0
Workington Hall Repair Scheme	0	170,514	0	170,514	0	0	0	0	(170,514)	170,514	0
Rural Gigabit Connectivity Programme	0	6,000	0	6,000	0	0	0	0	(6,000)	0	(6,000)
TOTAL - Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport	145,788,192	43,644,651	52,665,336	242,098,179	51,401,743	0	60,237,305	111,639,048	(130,459,131)	128,995,620	(1,463,511)
Resources											
Additional Inflation Risk allowance	1,183,000	0	0	1,183,000	0	0	0	0	(1,183,000)	0	(1,183,000)
Corporate Property Planned Maintenance and improvement	1,507,431	(66,040)	0	1,441,391	1,828,391	0	537,683	2,366,074	924,683	0	924,683
Car Park Improvements	0	413,000	0	413,000	2,036	0	0	2,036	(410,964)	410,964	0
Civic Centre	0	20,500	0	20,500	24,093	0	0	24,093	3,593	0	3,593
Highways Fleet Replacement	438,000	(293,000)	0	145,000	172,587	0	0	172,587	27,587	0	27,587
Modernising the Estate	2,013,186	2,311,000	0	4,324,186	112,690	0	587,310	700,000	(3,624,186)	3,624,186	0
Planned Enhancements to Council Property	250,000	119,000	0	369,000	52,517	0	316,483	369,000	0	0	0
SEND Fleet Vehicles	280,000	106,960	0	386,960	121,250	0	0	121,250	(265,710)	265,710	0
Vehicle Replacements	1,859,000	(61,319)	0	1,797,681	36,235	0	0	36,235	(1,761,446)	1,761,446	0
Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	2,131,500	514,000	0	2,645,500	270,105	0	0	270,105	(2,375,395)	2,375,395	0
Financials Upgrade	0	43,500	0	43,500	8,181	0	35,319	43,500	0	0	0
Strategic Acquisition and Investment Fund	0	500,000	0	500,000	0	0	0	0	(500,000)	500,000	0
TOTAL - Resources	9,662,117	3,607,601	0	13,269,718	2,628,085	0	1,476,795	4,104,880	(9,164,838)	8,937,701	(227,137)
Exceptional Financial Support	40,000,000	0	0	40,000,000	0	0	12,850,000	12,850,000	(27,150,000)	27,150,000	0

Capital Budget Monitoring 2023/24 - Period April to December 2023

Description	Approved Budget £	Carry fwd from 2022/23 £	Virements / Adjustments £	Current Budget £	Actual Year to Date £	Commitments (PO's Raised but not yet paid) £	Department Forecast £	Projected Outturn £	Projected Outturn Variance £	Budget C/F £	Variance £
Projects To be Allocated											
CP NDA Funding Cyber Resilience	0	0	0	0	275	0	(275)	0	0	0	0
Town Centre Regen Phase 2	0	0	0	0	85,323	0	(85,323)	0	0	0	0
HEALTHY HOMES	0	0	0	0	(2,614)	0	2,614	0	0	0	0
CONVERSION OF OTLEY ROAD	0	0	0	0	9,411	0	(9,411)	0	0	0	0
BELLRIGG PLAY AREA	0	0	0	0	(738)	0	738	0	0	0	0
PUBLIC TOILETS REVIEW WORK	0	0	0	0	(1)	0	1	0	0	0	0
BROW TOP ENHANCEMENT SCHEME	0	0	0	0	14,116	0	(14,116)	0	0	0	0
TOTAL - Projects to be allocated	0	0	0	0	105,772	0	(105,772)	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	214,107,387	73,674,059	43,371,985	331,153,431	67,891,246	0	86,288,087	154,179,333	(176,974,098)	173,879,272	(3,094,826)

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Summary of Treasury Management Activity

Investment Activity October to December 2023 (Q3) (principal)

	Credit Rating	01-Oct-23 £'000	Investments		31-Dec-23 £'000
			Made £'000	Repaid £'000	
Specified investments					
Call Accounts	A+/A/A-	13,263	76,340	(80,250)	9,353
Fixed Term Accounts	A+/A/A-	75,000	50,000	(65,000)	60,000
Fixed Term Accounts	AA/AA-	10,000	77,800	(67,800)	20,000
Money Market Funds	AAAm	49,285	28,300	(37,700)	39,885
Non specified investments					
CCLA - Property Investment Fund	-	3,000	0	0	3,000
Equity Shares	-	1	0	0	1
Total		150,549	232,440	(250,750)	132,239

Investment Activity 2023-24 - year to date (principal)

	Credit Rating	01-Apr-23 £'000	Investments		31-Dec-23 £'000
			Made £'000	Repaid £'000	
Specified investments					
Call Accounts	A+/A/A-	5,539	234,749	(230,935)	9,353
Fixed Term Accounts	A+/A/A-	45,000	200,000	(185,000)	60,000
Fixed Term Accounts	AA/AA-	17,500	358,200	(355,700)	20,000
Money Market Funds	AAAm	20,115	130,275	(110,505)	39,885
Non specified investments					
CCLA - Property Investment Fund	-	3,000	0	0	3,000
Equity Shares	-	1	0	0	1
Total		91,155	923,224	(882,140)	132,239

Comment:

At 31 December 2023 investment balances totalled £132.239m. This compares with a balance of £24.32m at 1 April 2023 and £150.549m at 30 September 2023. The average investment balance during the quarter was £164.591m (year to date £166.438m). The yield on the portfolio at 31 December 2023 was 5.24% (30 September 2023: 5.04%).

At 31 December 2023 the value of the CCLA property fund was £3.124m (30 September :£3.187m). Excluding the CCLA property fund the weighted average maturity of the Investment portfolio at 31 December 2023 was 31 days (30 September 2023: 33 days). All investments made during the period were restricted to approved investment instruments with counterparties holding a credit rating of not less than A- long-term) and A-1 (short-term). The term of all investments made did not exceed the maximum permitted durations determined by reference to the creditworthiness of the counterparty.

Borrowing Activity October to December 2023

	01-Oct-23 £'000	New Borrowing £'000	Borrowing Repaid £'000	31-Dec-23 £'000
Long-term				
PWLB – fixed rates	237,916	0	(48)	237,868
LOBO loans	16,000	0	0	16,000
Short-term				
Local Bonds	31	0	0	31
Trust Funds	67	0	0	67
	254,014	0	(48)	253,966

Borrowing Activity 2023-24 - year to date

	01-Apr-23 £'000	New Borrowing £'000	Borrowing Repaid £'000	31-Dec-23 £'000
Long-term				
PWLB – fixed rates	244,207	0	(6,339)	237,868
LOBO loans	16,000	0	0	16,000
Short-term				
Local Bonds	31	0	0	31
Trust Funds	67	0	0	67
	260,305	0	(6,339)	253,966

Comment:

No new borrowing or rescheduling of existing loans took place during the period October to December 2023. At 31 December 2023 the total net premature redemption discount was £9.662m. (30 Sept: £32.655m; 1 April 2023: £11.77m). This comprises premia of £10.949m less discounts of £20.611m. The weighted average interest rate on the loan portfolio is 3.73 % (PWLB: 3.62% other loans 5.39%).

Composition of PWLB loans portfolio

	31 Dec 2023 £'000	30 Sept 2023 £'000	30 June 2023 £'000	1 April 2023 £'000	31 Dec 2022 £'000
Maturity loans	219,000	219,000	219,000	224,700	
Annuity loans	1,158	1,206	1,215	1,261	
EIP Loans	17,710	17,710	18,246	18,246	
Total	237,868	237,916	238,461	244,207	
Redemption Value*	229,975	208,004	217,622	245,626	
Average interest %	3.62%	3.62%	3.61%	3.67%	
Average time to maturity (Yrs)	25.00	25.24	25.43	25.07	
Weighted average life (Yrs)	24.82	25.05	25.24	24.88	

* including accrued interest

Prudential and Treasury Indicators

	2023/24 TMSS £000	2023/24 Current ¹ £000	2023/24 At 31.12.23 £000	2023/24 Forecast £000
Actual capital expenditure ¹	214,107	331,153	67,891	154,180
Capital financing requirement (31 March)	514,010	513,597	425,906	451,651
Gross debt & CFR: (under)/over borrowing (31 March)	(50,016)	(50,015)	(77,662)	(50,015)
Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream (%)	12.4	12.4		11.7
Authorised Limit for External Borrowing ²	445,000	445,000	445,000	445,000
Operational Boundary for External Borrowing ²	420,000	420,000	420,000	420,000
Authorised Limit for External Debt	551,000	551,000	551,000	551,000
Operational Boundary for External debt	516,000	516,000	516,000	516,000
Upper limit on total principal invested for periods of more than 365 days ³	Lower of £20m/20% of portfolio	Lower of £20m/20% of portfolio	£3,001m (2.27%)	£3,001m (<20%)

¹ £214.107m approved plus approved 2022-23 budget carry-forwards and in year adjustments

Maturity profile of borrowing (inc. non PWLB)

	31 Dec 2023 £'000	30 Sept 2023 £'000	30 June 2023 £'000	1 April 2023 £'000	31 Dec 2022 £'000
Less than 1 year	15,792	10,787	10,786	6,982	
Between 1 & 2yrs	1,205	6,201	6,200	15,695	
Between 2 & 5yrs	3,154	3,140	3,315	3,299	
Between 5 & 10yrs	36,505	36,576	21,591	21,661	
Between 10 & 20yrs	19,710	35,710	34,955	50,955	
Between 20 & 30yrs	70,250	54,250	70,250	27,250	
Between 30 & 40yrs	57,350	57,350	57,462	84,463	
Between 40 & 50yrs	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	
	253,966	254,014	254,559	260,305	

Lower/upper limits on % of borrowing maturing in each period

	At 1.4.23 Actual %	Lower limit 2023/24 %	Upper limit 2023/24 %	At 31.12.23 Actual %	Forecast at 31.3.24 * %
Under 12 months	2.68	0	20	6.22	6.23
12 months to 2 years	6.03	0	40	0.48	0.48
2 years to 5 years	1.27	0	40	1.24	1.17
5 years to 10 years	8.32	0	40	14.37	14.40
10 years to 20 years	19.57	0	100	7.76	13.99
20 years to 30 years	10.47	0	100	27.66	21.41
30 years to 40 years	32.45	0	100	22.58	22.59
40 years to 45 years	15.37	0	100	19.69	19.73
46 years to 50 years	3.84	0	100	0	0
Over 50 years	0	0	0	0	0

* based on existing portfolio



Report to Executive

Meeting Date 19 March 2024
 Key Decision No
 Public/Private Public

Portfolio Cllr Bob Kelly, Policy and Regulatory Services
 Directorate Strategy, Policy and Performance
 Lead Officer Nik Hardy, Assistant Chief Executive

Title Corporate Key Performance Indicators

Summary:

The report asks members to agree proposals for the suite of key performance indicators set out at Appendix A. It is important to implement a way of formally monitoring progress against the priorities in the Council Plan. The proposed corporate performance information would be reported to Executive quarterly and would complement quarterly monitoring of activity set out in the Council Plan Delivery Plan.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Executive agrees the suite of corporate performance measures at Appendix A.

Tracking

Executive:	n/a
Scrutiny:	Business and Resources OSC 19 December 2023
Council:	n/a

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council Plan is the council's key strategic planning document, which articulates the council's overall aims and ambitions.
- 1.2 The Cumberland Council Plan 2023-2027 sets out the overarching aim of:
- Improving health and wellbeing
- Supported by four priority areas:
- Addressing inequalities
 - Local economies that work for local people
 - Environmental resilience and climate emergency
 - Delivering excellent public services
- 1.3 It is important to implement a way of formally monitoring progress against the priorities set out above.
- 1.4 The Council Plan Delivery Plan was approved at Executive in January setting out the council's key activities and programmes of work that will progress the ambitions within the Cumberland Council Plan. The Delivery Plan includes a small number of long-term outcome measures. These are measures over which the Council does not have direct control, but have been selected to demonstrate the impact of the Council's contribution to work in delivering the ambitions articulated in the Council Plan.
- 1.5 Also approved by Executive in January was the corporate performance management framework which describes how Cumberland Council will undertake performance management, setting out the different steps of performance management, roles and responsibilities and reporting arrangements.

2. Proposals

- 2.1 Understanding, analysing and addressing performance ensures the Council achieves its objectives and can proactively plan for and respond to changing needs.
- 2.2 As detailed above the Council Plan Delivery Plan sets out the council's key activities and programmes of work that will progress the ambitions within the Council Plan. It also includes a small number of long-term outcome measures.
- 2.3 To sit alongside this, in line with the performance management framework, this report sets out a proposed suite of corporate key performance indicators. These will mainly be quarterly measures, centred on the Council Plan priorities, allowing us to measure progress throughout the year. These are metrics the council has more direct responsibility over, and so can be used to measure council performance. The proposed set of key performance indicators relate to the priorities in the Council Plan not to individual actions in the Delivery Plan.

- 2.4 Progress on the Council's priorities will therefore be measured through a blend of actions and performance metrics that will report quarterly and annually.
- 2.5 The document at Appendix A sets out the proposed framework of indicators that will allow councillors, residents, partners and employees to monitor progress against the priorities in the Council Plan.
- 2.6 The outcome measures already agreed as part of the Delivery Plan are presented here for completeness. The outcome measures tend to be measures over which the Council does not have direct control, but have been selected to demonstrate the impact of the Council's contribution to work in delivering the ambitions articulated in the Council Plan.
- 2.7 The suite of key performance indicators set out at Appendix A represents priority service indicators tied to our Council Plan themes. They can be more directly controlled by the work of the Council and reflect the organisation's capability and capacity to deliver services to Cumberland's residents.
- 2.8 Good performance measures help us understand quantity, quality (i.e. not just how much we did but how well we did it, or how well we were perceived as doing it) and impact (i.e. what difference did it make?).
- 2.9 As far as possible the framework at Appendix A includes measures showing quality and impact, but also includes a number of quantity measures. We recognise that there is more work to do to develop better quality and impact measures and work will continue to improve performance measures across the organisation. Work is still ongoing across the council to aggregate and disaggregate legacy council data sets which does present ongoing data challenges. This will be addressed as the Council continues to develop and improve its systems, processes and performance management culture. The intention is that new measures will be developed during the lifetime of the Council Plan and that changes to this suite of KPIs will be made as we move forwards.
- 2.10 Targets are applied to some of our indicators, but it is not always appropriate to set targets and some indicators may be monitored for trends. Targets may be statutory or designed to demonstrate continuous improvement. They may also demonstrate performance relative to benchmarks. A few measures and targets are still under development.
- 2.11 In line with the Performance Management Framework, corporate performance information will be reported to Executive and Overview and Scrutiny quarterly. This will complement quarterly monitoring of activity set out in the Council Plan Delivery Plan.

3. Alternative options considered

3.1 Executive may choose to make amendments to the current proposals. It is open to Executive to recommend alternatives to the projects and initiatives and associated measures identified in the delivery plan and performance framework. Any alternatives would need to be in line with the Council Plan 2023-2027.

4. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

4.1 The report asks members to agree proposals for the suite of key performance indicators set out at Appendix A. It is important to implement a way of formally monitoring progress against the priorities in the Council Plan. The proposed corporate performance information would be reported to Executive quarterly and would complement quarterly monitoring of activity set out in the Council Plan Delivery Plan.

Implications:

Contribution to the Cumberland Plan Priorities –

The proposed suite of corporate key performance indicators will support delivery of the Council Plan priorities by allowing the organisation to monitor performance against priorities as articulated in the Cumberland Council Plan 2023-2027.

Relevant Risks –

Understanding, analysing and addressing performance ensures the Council achieves its objectives and can proactively plan for and respond to changing needs. Performance reporting will detail performance against this set of measures and, where appropriate, key implications will be drawn out in contextual narrative. Without a clear performance management framework and set of monitoring arrangements the council risks having a poor system of internal controls and limited ability to check progress against achievement of its objectives.

Consultation / Engagement –

The key performance indicators have not been subject to consultation as they set out the framework for how the Council Plan ambitions, which have been consulted on, will be monitored.

Legal –

None directly associated with this report.

Finance –

Whilst there are no direct financial implications from selecting a set of performance measures, effective performance management alongside robust financial and risk management, supports the Council's ambitions for ensuring value for money activity.

Information Governance –

None directly associated with this report.

Impact Assessments –

An impact assessment has not been completed for the suite of key performance indicators as they are a monitoring tool.

Contact details:

Contact Officer: Alex FitzGerald, Assistant Director Strategy and Policy
alex.fitzgerald@cumberland.gov.uk

Appendices attached to report:

- Appendix A – Corporate suite of Key Performance Indicators

Background papers:

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government Act 1972 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:

- None

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Appendix A: Corporate Key Performance Indicators

Progress on the Council's priorities will be measured through a blend of actions and performance metrics that will report quarterly and annually.

The Council Plan Delivery Plan sets out priority activity under each Council Plan theme as well as some outcome measures. The outcome measures are not indicators for which the council is solely responsible but have been selected to demonstrate the impact of the Council's contribution to work in delivering the ambitions articulated in the Council Plan in partnership with others. They will be tracked over the course of the four-year lifecycle of the Council Plan.

Corporate key performance indicators are priority service indicators tied to Council Plan themes. They can be more directly controlled by the work of the Council and reflect the organisation's capability and capacity to deliver services to our communities.

Targets are applied to some of our indicators, but it is not always appropriate to set targets and some indicators may be monitored for trends. Targets may be statutory or designed to demonstrate continuous improvement. They may also demonstrate performance relative to benchmarks.

Improving health and wellbeing

Promoting prevention, collaboration and active lifestyles to improve health and wellbeing for everyone in Cumberland.

Outcome measures:

Improving trends in healthy life expectancy and reductions in inequalities in healthy life expectancy
A reduction in the percentage of children who are overweight at Year 6
An increase in the percentage of physically active adults and children
Reducing trends in preventable deaths, in particular suicide and drug related deaths
Improvements in educational attainment and progress

Key performance indicators:

KPI	Directorate	Q1	Q2	Target	Comment
Percentage of cared for children in in-house foster placements (including kinship)	Children and Family Wellbeing	45.9%	46.0%	50.0%	
Average time between placement order and match with adoptive family (days)	Children and Family Wellbeing	120	145	145	The target is to maintain the Q2 figure as this is above the national rate, so maintains level of challenge.
Number (and rate) of cared for children	Children and Family Wellbeing	508 99.3	506 98.9	480	Q2 rate per 10,000 children aged 0-17 is 98.9. This exceeds national rate of 71.3 per 10,000 in the year 2022-23. Baseline number in Cumberland was 483 (end March 2023)
Number of children subject of a Child Protection Plan	Children and Family Wellbeing	274	302	320	Cumberland baseline 291 (@ March 2023)
Rate of children subject of a Child Protection Plan	Children and Family Wellbeing	53.6	59.0	62.3	Q2 rate per 10,000 children aged 0-17 is 59.0. This exceeds national rate of 43.2 per 10,000 in the year 2022-23. Baseline rate in Cumberland was 56.9 (end March 2023). Provisional target set.
Number of entries into care	Children and Family Wellbeing	19.3	15.3	14.0	Baseline average for Cumberland of 15.9 per month in the year 2022-23 (191 in total).

KPI	Directorate	Q1	Q2	Target	Comment
					Q1 & Q2 note – calculated average across the 3 months of the quarter
Number of cared for children in internal provision	Children and Family Wellbeing	244	245	n/a	Baseline average for Cumberland of 228 in the year. It is important to monitor this measure for trends, but not appropriate to set a target.
Number of cared for children in external provision	Children and Family Wellbeing	209	214	n/a	Baseline average for Cumberland of 196. It is important to monitor this measure for trends, but not appropriate to set a target.
Proportion of all schools rated good or outstanding	Children and Family Wellbeing	91.3%	91.9%	92%	Baseline 91.4% (end March 2023). The national average is 88.5%. Q2 note – Schools closed in August (Summer holidays)
Percent overall absence	Children and Family Wellbeing	7.4%	7.4%	7.4%	Baseline 8.0 and national average 7.3. Q1 note – Autumn/Spring terms 22-23
Proportion of all pupils with Good Level of Development at Reception	Children and Family Wellbeing	65.0%	65.0%	66.0%	Cumberland baseline 59.7% (2021-22 annual), national average 67.2% (2022-23). Note: Annual data Academic Year (AY) 2022-23
Proportion of disadvantaged pupils with Good Level of Development	Children and Family Wellbeing	46.7%	46.7%	49.0%	Cumberland baseline 36.8% (2021-22 annual), and national average 52.0% (2022-23). Note: Annual data AY 2022-23

KPI	Directorate	Q1	Q2	Target	Comment
KS2 - Proportion of all pupils achieving expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths combined	Children and Family Wellbeing	53.7%	53.7%	55.0%	Cumberland baseline 50.6% (2021-22 annual) and national average 59.3% (2022-23). Note: Annual data AY 2022-23
KS2 - Proportion of disadvantaged pupils achieving expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths combined	Children and Family Wellbeing	36.3%	36.3%	39.0%	Cumberland baseline 32.3% (2021-22 annual), national average 44.0% (2022-23). Note: Annual data AY 2022-23
Rate of permanent admissions to residential care per 100,000 population (65+) (BCF measure)	Adult Social Care & Housing	Q1 Target = 148.2 Actual = 140.7	Q2 Target = 296.3 Actual = 299.3	Q3 Target = 444.5	Targets are set for each quarter as part of the Better Care Fund monitoring process. The actual figure for Q3 is 462.4
Proportion of those receiving reablement being home at 91 days following discharge (BCF measure)	Adult Social Care & Housing	Q1 Target 85.7% Actual 71.4%	Q2 Target 85.7% Actual 82.5%	Q3 85.7%	Cumberland baseline 85.7% at Q4 2022-23. Targets are set for each quarter as part of the Better Care Fund monitoring process. The actual figure for Q3 is 85.8%.
Percentage of people who are discharged from acute hospital to their normal place of residence (BCF measure)	Adult Social Care & Housing	Q1 Target = 87.3% Q1 Actual = 85.1%	Q2 Target = 87.6% Actual = 86.9%	Q3 Target = 86.1%	Targets are set for each quarter as part of the Better Care Fund monitoring process. Q3 actual is 86.0%.
Increase over 65-year-old persons independence at home by reducing residential admissions to long term residential care in comparison to admissions in 2019/20	Adult Social Care & Housing	Not yet available	Not yet available	Q1 target 396 Q2 target 371	Baseline: Aim to reduce residential admissions by 100 from pre-pandemic levels. Calculations for 2019/20 pre-Covid Cumberland figures are 421 admissions for 65+ (ASCOF ratio of 675.3). Pro-rata reduction 25 each

KPI	Directorate	Q1	Q2	Target	Comment
					quarter this financial year to achieve target. This is a new measure, data is being verified for Q1 and Q2 and will be reported to Executive in due course.
The number of customers who received grant assistance or support to remain safe and independent in their own home	Adult Social Care & Housing	226	171	n/a	This is the Disabled Facilities Grant and we aim to maximise its use. This is limited by the amount of grant funding available and the costs of the works to be undertaken. It is important to monitor for trends, but not appropriate to set a target.
Percentage of Health and Wellbeing Team cases closed with reported positive outcomes	Public Health and Communities	60%	66%	60%	This shows the result of outcome assessments completed by clients at the end of their support package. The assessment is voluntary.
Percentage of children who received a two to two-and-a-half year review	Public Health and Communities	60.6%	62.8%	95%	
Number of smoking quits at 12-week status	Public Health and Communities	-	-	45	The service has been running from December 2023 only, therefore data is not yet available for quits at 12 weeks. Data available from March.
Percentage of adults in Cumberland who are active (active = active for 150+ minutes a week)	Public Health and Communities	59.8%	59.8%	65.2%	Target is by 2030 and equates to an increase of 12,250 adults (148,950 in total) from mid-2023

KPI	Directorate	Q1	Q2	Target	Comment
Percentage of children in Cumberland who are active (active = active for 60 minutes or more each day)	Public Health and Communities	49.2%	49.2%	62.8%	Target is by 2030 and equates to an increase of 4,400 children (20,300 in total) from start-2023
Percentage of adults in Cumberland who are inactive (inactive = active for less than 30 minutes a week)	Public Health and Communities	28.6%	28.6%	25.8%	Target is the national inactive figure. The aim is to be equal to or better than the national average. Smaller is better for this measure.
Percentage of children in Cumberland who are less active (less active = active for less than an average of 30 minutes a day)	Public Health and Communities	29.9%	29.9%	30.1%	Target is the national inactive figure. The aim is to be equal to or better than the national average. Smaller is better for this measure.
Number of children trained through Active Travel to School programme	Public Health and Communities	717	371	2,700	Annual target
Number of people engaged in Travel Actively programme	Public Health and Communities	48	125	6,864	The target is aimed at 2024/25 as delivery of the programme only starting to scale early 2024
Number of reopened referrals as a percentage of Community Hub's live caseload	Public Health and Communities	-	-	<10%	New measure. Data available from Q3. The percentage is calculated as a snapshot – number of reopened cases and number of all live cases on last day of the quarter.

Addressing inequalities

Addressing systemic inequalities and making Cumberland a fairer place.

Outcome measures:

A reduction in the percentage of children living in relative low-income families
A reduction in the percentage of children needing a statutory service
A reduction in the percentage of children eligible for free school meals
Fewer households in fuel poverty
More affordable and suitable homes available

Key performance indicators:

KPI	Directorate	Q1	Q2	Target	Comment
Number of days to process new Housing Benefit claims	Resources	17.96	17.18	20	Lower is better for this measure.
Number of days to process new Council Tax claims	Resources	21.71	20.09	20	Lower is better for this measure.
Number of days to process Housing Benefit change of circumstances claims	Resources	8.78	8.15	8	Lower is better for this measure.
Number of days to process Council Tax change of circumstances claims	Resources	5.67	5.25	8	Lower is better for this measure.

KPI	Directorate	Q1	Q2	Target	Comment
Percentage of people prevented from becoming homeless within 56 days	Adult Social Care & Housing	64%	67%	70%	Cumberland baseline 60.9 Q1 – England 37.8% Q2 – NW 49%/England 52%
Percentage of people who presented as homeless, and a long-term tenancy was secured	Adult Social Care & Housing	58.5%	69%	65%	Cumberland baseline 62.7 Q1 – England 35.5% Q2 – NW 38%/England 35% (2021/22)
SEND - Proportion of Education & Health Care Plans issued in timescale	Children & Family Wellbeing	10.0%	23.4%	35.0%	Cumberland baseline 37.9% (March 2023), the national average is 57.9%. Q1 note: National – calendar year 2021
Care experienced aged 19, 20 and 21 in suitable accommodation	Children & Family Wellbeing	90.4%	86.2%	92.0%	Cumberland baseline 94.4%, the national average is 88.0% (2022-23)
Care experienced aged 19, 20 and 21 in education, employment, and training	Children & Family Wellbeing	55.7%	54.5%	60.0%	Cumberland baseline 57.1% (March 2023), the national average is 56.0% (2022-23)
Proportion of permanent exclusions reducing	Children & Family Wellbeing	0.03%	0.08%	0.08%	Cumberland baseline 0.19%; national average 0.08%. Q2 note: Sept to Dec only as cumulative through academic year.

Under development – KPIs that are in line with the priorities in the Council Plan, but where further work to develop robust reliable data is required. These will be reported to Executive in due course.

KPI	Directorate	Comment
Number of proactive or reactive interventions to improve private sector housing conditions (including advice only, inspection, licensing, empty homes)	Public Health and Communities	Expecting to be able to report by Q3.

Local economies that work for local people

Supporting the transition to a strong, inclusive and green economy by focusing on our businesses, our people and our assets

Outcome measures:

Increasing numbers of new businesses
Fewer people who are long-term unemployed
Improved skills levels with more people gaining NVQ3 and NVQ4
A reduction in the percentage of residents earning less than the living wage

Key performance indicators:

KPI	Directorate	Q1	Q2	Target	Comment
Percentage /£s local spend	Business Transformation & Change	44%	44%	50%	
Percentage /£s local SME spend	Business Transformation & Change	32%	32%	40%	
Percentage of tenders advertised with at least 10% social value award criteria	Business Transformation and Change	28%	67%	50%	

KPI	Directorate	Q1	Q2	Target	Comment
Rate of young people (16 & 17) classed as Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)	Children & Family Wellbeing	3.6%	4.8%	Aim to minimise	Cumbria rate 4.5% at end Q2 (Sept). Smaller is better for this measure.
Percentage of properties that have superfast broadband coverage > 30Mbps download	Place, Sustainable Growth & Transport	94.5%	94.6%	Aim to maximise	Aiming to maximise the percentage of properties. These figures indicate the percentage at the end of the final month of the quarter. The numbers are 138,654 and 138,801 for Q1 and Q2 respectively.
Major planning applications completed in 13 weeks	Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport	86%	75%	80%	
Minor planning applications completed in 8 weeks	Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport	95%	95%	90%	
Householder planning applications decided within 8 weeks following validation by authority	Place, Sustainable Growth & Transport	91%	96%	90%	
Percentage of full land searches completed within 10 working days	Place, Sustainable Growth & Transport	56%	55.7%	65%	
Building Control to decide all applications within statutory period	Place, Sustainable	91.6%	87.4%	100%	

KPI	Directorate	Q1	Q2	Target	Comment
of 5 weeks or 2 calendar months (with the consent of the applicant)	Growth & Transport				
Illicit products removed from sale (Trading Standards)	Public Health and Communities	£4,500	£15,500	£20,000	The quarters show the running total for the year 2023/24; the target is annual
Inspection of high and medium risk premises (Trading Standards)	Public Health and Communities	15%	52%	100%	The quarters show the running total for the year 2023/24; the target is annual
All requests for business advice dealt with within 14 days (Trading Standards)	Public Health and Communities	100%	100%	100%	
Percentage of uncontested applications completed within 10 working days (Applications to cover Licensing Act, Gambling Act, Hackney Carriage and Private Hire)	Public Health and Communities	100%	-	97%	Q2 data being validated and will be reported in due course.
Percentage of contested applications receiving a decision within 50 working days (Applications to cover Licensing Act, Gambling Act, Hackney Carriage and Private Hire)	Public Health and Communities	100%	-	97%	Q2 data being validated and will be reported in due course.

Environmental resilience and climate emergency

Enhancing environmental resilience by reducing emissions, supporting biodiversity, and transitioning to a green economy.

Outcome measures:

A reduction in district wide emissions per person
A reduction in carbon emissions from transport

Key performance indicators:

KPI	Directorate	Q1	Q2	Target	Comment
Number of electrical vehicles (council fleet)	Resources	-	16	25	The aim is to reach the target of 25 vehicles by the end of 2024/25.
Fly tipping incidents (percentage change on same quarter a year ago)	Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport	19.97%	6.24%	Improving trend	Residents are urged to report fly tipping to us and this KPI measures the number of service requests received by the authority compared with the same period last year. An improving trend is shown by a negative percentage figure. In Q1 2023/24, 883 potential fly tipping incidents were reported; in Q2, 851. For various reasons, not every report leads to a clean-up work order being issued.
Percentage of waste sent for reuse, recycling, composting	Place, Sustainable	47.93%	-	54%	Quarterly numbers are usually delayed due to necessary verification work. If a

KPI	Directorate	Q1	Q2	Target	Comment
	Growth and Transport				number is currently not available, it should be available for the next report.
Number of publicly available EV charging devices	Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport	183	189	Increasing trend	Some data is available on a quarterly basis from the Department for Transport (see Q1 and Q2 left). However, a better value may be achieved from the LEVI Project when that is up and running. In addition, a future likely measure of EV charging available to the public and workforce via council assets may be established.

Under development - KPIs that are in line with the priorities in the Council Plan, but where further work to develop robust reliable data is required. These will be reported to Executive in due course.

KPI	Directorate	Comment
Cumberland Council carbon footprint	Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport	This measure is under development - it would be modelled annually.
Cumberland Council median energy efficiency score	Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport	This measure is under development and is dependent on how often survey work is commissioned. It will not be updated quarterly.

Delivering excellent public services

Efficient, inclusive and sustainable public services

Key performance indicators:

KPI	Directorate	Q1	Q2	Target	Comment
Percentage of bins collected as scheduled	Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport	99.75%	99.75%	99.80%	This metric is designed to highlight the efficiency of collections crews in emptying bins on the days they are timetabled for collection
Percentage of public health service requests (pests, noise, smells, food, housing conditions) responded to within target response times	Public Health and Communities	89%	-	90%	Q2 data being validated and will be reported in due course.
Council Tax collected as percentage of billed	Resources	28.5%	55.85%	96.4%	The quarterly totals are cumulative for the year 2023/24. Each quarter has its own target: Q1 - 28.5%; Q2 - 57%
National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) collected as percentage of billed	Resources	45.2%	66.9%	97.8%	The quarterly totals are cumulative for the year 2023/24. Each quarter has its own target: Q1 - 44.9%; Q2 - 65.74%
Percentage of corporate complaints resolved at Concern stage in fewer than 20 days	Resources	93%	76%	80%	
Number of Children's Services complaints resolved in 20 days or less / 21 days or more	Resources	15 2	10 11	n/a	Q2 - Timescales vary depending on the stage of the complaint/extensions applied

KPI	Directorate	Q1	Q2	Target	Comment
Number of Adult Services complaints resolved in 20 days or less / 21 days or more	Resources	5 4	6 6	n/a	Q2 - Timescales are set on a case basis, agreed between the complainant and the complaints manager
Percentage of Fol/EIR responded to within 20 working days	Resources	84.1%	77%	90%	
Percentage of potholes repaired within target deadline	Place Sustainable Growth & Transport	67%	88%	80%	Target based on the average performance of the first three quarters of 2023/24, rounded up to 80%

Under development - KPIs that are in line with the priorities in the Council Plan, but where further work to develop robust reliable data is required. These will be reported to Executive in due course.

KPI	Directorate	Comment
Days lost to sickness absence per FTE	Business Transformation & Change	Work is ongoing to produce accurate and reliable data for this measure. It is currently not possible for reasons including the different systems and methods used by legacy councils to record absence. The aim is to present a set of data as soon as possible.
Statutory Children's Services Stage 2 Complaints responded to within timescale	Children & Family Wellbeing	Validation work is ongoing to ensure accurate and reliable data for this measure. The aim is to present a set of data as soon as possible.

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Report to Executive

Meeting Date – 19 March 2024

Key Decision – No

Public/Private – Public

Portfolio – Governance and Thriving Communities

Directorate – Resources

Report Author – Monitoring Officer

Title – Calendar of Meetings 2024/25

Brief Summary:

To consider the calendar of meetings for the 2024/25 Municipal Year which includes the proposed dates and times for each meeting.

Recommendations:

1. That the proposed dates and times of meetings in the Municipal Year 2024/25 be agreed and recommend to Council for agreement;
2. That the dates and times for meetings of the Executive, which have been chosen by the Leader, be noted.

Tracking

Executive:	19 March 2024
Scrutiny:	20 February 2024
Council:	30 April 2024

1. Background

1.1. The Constitution of Cumberland Council requires that a calendar showing the date and time of ordinary meetings of committees, sub-committees, panels and working groups shall be prepared by the Monitoring Officer and approved by the Council for the commencement of each Council year and the calendar will then be distributed to all Members.

2. Proposals

2.1. Attached at Appendix A is a draft schedule of meeting dates for Cumberland Council for the 2024/25 Municipal Year.

2.2. The frequency of the meetings is set out in the Constitution in respect of the Executive, Scrutiny Committees and the Audit Committee. The current frequencies are set out in Appendix A.

2.3. Dates and times of meetings for the Executive are at the discretion of the Leader, the meetings had been scheduled on a four weekly cycle in 2023/24 and had been amended to a six weekly cycle for 2024/25.

2.4. A review of the 2023/24 calendar has resulted in a change to the distribution of the locations of meetings across the Cumberland area and an increase in afternoon / early evening meetings.

2.5 No venues have been set for the Planning Committee, Regulatory Sub Committees or Licensing Sub Committee in the schedule of meetings. Once the agenda for each of the meetings has been agreed the venue will be confirmed. This will allow flexibility when dealing with large or contentious matters and aims to reduce, where possible, the travel time for those wishing to speak at committee.

3. Alternative options considered

3.1. No alternative option

4. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

4.1. In accordance with the constitution, that the dates and times of meetings in the Cumberland Council for 2024/25 be agreed and recommended to Council approval.

4.2. That the dates and times of meetings of the Executive as chosen by the Leader be noted

Implications:

Contribution to the Cumberland Plan Priorities - To ensure that the appropriate governance arrangements are in place to enable Cumberland Council to meet of the Cumberland Plan priorities

Relevant Risks and explain how risks can be mitigated -

Consultation / Engagement - Consultation has taken place with the Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer, Section 151 Officer, Deputy Leader (Statutory), Governance Thriving Communities Portfolio Holder, Democratic Services Officers, Business and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the relevant departments including Licensing and Planning. All comments and proposed changes received from the consultation have been considered, and where appropriate, implemented into the calendar attached as Appendix A

Legal – comments are incorporated in the report

Finance – Subject to the Council agreeing a schedule of meetings for Council, Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Regulatory Committees and the Leader arranging a schedule of meetings of the Executive, there are no additional staffing/resource requirements arising from this report. The meetings necessary for the Budget process have been provisionally scheduled into the Calendar of Meetings. Options for Council budget meeting are 11 February 2025 or 20 February 2025.

Information Governance – None

Impact Assessments –

Have you screened the decision for impacts using the Impact Assessment?

If you have not screened the decision using the Impact Assessment, please explain your reason

Lead Officer Contact details:

Name: Clare Liddle, Monitoring Officer
Email: Clare.liddle@cumberland.gov.uk

Background papers:

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government Act 1972 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:

- [Cumberland Constitution](#)

Appendices attached to report:

- Appendix A Proposed schedule of dates and times of meetings for Cumberland Council 2024/25

Civic Centre—CiC
 Copeland Centre—CC
 Allerdale House—AH
 Cumbria House—CH

Planning Committee and Regulatory / Licensing Sub Committees—all rooms booked and venue agreed when applications are known
 Half term greyed out

May 2024

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Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1 10.00 DCC LDNP	2	3	4	5
6 Bank holiday	7	8 DCC Site LDNP	9	10 10.30 Corporate Parenting Board (NPM)	11	12
13	14 10.30 Joint Executive Committee (W&F)	15 1.00 Annual Council (CiC)	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 10.00 Governance LDNP	23 10.30 Health Overview and Scrutiny (6 weeks) (CH)	24 10.30 Standards & Governance Committee (CiC)	25	26
27 Bank holiday	28 2.00 Audit Committee (10 weeks) (CH)	29 10.00 Resources LDNP 10.30 Regulatory Sub Committee	30 4.00 Nuclear Issues Board (12 weeks) (CC)	31 10.30 Regulatory Sub Committee		

June 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3 10.30 Planning Site Visits (potentially full day)	4 10.30 Executive (CiC)	5 10.30 Planning Committee 10.00 DCC LDNP	6 5.00 Potential Informal Council briefing—Teams	7	8	9
10 10.30 Regulatory Committee followed by Licensing Committee followed by Regulatory Sub Committee (AH) 4.00 Staffing Committee (CiC)	11 4.00 Business and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee (AH) 10.00 Parks, Strategy & Vision LDNP	12 2.00 Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CC) DCC Site LDNP	13 10.30 People Overview and Scrutiny Committee (7 weeks) (CH)	14	15	16
17 5.00 Petheril Community Panel	18 10.00 Cumbria Pensions Committee 6.00 Carlisle West Community Panel	19 6.00 Lakes to Sea Community Panel	20 6.00 Whitehaven and Coastal Community Panel	21 10.30 Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (W&F)	22	23
24 10.30 Fells and Solway Community Panel	25 6.00 Workington Together Community Panel	26 6.00 South Cumberland Community Panel 10:00 Authority LDNP	27 6.00 Border, Fellside and North Community Panel	28 10.30 Health & Wellbeing Board (CH)	29	30

July 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3 10.00 DCC LDNP	4	5	6	7
8 10.30 Joint Executive (CiC)	9 1.00 Council (CiC)	10 DCC Site LDNP	11 10.30 Harbour Committee	12	13	14
15 10.30 Planning Site Visits (potentially full day)	16 10.30 Executive (AH)	17 10.30 Planning Committee	18 2.00 Highways and Transport Strategic Board (CiC)	19 10.30 Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CC)	20	21
22 4.00 Nuclear Issues Board (AH)	23 2.00 Audit Committee (CC) 10.00 Rights of Way LDNP	24	25 10.30—Police, Fire, Crime Panel 5.00 Potential Informal Council briefing—Teams	26	27	28
29	30 4.00 Business and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CiC)	31 2.00 Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CiC) 10.00 Governance LDNP				

August 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1 10.00 Parks, Strategy & Vision LDNP	2 10.30 People Overview and Scrutiny Committee (AH)	3	4
5	6	7 10.00 DCC LDNP	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 DCC Site LDNP	15	16	17	18
19 1.00 Informal Executive	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Bank holiday	27	28	29	30	31	

September 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1
2 10.30 Planning site visits 10.30 Planning Site Visits (potentially full day) 5.00 Petteril Community Panel	3 10.30 Executive (7 weeks) (CC) 10.00 Resources LDNP	4 10.30 Planning Committee (7 weeks) 10.00 DCC LDNP 6.00 Whitehaven and Coastal Community Panel	5 10.30am—Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee (W&F) 6.00 Border, Fellside and North Carlisle Community Panel	6 10.30 Corporate Parenting Board (NPM)	7	8
9 10.30 Joint Executive (CiC) 6.00 Carlisle West Community Panel	10 10.00 Parks, Strategy & Vision LDNP 1.00 Council (9 weeks) (CiC)	11 6.00 South Cumberland CP DCC Site LDNP	12 6.00 Workington Together Community Panel	13 10.30 Health & Wellbeing Board (AH) 10.30 Regulatory Sub Committee	14	15
16 10.30 Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CH) 6.00 Lakes to Sea Community Panel	17 2.00 Audit Committee (AH) 10.00—Cumbria Pensions Committee	18 10.30 Standards & Governance Committee (CC) 10:00 Authority LDNP 10.00—Cumbria Pensions Committee	19 10.30 People Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CC)	20 4.00 Nuclear Issues Board (CiC)	21	22
23 10.30 Fells and Solway Community Panel	24 4.00 Business and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CC)	25 2.00 Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CiC) 10.00 Governance LDNP	26 5.00 Potential Informal Council briefing—Teams	27	28	29
30 4.00 Staffing Committee (AH)						

October 2024

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2 10.00 DCC LDNP	3	4	5	6
7 10.30 Harbour Committee	8 10.00 Rights of Way LDNP	9 DCC Site LDNP	10 10.30 Regulatory Sub Committee	11	12	13	
14 10.30—Police, Fire, Crime Panel 10.30 Planning Site Visits (potentially full day)	15 10.30 Executive (CH)	16 10.30 Planning Committee	17	18	19	20	
21	22 5.00 Potential Informal Council briefing—Teams	23 10.00 Parks, Strategy & Vision LDNP	24 2.00 Highways and Transport Strategic Board (AH)	25	26	27	
28	29	30	31				

November 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3
4	5 1.00 Council (CiC)	6 10:00 DCC LDNP	7 10.30 Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CiC)	8	9	10
11 10.30 Regulatory Committee followed by Licensing Committee followed by Regulatory Sub Committee (CiC)	12 2.00 Audit Committee (CiC)	13	14 DCC Site LDNP	15 4.00 Nuclear Issues Board (CC)	16	17
18	19 4.00 Business and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee (AH)	20 2.00 Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CC) 10.00 Resources LDNP	21 5.00 Potential Informal Council briefing—Teams	22 10.30 Joint Executive (W&F)	23	24
25 10.30 Planning Site Visits (potentially full day)	26 10.30 Executive (AH) 10.00 Parks, Strategy & Vision LDNP	27 10.30 Planning Committee 10.00 Governance LDNP	28 10.30 People Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CiC)	29 10.30 Corporate Parenting Board (NPM)	30	

December 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1
2 10.30 Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee (TBC) 5.00 Petheril Community Panel	3 6.00 Carlisle West Community Panel	4 10.00 DCC LDNP 6.00 South Cumberland Community Panel	5 6.00 Border, Fellside and North Carlisle Community Panel	6	7	8
9 10.30 Fells and Solway Community Panel	10 6.00 Lakes to Sea Community Panel DCC Site LDNP 10.00—Cumbria Pensions Committee	11 6.00 Workington Together Community Panel 10:00 Authority LDNP	12 6.00 Whitehaven and Coastal Community Panel	13 10.30 Health & Wellbeing Board (CC)	14	15
16	17 10.30 Regulatory Sub Committee	18 10.30am—Standards and Governance Committee (CiC)	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 Bank holiday	26 Bank holiday	27	28	29
30	31					

January 2025

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1 Bank holiday	2	3	4	5
6 10.30 Planning Site Visits (potentially full day)	7 10.30 Executive (CC)	8 10.30 Planning Committee DCC Site LDNP	9	10 10.30 Harbour Committee	11	12
13 4.00 Staffing Committee (CC)	14 1.00 Council (9 weeks) (CiC)	15 4.00 Nuclear Issues Board (9 weeks) (CC)	16 5.00 Potential Informal Council briefing—Teams 10.30 Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CC)	17	18	19
20 10.30 Regulatory Committee followed by Licensing Committee followed by Regulatory Sub Committee (AH)	21 2.00 Audit Committee (CC)	22 2.00 Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee(CH) 10:00 Rights of Way LDNP	23 10.30 People Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CH)	24	25	26
27 10.30am Joint Executive (W&F)	28 4.00 Business and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CH)	29 2.00 Highways and Transport Strategic Board (CC)	30	31 10.30—Police, Fire, Crime Panel		

February 2025

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3	4 10:00 Parks, Strategy & Vision LDNP	5 10.00 DCC LDNP	6	7 10.30 Corporate Parenting Board (NPM)	8	9
10 10.30 Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee (TBC)	11 1.00 Council—budget?? (CiC)	12 DCC Site LDNP	13 5.00 Potential Informal Council briefing—Teams	14	15	16
17 10.30 Planning Site Visits (potentially full day)	18 10.30 Executive (CiC)	19 10.30 Planning Committee	20 1.00 Council—budget?? (CiC)	21	22	23
24	25 10.30 Regulatory Sub Committee	26	27 10:00 Resources LDNP	28		

March 2025

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3 10.30am Joint Executive (W&F)	4 1.00 Council	5 10.00 DCC LDNP	6	7	8	9
10 5.00 Petteril Community Panel	11 6.00 Carlisle West Community Panel	12 6.00 Lakes to Sea Community Panel DCC Site LDNP	13 10.30 Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CiC)	14	15	16
17 10.30 Fells and Solway Community Panel	18 2.00 Audit Committee (AH) 6.00 Workington Together Community Panel	19 2.00 Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee (AH)	20 10.30 People Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CC) 10.00—Cumbria Pensions Committee 6.00 Whitehaven and Coastal Community Panel	21	22	23
24 10.30 Regulatory Sub Committee 4.00 Staffing Committee (CH)	25 4.00 Business and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CC)	26 6.00 South Cumberland Community Panel 10:00 Authority LDNP	27 6.00 Border, Fellside and North Carlisle Community Panel	28	29	30
31 4.00 Nuclear Issues Board (10 weeks to reduce gap to next meeting) (AH)						

April 2025

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2 10.00 DCC LDNP	3	4 10.30 Health & Wellbeing Board (CiC) 10.30—Police, Fire, Crime Panel	5	6
7 10.30 Planning Site Visits (potentially full day)	8 10.30 Executive (AH) 10.00 Rights of Way LDNP	9 10.30 Planning Committee DCC Site LDNP	10 5.00 Potential Informal Council briefing—Teams	11 10.30 Harbour Committee	12	13
14 10.30 Regulatory Committee followed by Licensing Committee followed by Regulatory Sub Committee (CC)	15 10.30 Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee (TBC)	16 10:00 Governance LDNP	17	18 Bank holiday	19	20
21 Bank holiday	22 2.00 Highways and Transport Strategic Board (CH)	23 10.30 Standards & Governance Committee (CC) 10:00 Parks, Strategy & Vision LDNP	24	25	26	27
28 2.00 Audit Committee (CH)	29 1.00 Council (CiC)	30				

May 2025

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 1.00 Annual Council (CiC)	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

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