Public Document Pack

Cabinet

Tuesday, 16th July, 2024 at 4.30 pm

PLEASE NOTE TIME OF MEETING

Council Chamber, Civic Centre

Members

Leader - Councillor Fielker

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and

Corporate Services – Councillor Letts

Cabinet Member for Economic Development – Councillor

Bogle

Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport -

Councillor Keogh

Cabinet Member for Children and Learning – Councillor

Winning

Cabinet Member for Compliance and Leisure- Councillor

Kataria

Cabinet Member for Communities and Safer City -

Councillor C Lambert

Cabinet Member for Housing Operations – Councillor A

Frampton

Cabinet Member for Adults and Health – Councillor Finn

Cabinet Member for Green City and Net Zero – Councillor

Savage

(QUORUM - 4)

Contacts

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BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT INFORMATION

The Role of the Executive

The Cabinet and individual Cabinet Members make executive decisions relating to services provided by the Council, except for those matters which are reserved for decision by the full Council and planning and licensing matters which are dealt with by specialist regulatory panels.

The Forward Plan

The Forward Plan is published on a monthly basis and provides details of all the key executive decisions to be made in the four month period following its publication. The Forward Plan is available on request or on the Southampton City Council website, www.southampton.gov.uk

Implementation of Decisions

Any Executive Decision may be "called-in" as part of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny function for review and scrutiny. The relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel may ask the Executive to reconsider a decision, but does not have the power to change the decision themselves.

Mobile Telephones – Please switch your mobile telephones or other IT to silent whilst in the meeting. **Use of Social Media**

The Council supports the video or audio recording of meetings open to the public, for either live or subsequent broadcast. However, if, in the Chair's opinion, a person filming or recording a meeting or taking photographs is interrupting proceedings or causing a disturbance, under the Council's Standing Orders the person can be ordered to stop their activity, or to leave the meeting.

By entering the meeting room you are consenting to being recorded and to the use of those images and recordings for broadcasting and or/training purposes. The meeting may be recorded by the press or members of the public. Any person or organisation filming, recording or broadcasting any meeting of the Council is responsible for any claims or other liability resulting from them doing so. Details of the Council's Guidance on the recording of meetings is available on the Council's website.

Municipal Year Dates (Tuesdays)

mamorpai i cai bat	ico (racoaayo)
2024	2025
25 June	7 January
16 July	28 January
27 August	25 February
	(Budget)
17 September	25 March
29 October	29 April
26 November	
17 December	

Executive Functions

The specific functions for which the Cabinet and individual Cabinet Members are responsible are contained in Part 3 of the Council's Constitution. Copies of the Constitution are available on request or from the City Council website, www.southampton.gov.uk

Key Decisions

A Key Decision is an Executive Decision that is likely to have a significant:

- financial impact (£500,000 or more)
- impact on two or more wards
- impact on an identifiable community

Procedure / Public Representations

At the discretion of the Chair, members of the public may address the meeting on any report included on the agenda in which they have a relevant interest. Any member of the public wishing to address the meeting should advise the Democratic Support Officer (DSO) whose contact details are on the front sheet of the agenda.

Fire Procedure – In the event of a fire or other emergency, a continuous alarm will sound and you will be advised, by officers of the Council, of what action to take.

Smoking policy – The Council operates a nosmoking policy in all civic buildings.

Access – Access is available for disabled people. Please contact the Cabinet Administrator who will help to make any necessary arrangements.

Southampton: Corporate Plan 2022-2030 sets out the four key outcomes:

- Communities, culture & homes Celebrating the diversity of cultures
 within Southampton; enhancing our
 cultural and historical offer and using
 these to help transform our
 communities.
- Green City Providing a sustainable, clean, healthy and safe environment for everyone. Nurturing green spaces and embracing our waterfront.
- Place shaping Delivering a city for future generations. Using data, insight and vision to meet the current and future needs of the city.
- Wellbeing Start well, live well, age well, die well; working with other partners and other services to make sure that customers get the right help at the right time

CONDUCT OF MEETING

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference of the Cabinet, and its Executive Members, are set out in Part 3 of the Council's Constitution.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

The meeting is governed by the Executive Procedure Rules as set out in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Members are required to disclose, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, **both** the existence **and** nature of any "Disclosable Pecuniary Interest" or "Other Interest" they may have in relation to matters for consideration on this Agenda.

DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

A Member must regard himself or herself as having a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter that they or their spouse, partner, a person they are living with as husband or wife, or a person with whom they are living as if they were a civil partner in relation to:

- (i) Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
- (ii) Sponsorship:

Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from Southampton City Council) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expense incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

- (iii) Any contract which is made between you / your spouse etc (or a body in which the you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interest) and Southampton City Council under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed, and which has not been fully discharged.
- (iv) Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of Southampton.
- (v) Any license (held alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of Southampton for a month or longer.
- (vi) Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) the landlord is Southampton City Council and the tenant is a body in which you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interests.
- (vii) Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of Southampton, and either:
 - a) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body, or
 - b) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interest that exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED

Only those items listed on the attached agenda may be considered at this meeting.

QUORUM

The minimum number of appointed Members required to be in attendance to hold the meeting is 4.

Other Interests

A Member must regard himself or herself as having an, 'Other Interest' in any membership of, or occupation of a position of general control or management in:

Any body to which they have been appointed or nominated by Southampton City Council Any public authority or body exercising functions of a public nature

Any body directed to charitable purposes

Any body whose principal purpose includes the influence of public opinion or policy

Principles of Decision Making

All decisions of the Council will be made in accordance with the following principles:-

- proportionality (i.e. the action must be proportionate to the desired outcome);
- due consultation and the taking of professional advice from officers;
- respect for human rights;
- a presumption in favour of openness, accountability and transparency;
- setting out what options have been considered;
- · setting out reasons for the decision; and
- clarity of aims and desired outcomes.

In exercising discretion, the decision maker must:

- understand the law that regulates the decision making power and gives effect to it. The decision-maker must direct itself properly in law;
- take into account all relevant matters (those matters which the law requires the authority as a matter of legal obligation to take into account);
- leave out of account irrelevant considerations;
- act for a proper purpose, exercising its powers for the public good;
- not reach a decision which no authority acting reasonably could reach, (also known as the "rationality" or "taking leave of your senses" principle);
- comply with the rule that local government finance is to be conducted on an annual basis. Save
 to the extent authorised by Parliament, 'live now, pay later' and forward funding are unlawful;
 and
- act with procedural propriety in accordance with the rules of fairness.

AGENDA

1 APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies.

2 <u>DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL AND PECUNIARY INTERESTS</u>

In accordance with the Localism Act 2011, and the Council's Code of Conduct, Members to disclose any personal or pecuniary interests in any matter included on the agenda for this meeting.

EXECUTIVE BUSINESS

3 STATEMENT FROM THE LEADER

4 RECORD OF THE PREVIOUS DECISION MAKING (Pages 1 - 4)

Record of the decision making held on 25th June, 2024 attached.

5 MATTERS REFERRED BY THE COUNCIL OR BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR RECONSIDERATION (IF ANY)

There are no matters referred for reconsideration.

6 REPORTS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES (IF ANY)

There are no items for consideration.

7 **EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS**

To deal with any executive appointments, as required.

ITEMS FOR DECISION BY CABINET

8 DRAFTING A NEW CITY PLAN FOR SOUTHAMPTON (Pages 5 - 10)

Report of the Director of the Leader of the Council outlining the proposed approach for drafting a new city plan.

9 TRANSFORMATION UPDATE □ (Pages 11 - 70)

To consider the report of the Leader of the Council detailing the Transformation Programme.

10 ALLOCATIONS POLICY ☐ (Pages 71 - 168)

To consider the report of the Cabinet Member for Housing seeking approval of an updated housing allocations scheme.

11 MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING STRATEGY ☐ (Pages 169 - 246)

To consider the report of the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health seeking approval for the Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

12 MTFS REBASE 2024/25 TO 2027/28 (Pages 247 - 250)

To consider the report by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services on the rebasing of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

13 CAPITAL OUTTURN 2023/24 □ (Pages 251 - 270)

To consider the report by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services on the Capital Outturn for 2023/24.

14 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC - EXEMPT PAPERS INCLUDED IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM

To move that in accordance with the Council's Constitution, specifically the Access to Information Procedure Rules contained within the Constitution, the press and public be excluded from the meeting in respect of any consideration of the exempt appendix to the following Item.

Appendix 5 is exempt from publication by virtue of category 3 of rule 10.4 of the council's Access to Information Procedure Rules i.e. information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person. It is not in the public interest to disclose this information due to commercial sensitivity. If the information was disclosed, then the council's financial position would be available to other parties and prejudice the council's ability to achieve best value.

15 REVENUE OUTTURN 2023/24 (Pages 271 - 308)

To consider the report by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services on the Revenue Outturn for 2023/24.

16 <u>EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC - EXEMPT PAPERS INCLUDED IN THE</u> FOLLOWING ITEM

To move that in accordance with the Council's Constitution, specifically the Access to Information Procedure Rules contained within the Constitution, the press and public be excluded from the meeting in respect of any consideration of the exempt appendix to the following Item.

Confidential Appendix 1 of this report is not for publication by virtue of category 5 (Legal Professional Privilege) of paragraph 10.4 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules. It is not in the public interest to disclose the contents of the appendix as they relate to matters in respect of which the Council is entitled to receive confidential legal advice on in order to inform its decision on this matter.

SEND CONSULTATION NOTICE □ (Pages 309 - 368)

To consider the report of the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning seeking approval for the SEND consultation notice.

Monday, 8 July 2024

Director of Legal and Governance



Agenda Item 4

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE DECISION MAKING

RECORD OF THE DECISION MAKING HELD ON 25 JUNE 2024

Present:

Councillor Letts Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate

Services

Councillor Finn Cabinet Member for Adults and Health
Councillor A Frampton Cabinet Member for Housing Operations

Councillor Kataria
Councillor C Lambert
Councillor Keogh
Councillor Savage
Councillor Winning
Cabinet Member for Compliance and Leisure—
Cabinet Member for Communities and Safer City
Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport
Cabinet Member for Green City and Net Zero
Cabinet Member for Children and Learning

Apologies: Councillor Fielker and Bogle

1. <u>SCRUTINY INQUIRY PANEL - HOW CAN WE GET A BETTER DEAL FOR PRIVATE SECTOR RENTERS IN SOUTHAMPTON?</u>

Decision Made: (CAB 24/25 45584)

On consideration of the report of the Chair of the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel, Cabinet agreed the following:

(i) Subject to the approval by the OSMC on 20 June, Cabinet agreed to receive the attached Scrutiny Inquiry Panel report to enable the Executive to formulate its response to the recommendations contained within it, in order to comply with the requirements set out in the Council's Constitution.

2. FINANCIAL POSITION UPDATE

Decision Made: (CAB 24/25 45399)

On consideration of the report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Change, Cabinet approved the following:

- (i) Note the latest forecast financial position as set out in Appendix A.
- (ii) Note the development of deficit recovery plans as set out in Appendix A

3. DIGITAL STRATEGY

Decision Made: (CAB 24/25 45448)

On consideration of the report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Change, Cabinet approved the following:

- (i) To adopt the 2024-2030 Digital Strategy including the principles, priorities and roadmaps as defined.
- (ii) To support the alignment of services and projects to the new digital strategy ensuring consistency across the authority and supporting closer working across the wider city and sub-region.

4. DATA STRATEGY

Decision Made: (CAB 24/25 45446)

On consideration of the report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Change, Cabinet approved the following:

- (i) To approve and adopt the 2024-2030 Data & Intelligence Strategy, including the priority action areas, principles and outcomes set out in the strategy;
- (ii) To support the alignment of services and projects to the new Data strategy ensuring consistency across the authority and supporting closer working across the wider city and sub-region

ST MARY'S AND WOODLANDS SEND RESOURCED PROVISION

Decision Made: (CAB 24/25 43606)

On consideration of the report of the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning, Cabinet approved the following:

- (i) To approve the spend of £250,000 within the Children's & Learning capital programme to facilitate the opening of a SEND unit for children and Young people with SEMH needs on the site of Woodlands Community College. This unit will accommodate 8 spaces initially.
- (ii) To approve the opening of a SEND unit for children and young people with moderate earning difficulties and associated speech, language and communication needs. on the site of St Mary's Primary School. This provision is initially to support 8 KS 1 pupils.

6. CHAPEL RIVERSIDE DEVELOPMENT

Decision Made: (CAB 24/25 45151)

On consideration of the report of the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Cabinet approved the following:

- (i) To approve the novation of the Chapel Riverside Development Agreement to a new developer.
- (ii) To delegate authority to the Chief Executive following consultation with the Leader, Executive Director Corporate Services, Executive Director for Growth and Prosperity and Director of Legal & Governance to progress with the novation of the agreement to the preferred party (Developer A) as set out in Appendix 1.



DECISION-MAKE	-MAKER: Cabinet				
SUBJECT:		Drafting a new City Plan for Southampton			
DATE OF DECISI	ON:	16 July 2024			
REPORT OF:		Leader of the Council			
CONTACT DETAILS					
AUTHOR:	Name:	Clare Bull	Clare Bull Tel: 023 8083 2418		
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	E-mail:	Munira.holloway@southampton.gov.uk			

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

NOT APPLICABLE

BRIEF SUMMARY

The Southampton City Strategy is expiring in 2025.

This paper outlines the background, proposed approach and timeline to develop and adopt a new Southampton City Plan. The City Plan will articulate the key long term goals for Southampton over the next 10 years.

This will be created through engagement with key strategic partners and residents and will pull together the threads of other strategies/strategic plans to ensure everything aligns. The Southampton City Plan would form part of an overall hierarchy of plans that articulate and support the wider goals across the region. The Southampton City Council (SCC) corporate plan will deliver the council's commitments to the overall city plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

(i) To endorse the proposed approach for the development of a city wide 10 year Southampton City Plan (City Plan).

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The council is a significant organisation within the city and will be instrumental in leading and co-ordinating the development of the City Plan.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- Let the current strategy expire and do not produce a refreshed version.
 Continue to develop strategic goals through the Renaissance Board, Health and Wellbeing Board and Safe City Partnership.
 Not recommended as disparate approach, potential duplication of effort in
 - Not recommended as disparate approach, potential duplication of effort in some areas. Potential conflict of goals/resources, no 'one city' focus.
- 3. Develop a council led and owned city plan that incorporates the council responsibilities as identified through other strategies and plans (including the corporate plan).

Not recommended as would be limited in the goals we have control over. More difficult to develop across the city in a comprehensive way.

DETAIL (Including consultation cargied out)

4. The Southampton city strategy 2015-2025 expires next year. The existing strategy was led by Southampton Connect, which was the city's strategic partnership body also responsible for the delivery of the strategy. Progress towards the measures specified under each priority has not been specifically tracked or evaluated. Whilst the aims and objectives are core to many strategies and work across the city, the strategy itself has not been adopted as a live framework for other strategies and initiatives to work within. 5. Successful city plans or strategies are fully owned and adopted by strategic partners and businesses across the city, and not seen as solely the council's responsibility. To ensure achievement of the city plan goals, is important that this is a cross-party initiative. We also need to engage the Renaissance Board, the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Safe City Partnership and the voluntary sector as key stakeholders and strategic partners. It is proposed that SCC will facilitate discussions which each of these groups over the summer so we can establish a set of priority missions for Southampton. 6. City plans that have been established as true cross-partnership frameworks, have been proven to drive successful results with positive economic. infrastructure and wellbeing impacts. Key to success is keeping it simple, clarity around the strategic frameworks, and understanding the value to participants of the goals/missions being achieved. 7. As well as an assessment of the expiring strategy, a significant amount of baseline data about the city has been collated and assessed to help indicate areas of potential focus. An initial timeline has been developed and draft stakeholder map built to ensure that we have the foundations established on which to take the development of the plan forwards. 8. The following three steps set out how we will establish priority areas for the city plan and set up a City Plan board for its creation and delivery. To be successful this will require engagement throughout the participating organisations as well as public involvement. 9. Step one: Early cross-party engagement Sessions with the Cabinet and opposition party leadership to agree council priorities and areas of focus as input into the City Plan. 10. Step two: Workshop for members of Partnership Boards a single workshop for members of the three existing partnership boards as well as the voluntary sector and any notable exceptions (eg schools) will bring together key strategic partners mean we understand their priorities and goals. This will give us the basis for a cohesive city-wide approach. Each representative organisation would have responsibility for the delivery of relevant action plans to drive progress towards the goals. The expectation is that many of these actions, interventions or initiatives are already in the pipeline or under way, although there may be some actions that are critical to the successful delivery of the plan which have not yet been identified. Intended outcomes of this is: A common understanding of the current city data in key areas A draft set of missions/goals Understanding of current strategies/plans that support or potentially work counter to these goals

- Agreement on the establishment of a City Plan steering group (made up of agreed stakeholders who have accountability for the delivery of their own plans to support the achievement of the missions/goals).
- Run a workshop for councillors to share outputs from partners and obtain feedback.

11. Step Two: Resident engagement

Once partnership boards have agreed an approach and identified broad themes of focus (for example, skills, health, safety) and engagement to inform and get feedback from residents on the understanding and importance of the missions and potential areas of focus.

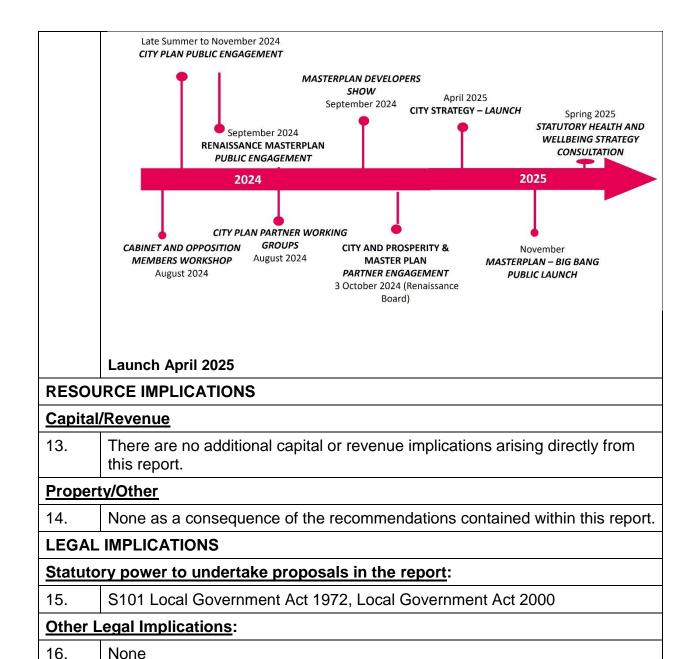
Public engagement would start late summer, Further engagement would be linked with engagement on the masterplan, the prosperity plan and a wider engagement exercise starting late autumn. There will be a broad approach to methods of engagement, following a PICE (public involvement and community engagement) approach working with our Health Determinates Research Collaboration (HDRC) hub and resources as well as other engagement networks already established, particularly important in asking the views of groups harder to reach through standard channels.

There is a significant amount of planned engagement activity (both from with the council and wider), the intention is to draw these activities and links together and provide a clear and simple engagement with residents focused around achieving ambitious goals for the city.

12. **Step Three: Drafting and designing the City Plan** (through the City Plan steering group), agreement of metrics, monitor/review, and refresh dates. The content and format of the plan will be agreed through the steering group.

The City Plan will form part of a broader strategic context, sitting underneath national and wider-region plans, and providing a framework for more locally focused plans and strategies to operate within.

Alongside the development of the City Plan the council will draft a new SCC corporate plan which will evolve from this, the Transformation Programme and the MTFS. It will set out how we will deliver the council initiatives to the missions set out in the City Plan. In addition, we will review plans and strategies across the organisation to rationalise and simplify these, maintaining a smaller number of strategies that support the delivery of the City Plan missions.



RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

17. None

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

18. Whilst the City Plan is not a statutory requirement, it is expected that other plans and strategies within the Policy Framework will seek to address the challenges in the City Plan and contribute to the priorities and projects detailed within it.

KEY DECISION?	No	
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AF	FFECTED:	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION		
Appendices		

1.	None			
2.				
Docum	ents In Members' Rooms			
1.	None.			
2.				
Equality	y Impact Assessment			
	implications/subject of the report rempact Assessment (ESIA) to be cal	•	Equality and	No
Data Pr	otection Impact Assessment			
	implications/subject of the report re Assessment (DPIA) to be carried or	•	Oata Protection	No
Other B	ackground Documents			
Other B	ackground documents available fo	r inspect	ion at:	
Informati Schedule		t Paragraph of th tion Procedure R le 12A allowing d npt/Confidential (tules / locument to	
1.				
2.				



Agenda Item 9

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET
SUBJECT:	TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME UPDATE
DATE OF DECISION:	16 JULY 2024
REPORT OF:	COUNCILLOR FIELKER
	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

CONTACT DETAILS					
Executive Director	Title	CHIEF EXECUTIVE			
	Name:	Andrew Travers Tel: 023 8083 2943			
	E-mail	andrew.travers@southampton.gov.uk			
Author:	Title	TRANSFORMATION DIRECTOR			
	Name:	James Wills-FlemingTel:023 8083 2054			
	E-mail	james.wills-fleming@southampton.gov.uk			

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

None

BRIEF SUMMARY

When Council set the Budget for 2024/25 on 6 March 2024, it was agreed that a comprehensive Transformation Programme be established as part of its plans to address the structural budget deficit. This report, and main appendix "Transformation Update-July 2024", sets out the progress made towards establishing a Council-wide Transformation Programme, including the governance arrangements that have been put in place, and an overview of the programmes of transformation activity currently defined within it.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

(i)	That Cabinet agrees the transformation strategy set out in the report and appendices and the establishment of the "adapt grow thrive" transformation programme.
(ii)	agrees the overall programme structure and governance arrangements for the "adapt grow thrive" transformation programme.
(iii)	agrees the initial definition, scope and expected outcomes of the current 28 programmes of activities within the transformation programme, including the 'key next steps' for each of these, set out within the main appendix – "Transformation Update-July 2024".
(iv)	delegates authority to the Chief Executive after consultation with the Leader of the Council to take all consequential decisions necessary to deliver the agreed programme scope within the governance and decision-making framework set out in the main appendix.
•	

now in place, with Portfolio Boards led by each Executive Director reporting into the Transformation Board chaired by the CEO. Steps have been taken to strengthen the delivery and assurance capacity and capability of the council. A Transformation Director has been appointed and is in-post, and additional recruitment to the core Projects/PMO team is underway. 6. The high-level scope of the programme is set out in the main appendix — "Transformation Update-July 2024" - and is organised across seven service-themed Portfolios, each led by an Executive Director. 7. The full content and delivery of the programme has been initially defined through 28 Outline Business Cases (OBCs). These working documents have been produced by all service areas and are summarised in the main appendix. The key next steps for each of the 28 OBCs is also set out in the main appendix — "Transformation Update-July 2024". It is important to note that the content and structure of the programme is subject to change over time as we gain greater levels of understanding about our current areas of improvement, and as new opportunities are identified. 8. Also included as an appendix is a presentation titled 'Transformation Strategy" summarising the broader national, regional and city context that the transformation programme sits within, along with a summary overview of the programme structure. 9. Regular future updates on the progress across the Transformation	REASO	NS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS
To not establish a Council-wide Transformation Programme. This was rejected due to the critical nature of the programme in supporting the council achieve financial sustainability and deliver much-needed reform of services. DETAIL (Including consultation carried out) To address the council's structural budget deficit for the 2025/26 financial year, and beyond, we are focussed on delivering transformation across the organisation through a single comprehensive Transformation Programme. The Transformation Programme has been established to deliver the c£40m of savings required for the 2025/26 financial year through addressing what we do, how we work, and what technology, process and structural changes are needed to enable us to reshape the organisation to deliver quality services within a sustainable budgetary framework. The programme is to be called "adapt grow thrive" Mew governance arrangements aligned to the Transformation Programme are now in place, with Portfolio Boards led by each Executive Director reporting into the Transformation Board chaired by the CEO. Steps have been taken to strengthen the delivery and assurance capacity and capability of the council. A Transformation Director has been appointed and is in-post, and additional recruitment to the core Projects/PMO team is underway. The high-level scope of the programme is set out in the main appendix — "Transformation Update-July 2024" - and is organised across seven service-themed Portfolios, each led by an Executive Director. The full content and delivery of the programme has been initially defined through 28 Outline Business Cases (OBCs). These working documents have been produced by all service areas and are summarised in the main appendix. The key next steps for each of the 28 OBCs is also set out in the main appendix — "Transformation Update-July 2024". It is important to note that the content and structure of the programme is subject to change over time as we gain greater levels of understanding about our current areas of improvement,	1.	comprehensive, organisation-wide, transformation programme, including the governance structure and content of the currently defined transformation
rejected due to the critical nature of the programme in supporting the council achieve financial sustainability and deliver much-needed reform of services. DETAIL (Including consultation carried out) 3. To address the council's structural budget deficit for the 2025/26 financial year, and beyond, we are focussed on delivering transformation across the organisation through a single comprehensive Transformation Programme. 4. The Transformation Programme has been established to deliver the c£40m of savings required for the 2025/26 financial year through addressing what we do, how we work, and what technology, process and structural changes are needed to enable us to reshape the organisation to deliver quality services within a sustainable budgetary framework. The programme is to be called "adapt grow thrive" 5. New governance arrangements aligned to the Transformation Programme are now in place, with Portfolio Boards led by each Executive Director reporting into the Transformation Board chaired by the CEO. Steps have been taken to strengthen the delivery and assurance capacity and capability of the council. A Transformation Director has been appointed and is in-post, and additional recruitment to the core Projects/PMO team is underway. 6. The high-level scope of the programme is set out in the main appendix — "Transformation Update-July 2024" - and is organised across seven service-themed Portfolios, each led by an Executive Director. 7. The full content and delivery of the programme has been initially defined through 28 Outline Business Cases (OBCs). These working documents have been produced by all service areas and are summarised in the main appendix — "Transformation Update-July 2024". It is important to note that the content and structure of the programme is subject to change over time as we gain greater levels of understanding about our current areas of improvement, and as new opportunities are identified. 8. Also included as an appendix is a presentation titled 'Transformation Strategy" summarisi	ALTERI	NATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED
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required, will be presented to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee. General updates to Cabinet will be aligned to the main quarterly budget reporting schedule, with the next Transformation update anticipated to be presented to Cabinet in October.	9.	Programme, along with individual OBC-specific updates as and when required, will be presented to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee. General updates to Cabinet will be aligned to the main quarterly budget reporting schedule, with the next Transformation
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS Page 12	RESOU	RCE IMPLICATIONS Page 12

Capital/Revenue

10. The funding requirement for the Programme is up to £10.62M in 2024/25, matching the Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) application for this component. In 2024/25 transformation funding will be primarily drawn from capital resources. The Programme will be multi-year and further resource requests will come forward for future years, including how these will be funded.

Property/Other

- 11. There are no specific new property implications arising from this report. Any property implications required to deliver the Transformation Programme will be defined through the individual business cases.
- 12. Cabinet have previously agreed the Phase 1 Disposal list being delivered under the Asset Development and Disposal Programme (ADDP).

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

13. S1 Localism Act 2011, S101 Local Government Act 1972 and discrete legislation referred to as appropriate in each OBC.

Other Legal Implications:

14. None

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

15. Failure to deliver the required actions and associated transformation programme within the required timeframe would prevent the council from setting a balanced budget 2025-26. The establishment of the programme is also a key aspect of the EFS "minded to" decision. This risk is being managed on the Corporate Risk register, with the programme governance and structure as set out in this report and associated appendices acting as key mitigations to prevent this risk from materialising. Reporting to Cabinet on the overall budget position is provided through the regular Budget/MTFS updates.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

16. None specifically but our approach to organisation structures is to ensure that the impact on current and future workforce is assessed in line with policy and employment law to reduce any risk to the organisation. Enable and support the organisation to assess and take advantage of opportunities that will arise, putting us ahead of the curve and support the creation of a modern, agile organisation. Any changes to work practices, digitalisation or otherwise will be assessed strategically from a people perspective with a view to evolving the workforce to take advantage of improvements, ensuring that learning is in place and transformation including reduction in employee numbers is supported.

KEY DECISION?	No	
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AF	FECTED:	ALL
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION		
Page 12		

Appendices		
1.	Transformation Update-July 2024	
2.	Transformation Strategy July 2024 Presentation	
3.	ESIA Data-Organisation wide equality analysis	

Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
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Equality Impact Assessment

As a local authority, we are required by the Equality Act 2010 to comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty. This means that we need to carry out an equality analysis of our services and any proposed changes. For workforce related analysis, consideration has been given to the complexity and timelines of all the transformation projects resulting in the following approach being taken:

- Complete an organisation wide equality analysis which will be the baseline going forward and used for the transformation programme. See attached appendix – "ESIA Data". Further equality analysis will be conducted and compared against the baseline at key milestones of the transformation programme.
- Individual projects will be accountable for managing any opportunities and mitigations.
- The People and Culture programme will be accountable for reporting and overseeing the analysis. HR will support the projects and look across the whole system in order to maximise opportunities.
- A review of Equality Strategy is underway and any recommended ambitions/targets will be included in future reporting.

Further ESIAs relating to specific programmes and projects will be drafted as required.

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and	yes
Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.	

Data Protection Impact Assessment

1.

It is expected that many of the programmes set out in this report will require DPIAs to be carried out.

A full assessment of this requirement will be carried out as part of developing the programmes through to the next stage of business case approval and/or as they move to implementation. Each programme will be responsible for ensuring the required DPIA is in place to the satisfaction of the Data Protection Officer, and this will be monitored and managed through the programme and portfolio governance and assurance processes.

Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection yes Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out.			
Other Background Documents Other Background documents available for inspection at:			
Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)		

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Agenda Item 9

Appendix 1

adapt | grow | thrive

Transforming Southampton City Council



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Executive summary

To address the range of challenges that Southampton City Council (SCC) faces, including a significant structural budget deficit, we are delivering change across the organisation through a single Transformation Programme. That Programme is addressing what we do, how we do it, and what technology, process and structural changes are needed to enable us to reshape the Council to deliver for our residents in the challenging context we face.

But this is not just about the Council. To be successful and sustainable we will work with our partners to deliver growth and prosperity for the region and our city, and we will forge new relationships with our residents for efficient service delivery, coupled with deeper engagement where that is necessary for them to thrive.

Our aim is to set a balanced budget for 2025/26, but beyond that to continue our Transformation Programme over a three-year period to deliver our ambitions in line with our new City Plan.

We are calling our Transformation Programme: **adapt | grow | thrive** to reflect the specific challenges and opportunities of Southampton.

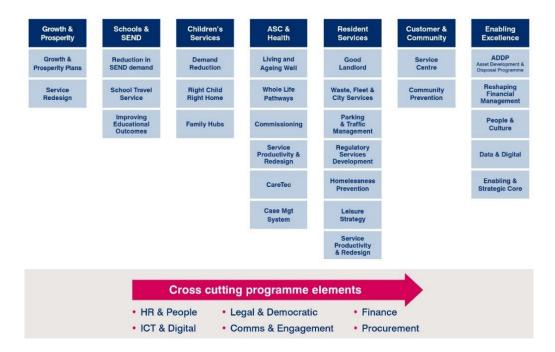
We are underpinning our vision for transformation with a robust approach to governance, well-developed business cases and delivery plans, and by investing in additional resources and expertise to support us.

The high-level scope of the programme is organised across seven service-focussed Portfolios, each led by an Executive Director. These portfolios are as follows:

- Adult Social Care & Health
- Children's Services
- Customer & Community
- Enabling Excellence

- Growth & Prosperity
- Resident Services
- Schools & SEND

These portfolios of activities will be supported by cross-cutting supporting workstreams, around areas such as HR & People, Procurement, and ICT & Digital support. The content and delivery of the programme has been initially defined through 28 Outline Business Cases (OBCs), which set out the programmes of activities that will deliver the savings required to address the structural budget deficit, whilst implementing reform of key services to improve outcomes for our city.



Each Portfolio has an overall savings expectation based on the programmes of activity defined within them. These savings expectations, as set out below, combine to achieve the overall savings target required to close the council's structural budget deficit for 2025/26.

Portfolio Name	Expected Saving
Adult Social Care & Health	£14.65m
Children's Services	£7.9m
Customer & Community	£1.0m
Enabling Excellence	£4.0m
Growth & Prosperity	£2.0m
Resident Services	£11.3m*
Schools & SEND	£1.8m*
	£42.65m

^{*}The Resident Services and Schools & SEND Portfolios also include activity that aims to positively contribute to the council's financial position in relation to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) respectively.

The OBCs currently within the scope of the programme can broadly be described as fitting into one or more of the following categories:

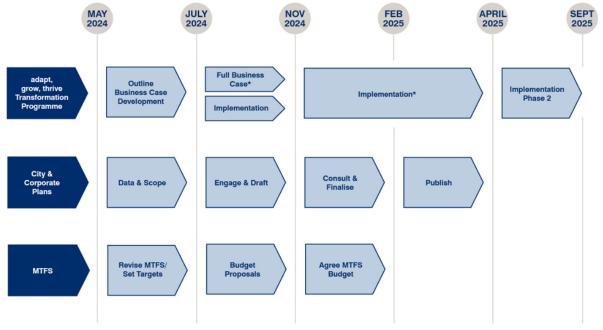
- Efficiencies & Productivity
- Prevention & Demand Reduction

- Growth & Income
- Service Delivery Models

Due the breadth of the programme and the pace at which we are moving to develop and deliver the activities in each programme, the OBCs are at differing stages of development and readiness for implementation and will therefore have a range of next steps based on their individual status. These are set out in the main body of the report.

We recognise the need to work at pace and be flexible in our approach to delivering the transformation required. This means that the scope of the programme may change over time as we gain greater levels of understanding about our current areas of improvement, and as new opportunities are identified.

The broad overarching timeline for the transformation programme, including how the programme overlays with the timings of the development of the council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and City & Corporate Plans, is as follows:



^{*}Including engagement and consultation

Each individual programme will manage a detailed implementation plan, which will be monitored through its Portfolio Board and through the Transformation Board. This will include the tracking of the delivery of both financial and non-financial benefits. A number of these programmes of activities are already underway and delivering savings this year.

Robust governance arrangements aligned to the Transformation Programme are in place, with Portfolio Boards led by each Executive Director reporting into the Transformation Board chaired by the Chief Executive. Steps have also been taken to strengthen the delivery and assurance capacity and capability of the council, including through engaging external transformation support.

Based on the projects and programmes set out across our Transformation Programme we believe we have identified a path to closing the structural budget deficit, with work already underway to deliver savings this year. We also recognise that this is a multi-year programme and as such, not all savings will be delivered at the same time, in a single year. Our current assessment of how the financial benefits of the programme will be realised over time is as follows and is set out in more detail in the "Expected Savings" section of the report. We are continuing to work to improve this position in order to meet, and exceed, the £42.65m target:

	Forecast Savings Profile (£m)				
Financial Year	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29
Total Savings Identified (cumulative)	7.30	32.05	39.37	41.20	41.60
Annual Incremental Total	7.30	24.75	7.32	1.83	0.40

We remain ambitious for our city and believe that at the end of our transformation journey a successful outcome will mean:



Budget set for 2025/26 without additional EFS



Children and young people are safe and valued



Ten-year MTFS agreed based on growth and devolution



A more resilient community with improved housing, labour market participation and pay



Investment portfolio
for the region and city to increase
growth and productivity



Residents have support, where necessary, to live independent lives



A focus on prevention, led by a public health approach





An engaged council at the heart of city partnerships

Introduction

Southampton City Council (SCC), like many local authorities, faces a broad range of challenges that have put a significant strain on our ability to serve the needs of our city. Nationally, growth has been flat lining since 2008, the effects of Brexit, a global pandemic, and war, have all created shocks to economic and social stability, and put huge pressure on public services. Local Government funding has also been reducing over this period, with SCC's core spending power reducing by over 20% since 2010. Within our city we know that significant inequalities remain, residents still earn less per week than workers from outside the city, our skills & qualifications are below the national average, and the quality, quantity, and range of housing is inadequate to meet our ambitions for the city. We also recognise that as a council we have a backlog of reform to our key services, alongside a significant structural budget deficit. Despite this, the city also has huge potential. Creating inclusive growth, which creates better jobs and community regeneration, underpinned by a regional devolution deal and a reformed city council, is key to unlocking this potential.

To address these challenges, we are focussed on delivering transformation across the organisation through a single comprehensive Transformation Programme. The Transformation Programme has been established to deliver the c£40m of savings required to address our structural budget gap and deliver the changes that are needed to enable us to reshape the organisation to deliver quality services within a sustainable budgetary framework.

But this is not just about the Council. To be successful and sustainable we will work with our partners to deliver growth and prosperity for the region and our city, and we will forge new relationships with our residents for efficient service delivery, coupled with deeper engagement where that is necessary for them to thrive.

Our aim is to set a balanced budget for 2025/26, but beyond that to continue our Transformation Programme over a three-year period to deliver our ambitions in line with our new City Plan. To achieve this, we are investing in our capacity for change and building a strong governance and delivery framework so that everyone can contribute to our Council and our city.

adapt | grow | thrive

In order to capture the specific set of challenges faced by our city, we are calling our Transformation Programme:

adapt | grow | thrive

adapt... to achieve a sustainable financial position and succeed within a volatile world we will create a more effective and agile organisation focussed on outcomes for our residents.

grow... for longer-term success, we will work with our partners to achieve growth and prosperity for our region and our city.

thrive... the work that we are doing with our partners will enable our residents and the city to thrive.

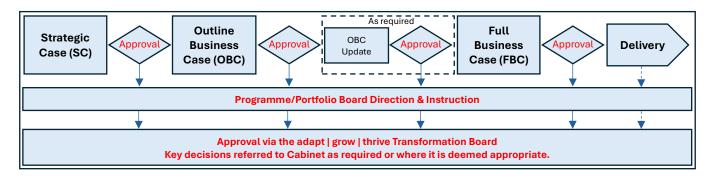
Delivering transformation through our adapt | grow | thrive programme (a | g | t) is about rethinking what we do, it's not just about doing things differently, it's about doing different things. It is about making fundamental changes to the way we operate and how we offer better value for money in how we deliver services to our residents. It is how we will empower people, how we will harness technology, improve processes, and make better use of our physical infrastructure to deliver our priorities and be financially sustainable in the future. It is how we will change the Council's culture and behaviours to discover better ways of working, based on our vision and our values.

This report sets out the progress made to-date towards establishing a Council-wide Transformation Programme, including the scope of each of the transformation initiatives, the benefits expected, and the governance arrangements that have been put in place ensure delivery.

Programme Overview

Business case approach

The adapt | grow | thrive programme has been established using the council's Project and Programme management approach to ensure that all activities are initiated and implemented within a standardised management framework. A key element of this is the development of our transformational priorities into deliverable business cases that establish the strategic need, scope of change, delivery approach, costs, and both the financial and non-financial benefits of the proposed activity. The diagram below sets out the high-level business case development process that programmes of work are following.



All Business Cases go through 'robustness' assessments once they are completed. Once assessed and approved, each business case is turned into a delivery plan with clearly identifiable milestones that allow us to track progress and the successful delivery of benefits.

Not all activity scoped as part of our programme will follow all stages of business case development. Where activity is already well-defined at the Outline Business Case (OBC) stage, and delivery underway within services as on-going improvement activity, we may not require further work on the business case.

Design Principles

We have developed a set of design principles to underpin our transformation journey. We will carry these principles throughout our thinking when delivering our transformation - in how we design services, where we invest our resources, in how we make key decisions, and what we value and what we expect from each other.



Portfolio structure

The programme is organised across seven service-focussed Portfolios, each led by an Executive Director. These portfolios are as follows:

- Adult Social Care & Health
- Children's Services
- Customer & Community
- Enabling Excellence

- Growth & Prosperity
- · Resident Services
- Schools & SEND

These portfolios of activities will be supported by cross-cutting supporting workstreams, around areas such as HR & People, Procurement, and ICT & Digital support.

The content and delivery of the programme has been initially defined through 28 Outline Business Cases (OBCs), which have been developed by all service areas having initially produced Strategic Cases (SC). These OBCs set out the programmes of activities that will deliver the savings required to address the structural budget deficit, whilst implementing reform of key services to improve outcomes for our city.

Growth & Prosperity	Schools & SEND	Children's Services	ASC & Health	Resident Services	Customer & Community	Enabling Excellence
Growth & Prosperity Plans	Reduction in SEND demand	Demand Reduction	Living and Ageing Well	Good Landlord	Service Centre	ADDP Asset Development & Disposal Programme
Service Redesign	School Travel Service	Right Child Right Home	Whole Life Pathways	Waste, Fleet & City Services	Community Prevention	Reshaping Financial Management
	Improving Educational Outcomes	Family Hubs	Commissioning	Parking & Traffic Management		People & Culture
			Service Productivity & Redesign	Regulatory Services Development		Data & Digital
			CareTec	Homelessness Prevention		Enabling & Strategic Core
			Case Mgt System	Leisure Strategy		
				Service Productivity & Redesign		

Cross cutting programme elements

- HR & People
- Legal & Democratic
- rinance

- ICT & Digital
- Comms & Engagement
- Procurement

The OBCs currently within the scope of the programme can broadly be described as fitting into one or more of the following thematic categories:

- Efficiencies & Productivity Initiatives aimed at improving how we deliver existing services, improving customer experience, and reducing cost by taking out avoidable and duplicate effort, streamlining processes, rationalising or replacing existing systems, and exploiting the opportunities to automate activities through new digital technologies, including AI.
- **Prevention & Demand Reduction** Changing what we do and how we do it in order to prevent and reduce the need for the services we provide, whilst promoting independence and focusing on improving opportunities for all of our residents. This involves looking beyond just the scope of services that we as a council offer, working in a different way with our communities and partners to ensure that the right support is available in the right place, and at the right time.

- **Growth & Income** Aimed at growing our city, building greater economic resilience, and developing and promoting our income-generating services to enable us to invest in the delivery of our priorities.
- Service Delivery Models Fundamentally changing how we deliver whole service areas. This could include looking at alternative delivery models such as shared services with other local authorities, arms-length Local Authority Trading Companies, Trusts, Joint-Ventures with partners, and externalisation.

Due the breadth of the programme and the pace at which we are moving to develop and deliver the activities in each programme, the OBCs are at differing stages of development and readiness for implementation. Some involve the formal structuring of activity that is already underway and already delivering savings and service improvement, whereas others need to move to the next stage of definition to fully validate and evidence the options set out. These may involve, for example, assessment of alternative delivery models, procurement processes, or requirements for consultation, and will therefore be subject to future decision-making on a case-by-case basis.

The current Outline Business Cases will therefore have a range of next steps based on their individual status, and these are set out in the 'Transformation Scope Detail' section. Some will move directly to formal delivery in order to maintain pace and recognise benefits as quickly as possible. Others will continue to move through the business case development process and move to produce either an updated Outline Business Case or Full Business Case with implementation plan following the completion of further analysis of the recommended option. A smaller portion of the OBCs are not yet defined in enough detail to fully identify or validate the benefits expected and as such will need additional work before being able to be fully assessed and progressed.

We recognise the need to work at pace and be flexible in our approach to delivering the transformation required. This means that the scope of the programme may change over time as we gain greater levels of understanding about our current areas of improvement, and as new opportunities are identified. This may lead to new business cases and programmes being initiated, and/or changing or expanding the scope of current programmes.

Savings by portfolio

Each Portfolio has an overall savings expectation based on the programmes of activity defined within them. These savings expectations, as set out below, combine to achieve the overall savings target required to close the council's structural budget deficit for 2025/26.

Portfolio Name	Expected Saving
Adult Social Care & Health	£14.65m
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Schools & SEND	£1.8m*
	£42.65m

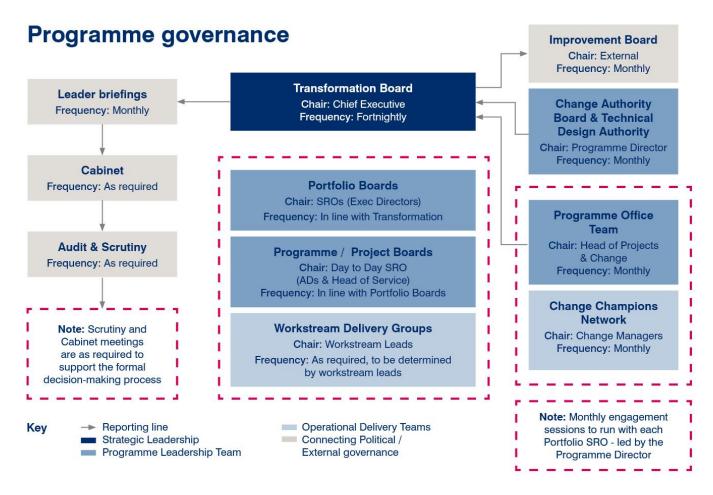
^{*}The Resident Services and Schools & SEND Portfolios also include activity that aims to positively contribute to the council's financial position in relation to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), and Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), respectively.

It is important to note that as these programmes of activity are further developed and as benefits are realised, we may need to adjust individual savings expectations and re-align savings expectations across portfolios to ensure that we are still achieving our overall saving objectives.

Governance & Resource

We have established a governance structure that ensures that we maintain a single view of the totality of the change being delivered.

In order to deliver the programme at pace whilst ensuring stakeholders and decision-makers are appropriately empowered and engaged, each Portfolio has an established Board, chaired by an Executive Director, which is overseeing all of the programmes within its scope. These Portfolio Boards report into the adapt | grow | thrive Transformation Board (a | g | t), chaired by the Chief Executive, which provides leadership and coordination of the programme, setting and maintaining its strategic direction. The a | g | t Board also determines priorities across the programme and acts as an escalation point where issues are not resolved within Portfolios.



Consistent reporting has been implemented throughout all levels of programme delivery following the Board structure set out above. Regular progress and status updates will be provided to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC), alongside any programme-specific decisions that require formal Cabinet approval. The programme is also engaging with the Council's Internal Audit function to ensure that reviews of key activities are undertaken at the right time to give assurance that the correct controls are in place and that progress is being effectively managed.

Change Authority Board & Design Authority

Working alongside the Portfolio and Transformation Boards, the Change Authority Board and Technical Design Authority acts as the body responsible for the review of all design and change activity relating to the Transformation Programme. The Change Authority Board is responsible for the review and approval of significant requests for change, understanding the impact of change upon strategic objectives, expected benefits, organisational risks, other programmes, projects, and operational activities. The Design Authority provides assurance that business and technical decisions being implemented through the programme are aligned to our design principles and that the solution will be fit for purpose.

Cabinet Member Accountability

To support formal decision-making processes, and to ensure an appropriate level of Member oversight and accountability across all transformation activity, lead Cabinet Member(s) have been identified for each of the Portfolios and/or the current programmes within them. These are set out in the table below:

Programme/Project	Lead Cabinet Member(s)		
adapt grow thrive Board	Leader	Councillor Fielker	
ASC & Health Portfolio	Adults and Health	Councillor Finn	
Children's Services Portfolio	Children & Learning	Councillor Winning	
Schools & SEND Portfolio	Children & Learning	Councillor Winning	
Customer & Community Portfolio			
Service Centre	Finance and Corporate Services	Councillor Letts	
Community Prevention	Communities and Safer City	Councillor C Lambert	
Resident Services Portfolio	_		
Resident Services Portiotio	Housing Operations	Councillor A Frampton	
Good Landlord	Leader	Councillor Fielker	
Homelessness Prevention	Housing Operations	Councillor A Frampton	
Tiomotossiloss i revention	Environment and Transport	Councillor Keogh	
Waste, Fleet & City Services	Green City & Net Zero	Councillor Savage	
Parking & Traffic Management	Environment and Transport	Councillor Keogh	
Regulatory Services Development	Compliance and Leisure	Councillor Kataria	
	Compliance and Leisure	Councillor Kataria	
Leisure Strategy	Finance and Corporate Services	Councillor Letts	
	Environment and Transport	Councillor Keogh	
Service Productivity & Redesign	Housing Operations	Councillor A Frampton	
		'·	
Enabling Excellence Portfolio			
	Economic Development	Councillor Bogle	
ADDP	Finance and Corporate Services	Councillor Letts	
Dechaning Financial Management	Leader	Councillor Fielker	
Reshaping Financial Management People & Culture	Finance and Corporate Services Finance and Corporate Services	Councillor Letts Councillor Letts	
Data & Digital	Finance and Corporate Services	Councillor Letts	
Enabling & Strategic Core	Finance and Corporate Services	Councillor Letts	
	- Indiana dia doi pordito doi vidos	Councilion Lotto	
Growth and Prosperity Portfolio		1	
Service Redesign	Economic Development	Councillor Fielker	
Growth & Prosperity Plans	Economic Development	Councillor Bogle	
Stottar at rooponty r tano	Leader	Councillor Fielker	

Resources

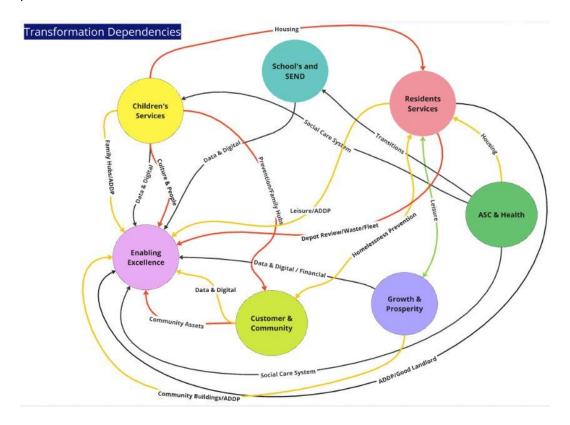
Steps have been taken to strengthen the transformation delivery and assurance capacity and capability of the council. We already have an experienced core Projects & Change team consisting of programme, project and change management resources, alongside business analysts and a central Project Management Office (PMO). A Transformation Director has been appointed to ensure focussed capacity is in place to lead the transformation activity, and additional recruitment to the core projects/PMO team is well underway.

It's important that we recognise we can't deliver the scale of change required to deliver our ambition, within the necessary timescales, by ourselves. We have engaged external transformation support to work across a number of our business areas to challenge us to think differently. This specialist support has carried out deep and thorough diagnostic activity alongside our service leads to identify and validate areas of improvement and opportunities to deliver impactful change, which have helped to inform a significant number of our initial business cases and implementation plans.

In order to fully realise the benefits captured in our programme, it is expected that we will continue to engage with external support throughout the implementation phase of the programme. Working alongside our internal capability, this will ensure that all elements of the programme have the required capacity and capability to support delivery.

Dependencies

With a programme as broad and wide-ranging as ours, very little change activity can be successfully delivered in isolation without consideration of its impact on other work happening across the programme and wider organisation. A significant number of dependencies exist between all of our programmes, these are both within and between portfolios, and out into operational activities. An illustrative representation of just a small portion of these is shown below:



These dependencies are being identified and tracked through the programme governance arrangements and it is the role of the a|g|t Board to regularly review key dependencies and ensure that mitigating actions in place to manage the impact of the dependencies are being effective.

Risk & Issue Management

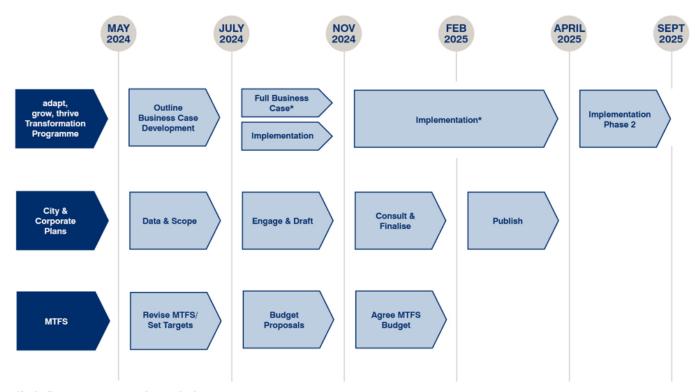
Risks and Issues will be managed in accordance with the council's risk management approach. Risks are assessed based upon their likely impact and the probability of them occurring, with mitigating actions put in place to reduce these.

Risks & Issues are regularly reviewed at all levels of the Programme's governance and are escalated as required through the Board structure.

Programme Timeline

Each individual programme will manage a detailed implementation plan, which will be monitored through its Portfolio Board and through the a \mid g \mid t Board. This will include tracking milestones linked to the delivery of both financial and non-financial benefits. A number of these programmes of activities are already underway and delivering savings this year, and the 'Transformation Scope Detail' section below sets out the key next steps for each programme.

It's important to recognise that our transformation activity isn't happening in isolation to other key strategic activity. The broad overarching timeline for the transformation programme, including how the programme overlays with timings of the council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and development of the City & Corporate Plans, is as follows:



^{*}Including engagement and consultation

Transformation Scope Detail

This section sets out the key elements of the programmes of activity defined through each of the current 28 Outline Business Cases (OBCs) across the seven portfolios within the Transformation Programme. This includes a summary of the scope of each programme, expected outcomes and associated savings expectations, along with the key next steps that are expected to follow (as set out in 'Business case approach' section above).

Adult Social Care & Health

There are currently six key programmes of activity within the Adults Social Care & Health (ASC) portfolio. These aim to enable ASC to deliver both its strategic vision to enable us all "to live in the place we call home, with the people and things we love, in communities where we look out for each other, doing the things that matter to us", and a service that is sustainable. These changes include moving to a new operating model, better use of technology and practice improvements that will protect independence and improve outcomes for our residents and carers. A summary of the aims and objectives of each programme is detailed below.

The portfolio has an overall savings expectation of £14.65m. The six programmes, with individual savings expectations (where applicable), are as follows:

Programme Name	Expected Saving		
Living and Ageing Well	£7.45m		
Whole Life Pathways	£2.8m		
Service Redesign and Productivity	£2.9m		
Commissioning	£1.5m		
CareTec	n/a		
Case Management System Replacement	n/a		
	£14.65m		

Living and Ageing Well

The programme aims to establish an Adults Social Care system capable of sustainably and proactively addressing the growing needs of our residents, fostering an independence-first culture grounded in strength-based practices. This approach will enhance residents' independence and effectively address long-term financial budgetary constraints. Individuals who use our service will access a more appropriate, strength based and timely care package to improve outcomes and have a better quality of life. ASC practitioners will undergo further training, while closer collaboration will be fostered among internal partners, including housing and public health.

Improvements will be delivered through four main initiatives:

- Decision making ensuring older adults start the right size package of care in the right placement from both the community and acute care.
- Reablement maximising the throughput and efficacy of the reablement service.
- Targeted Prevention to proactively support adults in retaining independence for as long as possible.
- Right-sizing packages optimising existing packages of care for working age adults with physical health support needs to maximise independence.

The programme will deliver:

- Performance visibility and improvement structures to drive cultural change.
- Process streamlining to decrease duration and remove unnecessary/repeated steps.
- Tech enablement to support caseload management and workload throughput.
- Sustainable operating model(s) produced in line with productivity gains seen.

Key next steps: This activity is well-defined and underway and further updates to the business case are not expected to be required. Delivery progress, including the achievement of both financial and non-financial benefits, will be managed and monitored through both the ASC & Health Portfolio Board and Transformation Board governance.

Whole Life Pathways

The purpose of this programme is to provide effective solutions to solve the problems, both operational and financial, being observed within the adult social care provisions for individuals in the age-range of 18-64 that have Learning Disabilities (LD) or require Mental Health Support (MH). Many individuals within the Whole Life Pathway Cohort are not placed in the ideal setting for maximising their independence. Of those within their ideal settings, many do not receive the ideal amount of care hours. These forms of over overprovision limit individuals from thriving in their most empowered, independent environment. It also contributes to the budget deficit within SCC Adult Social Care. The programme aims to ensure that individuals using our service will be able to access appropriate, strengths-based, independent, person-centred outcomes of care that are in-line with the Care Act and meets their needs, leading to enhanced independence and a better quality of life. SCC will also benefit from the incurred financial savings.

Improvements will be delivered through five main initiatives:

- Moves Relocating individuals to settings that maximise their independence.
- Step-downs Reducing overprovision of care within settings.
- Progressions Gradually upskilling individuals to progress towards eventual moves/step-downs.
- Transitions Improving alignment with Children's teams for seamless transitions.
- Continuing Health Care (CHC) Ensuring appropriate funding setups for individuals with health needs.

To enable this, the programme will also focus on:

- Cultural change that emphasises independent, person-centred solutions, and equipping front-line teams to challenge over-restrictive care plans through better engagement and dialogue with people we support and those that care for them.
- Improved ways-of-working to streamline processes, increasing rate of moves and step-downs.
- Improved performance-visibility through innovative solutions for operational grip (caseload management, throughput) in the form of digital tools for data-led decision-making

Key next steps: This activity is well-defined and underway and further updates to the business case are not expected to be required. Delivery progress, including the achievement of both financial and non-financial benefits, will be managed and monitored through both the ASC & Health Portfolio Board and Transformation Board governance.

Service Productivity and Redesign

The purpose of the service productivity and redesign project is to create sustainable, high functioning teams across adult social care working to processes that deliver ideal outcomes for residents in an efficient cost envelope. The current model – which benchmarks at 24% higher FTE, and significantly higher ratio of registered social workers compared to comparators is neither delivering best value or outcomes, and this project, in parallel with "Living and Ageing Well" and "Whole Life Pathway" look to reform the practice model. This programme is targeting productivity improvements across all areas of Adult Social Care. Whilst many improvements will be cross cutting across teams/practitioners, a structured approach in providing additional support on the staffing areas with the largest spend will be deployed.

Improvements will be delivered through a combination of reviewing and redesigning process flows to streamline activity and reduce workload in non-value adding activities and performance visibility, supported by caseload management tooling and processes.

Key next steps: This activity is well-defined and underway and further updates to the business case are not expected to be required. Delivery progress, including the achievement of both financial and non-financial benefits, will be managed and monitored through both the ASC & Health Portfolio Board and Transformation Board governance.

Commissioning

Data suggests that within Southampton the council has become an outlier in the rates it pays for some elements of commissioned care compared to its comparator authorities. It is thought that this has come about in the main due to the approaches adopted through Covid-19 and hospital discharge, skewing the price of bedded care and the perhaps overly generous approach to annual fee uplifts. Therefore, a range of market management techniques and approaches to the 2024/25 and 2025/26 uplifts provided by the council is needed to support bringing the council back in line with comparator authorities and our local cost of care forecasts.

The programme will focus on robust but fair negotiations with adult social care providers in relation to annual fee uplifts leading to a decrease in uplift budget spend. We have developed a data led approach to annual uplifts to achieve an average cost of care compared to comparators and market costs in line with national comparators.

Key next steps: This activity is well-defined and underway and further updates to the business case are not expected to be required. Delivery progress, including the achievement of both financial and non-financial benefits, will be managed and monitored through both the ASC & Health Portfolio Board and Transformation Board governance.

CareTec

Utilising Technology Enabled Care (TEC) to support Adult Social Care is an efficient method of reducing care costs, while supporting the accurate prescription of care packages and protecting the independence of people receiving services. SCC is behind other local authorities on the TEC adoption journey.

This programme is focussed on expanding SCC's existing Telecare service to offer more proactive TEC options to provide more accurate level of care and support, prevention or delay need for care, while allowing people requiring care to be independent longer. This compliments and assists the city Telecare service strategy to expand their service's total users. The initial phase of the programme will focus on market evaluation to research and identify the technology products that best fit our requirements, training staff, gathering data to evidence impact, and securing future grant funding.

Key next steps: Programme will produce an updated business case following the completion of activity in this phase. This will set out outcomes from the first phase, proposed next steps including any options analysis, expected benefits, and any additional resource implications. Future decisions will be managed through the Transformation Programme, and through Cabinet as and when required.

Case Management System

The current case management system used across social care services in both ASC and Children's Services is approaching the end of contract and the current supplier is withdrawing from the market meaning procurement of a new system provider is required. This programme will implement a new Social Care platform from an established provider with a long-term commitment to the market, providing industry-leading functionality and features. The solution will be built on supporting best practice with minimal data entry time, customisation and development that fully supports delivery of effective Social Care services to our residents.

Key next steps: Programme will produce an updated business case following the completion of the procurement phase. This will set out the outcomes from the first phase, proposed next steps including any options analysis, expected benefits, and any additional resource implications. Future decisions will be managed through the Transformation Programme, and through Cabinet as and when required.



Children's Services

There are currently three key programmes of activity within the Children's Services portfolio. These aim to support the vision of 'all children and young people in Southampton to get a good start in life, live safely, be healthy and happy and go on to have successful opportunities in adulthood'. The activity within these programmes build on previous work to further manage demand, increase the number of placements for children and young people including the development of residential homes, and redesign services to improve outcomes for children and families. A summary of the aims and objectives of each programme is detailed below.

The portfolio has an overall savings expectation of $\mathfrak{L}7.9m$. The three programmes, with individual savings expectations (where applicable), are as follows:

Programme Name	Expected Saving
Managing Demand	£2.8m
Right Child Right Home	£4.1m
Early Years Support & Prevention (Family Hubs)	£1m
	£7.9m

Managing Demand

We recognise that statutory children's services can sometimes feel intrusive to families and are costly to the council. Children in care and care leavers' placements and the statutory infrastructure and teams around these children cost the council approx. £32.6m a year. Despite a steady reduction in demand over the past two years, there is more we can do in key areas such as providing more targeted support to families to reduce the number of care entrants, and increasing the number of children who can safely return to their families. This should bring us closer to our statistical neighbours, and in turn, reduce our spend on children's placements. This will be achieved through:

- A service redesign, with a launch in June 2024 following consultation. The redesigned service aims
 to: Future-proof the service in line with the national agenda, streamlining the service, building on
 innovative practice, remove unfunded posts and further reducing reliance on agency staff.
- Launch of the 'Family Help' service, focused on prevention, targeted early intervention, assessment and meeting need to prevent higher level statutory intervention.
- Redesign and relaunch of the Children's Resource Service (MASH).
- Implementation of the Family Safeguarding Model recruitment of specialist adult workers embedded in Family Safeguarding Teams, supporting more children to remain with their families.
- Strengthening family group conferencing as a way to keep families together.
- Launching a new 'Building Bridges Service' (within existing resource), targeting the families and foster carers who need urgent or intensive help.
- Supporting reunification of children in care back to their families (where this is the right plan for them) and promoting other permanence options such as adoption, special guardianship orders and long-term fostering.

Key next steps: This activity is well-defined and underway and further updates to the business case are not expected to be required. Delivery progress, including the achievement of both financial and non-financial benefits, will be managed and monitored through both the Children's Services Portfolio Board and Transformation Board governance.



Right Child Right Home

Although most children benefit from stable, permanent care or adoption placements that meet their needs, we do not have sufficient accommodation of the right type to meet the placement and housing needs of our most complex children in care, care leavers and families where the parents have no recourse to public funds. The market is increasingly challenging, with rising costs and limited choice, particularly within our inhouse provision. Because we are relying on increasingly costly alternatives to in-house fostering placements, the national and local shortage of care placements is hampering our ability to make financial savings, and children and some young people experience disruption and instability. This affects their life chances into adulthood and spend on adult services.

This programme aims to:

- Maximise the proportion of children and young people who receive support from SCC's own placements as opposed to those provided by private companies.
- Maximise the proportion of children and young people who benefit from support in the placement type that is ideally suited to their needs, avoiding less than ideal matches which could lead to placement disruption.
- Placing and supporting children in stable, good quality, and value for money placements.
- Provide suitable accommodation for families who require this in order for children to return home from care.
- Ensure sufficient and suitable local accommodation for care leavers, enabling us to keep them close to their support networks and reducing costs.
- Ensure the most cost-effective accommodation for families who have no recourse to public funds, reducing the impact on council budgets.

To achieve this, the programme will:

- Open two Children's Homes by March 2025.
- Establish four further care leaver properties; two of these will be for 16–18-year-olds (with a requirement to register with Ofsted) and two will be for post-18-year-olds.
- Increase the number of newly approved SCC foster carers by 20% in two years.
- Improve the utilisation of carers, and potential placements within our existing foster care service.
- Strengthen how we work with regional partners to commission children's placements.
- Continuously and robustly map and analyse the needs of our children, including forecasting future need and sufficiency.
- Review our existing commissioning operating model (ICU).
- Design and implement new systems and processes which ensure quality of support to placements.
- Design and implement new ways of working which use data-driven insight relating to the needs, costs and framework considerations to support negotiation of unit costs.
- Recruit a co-located housing solutions officer, providing 'on the ground' capacity to source suitable accommodation and housing options.
- Design and implement clear pathways into the private market and tenancies for care leavers.
- Identify further suitable housing options for families with no recourse to public funds reducing the
 overall spend on these families while maintaining a reasonable standard of living and ensuring they
 are properly supported.

Key next steps: Much of this activity is well-defined and underway. Delivery progress, including the achievement of both financial and non-financial benefits, will be managed and monitored through both the Children's Services Portfolio Board and Transformation Board governance. A further update to the business case may be required to agree any additional capital investment required to deliver the programme. Future decisions will be managed through the Transformation Programme, and through Cabinet as and when required.



Early Years Support & Prevention (Family Hubs)

The programme was originally defined to review the delivery model of Family Hubs due to the cessation of the central government grant funding at the end of this year, which underpins this offer. The programme has considered options for a range of scaled down service offers from our current Family Hubs, including looking at the financial sustainability of continuing to operate Family Hubs at all. It is recognised, however, that Family Hubs are a part of the council's prevention approach and further consideration needs to be given to the longer-term impact of any changes to the future provision of services currently offered. It is important that we take a holistic approach to how we organise and deliver the range of prevention and support services we offer across localities in our city, beyond just those currently delivered through Family Hub locations.

As such, this programme will go through a period of re-assessment, including potentially revising and expanding the scope, to ensure that we are maximising the opportunity to support our prevention agenda at a local level. This will need recognise the need for financial sustainability and contribute to the expected savings.

Key next steps: An updated business case will be produced to consider the scope and options in greater detail. This will set out proposed next steps including any options analysis, expected benefits, and any additional resource implications. Future decisions will be managed through the Transformation Programme, and through Cabinet as and when required.

Schools & SEND

There are currently three key programmes of activity within the Schools & Special Educational Needs (SEND) portfolio. These are focussed on managing demand, streamlining processes and improving service delivery across schools and SEND through supporting early intervention and prevention, realignment of services to support educational attainment and improved attendance, and redesigning the school travel service. A summary of the aims and objectives of each programme is detailed below.

The portfolio has an overall savings expectation of £1.8m. It is important to note that this target relates only to the council's general fund budget. This programme also aims to support an improvement in the council's financial position as it relates to the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The three programmes, with individual savings expectations (where applicable), are as follows:

Programme Name	Expected Saving
Reduction in SEND Demand	DSG
Improving Educational Outcomes	n/a
School Travel Service	£1.8m
	£1.8m

Reduction in SEND Demand

The purpose of the programme is to ease the pressure on the High Needs Block (HNB) element of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) by reducing the numbers of Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) maintained by Southampton City Council (SCC). The primary beneficiaries of the programme are children and young people living in Southampton (regardless of their place of education) who have special educational needs and disabilities (and sometimes complex health care needs).

The programme aims to:

- Provide more in-house specialist education placements which are cheaper than independent and residential placements.
- Provide schools with more support for early intervention and prevention enabling them to better meet need at an earlier level and prior to escalation to needing an EHCP assessment.
- Empower schools to work together in clusters to meet local need quickly and more effectively and to share resource, good practice and funding to achieve local economy of scale.

The benefits realised from this project include:

- Fewer EHCPs resulting in lower financial pressure on the High Needs Block of the DSG.
- Better support for schools.
- Better earlier support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities enabling them to achieve good outcomes and reach their potential.

Key next steps: Some of this activity is well-defined and underway. Delivery progress, including the achievement of both financial and non-financial benefits, will be managed and monitored through both the Children's Services Portfolio Board and Transformation Board governance. A further update to the business case may be required to agree any additional capital investment required to deliver the programme. Future decisions will be managed through the Transformation Programme, and through Cabinet as and when required.



Improving Educational Outcomes

Southampton schools have 10.1% more Free School Meals eligibility than the national cohort, and Special Educational Needs, English as an Additional Language and Minority Ethnicity is also 2.7%, 9.8% and 8.4% above the national average. Within this context, education outcomes need to improve significantly, and Southampton frequently underperforms in comparison to its statistical neighbours. The city is currently experiencing challenges with increased permanent exclusions, increased absence from school, and an increased complexity of need, all of which pose a threat to the life chances of our children.

The education service needs to be redesigned to ensure that it is cost effective and has sufficient capacity to improve attainment and school attendance outcomes; alongside meeting national education, SEND and social care policy objectives.

Capacity to income generate needs to be properly assessed, taking advice from commercialisation and marketing experts. Additionally, there is a requirement to improve data quality and accuracy and this OBC seeks to address that for the service.

Exploring a schools-led partnership model as a longer-term vehicle to deliver improvements in these areas is the final element of this business case.

Key next steps: An updated business case will be produced to consider the options in greater detail. This will set out proposed next steps including any options analysis, expected benefits, and any additional resource implications. Future decisions will be managed through the Transformation Programme, and through Cabinet as and when required.

School Travel Service

The overall objective of the Programme is to deliver an operating model for the School Travel Service that is 'fit for purpose' and ensures that the service is sustainable now and for the future. This will be measured by a reduction in the overall average cost of travel per child and a reduction in the annual spend of the service.

The programme will improve service delivery, performance and resilience, modernise systems and processes and deliver cost control savings alongside managing forecast increases in demand and promoting travel independence.

Key next steps: This activity is well-defined and underway and further updates to the business case are not expected to be required. Delivery progress, including the achievement of both financial and non-financial benefits, will be managed and monitored through both the Children's Services Portfolio Board and Transformation Board governance.

Customer & Community

There are currently two key programmes of activity within the Customer & Community portfolio. These are focussed on prevention and developing stronger working relationship with local communities, using data, insight and community participation, along with further integrating our customer facing activities through a centralised service centre hub. A summary of the aims and objectives of each programme is detailed below.

The portfolio has an overall savings expectation of £1m. The two programmes, with individual savings expectations (where applicable), are as follows:

Programme Name	Expected Saving
Community Prevention	n/a
Service Centre	£1m
	£1m

Community Prevention

Prevention is vital to both keeping our residents and communities healthy and independent, and in reducing demand for more complex and costly interventions and services. The aim of this programme is to support our prevention aims by aligning the use of data, insight and community participation to better inform the use of resources whilst growing a stronger working relationship with local communities.

We will build on and learn from previous work undertaken at SCC, including what communities have already said is important to them and how we could identify neighbourhoods for greater Council focus. We will also use community participation and an awareness and understanding of local cultures and environments to tailor work towards our communities' priorities.

Four 'Pillars' will form the cornerstone of our approach:

- Pillar 1 Community
- Pillar 2 Intelligence & Insight
- Pillar 3 Co-ordinated early help
- Pillar 4 Leadership to embed prevention and prevention at scale, learning from Asset Based Community Development approaches.

The programme aims to deliver:

- Prevention at scale & across the life course (scaled delivery to prevent, reduce and delay need/demand/poor outcomes).
- Communities having greater ability to improve health and wellbeing and say in what and how it is provided.
- Stronger alignment of resource use alongside, the assets within localities that enable communities to support themselves.
- SCC spend in line with available resource.
- No vulnerable groups left behind.

Evaluation of approach will be undertaken via the Health Determinants Collaboration, ensuring continued engagement with our communities.

Key next steps: The pilot phase of the project is expected to take three years to implement & it is projected to take a further seven years for this far-reaching programme to review & interpret learnings, then embed tailored ways of working into the community. We will also look for opportunities to deliver tangible benefits sooner, and an updated business case will be produced to consider these opportunities in greater detail. Future decisions will be managed through the Transformation Programme, and through Cabinet as and when required.



Service Centre

The aim of this project is to further build on the previously delivered phase 1 of the service centre transformation project, which made significant savings through merging the Business Support and Customer Services teams. This programme is aimed at creating an effective and efficient hub to deal with customer facing and rules-based activities, doing this in a way which removes pressure from delivery teams & which delivers customer experiences which are easy, effective and convenient. The key enabler is the cloud migration of our customer management system, which is already funded & underway.

The programme will lead to greater efficiency for the whole organisation, work happening at the right place and right level to ensure employees are adding value and that service demand is well managed, and a reduction in operating costs, including through a reduction in required staff numbers, which will largely be as a result of natural turnover. As a part of the changes, as we move to a more efficient service delivery model, there will be a need to reduce levels of customer contact through traditional channels (phone and face to face). As resources are reduced, this may lead to longer waiting times through these channels as the council manages demand across a range of services.

The programme will deliver:

- Fully centralised service with effective processes and a high proportion of digital contact.
- Solidification of the foundation from phase one activity and continue to deliver the centralisation of less complex processes & customer facing activity.
- A very high proportion of first-time resolution & dealing with demand / triaging queries away from delivery teams.

This will result in:

- Reduction in the number of calls.
- Increase in the % of first-time resolution.
- % digital interactions.
- Significant reduction in failure demand.
- Productive multi-skilled staff.
- Productivity is high and sustainable.
- Fewer systems and customer flows integrated end-to-end with automated updates.
- Eliminate paper based / manual processes which are prone to error.
- Clearly defined service level agreements of roles and responsibilities between the service centre and delivery teams.

Key next steps: This activity is well-defined and underway and further updates to the business case are not expected to be required. Delivery progress, including the achievement of both financial and non-financial benefits, will be managed and monitored through both the Customer & Community Portfolio Board and Transformation Board governance.



Enabling Excellence

There are currently five key programmes of activity within the Enabling Excellence portfolio. These are focussed on designing and delivering enabling services to support the council's target operating model and to be more customer focused, efficient and effective. These will provide better data, forecasting and demand management to inform decision making whilst reducing unnecessary bureaucracy and delays. We will take a digital first approach, identifying digital opportunities to streamline and automate processes and improve customer outcomes. A summary of the aims and objectives of each programme is detailed below.

The portfolio has an overall savings expectation of £4m. The five programmes, with individual savings expectations (where applicable), are as follows:

Programme Name	Expected Saving
Asset Development & Disposal Programme (ADDP)	£2m
Reshaping Financial Management	n/a
People & Culture	n/a
Data & Digital	n/a
Enabling & Strategic Core	£2m
	£4m

Asset Development & Disposal Programme (ADDP)

There is a need to reduce the Councils asset base going forward so there is an operational estate that supports the organisation in transforming the culture and services, creating an organisation that is better for residents, easier for staff and affordable for the council. Release of sites will lead to growth through the construction of new homes and businesses. The purpose of the programme is therefore to drive Southampton's growth through the development, disposal and retention of the Councils assets generating significant capital receipts and revenue benefits.

More specifically there are seven key areas of focus:

- Office Accommodation modern and appropriate for the size and purpose of the future council
 including a central hub together with the potential for some locally based spaces.
- Community focused buildings well placed in strategic locations to focus targeted intervention where most needed.
- Depot sites minimal number of consolidated, effective, and efficient sites to meet the needs of the future council.
- Service Buildings that host services where there is a business case or strategic need to meet the needs of client groups, residents, and visitors.
- Commercial and Investment Assets ensure only those assets are retained where there is a positive financial revenue benefit over a capital receipt or where there is a significant development opportunity.
- Appropriate Corporate Landlord Service, resource, budget and delivery approach ensure that the
 now completely centralised budgets, resources and delivery approach reflect the future council
 asset portfolios and delivered in the most effective and efficient way.
- Lifecycle Costs to ensure the portfolio of assets that remains is supported by an affordable repairs, maintenance and lifecycle replacement programme.

Key next steps: Asset disposal activity is already underway, with phase one of assets for disposal approved by Cabinet/Council in March 2024. Phase two of assets for disposal to be approved by Cabinet/Council March 2025, and phase three of assets for disposal to be approved Cabinet/Council March 2026. There may also be some approval requests in between these phases.

The programme will further develop the current Outline Business Case to expand on the detail of each of the seven key areas of focus, and to identify additional opportunities to make revenue savings, with future decisions managed through the Transformation Programme, and through Cabinet as and when required.

Reshaping Financial Management

The purpose of the Reshaping Financial Management Programme is to develop, deliver and embed robust financial management and practice across the organisation. This will be enabled by an effective and modern finance function.

This programme is identifying areas for transformation and improvement both within finance and across the organisation, including the improvements recommended by CIPFA during its recent review. There will be indirect financial benefits due to improved income collection, better debt recovery performance and payment simplification.

The objectives are underpinned by a core set of principles that will guide the development of the detailed design, target operating models and how financial management will be enhanced across the organisation. These principles include:

- Improved financial management throughout the organisation, including budget accountability and financial awareness.
- Improved finance function effectiveness, addressing the recommendations of the CIPFA Resilience and Financial Management Review and aiming to secure a significant rating from CIPFA at future assessments.
- An integrated finance service that communicates well and trusts each other, building on the recent integration of transactional services into the finance function.
- Provision of information that helps managers and directors understand the financial information about their service and how their services are performing.
- Collaborative working with each other and with the wider organisation, including other enabling services.
- Seeking opportunities for automation and self-serve where possible and appropriate.
- Working to ensure our IT systems work well together and looking for ways to improve the use of technology to improve the effectiveness of the finance service.
- Better use of financial and management information to inform decisions and forecasting, including more effective use of analytical tools and techniques.
- Simplifying and modernising payments to minimise debt creation.
- Maximising income collection and ensuring full cost recovery from commercial and trading activities.

The programme comprises four workstreams which collectively comprise the scope of the programme. The workstreams are:

- People and Leadership: Covers developing the Finance Target Operating Model (TOM), collaboration, people performance management, training and development and new ways of working.
- Finance Processes: Covers governance and procedure, business partnering, medium term financial strategy, transactional services, and budget setting and management.
- Data and Reporting: Covers data and intelligence, internal reporting, external reporting (including returns and submissions), benchmarking, and performance and financial analysis.
- Digital and Technology: Covers financial systems mapping, automation and technology solutions for finance, Business World, and technology for transactional services.

Key next steps: Much of this activity is well-defined and underway. Delivery progress, including the achievement of benefits, will be managed and monitored through both the Enabling Excellence Portfolio Board and Transformation Board governance. The programme will move to the Full Business Case stage during Q3, with future decisions managed through the Transformation Programme, and through Cabinet as and when required.



People & Culture

The People and Culture Plan is a four-year programme of work which focuses on how the organisation prioritises its people including future proofing its approach to acquiring, developing, and retaining talent. The range of initiatives across this programme will focus on; the colleague experience, ensure we are an attractive employer, finding ways for the workforce to continuously adapt to new ways of working including digitalisation, learn new ways of thinking, timely reskilling, embrace inclusivity, and create the environment and systems to grow a thriving workforce of the future. All this needs to be achieved while retaining our core sense of identity and values as a local authority.

This programme will provide the tools required to deliver our aspirations and expectations as an employer and in doing so contribute to a wider economic partnership, and to co-design a culture that is demonstrable in everything we do and resonates a sense of achievement, confidence, pride and belonging.

The Outline Business Case describes the 1st year (only) of a four-year People & Culture plan, whilst the project team are developing the FBC during year one.

The programmes scope works alongside the corporate plan with MTFS & includes the following projects:

- The way we organise ourselves.
- Culture Shift.
- Workforce Planning.
- A productive, happy & healthy workforce during change.
- Organisation Development.
- EDID weaved into everything we do.
- People Related Spend.
- The People & Culture Plan.
- HR Machinery.

Key next steps: Full Business Case scheduled for completion during Q3, which will provide the further 3 years of the People and Culture Plan, with future decisions managed through the Transformation Programme, and through Cabinet as and when required.

Digital & Data

This programme will have two main pillars; the first to deliver the outputs of the Data and Digital strategies and the second to support the delivery of data and digital initiatives from other portfolios and programmes in the wider transformation programme. To enable this the scope of the programme will include:

- People and skills All staff and elected members are supported to be digital and data literate and digitally confident, whilst advanced data analytics and specialist IT capabilities exist in house through centre of excellence operating models.
- Systems and technology Technology is used to improve data management processes, improve
 access to data (implement a modern data platform), drive efficiencies, enable automation and selfserve capabilities. Capabilities such as AI and Integration will be expanded to be used widely across
 the organisation and where appropriate more widely across the city including alignment to any Smart
 Cities strategy.
- Data and reporting Extract maximum value from our data and intelligence by ensuring it is embedded in the decision-making process at strategic and operational levels, whilst exploring Machine Learning and AI to enable more advanced predictive analytics.

Key objectives of the programme are:

- Implementation of the digital first operating model for the whole organisation, aligned to our overarching organisational operating model.
- Assessment of, and agreement on, enterprise architecture digital and data requirements across the organisation.



- Delivery of service operating models that are fit for purpose and can fully support our data and digital ambitions.
- Increased use of automation and AI
- Defined number of core systems and reduced number and cost of systems overall.
- Successful, efficient, and cohesive implementation of digital and data requirements as identified in other project/programme business cases.
- Data is more accurate, better understood and more highly valued.

The outcomes of this programme will be:

- Systems will be simpler and easier to use and be better able to talk to each other.
- Core tools for enabling the delivery of service improvement plans and other transformation business cases will be in place.
- Clean data and single view of the truth for more accurate reporting, forecasting and associated actions leading to better resident outcomes.
- Automation of ETL data processes will lead to a reduction in manual data processing across SCC, faster, more timely access to information and the ability to focus limited resources on value added tasks / analytics.

Key next steps: The Data and Digital strategies were approved by Cabinet on the 25th June 2024. The programme will produce an update of the current Outline Business Case to expand on the detail of each of the key areas of focus, including engaging an external partner to bring wider experience, expertise, and capacity to the programme to help accelerate the pace of improvement. Future decisions will be managed through the Transformation Programme, and through Cabinet as and when required. It is excepted the next iteration will be brought forward in Q3.

Enabling & Strategic Core

This programme is considering options to ensure an appropriately sized provision of services across Enabling Services, Strategy & Performance, and the Office of the Chief Executive, ensuring the right capabilities are developed at the right levels to support the wider organisation, and the city.

The programme aims to deliver:

- Areas that add value and are affordable for the organisation.
- Fully effective, well implemented and well understood trusted Business Partnering model across a strong set of Enabling Services, Strategy and Performance, and Office of the Chief Executive.
- Proactive, trusted teams that work together and with customers, partners, and suppliers (internal and external) to deliver the best of the city and the council.
- Teams that improve experiences for residents and help make things simple for colleagues.
- Teams that are shaped, sized and with the right capabilities not only to support the current organisation, the transformational change, and the future organisation but to drive more innovative thinking, challenge, and initiatives to support a sustainable, forward-thinking council into the future.
- Ensuring close links with the data and digital programme should support services to focus on the value adding services by systems and process being the cheapest to deliver by full automation,
- Strong working relationships across and within the organisation, enabling and strategic services.
- Strong alignment of procurement activities across the whole organisation, ensuring a strategic approach that supports transformation, customer and resident needs and effective and efficient support across disciplines.

To achieve this the programme will:

- Understand the size and shape of the rest of the organisation post-transformation (from the OBC and operating model work).
- Review all services against delivery model options to ascertain the best approach to support the delivery of the corporate plan.



- Commission professional review and capability assessments as part of the service review work.
- Review the approach to governance of strategic procurement.

Whilst there is a limited range of services directly in scope of this programme (due to the number of functions being reviewed in other programmes), the £2m reduction in spend will be sought from across all areas detailed below, as well as appropriate financial and funding streams. The programme will also look at where those activities are provided outside of those directorates and where activities need to be rationalised, streamlined and resources centralised.

Enabling Services:

- Legal, risk & governance
- Supplier Management
- Finance*
- HR and L&D*
- Digital and IT*
- Internal Audit

Office of the Chief Executive

Strategy & Performance:

- Communications, Engagement & Marketing
- Projects & Change (inc. PMO)
- Policy & strategy
- Data, Intelligence and Insight*

Key next steps: The programme will produce a further iteration of the current Outline Business Case to expand on the detail of each of the key areas of focus. Future decisions will be managed through the Transformation Programme, and through Cabinet as and when required.

Growth & Prosperity

There are currently two key programmes of activity within the Growth & Prosperity portfolio. These are focussed on delivering the creation of the sub-regional Growth & Prosperity strategy and a Growth & Prosperity plan for Southampton, which will act as blueprints for growth and greater economic resilience. This is alongside redesigning council services to have a more streamlined and growth orientated structure and organisational culture. A summary of the aims and objectives of each programme is detailed below.

The portfolio has an overall savings expectation of £2m. The two programmes, with individual savings expectations (where applicable), are as follows:

Programme Name	Expected Saving
Growth & Prosperity Plans	n/a
Service Redesign & Productivity	£2m
	£2m

Growth & Prosperity Plans

The OBC sets out the case for a regional Growth and Prosperity Strategy and a local growth plan. The project at both the regional level and at the city level considers the benefits of a new model of inclusive growth, balancing productivity, the environment, and community outcomes.

Three key aspects that are central to this project.

- Delivering productivity through specific place-based approach.
- As a Green city moving towards low carbon economic growth.
- Supporting local communities that thrive.

The Growth and Prosperity Strategy will cover a wider range of strategic outcomes, including growth, investment, good jobs, employability and skills, infrastructure, transport, housing, and regeneration. The scope of the local growth plan will need to be fully reflected in service area delivery and in terms of new models for delivery and success for growth and prosperity. The scope also extends to Residents Services, Community and Wellbeing, not least in considering new investment models for Strategic Housing.

Place will be the central consideration, whilst also having the added benefit of viewing prosperity more broadly to provide, benefits for all our communities, improvements in public health outcomes, financial resilience, and well-being to alleviate the pressures on our statutory service areas.

The strategic breadth of the plan allows consideration of Southampton's positioning in terms of any future devolution proposals and our alignment within a new wider-regional landscape. The relevance of this project to the proposed operating model also needs to be noted, particularly regarding the positive benefits of 'Investment' from dynamic regional and city-wide growth.

Reinforcing the growth and development potential of areas that are attractive to the market is a key part of the strategy to maximise the Council Tax and Business Rates revenue from new development. The approach can be steered through programmes such as the Southampton Master Planning Framework and Asset Development and Disposal Programme where these are flexible enough to adapt to changing market conditions. By creating the conditions for investment to support growth and development a place gathers momentum and further development occurs, this creates opportunities for local people, attracts businesses and new residents, and gives rise to Council Tax and Business Rates to the Council generating a revenue stream.

The project has 4 strategic objectives:

Alignment with the new regional Growth and Prosperity Strategy. For too long, Southampton's
economic plans have not been fully aligned with wider-regional industrial and economic strategies.
The City Growth and Prosperity Plan will create opportunities for private investment and public grant

- funding to work in unison to enable investment to take place that supports growth and can deliver revenue streams to the Council.
- 2. Working towards a Devolution settlement for the region. The regional strategy and the local growth plan will provide a Devolution pathway. These will formulate the key facets of a Devolution settlement involving a range of strategic outcomes, including growth, investment, good jobs, employability and skills, infrastructure, transport, housing, and regeneration.
- 3. The local growth plan also supports the Council's aspirations to grow the local Tax Base and therefore increase corporate tax revenues reflecting the requirement in the MTFS for financial sustainability and resilience.
- 4. Southampton's plan will also consider the short-term requirements of the Capitalisation Directive in utilising our capital asset base to support growth and regeneration. The local growth plan will provide a clear framework for the delivery of the Master Planning Delivery Framework and the Asset Development and Disposal programmes.

Key next steps: The regional strategy will be jointly approved by the three Solent Upper Tier Unitary Authorities, Southampton, Portsmouth, and the Isle of Wight.

Service Redesign & Productivity

The overarching vision for this programme is to redesign the Growth & Prosperity Directorate to have a more streamlined and growth-orientated structure and organisational culture, reduce operating costs, and support an increase in Council revenues over time.

The programme will explore the viability and impact of potential growth induced revenue opportunities, over both the short- and medium-term. These could include:

- Pre-application planning advice, and expedited planning services.
- Community infrastructure levy potentially expanding to employment uses.
- Student levy reducing council tax exemptions for students (requires understanding of approaches being pursued in other university cities).

A redesigned service is required to make delivery more efficient, attuned to city-region objectives and opportunities, supportive of the Council's growth and prosperity and prevention agendas. Focus areas for this could involve:

- Targeted additional resource to deliver key elements of the Southampton City Vision Local Plan supported by a more integrated Policy Unit-type team to provide a focus on growth and development in Southampton.
- Consideration of potential for alternative delivery models such as joint service delivery arrangements with adjacent councils (similar to the Building Control arrangements with Eastleigh), or framework arrangements, joint ventures or other delivery models with external partners, with the aim of delivering services more efficiently. This will require further interrogation and analysis.
- Independent review of the Development Management & Strategic Planning services via the commissioning of the Planning Advisory Service peer review with a focus on understanding how service efficiencies can be delivered and revenue generating potential can be maximised.
- A recruitment freeze on the current vacancies in the department to be reviewed monthly with a case being made for a position to be unfrozen if it can contribute to the objectives in this programme and not compromise statutory or income generating activities.

Key next steps: The programme will produce an updated Outline Business Case to fully explore the initially identified potential areas of opportunity, providing a greater level of analysis and a set of recommendations on the options to proceed with. Future decisions will be managed through the Transformation Programme, and through Cabinet as and when required. It is excepted the next iteration will be brought forward in Q3.



Resident Services

There are currently seven key programmes of activity within the Resident Services portfolio. These are focussed on delivering sustainable, cost-effective services across Resident Services through reviewing all options for future delivery models alongside shorter-term improvements to service delivery, including within Housing, Waste and Recycling, Regulatory and City Services. A summary of the aims and objectives of each programme is detailed below.

The portfolio has an overall savings expectation of £11.3m. It is important to note that this target relates only to the council's general fund budget. This programme also aims to support an improvement in the council's financial position as it relates to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). The seven programmes, with individual savings expectations (where applicable), are as follows:

Programme Name	Expected Saving
Service Productivity & Redesign	£1.3m
Good Landlord	HRA
Homelessness Prevention	£3m
Parking & Traffic Management	£2m
Regulatory Services Development	£0.5m
Waste, Fleet & City Services	£2m
Leisure Strategy	£2.5m
	£11.3m

Service Productivity & Redesign

This programme will establish the new Directorate target operating model and the systems and processes needed to drive the operation standards and structures to establish the model for services to develop, change and offer sustainable service to people and communities across the city. The services will meet the statutory requirements of the city Council, deliver its corporate priorities and operate at a good standard when measured against other similar local authorities.

The need for transformation is driven by several key factors:

- Operational Efficiency: Streamlining processes and adopting new technologies can significantly reduce costs and improve service delivery.
- Customer Satisfaction: Enhancing service quality and accessibility is essential to meet the growing expectations of residents and businesses.
- Sustainability: Implementing sustainable practices and reducing carbon emissions align with the city's long-term environmental goals.
- Regulatory Compliance: Ensuring compliance with statutory requirements and maintaining high standards is crucial for the city's credibility and operational integrity.
- Workforce Development: Upskilling staff and fostering a culture of continuous improvement are necessary to build a resilient and capable workforce.

The programme will focus on the following areas:

- Design and implement integrated processes, systems, roles and structures to streamline operations and improve service delivery.
- Digital Transformation: Deploy advanced digital tools and platforms to automate processes, enhance data management, and improve customer interactions.
- Operational Redesign: Reengineer processes using lean methodologies to increase efficiency and reduce waste.
- Sustainable Practices: Implement eco-friendly initiatives to reduce carbon emissions and promote sustainability.



- Workforce Strategy: Develop and execute a comprehensive workforce strategy focused on training, development, and cultural change.
- Customer-Centric Design: Ensure that all service enhancements are designed with a focus on improving the customer experience.
- Governance and Compliance: Strengthen governance frameworks and ensure robust regulatory compliance.

Key outcomes of the programme will include:

- Defined transformational approach and tools to drive efficient service transformation, streamline implementation and development of resident focused services.
- Transformation to resident and community centred services, delivering consistent and reliable quality services on a sustainable financial basis.
- Efficient and effective utilisation of technology and staffing resources.
- Agreed Design principles supporting the 'design out, automate, self-serve' approach.
- Enable the move to a Digital first approach, evidence informed, faster decision making, improved efficiency.
- Supporting a step change in the organisation to operate effectively in a digital world.
- Channel shift (internal and external), reduced demand leading to a lower cost organisation.
- Single source of the truth wherever possible and greater access to data to enable evidence informed decision making across the organisation.
- Consolidating functions, where possible, into single systems and decommissioning redundant systems in use across the authority.
- Streamlining operations to eliminate waste and enhance service delivery speed.

Key next steps: The programme will produce an updated Outline Business Case to fully explore the initially identified potential areas of opportunity, providing a greater level of analysis and a set of recommendations on the options to proceed with. Future decisions will be managed through the Transformation Programme, and through Cabinet as and when required. It is excepted the next iteration will be brought forward in Q3.

Good Landlord

Home is the most important place in the world, and people living in our social housing should expect their homes to be safe and of a decent standard. Urgent action is required to improve the council's performance as a social landlord. According to the SCC asset management model, there is a backlog of Decent Homes planned works of £75m. There is a substantial gap developing between what is required to maintain the quality of homes and what is being invested and delivered; this is increasing the number of properties becoming non-decent and leading to increasing issues associated to property disrepair. There is urgent need to reconsider how we deliver our housing management functions to support rapid improvement to delivery, cost control and customer satisfaction. The proposed programme has been designed to fundamentally change the way that we deliver our landlord function.

To establish a sustainable Housing Landlord function, this programme will consider options to:

- Develop and initiate the Estate Rationalisation plan.
- Agree and action investment programme to reverse decent homes decline.
- Redefine operations and process to deliver housing management and operations utilising IT system integrations and rationalisation. Efficiency and effective process implementation.

These options will include consideration of possible alternative delivery models for all or part of the service.

Key next steps: The programme will produce a further iteration of the current Outline Business Case to fully consider the initially identified options, providing a greater level of analysis, including any investment requirements, and a set of recommendations on the options to proceed with. Future decisions will be managed through the Transformation Programme, and through Cabinet as and when required. It is excepted the next iteration will be brought forward in Q3.



Homelessness Prevention

Immediate action is required to reform the delivery of statutory housing duties due to a significant increase in homelessness. Since 2019-2020, the number of homeless households approaching the council has surged by 64%, with a further 14% rise in the past 12 months. This escalation, compounded by economic disruptions, has resulted in a 61% increase in households requiring emergency accommodation. The current demand for housing in the city far exceeds the available supply.

This programme represents a critical shift in addressing homelessness within the city. By adopting a proactive, preventative, and people-centric approach, the council aims to create sustainable housing solutions, improve service efficiency, and deliver better outcomes for those at risk of homelessness. To achieve this, the programme will create and implement a new operating model for the Homelessness Service that is shaped by our people and our place. This will be done through delivering:

- Target Operating Model and an improved customer journey.
- Digital solutions to upstream homelessness prevention.
- Using data and predictive analytics to understand risk factors of homelessness.
- Emergency Accommodation property acquisition/renovation through exploration of capital, RTB receipts and Section 106 to deliver new units.
- Increase in preventative actions and intervention work.

Key next steps: The programme will produce an updated Outline Business Case to fully explore the initially identified potential areas of opportunity, providing a greater level of analysis, including any investment requirements, and a set of recommendations on the options to proceed with. Future decisions will be managed through the Transformation Programme, and through Cabinet as and when required.

Parking & Traffic Management

A programme of integrated traffic management and parking projects that aims to enhance SCC's transport and infrastructure capabilities, making use of external funding support, legislation, guidance, and the best technology available to deliver a self-funded service through optimising income generation. Initiatives will include:

- 1. DfT Funded Projects: Implement over 500 on-street EV charge points funded by DfT LEVI, enhancing sustainable transport options and reducing emissions.
- 2. Car Park Consolidation: Review and consolidate 52 SCC-owned car parks to optimise usage, improve revenue generation, and support urban development.
- 3. Digital TROs and ITS Improvements: Introduce digital Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) aligned with government guidelines and enhance Intelligent Traffic Systems (ITS) for improved traffic management.
- 4. Lane Rental Scheme: This allows a local highway authority to charge 'works promoters' (e.g. utility companies) for the time that street and road works occupy the highway. We will collaborate with Open Road Associates to establish a Lane Rental Scheme, enhancing traffic flow efficiency and supporting infrastructure maintenance.
- 5. Moving Traffic Enforcement: Deploy new infrastructure and expand operational capacity to manage traffic violations effectively, improving road safety and compliance.
- 6. PCN Representations and Process Efficiency: Enhance PCN management through streamlined processes and technology, improving service delivery and revenue collection.
- 7. Financial Sustainability: Generate surplus income from new initiatives to reinvest in core transport and highways functions, ensuring long-term financial stability and service enhancement.

Key next steps: The programme will produce a further iteration of the current Outline Business Case to fully explore the initially identified potential areas of opportunity, providing a greater level of analysis, including any investment requirements, and a set of recommendations on the options to proceed with. Future decisions will be managed through the Transformation Programme, and through Cabinet as and when required.



Regulatory Services Development

This programme will focus on the redesign and rationalisation of existing regulatory services to define and implement service changes, adopting technology-driven solutions to focus staff resources to defined value-adding process and customer engagement. The programme will also Identify non-statutory services for consideration of whether they should continue to be provisioned as a City Service, with a clear alignment to the operating model for the Resident Services Directorate.

This programme will cover the following service areas:

- Environmental Health
- Licencing
- Trading Standards
- Port Health
- Private Sector Housing
- Bereavement Services
- Registration

Key next steps: The programme will produce a further iteration of the current Outline Business Case to fully explore the initially identified potential areas of opportunity, providing a greater level of analysis, including any investment requirements, and a set of recommendations on the options to proceed with. Future decisions will be managed through the Transformation Programme, and through Cabinet as and when required.

Waste, Fleet & City Services

Implement a comprehensive programme to transform waste, fleet, and city services to align with new legal requirements, improve performance, and ensure future sustainability. This includes:

- Reviewing potential alternative delivery models (e.g. in-house, shared service, Local Authority Trading Company, joint-venture, externalisation).
- Enhancing digital processes and systems.
- Optimising resource utilisation and operational efficiency.
- Implementing a new fleet replacement strategy.
- Ensuring compliance with upcoming legislation.
- Engaging consultants to support delivery model options appraisals and other advisory tasks.

Key next steps: The programme will engage a specialist consultancy to review the options for future service delivery and will produce a further iteration of the current Outline Business Case to fully explore the initially identified potential areas of opportunity, providing a greater level of analysis, including any investment requirements, and a set of recommendations on the options to proceed with. Future decisions will be managed through the Transformation Programme, and through Cabinet as and when required. It is excepted the next iteration will be brought forward in Q3.



Leisure Strategy

This programme aims to modernise and rationalise the leisure offer for Southampton and improve the financial model so that it moves from a cost to the council, to one that generates surplus income, whilst delivering positive public health outcomes.

We have a sizable leisure portfolio, in need of investment and upgrading, being run by a sub-contracted external provider as a part of a long-term contract ending in August 2025, with a three-year existing provision. The council currently funds the leisure offer at a cost of circa £2M per year. Southampton City Council facilities are as follows:

- The Quays Swimming & Diving Complex Bitterne Leisure Centre
- Chamberlayne Leisure Centre
- Southampton Water Activities Centre (SWAC)
- Woodmill Outdoor Activity Centre
- Outdoor Sports Centre (including the View and Pleasure Park leases)
- Southampton Municipal Golf Course*

- Sports Pitches:
 - Riverside Park
 - Hoglands Park
 - Lordshill Recreation Ground (including lease to Millbrook Green Park Recreation Ground
 - Millbrook Recreation Ground (including the Goals five a side facility)
 - o Rugby Club and QK Football Club)
 - o Veracity Recreation Ground

The programme is looking at all of Southampton City Council owned and managed leisure facilities to determine which leisure facilities should be retained and what maintenance/renovation is required. It is intended that aged facilities which require extensive maintenance and repair, do not drive participation and footfall and, therefore, do not drive income are either refurbished or re-built, or removed from the portfolio and disposed of.

To inform this, the council is working through Sport England's Strategic Outcomes Planning Model (SOPM), which gives a strategic approach to sport and physical activity services and provision by identifying and delivering local priorities. Having this clear strategic and sustainable approach to guide you when developing capital projects can play an important role in making sure investments into services and facilities are effective. Furthermore, it will support the delivery of a new fit for purpose leisure contract that will ensure robust risk management including achievement of a surplus as a 'sink fund'.

Southampton City Council has completed Stages 1-3 of the SOPM, which included setting the strategic approach and alignment, looking at the facilities mix, catchment areas, predicted growth in different sports through liaison with the relevant governing bodies, and made a series of recommendations. The SOPM has also identified the most appropriate management models for SCC moving forward as well.

Max Associates, a market leader consultancy in developing leisure strategies and leisure procurement, have been engaged by the council to support this programme. Max Associates undertook a review of the current leisure arrangements and have supported the consideration of a number of service management models. Three options were established as the best options for Southampton. These were in-house, external contractor and LATC. The management options appraisal had three key areas against which each option was evaluated, with a weighting applied to each area. These were:

- Meeting strategic objectives & quality of service delivery
- Revenue implications & capital resources
- Risk & sustainability

Through this process it was identified that an external single operator is likely to present the best value model for SCC-commissioned leisure provision. There are a number of options with an external operator, which will be further explored by the programme.



^{*} The Golf course sits outside of the current leisure contract and is operated by City Services, and is not included in the £2m spend

Stage 4 of the SOPM was commissioned in December 2023 and is being undertaken by Max Associates and likely to conclude in August 2024. As part of SOPM Stage 4, Max Associates will complete feasibility studies of the three core leisure sites - Quays, Bitterne, and Chamberlayne - which will include support from Ellis Williams Architects to look at viable layouts for centres. Interim findings from Max Associates and the SPOM will inform the development of the next stage of the business case.

In order to the progress this vision in the short-term, the programme has identified that, subject to consultation, the council should cease to provide leisure services at both SWAC and Woodmill prior to the end of the current leisure contract. Data suggests that the majority of users of these two sites are not Southampton residents and both sites are currently heavily subsidised. They are the two centres with the lowest visitor numbers, Woodmill = 24,119 (46% Southampton residents) SWAC = 6,514 (32% Southampton residents), and the council currently subsidise each Woodmill visit by £6.79, and each SWAC visit by £29.45. The preference is that an alternative provider can be found to maintain leisure services at these sites without cost to the council, but if this can't be found then other disposal options for the sites will be explored.

Key next steps: Following the completion of Stage 4 of the SOPM, the programme will produce the next iteration of the Outline Business Case setting out the next stage of information and recommendations. It is excepted the next iteration will be brought forward in Q3.

The programme will develop a detailed plan and impact assessment for the ceasing of council-funded leisure provision at SWAC and Woodmill, including necessary consultation, with a preference to find a provider who can continue to operate both SWAC and Woodmill with a leisure offer. If such an alternative provider cannot be identified by September 2024, then other disposal options may be pursued. Details of this will be included in the next update of the business case.

Expected Savings

An assessment of the financial benefits captured within the current 28 OBCs has been carried out, factoring in current levels of delivery confidence based on the development and delivery status of each programme. This has enabled us to capture our overall confidence level of achieving the expected savings.

We also recognise that this is a multi-year programme and as such, not all savings will be delivered at the same time, in a single year. Based on the financial analysis as part of each OBC, we have profiled our expected savings over the financial years 2024/25 to 2028/29. This will be used to inform our Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

These are both summarised below, and these assessments and forecast profile will be closely monitored and updated through the Programme governance, with monthly updates provided to the Transformation Board, alongside quarterly reporting to Cabinet as part of the Budget reporting process.

Overall Programme Assessment

We have rated the overall confidence level of achievement of expected savings across each Portfolio using Red, Amber, Green (RAG) ratings, defined in the table and key below. This assessment has identified that we currently have a good level of confidence over a large portion of our expected savings (Green & Amber). This is supported by the fact that we are anticipating a number of the programmes to start delivering savings in the current financial year (2024/25), and a number of programmes are forecast to over-achieve against their expected savings target over the medium-term. We expect this to improve further as we move into delivery activity on more of our programmes.

The assessment of current programmes has also identified that a smaller number of the OBCs do not contain enough detailed information for us to confidentially validate the delivery of the expected savings meaning these have been categorised as 'Red' at this time. We expect this position to improve over the coming months as we complete further work to develop these business cases.

Portfolio	Expected	Delivery Confidence			
Sa	Saving	Green	Amber	Red	
ASC & Health	£14.65m	£12.75m	£1.9m	0	
Children's services	£7.9m	£6.2m	£1.47m	£0.23m	
Customer & Community	£1m	£0.76m	£0.24m	03	
Enabling Services	£4m	£0	£1.97m	£2.03m	
Growth & Prosperity	£2m	£0	£0.39m	£1.61m	
Resident Services	£11.3m	£1.57m	£5.93m	£3.8m	
Schools & SEND	£1.8m	£1.8m £0		£0	
Total	£42.65m	£23.08m	£11.9m	£7.67m	

High delivery confidence - delivering benefits already and/or will be supported by external partner

Saving identified - less delivery assurance and/or requires acceleration of existing plans with external partner support

Saving not yet validated with high enough degree of confidence - further business case development required

Savings Profile 24/25-28/29

The table below shows our current assumptions around how the financial benefits of the programme will be realised over time, based on our current level of confidence. It's important to note that some of our programmes are forecast to exceed the stated expected savings figure over time, improving our overall savings expectations in these areas. The current forecast of this over-achievement across the programme is £6.62m, which is factored into the profile below. Alongside this, we have also excluded from the profile, all 'Red' rated savings, totalling £7.67m. The combination of these two factors explains why the multi-year profile below does not directly match the overall expected savings total of £42.65m at this time. We are continuing to work to improve this position in order to meet, and exceed, the £42.65m target:

	Forecast Savings Profile (£m)				
Financial Year	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29
ASC & Health	2.24	13.90	17.00	17.00	17.00
Children's services	2.70	6.55	9.17	9.17	9.17
Schools & SEND	1.32	2.56	3.21	3.67	3.67
Growth & Prosperity	0.00	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39
Resident Services	0.64	5.94	6.63	8.00	8.39
Customer & Community	0.30	0.76	1.00	1.00	1.01
Enabling Services	0.10	1.94	1.97	1.97	1.97
Total Savings Identified (cumulative)	7.30	32.05	39.37	41.20	41.60
Incremental	7.30	24.75	7.32	1.83	0.40

Successful Outcomes

Despite the immediate financial challenge we face, we remain ambitious and optimistic, and believe that at the end of our transformation journey a successful outcome will mean:



Budget set for 2025/26 without additional EFS



Children and young people are safe and valued



Ten-year MTFS agreed based on growth and devolution



A more resilient community with improved housing, labour market participation and pay



Investment portfolio
for the region and city to increase
growth and productivity



Residents have support, where necessary, to live independent lives



A focus on prevention, led by a public health approach





An engaged council at the heart of city partnerships

Southampton City Council

adapt grow thrive



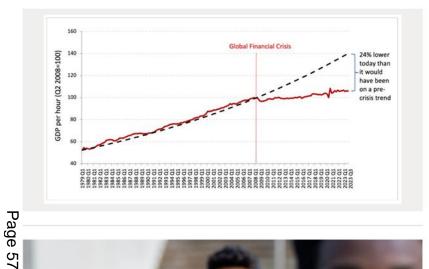




National

Growth flat-lining since 2008

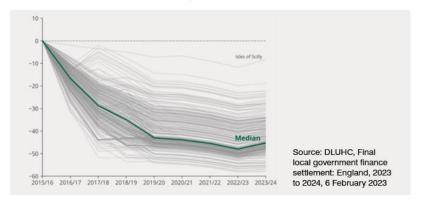
Average annual productivity increased at 0.6 per cent in real terms between 2010-2021



Events Brexit, pandemic, elections, climate, war, refugees, cyber, unknown unknowns

Local Government finance

Reduction in core spending power since 2010/11: England: 18.1% (£13.9bn), Southampton: 21.4% (£68.2m) 2025/26 onwards: 3.5% cuts per annum





Local









Southampton

Economic underperformance

- Opportunity and challenge.
- 2010-22 productivity decreased 0.9% year on year
- 5th highest on the PWC Good growth index for cities 2023





- Major reform backlog - Risk of intervention

- 10 year MTFS









- Devolution deal
- Solent economic strategy
- City Growth and Prosperity Plan Renaissance Board
- Private sector delivery partnerships



Transformation Programme



Introduction

To address the Council's structural budget deficit, we are delivering change across the organisation through a single Transformation Programme. That Programme is addressing what we do, how we do it, and what technology, process and structural changes are needed to enable us to reshape the Council to deliver for our residents in the challenging context we face.

But this is not just about the Council. To be successful and sustainable we will work with our partners to deliver growth and prosperity for the region and our city, and we will forge new relationships with our residents for efficient service delivery, coupled with deeper engagement where that is necessary for them to thrive.

Our aim is to set a balanced budget for 2025/26, but beyond that to continue our Transformation Programme over a three-year period to deliver our ambitions in line with our new City Plan. To achieve this, we are investing in our capacity for change and building a strong governance and delivery framework so that everyone can contribute for our Council and our City.

adapt | grow | thrive



adapt | grow | thrive

adapt... to achieve a sustainable financial position and succeed within a volatile world we will create a more effective and agile organisation focussed on outcomes for our residents.

grow... for longer-term success, we will work with our partners to achieve growth and prosperity for our region and our City.

thrive... the work that we are doing with our partners will enable our residents and the City to thrive.



Transformation design principles

We have developed a set of design principles to underpin our transformation journey

We will carry these principles throughout our thinking when delivering transformation; in how we design services, where we invest our resources, in how we make key decisions and what we value and what we expect from each other.



City Council Leadership: Sub region, city, partners, residents



Economic growth: Investment, infrastructure, housing, business



Reducing carbon emission: Towards net zero



Prosperity: Skills, labour market, pay



One Council:
Budget balanced,
confident,
ambitious,
engaged



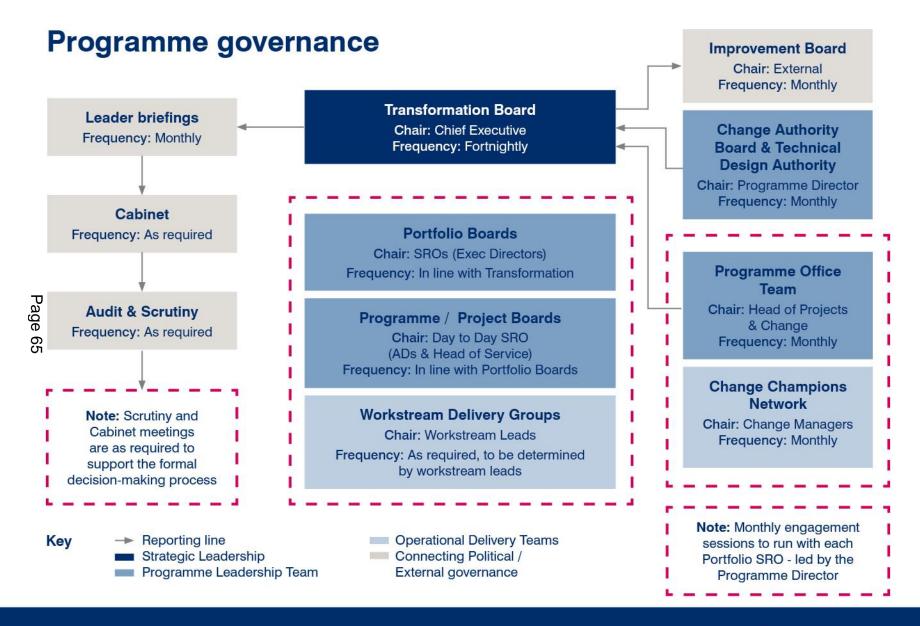
Reform:
Transformation,
delivery model
options,
promoting
independence



Efficient: Digital, resident, business focused



Prevention:
Data, deep
engagement,
equality, demand
management



Transformation scope

Growth & **Prosperity**

Growth & **Prosperity Plans**

> Service Redesign

SEND Reduction in SEND demand **School Travel** Service **Improving** Educational **Outcomes**

Schools &

Children's Services

> Demand Reduction

Right Child Right Home

Family Hubs

ASC & Health

Living and Ageing Well

Whole Life **Pathways**

Commissioning

Service **Productivity &** Redesign

CareTec

Case Mgt System

Resident Services

Good Landlord

Waste, Fleet & City Services

Parking & Traffic Management

Regulatory Services Development

Homelessness Prevention

> Leisure Strategy

Service **Productivity** & Redesign

Service Centre

Customer &

Community

Community Prevention

Enabling Excellence

ADDP Asset Development & Disposal Programme

Reshaping Financial Management

People & Culture

Data & Digital

Enabling & Strategic Core

Cross cutting programme elements

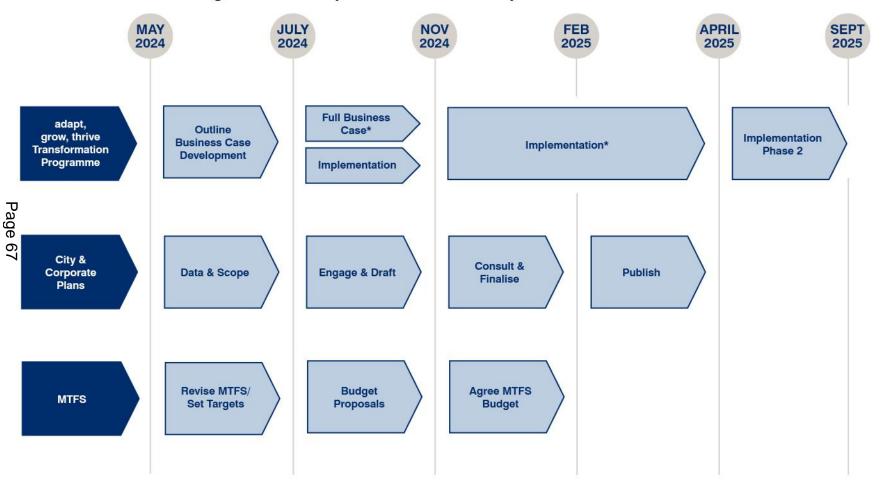
- HR & People
- Legal & Democratic
- Finance

- ICT & Digital
- Comms & Engagement
- Procurement

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Transformation timeline

How our Transformation aligns with other key activities over the next year:



^{*}Including engagement and consultation



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An engaged council at the heart of city partnerships

ESIA Baseline Information

Age

Category	Base	eline	Details of impact (To be completed when FBC is finalised)	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions	_	Milestone ata	Milestone ata
Under 25	95	2.76%					
25 - 34	588	17.07%					
35 - 44	849	24.65%	Eroo toyt	Free text			
45 - 54	893	25.93%	Free text	Free text			
55 - 64	876	25.44%					
65+	143	4.15%					

Marital Status

Category	Bas	eline	Details of impact (To be completed when FBC is finalised)	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions	Milestone ata	Milestone ata
Civil Partnership	19	0.55%				
Divorced	54	1.57%				
Married	386	11.21%				
Not Supplied	2,704	78.51%	Free Text	Free Text		
Separated	13	0.38%				
Single	265	7.69%				
Widowed*	n/a	n/a				

Ethnicity

Category	Category Baseline		Details of impact (To be completed when FBC is finalised)	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions	•	Milestone ata	_	Milestone ata
Asian or Asian British - Any other Asian background	21	0.61%						
Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi*	n/a	n/a						
Asian or Asian British - Indian	54	1.57%						
Asian or Asian British - Pakistani	14	0.41%						
Black or Black British - African	60	1.74%						
Black or Black British - Any other black background*	n/a	n/a						
Black or Black British - Caribbean	18	0.52%						
Chinese or other ethnic group - Any other ethnic group*	n/a	n/a						
Chinese or other ethnic group - Chinese*	n/a	n/a						
Irish, Gypsy or Romany Traveller*	n/a	n/a	F	F				
Mixed - Any other mixed background	27	0.78%	Free Text	Free Text				
Mixed - White and Asian	12	0.35%						
Mixed - White and Black African*	n/a	n/a						
Mixed - White and Black Caribbean	16	0.46%						
Not Supplied	738	21.43%						
Prefer not to say	74	2.15%						
White - Any other white background	138	4.01%						
White - British	2,212	64.23%						
White - Irish	27	0.78%						

Pregnancy & Maternity

Category Baseline		Details of impact (To be completed when FBC is finalised)	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions	-	Milestone ata	Quarterly Da	Milestone Ita	
No. of employees	34	1.00%	Free Text	Free Text				

Footnote

Disability

Category	Baseline		Details of impact (To be completed when FBC is finalised)	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions	Quarterly Milestone Data		Quarterly Milestone Data	
Disabled	184	5.34%						
Non-disabled	2,228	64.69%	Fron tout	Free text				
Not Supplied	860	24.97%	Free text					
Prefer not to say	172	4.99%						

Sexual Orientation

Category	Baseline		Details of impact (To be completed when FBC is finalised)	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions	•	Quarterly Milestone Data		Milestone Ita
Bisexual	43	1.25%						
Gay/Lesbian	61	1.77%		Free Text				
Heterosexual	2,203	63.98%	Froe Toyt					
Not Supplied	775	22.51%	Free Text					
Other	29	0.84%						
Prefer not to say	332	9.64%						

Religon

Category	Baseline		Baseline		Details of impact (To be completed when FBC is finalised)	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions	Quarterly Milestone Data		_	Milestone ata
Any other religion or belief	34	0.99%								
Buddhist*	n/a	n/a								
Christian	876	25.44%		Free Text						
Hindu	36	1.05%								
Jewish*	n/a	n/a								
Muslim	46	1.34%	Free Text							
No religion	1,357	39.40%	Free Text							
Not Supplied	781	22.68%								
Pagan*	n/a	n/a								
Prefer not to say	241	7.00%								
Sikh	26	0.75%								
Spiritual	29	0.84%								

Sex

Category	Baseline		Details of impact (To be	Possible Solutions & Mitigating	Quarterly Milestone Data		Quarterly Milestone Data	
			completed when FBC is	Actions				
Female	2,036	59.13%	Fron Toyt	Fron Toyt				
Male	1,407	40.87%	Free Text	Free Text				

Gender Reassignment

Category	Baseline		Details of impact (To be completed when FBC is finalised)	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions	Quarterly Milestone Data		Quarterly Milestone Data	
No. of employees	0	0.00%	Free Text	Free Text				

^{*} Categories with a '*' next to the indicator are not included because there are less than 10 x employees within this category

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DECISION-MAKE	R:	CABINET	CABINET				
SUBJECT:		ALLOCATIONS POLICY	ALLOCATIONS POLICY				
DATE OF DECISI	ON:	16 JULY 2024	16 JULY 2024				
REPORT OF:		COUNCILLOR FRAMPTON- CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING					
		CONTACT DETAILS					
AUTHOR:	Name:	JAMIE BRENCHLEY	Tel:	023 8083 3687			
	E-mail:	jamie.brenchley@southampton.go	v.uk				
Director	Name:	Debbie Ward	Tel:	023 8083 3351			
	E-mail:	Debbie.Ward@southampton.gov.u	Debbie.Ward@southampton.gov.uk				

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

NOT APPLICABLE.

BRIEF SUMMARY

The Allocations Policy details Southampton City Council's (the council's) updated allocation scheme. All Housing Authorities in England are required by section 166A (1) of the Housing Act 1996 to have an allocation scheme. This scheme must determine the priorities and procedures to be followed in allocating social housing.

The council is proposing to replace a points-based scheme with a banding scheme to prioritise applicants on the Housing Needs Register. The banding scheme operates by grouping applicants into 4 priority bands in order of priority. The banding scheme is considered easier for residents to understand, and simpler for the housing authority to administer and prioritise those in most need. The banding scheme is the predominant allocation scheme in England.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

(i)	To approve the new Allocations Policy.
(ii)	To delegate approval to the Executive Director for Resident Services to make minor changes to the policy and approve the implementation timescales of the policy once a new computer system is purchased.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To update the Allocations Policy and replace the points-based scheme with a banding scheme.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

2. To not update the policy and maintain a points-based allocations scheme. This has been rejected because the banding scheme is considered easier to understand for residents, simpler to administer and prioritises those in need.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

In Southampton, the demand for social housing outweighs its supply. The council owns 16,381 dwellings and there are a further 7,901 dwellings owned by housing associations. However, there are only a limited number of vacancies. In 2022/2023, there were just over 8,000 people on the waiting list

	for social housing but only 768 lets were made. The proposed new policy provides a framework for allocating a limited number of vacancies in the city.
4.	There are 5 main changes proposed for the policy which may impact residents on the Housing Needs Register or in social housing in Southampton.
5.	First main proposed change: The first is the council's proposal to change from a point-based scheme to a banding scheme. The banding scheme is designed to give the greatest priority to those applicants who are in the highest need. Under the current scheme, applicants receive one point per month for waiting, in addition to the other points which relate to their circumstances. Therefore, applicants can accrue many points by waiting a long time. They are often successful in bidding on properties to the detriment of those who applied later but are in more acute need. Under the current scheme, officers seek exceptions to the policy to meet this unmet acute need. These risks undermine confidence in the policy and the council's ability to be equitable in its treatment of all applicants. In the new scheme, the tiebreaker for separating two applicants with the same priority will be the date they were awarded that priority rather than the length of time waiting.
6.	Additionally, the banding scheme is used widely by other authorities and is considered simpler to understand. The current policy has 18 different points categories and 3 different applicant categories who may be entitled to those points categories. Whereas the banding scheme has 4 bands in order of priority and no distinct applicant categories.
7.	Second main proposed change: Under the current scheme applicants use the Homebid website to view available properties and make bids for homes they are eligible and interested in. If the applicant is offered a property, currently they can refuse as many offers as they would like without penalty. The second main change proposed is that if three suitable offers are refused by an applicant, the applicant will be placed into Band D (the lowest priority band) for a total of 6 months. If a suitable offer is refused a fourth time, the applicant will be removed from the Housing Needs Register. This change is proposed because refusal of properties is time-consuming for the council and can result in a potential rent lost.
8.	There are times when this would not apply. This includes if an applicant placed in Band A1 and A2 (those need Applicants placed in Band A1 and A2 (those needing to move due to urgent medical or welfare needs and people escaping violence or intimidation), will receive one offer. If this offer is refused, they will be placed back into their previous band. If the applicant did not previously have a band, they will be removed from the Housing Needs Register. The council will continue with the policy that if an urgent Adapted Property Direct Let is refused by an applicant, they will no longer be considered and wait in turn.
9.	Third main proposed change: Under the current scheme, two children of the same sex are expected to share a bedroom regardless of their age gap. Under the new policy, children, from the age of 16 years old and older, will be entitled to their own bedroom. This mirrors the rules that currently apply to tenants in the private sector, with regard to Housing Benefit and Local Housing allowance regulations. This may mean that there is a longer wait for larger properties. However, the council can still offer smaller properties to

	families if they would prefer to move sooner and if this would improve their housing situation.	
10.	Fourth main proposed change: Currently, applicants must have lived in Southampton for three continuous years before they are allowed to be on the Housing Needs Register. We are proposing that applicants can apply to the Housing Needs Register if they have lived in Southampton for three out of the past five years. This means that those who have had to leave Southampton to find temporary accommodation would not be excluded from the Housing Needs Register for that reason.	
11.	Fifth main proposed change: Currently, once applicants are accepted onto the Housing Needs Register, they do not have to re-register on an annual basis. We are proposing that all applicants will have to re-register annually. This will confirm whether circumstances have changed and ensure applicants are assigned to the correct band. This means if the policy is approved and implemented, then existing applications will be closed. For the majority, the process to re-register will include a simpler exercise and not a full new application to be made. There is very little change to the overall eligibility rules to join the Housing Needs Register so most applicants will still qualify for rehousing. However, not all will receive the same level of overall priority. Of those who wish to reapply, the applicants most impacted will be those who have waited a long time and accrued significant points simply by waiting. However, if their circumstances have not changed, they are likely to still be permitted to remain on the Housing Needs Register.	
12.	Under the Officer Scheme of Delegation, the Director of Housing has the delegated authority to make an exception to policy, give additional priority or take other action necessary. This delegated authority will only be used in very exceptional circumstances to ensure the council is equitable in its treatment of applications for re-housing.	
RESOU	RCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital</u>	/Revenue	
14.	The implementation of the policy is subject to having the new computer system in place. A tender process will be required to find an appropriate provider to meet the required specifications for the new system. The new system will need to be successfully implemented with appropriate training for the Allocations team and other relevant officers on how to use it.	
15.	There are also financial implications of the new system. The initial investment cost of the new system is not currently built into the HRA business plan. An estimated capital cost of £0.04M, financed through borrowing, would create a borrowing cost of approximately £5,000 per annum over 10 years. This could be funded from a potential saving of £15,000 per annum against a grade 4 0.5 FTE post. Annual maintenance/subscription charges are estimated to be in line with current budgets for the existing system and can therefore be met from existing resources in the business plan.	
16.	It is anticipated that there will not be a material impact on overall rental income as a result of the policy change but the changes around limiting the number of refusals should help minimise lost rental income during periods	

Proper	rty/Other		
17.	None.		
LEGAI	_ IMPLICATIONS		
Statute	ory power to undertake proposals in the report:		
18.	All Housing Authorities in England are required by section 166A (1) of the Housing Act 1996 to have an allocation scheme. This scheme must determine the priorities and procedures to be followed in allocating housing accommodation.		
19.	The council has certain legal requirements (including in the Allocation of accommodation: guidance for Local Housing Authorities in England and the Housing Act 1996) for consulting and publishing allocation schemes, especially if there is a major policy change. The council must:		
	 send a copy of the draft scheme, or proposed alteration, to every Private Registered Provider with which they have nomination arrangements; ensure they have a reasonable opportunity to comment on the 		
	 proposals. ensure, within a reasonable time, that those likely to be affected by the change have the effect brought to their attention, taking such steps as the housing authority considers reasonable. publish a summary of their allocation scheme and, if requested, 		
	provide a free copy of it. make the full scheme available for inspection at their principal office and, if		
20.	requested, provide a copy of it on payment of a reasonable fee. The council has due regard to the public sector equality duty under the Equality Act 2010 and the Human Rights Act 1998 in formulating and carrying out this policy. This has been captured in the Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) which can be found in Appendix 2.		
21.	The consultation provided some valuable insights into the views of residents on the draft proposed allocation policy. The main points are outlined below:		
	 The proposal to switch from a point-based system to a banding scheme received mixed feedback. While nearly half of respondents to the consultation viewed banding as fairer and consistent with other local authorities, there were valid concerns from those already on the waiting list. However, testing the policy on sample cases revealed minimal impact on individual application priority. While most respondents supported limiting the number of offers applicants can refuse, a notable portion disagreed. We acknowledge this, but propose no changes to the policy 		
	 While nearly half (48%) of respondents agreed to re-registering annually, 38% expressed concern about the stress it might cause. To address this, we aim to simplify the process and offer support to those who need it. This includes clear communication channels and a comprehensive plan to inform all applicants. Importantly, existing applicants will only need to re-register once, and won't face annual renewals until March 2026 unless their circumstances change. The proposal to allow children to be entitled to their own bedroom from the age of 16. Over 60% of respondents agreed with this, and there 		

- was majority backing across all groups. As a result, the policy will be implemented as planned with no changes based on the consultation feedback.
- The proposal requiring applicants to live in Southampton for 3 out of the past 5 years received moderate support. With 58% agreeing, the consultation results back this change. This will allow those who had to temporarily relocate to still be eligible for the Housing Needs Register
- The proposal for pre-move inspections of existing tenants received strong backing. A significant majority, over 70% of respondents, agreed with this plan. This feedback reinforces the proposed policy.

The feedback from the consultation has been summarised and is shown in the consideration table in Appendix 4. There is also the full consideration report shown in Appendix 3 which provides further detail.

After consideration of the feedback no changes have been made to the policy. It has been clarified that a period of 12 months will be given to allow existing applicants to re-register on the new system, and under the new policy. Any re-registrations received after this 12 month period will be looked at on a case by cases basis considering circumstance and housing need.

Other Legal Implications:

22. Section 166A of the Localism Act 2011 states that the allocation scheme must have regard to the tenancy and homelessness strategy. A strategy review has been undertaken to ensure that this policy aligns with our policies and strategies, including our Corporate Plan 2022/2030, Tenancy Strategy and new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-2029.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- The implementation of this policy is subject to having a new computer system in place. If the policy is adopted, there will be a delay between the adoption and implementation of the policy, due to the time required for the Procurement team to purchase and set up a new computer system. If the policy is approved by the Cabinet in June 2024, it is estimated the implementation phase will be completed by March 2025. The Executive Director for Resident Services is seeking delegated powers from the Cabinet to decide on the implementation time scales of the policy.
- The policy may require all residents on the social housing list to reapply to the new banding scheme. Some applicants may be frustrated by this process. There is a risk that some people may feel they have been placed further down on the waiting list, than on the points-based scheme waiting list. It may be onerous for vulnerable people who may need support in re-applying. Communication and messaging around this new policy will need to be clear. It will need to explain that people's time on the waiting list is considered, as is the housing need and other criteria to place them into certain bands. The council may consider procuring a supplier which can undertake data integration, to prevent applicants from having to re-apply. If such a supplier cannot be procured, the council will support applicants in the re-application process.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

25. The policy is in accordance with the relevant Policy Framework policies and strategies.

KEY	KEY DECISION? No			
WAR	DS/COMMUNITIES	AFFECTED:		
		SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION		
Appe	endices			
1.	Allocations Policy	Allocations Policy		
2.	Equality and Safe	Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA)		
3.	Draft Allocation F	Draft Allocation Policy Full Consultation Report		
4.	Consideration of	Consideration of feedback table		
Docu	Documents In Members' Rooms			
1.	None			
Equality Impact Assessment				
	Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.			

٠.	110110		
Equa	lity Impact Assessment		
Do th	ne implications/subject of the rep	oort require an Equality and	Yes
Safet	ty Impact Assessment (ESIA) to	be carried out.	
Data	Protection Impact Assessment		
	ne implications/subject of the rep ct Assessment (DPIA) to be carr	•	No
Othe	r Background Documents		•
Othe	r Background documents availa	ble for inspection at:	
Title	of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Information Procedure Formation Schedule 12A allowing to be Exempt/Confidential	Rules / document to
1.	None.		
2.	None.		

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Feedback	Consideration	Recommendation
What did respondents say?	Is the feedback relevant? Have we already addressed this in the policy/strategy? Does the feedback change our assessment of the impacts?	Do we believe that the policy/strategy should be edited in response to the feedback?
Under half of people who responded to the consultation agreed with the proposal to replace a point-based scheme with a banding scheme		Although a large number of respondents supported a move to a banded based system a large number opposed this move and were worried about the impact it would have on their own position on the list. Respondents who supported the change recognized that it is needed to improve fair allocations and bring our policy into line with other councils.
Those on the Southampton Housing register had the highest level of disagreement . The majority of respondents		We do not suggest any change to this proposal.
The majority of respondents agreed with the proposal to change the number of offers an applicant can refuse.	, , ,	None. While we understand that for some applicants this change is not welcome we are not proposing to amend the draft policy.
The consultation response showed that 48% of respondents agreed with the requirement for applicants to re-register on an annual basis. 38% felt it would have a negative impact.	cause them stress. We will aim to make the process as simple as possible with assistance provided to applicants that need support.	We are committed to contacting residents in through a range of channels to make sure that those applicants who might find registering or registering challenging are offered support to do so. If the policy is approved we will work on a communications plan that will help us share information about requirements with all applicants. As all existing applicants are being asked to re-register but they will not be required to register on an annual basis until March 26 unless they have had a change in their circumstances.

	62% of Respondents agreed with the proposal to allow children to be entitled to their own bedroom from the age of 16	All groups of respondents had a majority in favor of this proposal.	We are proposing that children will be entitled to their own bedroom from the age of 16 and do not suggest any changes in the draft policy following consultation.
	58% of respondents agreed with the proposal that applicants must have lived in Southampton for three out of the past five years.	This feedback supports our proposal.	We are proposing that applicants can apply to the Housing Needs Register if they have lived in Southampton for three out of the past five years. This means that those who have had to leave Southampton to find temporary accommodation, would not be excluded from the Housing Needs Register for that reason.
Page 78	71% of respondents agreed with the proposal that existing tenants will have an inspection before they move	This feedback supports our proposal.	

Agenda Item 10

Appendix 2

Southampton City Council Allocations Policy



Southampton City Council Allocations Policy

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Allocation Policy 2024				
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Lead	Maria Byrne	Review date	tbc	
officer	Maria Byrrie		tbc	
Contact	Maria.Byrne@southampton.gov.uk	Effective date	tbc	

Introduction

Purpose

- 1. Southampton City Council's Allocation Policy establishes who can apply to join the housing needs register and be considered for social housing. It also explains how we prioritise applications to ensure that those in the highest need have an opportunity to be housed.
- 2. The council is required to have an allocation scheme by section 166A (1) of the Housing Act 1996 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) and to ensure the scheme is lawful and fair in determining the eligibility for and priorities in the allocation of social housing.
- 3. The Council has had due regard to its public sector equality duty under S149 of the Equality Act 2010 and relevant legislation, regulations and guidance, this is set out in Appendix 2.
- 4. There is a huge demand for affordable homes in Southampton and a limited number of vacancies. An offer of accommodation is not guaranteed, even for applicants accepted onto the Housing Register. The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework for allocating the limited number of vacancies that become available.

Aims and Objectives

- 5. The council's aims and objectives of this policy are to:
 - provide equal and fair access to housing;
 - ensure a centralised method of identifying need;
 - make best use of the available housing in the city, responding to the housing need of local people;
 - provide a clear and transparent allocations policy;
 - empower applicants to make informed decisions about their own housing;
 - afford priority to those applicants in urgent housing need;
 - encourage and assist applicants to take an informed, measured and long-term view on their housing options.
- 6. In drafting, considering and operating this policy, the council has had due regard to its Public Sector Equality Duty.

Scope

- 7. Under Part 6 of the Housing Act 1996 (as amended), the council is required to make housing allocations and nominations in accordance with an allocations policy. The council allocates housing accommodation when it:
 - selects a person to be a secure or introductory tenant of accommodation held by the authority or another organisation;
 - nominates a person to be a secure or introductory tenant of housing accommodation held by them;
 - nominates a person to be an assured tenant of accommodation held by a private registered provider;
 - provides social housing tenants living in Southampton who need to transfer to alternative socially rented accommodation within the city.

There are many social housing providers in the city, including the council. The council maintains the Housing Needs Register for all applicants who qualify to apply for social housing tenancy within Southampton. This means that the council is responsible for allocating properties in council-owned housing and on behalf of the other social housing providers (Housing Associations). This policy applies to all social housing providers.

- 8. This policy does not include lettings of temporary accommodation, changes to existing tenancies, mutual exchanges, or applications in respect of homelessness. The council website, "Homelessness advice & housing options" provides information for people who are homeless and how they can access support.
- 9. This policy does not apply to Secure or Introductory council tenants who are required to move (transfer) on management grounds. For example, to allow repairs to be made to a property. The relevant Local Housing Office administrates and makes decisions for management transfers. This includes the consideration of permitted areas and property type. Once a move is approved, the tenant will be matched with suitable properties by the Housing Allocations service. In the case of Assured tenants, the relevant landlord is expected to facilitate a management move within their own stock. Where this is not possible, the council may agree on a discretionary basis to rehouse the tenant under a reciprocal agreement. This would be discussed between the landlord and the council.
- 10. This policy does not apply to allocating pitches at the Kanes Hill Caravan site. Please refer to the Gypsy & Travellers Site Allocation Policy for details.

Eligibility and Qualification

Eligibility and qualification

11. To join the Housing Register applicants must be both a) **eligible** and b) **qualifying** and meet the requirements for either c) "**reasonable**" or "additional" preference as laid out in the Housing Act 1996 and as amended by the Localism Act 2011.

12. A) Eligibility

13.1 An applicant may be ineligible for an allocation of accommodation under S160ZA (2) or (4) of the Housing Act 1996. Provisions on eligibility of persons from abroad are set by Central Government. There are 2 categories of people from abroad who may be ineligible:

13.2 Regulation 3

- (i) A person from abroad who is subject to immigration control.
- (ii) Two or more persons jointly if any of them is a person subject to immigration control.
- 13.3 Regulation 3 of the <u>Allocation of Housing and Homelessness (Eligibility) (England)</u>
 <u>Regulations 2006</u>, as amended, sets out classes of persons who are subject to immigration control, who are eligible for an allocation of housing accommodation under Part 6 of the Housing Act 1996.

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- 13.4 The council also requires all applicants to be habitually resident in the UK to be considered eligible for an allocation of accommodation. A full list of those who are considered habitually resident in the UK and those who are eligible or ineligible for an allocation of accommodation is attached in Appendix 3.
- 13.5 The Director of Housing has delegated authority to change the eligibility requirements of this policy, for example if Central Government amends the regulations which apply to eligibility for housing assistance.

13. B) To qualify

- 14.1 In addition to being "eligible", applicants must also "qualify" by meeting the council policy requirements. The council requires that applicants are:
 - 18 years of age or older, and;
 - not owners of residential property in the UK or abroad;
 - able to manage a tenancy and suitable to be a tenant;
 - have a Local Connection to Southampton.

14.2 Local Connection

- In order to qualify for a local connection, applicants will need to meet one, or more of the criteria below:
 - o live in the Southampton City Council area and have done so for the last 3 years or;
 - have lived 3 of the last 5 years in the Southampton City Council area prior to the date of application.
 - has permanent paid employment in the city and has been in continuous paid employment for a minimum of two years.

14.3 Exception to Local Connection

- There are some exceptions where an applicant does not need to meet the local connection requirements. The exceptions include, but not limited to, if the applicant is:
 - owed a prevention, relief, or full housing duty by Southampton City Council under homelessness legislation;
 - o a 'looked after child' as defined by Childrens Services and formally resident in the council area but had to be placed into accommodation outside of the area;
 - o an existing social housing tenant who lives in England outside of the SCC area and have been assessed as meeting the Right to Move qualifying criteria;
 - currently serving with the regular armed forces, or left within 5 years of the date of the application;

- has been asked to leave accommodation provided by the Ministry of Defence because their spouse or civil partner was serving in the regular armed forces and has died, and that his or her death was attributable (wholly or partly) to that service;
- serving or has served in the reserve forces and are suffering from a serious injury,
 illness or disability which is attributable (wholly or partly) to that service;
- divorcing/separating partners of serving members of the Armed Forces who are being asked to leave accommodation which has been provided by the Ministry of Defence;
- fled domestic abuse. The council will comply with its duties under Domestic Abuse
 (DA) and Homelessness legislation and not apply residency criteria where there is unmet housing need and domestic abuse is the reason for having moved to the city.
- o moved to the city under a Witness Protection arrangement.

14. C) To meet requirement for "reasonable" or "additional" preference (section 166A(3)):

- 15.1 **Reasonable preference:** The <u>Allocation of Accommodation Guidance</u> states that when local authorities in England frame their allocation scheme to determine allocation priorities, they must ensure that reasonable preference is given to the following categories of people (s.166A (3):
 - people who are homeless within the meaning of part seven of the Housing Act 1996 (including those who are intentionally homeless and not in priority need);
 - people who are owed a duty by any housing authority under section 190(2), 193(2) or 195(2) of the Housing Act 1996 (or under section 65 (two) or 68 (two) of the Housing Act 1985) or who are occupying accommodation secured by any housing authority under s.192(3);
 - people occupying insanitary or overcrowded housing or otherwise living in unsatisfactory housing conditions;
 - people who need to move on medical or welfare grounds, including grounds related to a disability; and
 - people who need to move to a particular locality in the district of the housing authority, where failure to meet that need would cause hardship (to themselves or others)
- 15.2 In addition, the council is required to *consider* giving additional preference to:
 - those who need to move urgently because of a life-threatening illness or sudden disability;
 - families in severe overcrowding which poses a serious health hazard; and
 - those who are homeless and require urgent re-housing as a result of violence or threats of violence, including intimidated witnesses, and those escaping serious antisocial behaviour or domestic abuse.
- 15.3 The council is *required* to give additional preference to certain categories of applicants from the Armed Forces community who have urgent housing needs, including:

- former members of the Armed Forces;
- serving members of the Regular Armed forces 6 months prior to discharge;
- serving members of the Armed Forces who need to move because of a serious injury, medical condition or disability sustained as a result of their service;
- bereaved spouses and civil partners of members of the Armed Forces leaving Services
 Family Accommodation following the death of their spouse or partner;
- serving or former members of the Reserve Forces who need to move because of a serious injury, medical condition or disability sustained as a result of their service.

Housing need

Applicants must be in 'housing need' to be eligible for the scheme. There is no statutory definition of 'housing need'. The council must give priority for housing to people who are in a reasonable preference category. This is defined in s. 166 (3) of the Housing Act 1996. The council will determine that an applicant has a 'housing need' if they fall into a reasonable preference category. Applicants who do not fall into a reasonable preference category will be considered to have no housing need. Therefore, they will not qualify for the Housing Needs Register. The banding scheme section (paragraph 92), provides further detail.

15. The council will consider whether applicants who fall into the additional preference category as defined in paragraphs 15.2 and 15.3 fall under the Urgent Housing Need category as defined in Band A1 or A2.

Applicants must remain in housing need throughout the time spent waiting on the Housing Needs Register. They must notify the council within one month of any changes in their address or circumstances.

The council uses a banding scheme to prioritise applicants on the Housing Needs Register. This will start from Band A (for people with the highest priority) and continue down to Band D (for people with the lowest priority). Applicants are placed in bands according to their circumstances and the degree of their housing need. Properties advertised in Homebid will be allocated to people who have placed bids.

- 16. For each property, the successful applicant will be the one in the highest band with the earliest effective band date, except where the property has been labelled to give priority to a particular type of applicant.
- 17. If there are applicants with the same band effective date, then priority will be given to the applicant with the earliest registration date. If the registration dates are the same, the priority will be given to the applicant who bid earliest.

Non-qualifying Applicants

Some applicants may not be qualifying persons and may not qualify for Inclusion on the Housing Needs Register. Applicants will not normally be qualifying persons if they:

• cannot demonstrate that they can meet the council's local connection criteria;

 are homeowners. This may include any applicant who has rights to their home under the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973. This includes those who own a home abroad.

The council recognises that some exceptional circumstances may exist where access to the Housing Needs Register should be granted to *homeowners* who do not have the financial resources to secure suitable or adapted accommodation. These exceptional circumstances might include:

- households who attract reasonable preference and need to sell their home but who have insufficient equity in the property, so that once sold, they will not be able to resolve their own housing situation in the private sector;
- an older person who needs specialised housing for older people and does not have sufficient resources to secure this in the open market and where suitable care and/or adaptations cannot be provided elsewhere;
- a disabled person whose home is deemed unsuitable for adaptations;
- emergency medical reasons that meet the criteria as in Band 1.
- 18. The applicant will be required to provide appropriate documentation, e.g., proof of shared ownership, property valuation, proof of income, reports from social care team, hospital, GP, occupational therapist regarding the suitability and viability of adaptations in their current property and any risk to health or life in order for an assessment and decision to be made by a housing officer.

Unsuitability to be a tenant

An applicant will not qualify for the Housing Needs Register if the council considers them to be unable to properly manage a tenancy. This may be because an applicant may need a more supported environment than the council can provide. This may also be if an applicant or their family member are considered unsuitable to be a tenant. The council will make case-by-case decisions, taking into account all of the relevant factors.

- 19. The council may reach the view that an applicant unsuitable to be a tenant. In making this decision, the council can offer advice and steps to improve the applicant's chances of becoming a tenant in the future. The factors that the council will consider include:
 - the applicant's previous management of a tenancy;
 - previous fraudulent housing applications;
 - housing debts owed (by anyone included in the application);
 - a history of non-payment of rent;
 - a history of arrestable offences committed in the vicinity of the applicants current or previous home;
 - involvement in anti-social behaviour.
- 20. In determining suitability, the council will take account of the applicant's:
 - level of housing need;

- type of and/ or seriousness of the behaviour which may make them unsuitable to be a tenant. This includes any changes in circumstances or behaviour since the relevant events occurred. This also includes how likely the issues identified are likely to recur;
- in the case of applicants who are existing SCC tenants, a pre-vacation visit will be required. Any prospective move to new accommodation may be delayed or cancelled if the current home has not been kept to an acceptable standard.

Applying to the scheme

Choice-based lettings (Homebid)

- 21. The council will seek to provide the maximum amount of choice possible to applicants. However, there are constraints on the council's stock, and there is a need to manage the allocation process as efficiently as possible.
- 22. The council also has a website called 'Homebid' which provides a framework for choice-based lettings. This website enables housing applicants to view available properties and make bids on those vacancies for which they are eligible and interested in. Most applicants are able to express their choice of accommodation and place bids for any accommodation advertised on the Homebid site. However, the property must match their assessed household requirement(s). Details of the landlord and tenancy type will be available at the time of advertising and sign-up. The advert will also detail if any group of applicants will be given preference for the property being advertised such as ground floor accommodation. Further information available in section Type of Property Required. The council will publish information about the lettings of properties previously advertised on the Homebid website to help inform applicant choice.
- 23. There is a small number of applicants who are not able to bid. In the example of Direct Let Adapted Property (DLAP) or applicants who require Housing with Care (these are outlined below).
- 24. Applicants can choose to bid on up to 3 properties per bidding cycle. The deadline for bids is indicated on the Homebid website. Once a property has been advertised the council will aim to complete the lettings process quickly. The council will notify the selected applicants of the various deadlines involved. It is important that properties are let promptly to ensure that eligible applicants are rehoused as quickly as possible. It also reduces unnecessary charges and loss of income for the council. Applicants who are made an offer of a property must respond to this offer within 3 working days or the offer will be removed.
- 25. Applicants who are successful with a bid will be suspended from placing further bids whilst they are under offer to a property, during which time other properties they may have placed bids for will be allocated in turn to others.
- 26. The council reserves the right to place bids on behalf of applicants. For example, for people who require a move quickly or who are unable to use Homebid.
- 27. The council may also place 'managed bids', which cannot be altered or removed by the applicant. This will usually be done where an applicant is in an urgent housing needs category.
- 28. The law relating to the council and other social housing providers varies. Housing associations have their own lettings policies. So, there may be some additions or variations to the main

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policy. Where this is the case, the council will do its best to alert applicants to this in the property advert during the bidding stage.

Lettings Annual Report

- 29. The Council will publish an annual lettings report setting out the number of lettings to categories of applicants that the council must assist. The report will also identify the proportion of vacancies likely to be made available for these categories of applicants.
- 30. The Lettings Report will be published on the councils website annually and will reflect local priorities.

How to apply

- 31. The council operates an online application system which the majority of applicants are expected to use. Details on how to use the system are available from the council's website. This includes the documentation required. The website is www.homebid.org.uk.
- 32. Applicants must provide all information within 30 days. They will be notified by email of the status of their application and deadlines to provide information.
- 33. Applicants who have difficulty using the online application process can be assisted to apply. They should contact housing.allocations@southampton.gov.uk, call 023 8083 3006 or visit Gateway at the Civic Centre offices.

Supporting vulnerable applicants to apply for housing

Any person, who needs support in applying for housing, whether that is assistance with the on-line application form or with bidding on properties each week, can be assisted by the housing team. The council will also be able to provide detailed housing advice for all applicants including those people who may not qualify to join the housing needs register. For this support, please contact the council at housing.allocations@southampton.gov.uk, call 023 8083 3006.

Students

- 34. Applicants who have children in full time education and are studying away from home during term-time (e.g. at University outside the city) will be permitted to include their child in the application. This is provided the children lived in the household for 12 months immediately before their course started. The child will be removed from the application if they do not return to the family home immediately at the end of their course.
- 35. Applications from full-time students who are living in Southampton during their studies and remain in Southampton upon completion/termination of their course, may make an application to the Housing Needs Register when they have met the 3 years out of 5 residency requirements.
- 36. Applications from full time students who are living in Southampton during their studies, but whose main family home was outside of the city boundary immediately prior to beginning their course will not be permitted to join the Housing Needs Register.

Prisoners

Prisoners who have lived in Southampton for at least 3 out of 5 years immediately prior to starting their prison sentence may join the Housing Needs Register. They may only join six months prior to their expected release date. This provision also extends to other applicants. For example, those detained under the Mental Health Act or Hospital Order and who will be subject to specialist assessment which will include an assessment on ability to manage a tenancy.

Fostering and care leavers

Fostering

- 37. The council recognises that supporting care leavers and fostering contributes to good care of looked after children. A small number of properties will be identified each year to be used to help families start fostering or to increase the number of children who can be looked after.
- 38. The council will identify in its Lettings Report the number and type of homes to be made available to foster carers who have been approved by SCC to foster but lack the required number of bedrooms. This number will be identified in the context of the need to achieve the overall objectives of the Allocations Policy and to satisfy statutory requirements.
- 39. Children's Services will identify people who would benefit from moving to alternative accommodation through this arrangement. The final decision on the allocation of properties is delegated to the Allocations Manager.
- 40. Properties let to foster carers will generally be offered as a 2-year fixed term secure tenancy the criteria for renewing the tenancy will include a requirement that the accommodation is still needed in order to provide fostering services.
- 41. Foster carers who no longer provide fostering services will be considered for re-housing when their fostering arrangements come to an end. Any accommodation offered will be suitable for their current needs at the time.

Care leavers

42. Care leavers supported by the council will be placed into either Band B or Band D, depending on their circumstances (more information in the <u>banding scheme</u> section). Care leavers will be permitted to bid specifically for properties advertised with a priority for Care Leavers. The numbers of properties advertised in this way will be subject to an annual quota which will be identified in the Lettings Report.

Change in applicant's circumstances and annual renewals

43. The council aims to offer properties which match the needs of an applicant's household. Therefore, it is important that the council is kept up to date with details of an applicant's housing situation. All applicants must log in to their application portal annually to confirm whether their circumstances have changed. If applicants fail to voluntarily renew their application, the council will send a written reminder to do so within 28 days of the renewal date. The council will cancel any application which has not been updated.

An applicant must notify the council within one month of their circumstances changing. This could be if they have bought a property, moved home or their family size has changed. They must notify

the council via their application portal so that their application can be reassessed. Not doing this will result in the application being removed from the Housing Needs Register.

In order to remain on the Housing Needs Register, applicants will need to retain a continuous local connection.

44. If the council makes an offer of accommodation to an applicant and later discovers that the applicant's circumstances changed or not as previously disclosed, the council may treat this as fraud and commence the necessary investigations.

If an applicant secures accommodation via the council's housing needs register, their application will be marked as housed and will be closed. If an applicant wishes to reapply to the register at a later date, they will need to make a new application which will be assessed on their circumstances at the time.

Who can be included in an application for rehousing?

- 45. The council requires that anybody included in a re-housing application to:
 - a) be eligible to access public funds and services;
 - b) have a long-term commitment to the household and will live in that household once rehoused. This requirement applies to all members of the household including parents, siblings, partners and children. All members of the application must have lived in the household for a minimum of 12 months at the point of application.
 - c) have a 'need' to live together as partners, dependents or where there are caring requirements that cannot be met outside the household. Adult children of applicants may be included where they have lived in the household for at least 12 months at the point of application. The need to live together will in the main be determined by: the receipt of Child Benefit; a Care Act assessment demonstrating the need for sleep-in care.
- 46. Children included in the application must genuinely live in the household as their only or principal home. Applicants unsure whether to include children on their application must seek advice from the council. Where care of children is shared, the council will normally only allow them to be listed in only one re-housing application. There are only a few limited exceptions to these requirements, such as:
 - a) children newly born into the household;
 - b) children leaving care or being fostered;
 - c) children required to live with the applicant because of family court proceedings arising from child protection cases brought by the local authority. Applicants who wish to include children who live with them arising from private family court proceedings will be subject to the 12 month requirement detailed in paragraph 57c.
- 47. Applications which include children who have previously been rehoused by the council in the care of someone else will be refused.

48. If the council considers that children have been included on the application to gain greater priority or access a larger or different type of housing the application, the application will be refused and may be treated as fraudulent.

Other landlords' requirements

49. The council work with other social landlords in the city. Some of the properties advertised may have particular requirements based on the rules adopted by that particular landlord. Where this is the case, the council will show the qualifying criteria in its advertisement. Each landlord has their own lettings policy. Individuals can ask to see this if they require further details.

Age designated properties

50. Some of the council's and housing associations' properties have minimum age requirements. For example, some properties require applicants to be 50 or over. Details are provided on the Homebid website.

Special letting schemes and sensitive lets

- 51. Occasionally, the council, or one of its social housing partners, may decide to implement a "special lettings scheme". An approved special lettings scheme operates alongside this policy and may restrict or give greater priority to certain categories of applicant who are eligible for housing. This is most frequently done when a newly built or refurbished scheme is being let. However, this can happen at any time if the landlord deems it necessary to make sure that the scheme operates effectively as a good place to live.
- 52. This principle may also apply to individual properties where there have been significant management problems previously. In this case the landlord may choose to make a "sensitive letting" by imposing additional qualifying criteria for applicants to make sure that similar problems do not arise through the re-letting of the property.
- 53. Special lettings schemes and sensitive lettings will only be made where they do not compromise the council's ability to achieve its overall policy aims. Where they are deemed necessary the additional eligibility criteria will be listed in the Homebid property advertisement.

Applicants who are not able to bid Housing with Care

- 54. The council lets and makes nominations to several older persons specialist housing schemes. These are categorised as Housing with Care. These schemes offer independent, secure/assured tenancies. They have the benefit of additional onsite care and associated facilities catering to a range of need.
- 55. The applicant must meet the eligibility and qualification criteria of this policy. For Housing with Care, applicants must also request a Housing with Care referral from their care co-ordinator or social worker. This is so that the council and its commissioned onsite care providers can ensure that the level of care required in the accommodation available. If the applicant does not have a care co-ordinator or social worker, the Allocations service has specialist officers who can begin this assessment process with them.

56. Due to the specialist nature of this accommodation, the council does not advertise Housing with Care vacancies on Homebid alongside other properties. A separate direct let list will be maintained. Applicants will be matched to suitable vacancies in line with their preference of scheme/area. Where more than one applicant is assessed as being potentially suitable for a vacancy, the qualification date will determine who is made a provisional offer.

Adapted property direct let

- 57. An Adapted Property Direct Let (APDL) is the status given to applicants who require a significantly adapted property to meet their disability and housing needs. This is usually due to the applicant, or a member of their household, being wheelchair dependent within the home.
- 58. Before being accepted on to the APDL waiting list, an Occupational Therapist (OT) assessment is required. This assessment will detail what adaptations are required, as well as why there is a need to move.
- 59. The council matches adapted properties to the housing needs of applicants. Most applicants are able to exercise choice with regards to location, and this choice will be considered when matching available properties. However, some areas of the city have no social housing, or a very limited supply. The more restrictive an applicant is, the more difficult it will be to assist.
- 60. APDLs are managed outside of the council's usual Homebid system. APDL applicants do not need to bid via Homebid and will not be placed into a band. Directly matching applicants to available, suitable adapted properties helps to make the best use of them, as these properties are very scarce.
- 61. Applicants wait in date order, using the date the APDL was agreed (not necessarily the application date). Applicants will be informed of the date their APDL status began and their position on the direct let list when they apply.

Urgent APDLs

- 62. An applicant who requires an APDL may also be in the Urgent Housing Needs category, or one of the following circumstances may apply:
 - Permanently unable to leave or access the property due to the unsuitable nature of their current home, and as a result are either housebound or unable to return home from hospital / residential care.
 - Unable to receive personal care in a private space, away from other members of the household.
 - Unable to access essential facilities within the property and temporary solutions are not
 possible. Where there is an imminent, unavoidable risk of significant harm within the current
 home and a move will resolve this. Where someone has been accepted as homeless by the
 council and will be losing their current home and a temporary move will leave the applicant
 with an urgent need.
- 63. There may be more than one applicant with an urgent need waiting for the same size of property. The urgent cases will be considered in the date order of urgent status being agreed. Then in order of the application date.

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64. Whilst the applicant's area of choice will be considered, applicants with an urgent need will be expected to be flexible. This will be discussed with the applicant at the point of an urgent APDL being agreed. If an urgent APDL applicant refuses an offer of a property, they will no longer be considered as urgent and will continue to wait in turn.



Allocating Housing

How the council makes decisions

- 65. The council makes decisions about housing applications by considering four questions.
 - 1. Is the applicant eligible to be rehoused? If so;
 - 2. Does the applicant qualify under this policy? If so;
 - 3. What type of property does the applicant require (see below)? and;
 - 4. Which band must they be placed in according to the banding system?
- 66. Allocations Officers will make all Allocations decisions unless detailed below:

Decision	Minimum level of authorisation
Reviews (appeals)	Senior Allocations Officer
Direct offers of accommodation	Senior Allocations Officer
Decision to place applicant in Urgent	Senior Allocations Officer
Housing Need category	
Decision for unsuitability to be a tenant	Allocations Manager
Decision to advertise property as 'sensitive	Allocations Manager
let'	
Decision to not apply local connection; 12	Allocations Manager
month living together and housing debt	
owed requirements	
Authorisation for special lettings scheme	Director of Housing
(for new housing developments)	
Exceptions to policy	Director of Housing

67. The council may seek the advice of outside professionals to assist in reaching a decision on an application. This is often due to a complex medical issue identified in the application. The final decision will still be made by an Allocation officer or other officer identified in the table above, taking into account the advice received.

Exceptions to policy

- 68. Occasionally, exceptional cases will arise which cannot be dealt with within the normal policy criteria. Under the Council Constitution 23 Part 10 Officer Scheme of Delegation, the Director of Housing has the delegated authority to make an exception to policy, give additional priority or to take other action necessary. This delegated authority will only be used in very exceptional circumstances to ensure the council is equitable in its treatment of applications for re-housing. The council will take into account all relevant considerations when making this decision including:
- the applicant's degree of housing need;
- significant events in the applicant's tenancy history and;
- The current position in respect of the applicant's ability to manage a tenancy.

Type of property required

The council must make the best use of the resources available in order to house the maximum number of people from the Housing Needs Register. This means that the council has rules about the type of property that applicants can apply for. In deciding on the type of property, and degree of priority required, the council has to consider the type of housing available and the high demand for that housing. For example, there are more flats than houses and larger homes are scarce.

- 69. The council classifies properties according to a number of different factors. These are:
 - the number of bedrooms;
 - the type of access inside and outside the property (e.g. steps, stairs, lift, level access);
 - adaptations which have been carried out in order to meet particular needs;
 - whether pets can be permitted;
 - age requirements (if any) of the block or scheme; and
 - the provision of support services.

For applicants accepted onto the Housing Needs Register:

- The council will assess their needs to decide what sort of property they can bid for on the Homebid website.
- If an applicant bids for a property outside this assessed need, the offer will not be made to that applicant.
- If a property is advertised with a *priority* for certain applicants, the council will make offers to those applicants in turn first. This is normally done where a property would meet the needs of a disabled applicant (e.g. a ground floor property).
- 70. The council may restrict bidding for properties to applicants within the specified bands. This may be done where there is a need to increase lets to certain categories of applicant, e.g. applicants who are homeless. The council reserves the right to not make an offer of a property to an applicant if, due to its features or adaptations it could be better used by another household or if it would meet the needs of those in emergency housing situations.
- 71. The council does not make any distinction between houses and flats when deciding what type and size of property applicants are eligible for. However, houses can satisfy a greater range of needs than flats so the council has to make best use of them. Therefore, houses will usually be allocated and given priority to particular types of applicants. This includes families with children or those giving up a larger socially rented home. Houses which have two reception rooms (i.e. 'parlour houses') will usually be classified as having an additional bedroom. Therefore, they will be advertised with a priority to applicants who require the larger number of bedrooms.

Size of property required

72. The council considers the following people will usually need a bedroom of their own:

- couples;
- a single person aged 16 or over;
- someone who needs to live in the household and has an assessed medical need for their own bedroom.
- 73. Two children of different sexes aged under 10 will be expected to share a bedroom.
- 74. Here are a few examples of how the rules apply:

Family Size	Size of Accommodation
Single person	Studio or one bedroom
Two adults living as a couple	One bedroom
Adult couple or single person, with:	Two bedrooms
- One child	
- Two children aged under 10	
- Two children aged under 16 of the same sex	
(includes step and half siblings, cousins, nieces/nephews, etc)	
Adult couple or single person, with:	Three bedrooms
- two children of opposite sexes, at least one over age 10	
 Adult couple or single person, with three children under 16 	
 Adult couple or single person with four children, including two of each sex 	
(includes step and half siblings, cousins, nieces/nephews, etc)	
Adult couple or single person, with:	Four bedrooms
Three children, one aged over 16 and two aged over 10 of different sex	
- Four children, one aged over 16, one aged 10-15 and two aged under 10	

- Five children aged 0-15

(includes step and half siblings, cousins, nieces/nephews, etc)

Households without any other qualifying factors and who have the 'correct' number of bedrooms will be treated as adequately housed. So, they will not qualify to join the Housing Needs Register. However, applicants living in social housing in the city can join the housing needs register to move to a smaller property. This includes applicants living in either a council property or a housing association property. The banding scheme details how these applicants will be prioritised.

- 75. An applicant may be offered a property with fewer bedrooms than they are entitled to as illustrated above. This will be for cases where an improvement may be made to the applicant's current housing situation, however, the limited supply and high demand means there is no realistic prospect of a larger home becoming available sooner.
- 76. Applicants in Band A3 who are single people or a couple with no children, may bid for one or two bedroom properties.



Banding scheme

The banding scheme operates by grouping applicants into several bands, which reflect the differing levels of housing needs and local priorities in an allocation scheme. The numbers within the bands are to not indicative of order of priority.

Band	Band name	Definition
A	Urgent housing needs: A life- threatening illness or sudden disability	 The applicant is living in accommodation which poses an imminent risk of serious physical or mental harm, for which no other reasonable housing options are available, or: The applicant is living in housing which cannot be adapted for their needs, cannot reasonably access other housing options and, due to the lack of an adapted home, cannot access basic facilities such as a toilet.
	2. Urgent housing needs: Those who require urgent rehousing as a result of violence or threats of violence, including intimidated witnesses, and those escaping serious antisocial behaviour or domestic abuse,	Existing social housing tenants in the city must meet the requirement to be made a management move as determined by their registered social landlord (see paragraphs 95-96). If the applicant is living in owner occupied or privately rented accommodation, or have no housing, they will be referred to the council's Homelessness service.
	3. Under occupation (3+ bedroom property)	The applicant is a SCC council tenant (or a tenant of a housing association living the SCC area where the vacancy will be given to SCC); who under occupies their existing 3 bedroom or larger property and is looking to move to a two bedroom or smaller property.
	4. Efficient use of Housing Stock	Applicants giving up fully wheelchair accessible or extensively adapted social housing that is no longer required.
	5. Decant - regeneration	SCC tenants living in an approved council estate regeneration area and have been served notice that they must give up their council home in the city.
	6. Decant - disposal	SCC tenants in the city who are required to move because the property is being permanently disposed of.

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В	1. Main Homeless Duty	 Applicants who are statutorily homeless and owed the main Housing Duty by SCC under s193 (2) and are ready to move on from temporary accommodation.
	Under occupation (2 bedroom property)	 The applicant is a SCC tenant or a tenant of a housing association living the SCC area, who under occupies their existing 2 bedroom property and is looking to move to a smaller property.
	3. Efficient use of Housing Stock	 The applicant is a SCC council tenant or a tenant of a housing association living the SCC area and is giving up ground floor social housing as they no longer require it. An applicant is considered Left in Occupation of a council property where a notice to quit has been served and there is an agreement to rehouse.
	4. Care Leavers Move - On	Where a young person who has been looked after, fostered or accommodated and has had a duty of care accepted under the Children Act in the SCC council area and is ready for independent living, to enable a planned move on to independent suitable accommodation providing a support plan is in place. The numbers housed under this provision will be subject to an annual quota agreed with the council's Children Services department.
	5. Applicants with two or more categories in Band C2-C4	Applicants not in any of the above categories who are assessed as having two or more reasons to move from Band C2-C4.
С	Homeless Prevention or Relief Duty	 Applicants owed the prevention or relief duties under part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 by SCC.
	2. Occupying insanitary, overcrowded or unsatisfactory housing conditions	Applicants living in one or more of the conditions defined in appendix 1
	3. Medical /welfare need	Applicants with an assessed medical or welfare reason to move home, including grounds related to a disability.
	4. Hardship	Applicants who need to move to a particular locality in Southampton, where failure to

	5. Right to Move	 meet that need would cause hardship to themselves or others. Applicants who have been accepted under the 'Right to Move' regulations. This band will apply regardless of how many other categories in this table may apply.
D	1. Intentionally Homeless	 Intentionally homeless applicants (regardless of how many other categories in this table may apply).
	2. Housing related debt	 Applicants with housing debt owed but no repayment plan agreed or being adhered to. This is regardless of whether they would be entitled to be in bands A-C.
	3. Care Leavers Not Ready to Move	Where a young person who has been looked after, fostered or accommodated and has had a duty of care accepted under the Children Act in the SCC council area and is not ready for independent living.
	4. Refusal penalty	 Applicants who have refused three offers of accommodation will be placed in Band D for six months.

- 77. Applicants in Band A1 or A2 (applicants with urgent housing needs) will remain in the band for 3 months only. If a suitable property does not become available to bid on, the council will suspend the application from bidding and make one direct offer of accommodation. If an applicant in Band A1 or A2 refuses any offer of accommodation and the council is satisfied the offer was reasonable, the applicant will be placed into the band they previously occupied. If the applicant did not previously have a band, they will be removed from the Housing Needs Register.
- 78. There may be occasions where applicants who are at significant risk of harm and have no alternative housing options may be given a direct offer of accommodation. Whilst we will give due consideration to the applicant's area of preference it may not always be possible to make a direct offer in their area of preference. Priority will be given to ensure risk of harm is removed in the quickest possible timeframe. If an applicant refuses an offer and the council is satisfied the offer was reasonable, the applicant will be placed into the band they previously occupied. If the applicant did not previously have a band, they will be removed from the Housing Needs Register.

Management Moves and Reciprocals

- 79. Southampton City Council in its role as a landlord may decide to move a tenant in line with its housing management practice and procedures. These applicants will be made one suitable offer of accommodation. This will be in consultation with the relevant local housing office. Offers made under this basis will usually be to a 'like-for-like' property. This is unless the offer would result in a statutory overcrowding situation.
- 80. If the tenant's landlord is a housing association, their landlord will determine if the tenant needs to move on this basis. They will request the Allocations service to consider making one direct offer of suitable 'like for like' accommodation. This is agreed on a discretionary basis taking into account the relevant factors of the case and prevailing local housing situation. Requests will not

be agreed unless the landlord agrees to reciprocate (i.e. allow the council to advertise the resulting vacancy).

Families in severe overcrowding which pose a serious health hazard

81. The council will investigate the circumstances and causes of the overcrowding and what immediate remedies, if any, are available. It will decide whether to place these applicants into the urgent housing needs band on a case-by-case basis. It is likely that those who apply and are accepted on this basis will be offered interim accommodation under Part VII of the Housing Act 1996.

Refusing an offer of accommodation

82. The council has an obligation to manage its resources efficiently and provide value for money to its customers. Refusals of accommodation place a burden on council staff time. Refusals of council-owned accommodation causes rent loss for councils. This is to the detriment of our tenants and prospective tenants. If an applicant in any band refuses 3 offers of accommodation during the life of their application, they will be placed into Band D for 6 months. If this applicant then refuses another offer of accommodation, they will be treated as if they no longer require a move, and their application will be cancelled.

Right to Review decisions

83. Applicants have a right to request a review of any decision. Applicants also have a right to request a review of the facts of the case which were taken into account in making the decision. The details on how to request a review are provided in the letter notifying them of the decision. The review will be carried out by an officer who has not been involved in the case and is more senior than the original decision maker.

Right to Move

- 84. The Allocation of housing (Qualification Criteria for Right to Move) (England) Regulations 2015 requires the council to set aside a proportion of their lettings for social tenants from other parts of the England who need to move to the area to take up work.
- 85. To qualify to be considered for the "right to move" applicants must:
 - be an existing social housing tenant in England;
 - have reasonable preference under s.166A(3)- the need to move to the local authority district to avoid hardship;
 - · need to move because the tenant works in the district; or
 - need to move to take up an offer of work.
- 86. To make this decision, the council will take into account factors such as:
 - the distance and/or time taken to travel between work and home;
 - the availability of transport, taking into account earnings;

- the nature of the work and whether similar opportunities are available closer to home;
- other personal factors such as medical conditions and childcare;
- the length of the work contract and whether failure to move would result in the loss of opportunity to improve their employment circumstances or prospects.
- 87. Voluntary work is excluded from these arrangements. Work, which is only short-term, marginal in nature or ancillary to work in another district is also excluded.

Right to Buy

- 88. The Right to Buy scheme allows most council tenants to buy their council home at a discount.
- 89. The council will not offer alternative accommodation to applicants who have an active right to buy application, or who are subject to a court order suspending a right to buy application.

Risk to applicants or other residents

When deciding whether to accept an application, or to make an offer of housing, the council will consider any known risk factors. This will include the risk to other residents and to the applicant. The issues which will be taken into account include those which might render the applicant vulnerable if re-housed and which may affect other residents. For example, a known history of violent or anti-social behaviour. If the council considers the risk to be too great then it may decide not to accept the applicant onto the Housing Needs Register, or not to make an offer of accommodation. The council may also restrict the offer to certain types of accommodation or to certain areas of the city.

- 90. In considering these factors the council recognises the role that settled accommodation can play in enabling offenders to become rehabilitated. However, the council also exercises a duty as landlord to thousands of tenants across the city. Therefore, it is necessary to balance the needs of individual applicants against the needs of the wider tenant population.
- 91. In reaching a decision on these matters the council will consider all the relevant factors. This includes seeking the view of Health, Police, National Probation Service, and other relevant statutory agencies. Examples of issues which will be considered include:
 - · the applicant's degree of housing need;
 - the nature of the applicant's behaviour/convictions/bail or licence conditions;
 - any mitigating circumstances that applied at the time or to current circumstances;
 - the result of any trial period in accommodation; and
 - whether there are any areas of the city or property types which would be unsuitable

Applicants deliberately worsening their housing situation and fraud prevention

The council takes its responsibility to make proper use of public resources very seriously.

Applications for the Housing Needs Register are investigated to ensure assessments and decisions

are accurate. The council will require proof of information in the application, such as benefits and council tax records, tenancy agreements, bank statements and any other information the council may require in order to validate applications. The council is required to participate with other Local Authorities as part of the National Fraud Initiative. The council will also verify information by office interviews, home visits, statements from previous social landlords, and verification of documents.

92. Where the council suspects fraud, the application may be referred to the council's Tenancy Fraud team for enhanced checks.

Where the council considers an application for the Housing Needs Register to be fraudulent, it may take action in line with any of its enforcement policies, whilst adhering to the legislation set out in the Prevention of Social Housing Fraud Act 2013. The council will consider each matter on a case-by-case basis.

If an applicant moves out of, or alters, suitable accommodation so that is unsuitable for their needs, the council will investigate to find out why this has been done. If it is satisfied that this was done in order to improve the applicant's position on the Housing Needs Register, the council will continue to treat the application as if the move or alteration had not taken place.

93. The council will also carry out investigations where it believes that incorrect information has been provided in order to improve an applicant's rehousing prospects. Where this is the case the council may amend or cancel an application.

Data protection

94. Information will be held and destroyed in accordance with Data Protection legislation and the council's retention schedule. Data will only be used for the purpose of assessing housing applications, or for exercising other duties compatible with the council's status as a strategic authority.

Governance

- 95. This policy will be reviewed regularly by the Allocations Team to make sure it aligns with the latest legislation and changing local priorities.
- 96. A new system is required to implement the new banding scheme and policy. The Policy will be implemented when the new system is in place.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Defined unsatisfactory housing categories

1. Shared facilities

- Lacking sole use of bathroom.
- · Lacking sole use of kitchen.
- Lacking sole use of inside W.C.

2. Disrepair

Relating to privately rented accommodation where, despite intervention from the council's environmental health service, the applicant:

- Lacks cold or hot water supplies.
- Lacks electricity and / or gas.
- Lacks heating in a minimum of one room.

3. Applicants requiring larger property

Please refer to the paragraph in the main body of this policy titled "size of property required" (paragraphs 86-88) for information on how the council determines how many bedrooms it considers a household requires.

4. Applicants requiring housing for older people

Applicant aged 50 (or joint applicants both aged 50) or over, living in general needs social housing, who want to move to:

- Housing for people aged 50 and over with floating support.
- Housing for people aged 55 and over with either floating or scheme based support.

Applicant aged 55 (or joint applicants both aged 55) or over, living in social housing for ages 50+, who want to move to:

 Housing for people aged 55 and over with either floating or scheme based support

Applicant aged 55 (or joint applicants both aged 55) or over, living in privately rented accommodation, who want to move to:

Housing for people aged 55 and over with either floating or scheme based support.

Appendix 2 Legislation and regulations

The relevant legislation and codes of guidance have been considered, in particular:

- The 1996 Housing Act (Part VI) as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002 and the Localism Act 2011
- The Housing Act 1996 (Part VII) as amended by the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017
- The Equality Act 2010
- The Freedom of Information Act 2000
- Section 17 Childrens Act 1989
- The Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- The Allocation of Housing (qualification criteria for Armed Forces Personnel) (England) Regulations 2012 and supplementary statutory guidance December 2013
- Allocation of Housing and Homelessness (eligibility) (England) Regulations 2006 (as amended)
- Regulations made by the Secretary of State sets out person who may be eligible despite being a person from abroad subject to immigration control.
- Allocation of Accommodation: Guidance for Local Housing Authorities in England (MHCLG 2012, as amended)
- Providing social housing for local people: Statutory guidance on social housing allocations for local authorities in England (DCLG, December 2013)
- Improving access to social housing for members of the Armed Forces (MHCLG, 2020)
- Improving access to social housing for victims of domestic abuse (MHCLG, 2022)
- Right to move and social housing allocation 2015
- Allocation of housing (Qualification Criteria for Right to Move) (England) Regulations
- 2015/967, and takes into account the Allocation of Accommodation; Guidance for Councils, issued in June 2012, updated guidance December 2013 and Right to Move statutory guidance issued in March 2015.
- The Housing and Planning Act 2016.
- The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.

The Policy has been formulated with regard to law and regulatory requirements including:

1.Statutes

- a. The Housing Act 1985
- b. The Housing Act 1006
- c. Homelessness Act 2002
- d. Homeless Reduction Act 2017
- e. Housing and Regeneration Act 2008
- f. Localism Act 2011
- g. Armed Force Act 2006

- h. Asylum and Immigration Act 1996
- i. 9 Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- j. Childrens Act 2004
- k. Equality Act 2010
- I. Data Protection Act 2018
- m. European Union (Withdrawal Agreement (Act 2020).
- n. Human Rights Act 1998.

2. Regulations

- Allocation of Housing (Procedure) Regulation 1997; SI 199/483
- Allocation of Housing (England) Regulations 2002; SI 2002/3264
- Allocation of Housing and Homelessness (Eligibility) (England) Regulations 2006, SI 2006/1294 (as amended)
- The Allocation of Housing and Homelessness (Eligibility) (England) (Amendment)
 Regulations 2021
- Allocation of Housing (Qualification Criteria for Armed Forces) (Armed Forces) (England)
 Regulations 2012; SI 2012/2989
- The Allocation of Housing and Homelessness (Review Procedures) Regulations 1999
- Allocation for Housing (Qualification Criteria for Right to Move) (England) Regulations 2015;
 SI 2015/967
- The Housing Act 1996 (Additional Preference for Armed Forces) (England) Regulations 2012, SI 2012/2989

3. Codes of Guidance

- Allocation of accommodation: guidance for local authorities, June 2012, updated, September 2021
- Providing social housing for local people, December 2013
- Right to Move and social housing allocations, March 2015
- Improving access to social housing for victims of domestic abuse, November 2018
- Improving access to social housing for members of the Armed Forces, June 2020
- The regulatory standards for registered providers of social housing in England:
- Tenancy Standard, published April 2012

Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities 2018

Appendix 3: Habitual residency, persons subject to immigration control and those who may be eligible or ineligible for an allocation of social housing

The following classes of persons, subject to the satisfying a habitual residency test will be eligible to join the Scheme:

- A. British citizens (constituting the nations of England, Scotland and Wales).
- B. Commonwealth citizens with a right of abode in the UK immediately before 01 January 1983 who have remained commonwealth citizens throughout (excluding non-British citizens from Pakistan and South Africa, but inclusive of citizens from Gambia and Zimbabwe).
- C. Irish citizens (constituting the nations of Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland)
- D. EEA Nationals (nationals of any of the EU member states, and nationals of Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein and Switzerland other than those from Ireland) and their family members, who a. have acquired limited leave to enter and remain in the UK b. were frontier working before 31 December 2020, or c. are lawfully residing in the UK by 31 December 2020, but still have to apply to, or acquire status under the EU Settlement Scheme before the deadline of 30 June 2021, and are covered by the "Grace Period statutory instrument"
- E. Persons exempt from immigration control (e.g. diplomats and their family members based in the UK and some military personnel).
- F. Persons granted refugee status by the UK Government.
- G. Persons granted exceptional or limited leave to enter or remain in the UK with condition that they and any dependents have resource to public funds (e.g. humanitarian or compassionate circumstances).
- H. Persons with current leave to enter or remain in the UK with no condition or limitation, and who are habitually resident in the UK, The Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or the Republic or Irelands (defined as the Common Travel Area) (a person whose maintenance and accommodation is being sponsored must be resident in the Common Travel Area for five years since date of entry or date of sponsorship, unless the sponsor has died).
- I. Persons who have humanitarian protection granted under the Immigration Rules (e.g. a person whose asylum application has failed, but they face real risk of harm if they returned to their state of origin).
- J. Persons who are Afghan citizens with limited leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom, who are habitually resident in the Common Travel Area.
- K. Persons who are habitually resident in the Common Travel Area, who have Calais leave to remain under the Immigration Rules
- L. .Persons who are habitually resident in the Common Travel Area, who have been granted leave to remain as a stateless person under Immigration Act 1971

- M. Persons who have limited leave to enter and remain in the UK as the family member of a 'relevant person of Northern Ireland by virtue of the Immigration Rules.
- N. Eligibility provisions do not apply to Applicants who are already secure or fixed-term tenants (let at social rent or affordable rent) of the Local Authority seeking to transfer.

Even when an Applicant is eligible for an allocation of social rented housing, only those who are habitually resident in the Common Travel Area will be eligible for an allocation (except persons which exempt from the requirement to be habitually resident, as defined in law). If it is apparent that an Applicant came to live in the UK during the previous two years, the following tests will be carried out to confirm if an Applicant is habitually resident:

- A. The degree of permanence in the person's residence in the United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Isle of Man or the Channel Islands.
- B. The association between a person and their place of residence.
- C. Why a person has come to live in the UK
- D. Whether a person is joining family or friends in the UK
- E. Whether a person has accumulated a continuous period of residence prior to making their application.
- F. The length of residence in another country
- G. Visits abroad for holidays or to visit relatives and other temporary periods of absence will be disregarded.
- H. A person's future intentions, employment prospects and centre of interest
- I. Exemptions from the habitual residence test include EEA nationals and their family members who are workers or self-employed, or have certain permanent rights of residence, or have been removed from another country to the UK.

Not eligible to join the scheme:

Applicants who are subject to immigration control or are an ineligible person from abroad will not be eligible for an allocation of social rented housing. The following classes of person will not be eligible to join the Scheme:

- A. Persons not habitually resident in the Common Travel Area
- B. EEA nationals whose only right to reside in the UK is:
 - i. Derived from their status as a jobseeker (or their status as a family member of a jobseeker).
 - ii. An initial right of residence for 3 months.
- iii. Derivative right of residence because the person is the primary carer of a British citizen.

- iv. Right to reside as a result of the person's deportation, expulsion or other removal by compulsion of law from another country to the UK (including EEA nationals exercising EU Treaty rights, who were previously settled in the UK prior to deportation).
- C. Persons whose only right to reside in the UK is an initial right for no more than 3 months, including those who would become an unreasonable burden on the social assistance system of the UK.
- D. Persons who are excluded by section 115 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 to entitlement to universal credit under Part 1 of the Welfare Reform Act 2012 or to housing benefit.

Where there is any uncertainty about an Applicant's immigration status, the Local Authority shall contact the Home Office. Before doing so, Applicants will be advised that such inquiries will be made in order to comply with data protection legislation. Confirmation of the immigration status of an Applicant from abroad will be obtained, where necessary, from the Home Office by emailing EvidenceandEnquiry@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk.

[ENDS]

Appendix 3



Equality and Safety Impact Assessment

The **Public Sector Equality Duty** (Section 149 of the Equality Act) requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people carrying out their activities.

The Equality Duty supports good decision making – it encourages public bodies to be more efficient and effective by understanding how different people will be affected by their activities, so that their policies and services are appropriate and accessible to all and meet different people's needs. The Council's Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) includes an assessment of the community safety impact assessment to comply with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act and will enable the Council to better understand the potential impact of proposals and consider mitigating action.

Name or Brief	New Housing Allocations Policy
Description of	
Proposal	
D : (O : D ()	/

Brief Service Profile (including number of customers)

The council in its role as a housing authority is required to publish its Allocations scheme detailing how it will allocate social housing in the city, in line with the requirements of S.166A of the Housing Act 1996. The Allocations policy details how applicants are prioritised. The current allocations scheme allocates points to applicants based on their circumstances. Applicants receive one point per month for waiting in addition to the other points which relate to their particular circumstances. The points based system has existed in some form for at least 15 years.

To date there are just over 8,000 live applications on the Housing Needs Register in Southampton. However only 768 lets were made via the Homebid choice based lettings scheme in 2022/23. This is down from 1447 lets made in 2014/15.

Summary of Impact and Issues

Demand for affordable housing is increasing and yet the council is receiving fewer properties to let.

Applications which were made a long time ago have accrued many hundreds of points simply by virtue of waiting a long time. They are often in a position to be successful in bidding for ever more scarcely available properties to the detriment of those who applied later but are in more acute need. Due to the diminishing supply of properties (particularly larger homes), there has been an increase in the level of stage 1 and stage 2 complaints against the council which in the main originate from an ever-growing number of households seeking a dwindling supply of homes. The

current policy, as designed, sometimes requires officers to seek exceptions to policy in order to meet this unmet acute need which risks undermining confidence in the policy and the council's ability to be equitable in its treatment of all applicants.

Additionally, a points based system is used less widely by other authorities; most housing authorities use a banding system which is often considered to be simpler to understand. For example, in the current policy there are 18 different points categories available and three different applicant categories who may be entitled to those points categories.

The new policy is designed to have only four bands in order of priority, and no distinct applicant categories. It is designed to give the greatest priority (i.e. the greatest chance of being housed) to those applicants who are in the highest need. The length of time waiting for housing will be less of a determining factor; in most cases the tiebreaker for separating two applicants with the same priority will be the date they were awarded that priority rather than the length of time waiting as a whole.

The new policy also introduces a penalty for repeatedly refusing offers of accommodation, to ensure that bids placed for properties are to those who genuinely want a need to take up the offer of a new home.

The consultation feedback showed that 61% of respondents agreed with the proposal to change the number of offers an applicant can refuse. 56% of those currently on the Southampton Housing register also agreed with this proposal, while 29% disagreed.

Applicants will be required to re-register their application under the new policy. This means all existing applications will be closed. There is very little change to the overall eligibility rules to join the housing needs register so the vast majority of applicants will still qualify for rehousing. However, not all will receive the same level of overall priority. Of those who wish to reapply, the applicants most impacted will be those who have waited a long time and accrued significant points simply by virtue of waiting- but as long as their circumstances have not changed, they are likely to still be permitted to remain on the housing needs register.

Since the policy was last considered for amendment by Cabinet (September 2019), over 3,400 applicants have not placed any bids for a property and over 2,600 have not even logged into the Homebid website to view properties available. A significant proportion of the 8,000 applicants on the register are likely to be, either no longer interested in being rehoused or have moved and not updated their details. Because they remain on the register, this gives a misleading impression of the true level of housing need in the city. With all applicants requiring to re-register onto an upgraded I.T system, the council will gain better intelligence as to housing need trends enabling it to support those who are in housing need.

The council will assist those who may struggle or be unable to re-register. It will do this initially by contacting all applicants either digitally- or by letter where necessary-to inform them of the proposed changes and invite them to participate in the consultation process.

Once the new policy is adopted, there will likely be a transition period where applicants will need to re-register on a new customer platform by a certain date. Providing applicants do this and still qualify, they will retain their original qualifying date.

The council will identify vulnerable applicants already on the Housing Needs Register- such as those who need to move due to a serious medical need or those fleeing violence- and manually convert those applications into a new application compliant with the new policy. It will consider doing similar for existing applicants who are elderly or need to move due to a disability. Consideration will also be given to migrating all existing applications into the new policy and customer platform, to save applicants having to reapply themselves at the point the new policy is adopted. However, this will depend on the feasibility of this including whether existing/new I.T. partners can offer this functionality. If this is not feasible, the council will use its staffing resources- such as colleagues in our customer service centre, Local Housing Offices and Supported Housing Services to offer practical assistance to re-register for those who require it.

The consultation response showed that 48% of respondents agreed with the requirement for applicants to re-register on an annual basis. 38% felt it would have a negative impact. The main concerns raised by respondents were that it would cause them stress and concern. We will aim to make the process as simple as possible with assistance provided to applicants that need support.

If the policy is approved by Cabinet, all applicants will be written to informing them of the changes and the transitional period during which they will be required to reregister. Staff within Housing Needs, Supported Housing and Local Housing Offices will be trained to offer practical assistance to re-register onto the new system to those who may be less able to do so without support. In most cases this will involve staff members taking an application over the telephone but will, where required, be conducted in person. A programme of communications including team briefings with relevant Adult Social Care, Childrens' Service, Supported Housing and Housing Management teams will be conducted alongside the usual customer portal and social media messaging which accompanied the public consultation. The Allocations service will also take all practical steps available to identify from existing case management systems applicants whose protected characteristics may indicate a need for support- including but not exclusively- care leavers, those fleeing abuse and those who may be vulnerable by reasons of age or disability.

If any applicant does not re-register within 12 months of the first communication to them about re-registering but contacts the council later, the council will consider whether to use its discretion to accept a late re-registration taking into account the circumstances and needs of the individual and the council's duties under the Public Sector Equalities Duty.

Following the public consultation we received 428 responses. The responses were made of 241 current housing register applicants, 19 responses who wanted to apply for the housing register, 118 council tenants, 3 social housing providers, 238 residents in Southampton, 5 non- Southampton residents, 87 that was somebody that works,live or studies in Southampton, 4 responses from businesses, 5 responses from Public Sector Organisations, 5 responses from third sector organisations and 41 responses from Southampton City Council Staff and 4 Political members and 17 responses from other.

Under half of the respondents agreed with the proposal to replace a point-based scheme with a banding scheme (46%). Those on the Southampton Housing register had the highest level of disagreement with 47%. Those aged 65+ had the highest level of agreement with 63%.

Potential Positive Impacts

- The policy will replace 18 points categories and 3 applicant categories with 4 bands of priority so will be simpler to understand for the applicant.
- Households in the greatest need will be allocated homes above those who have simply waited a long time.
- The council will require every applicant to re-register under the new allocations system and require everyone to re-register annually. This will give a better indicator of the true level of housing need in the city.
- Refusal penalties will discourage bids from applicants who do not need to move; reduce staff processing times and contribute to reducing void rent loss. This provides an overall benefit to the Housing service and its customers.

Responsible Service Manager	Katie Evans, Allocations & Advice Manager
Date	January 2024
Approved by Senior Manager	Maria Byrne, Service Lead, Housing Needs & Welfare
Date	January 2024

Potential Impact

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
Age	 Young people- care leavers are assigned priority within the policy. There are currently 538 Looked After Children aged 16-25 years old in the council's care. They will be assigned priority in this policy for social housing under the new scheme. If they are ready for independent living, they will receive the second-highest priority band. Young people- aged over 16 receive entitlement to their own bedroom. Older people- a small number of applicants aged 60+ who currently receive 200 downsizing points for giving up general needs, 2-bedroom housing to move to 60+ accommodation will be placed into Band B, rather than continuing to receive the highest priority. Those applicants aged 60+ who are in general need with 2 bedrooms. They will be placed into Band B. 	Young people- care leavers: The policy for the first time includes care leavers a specified group entitled to priority within the bidding process. Those ready to move into independent living receive the second-highest band. This is contingent on an assessment conducted by Children's Services and a quota of total lets per year. Previously, care leavers did not receive a specified priority and had to spend a long time waiting. The 'ready to move' and quota requirements seek to ensure an allocation to a care leaver is sustainable and provides positive outcomes for some of the city's most vulnerable clients. The quota and assessment process will be regularly reviewed with Children's Services colleagues. Young people- aged over 16 For the first time, younger adults will not be expected to share a bedroom with a

Impact	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions &
Assessment		sibling of the same sex. This will increase some applicants' bedroom entitlement, meaning it could be harder for some households with children to be rehoused into large properties. To mitigate this, the council has inserted a paragraph in the main body of the policy explaining that applicants can still move to a smaller property if it will represent an improvement to their housing situation. This provision means there is no adverse impact on this group arising from the change in policy.
		Older people aged 60+ This group of people will still receive the second highest band. Due to the nature of the accommodation, they may bid for (it is a requirement to be 60+ to access the new housing) they receive an adjustment which other, younger applicants do not benefit from. Therefore, compete against a much smaller pool of applicants.
	46% of respondents said the proposed changes would have a negative impact. Those under the age of 35 found this proposal to have the most negative impact (54%) compared to other age groups.	Age is not a consideration when assessing an applicants housing need unless it is for age designated accommodation.
Disability	 Applicants who require wheelchair property. Applicants with acute medical/welfare need. Applicants who need to move on medical grounds including grounds relating to a disabili 	Applicants who require wheelchair property These applicants are not able to bid but instead direct offers are made. This is due to the specialist nature of the property required and the risk that if wheelchair properties, which are very scarce, were

Impact	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions &
Assessment		Mitigating Actions
	48% of respondents who identified as having a disability were concerned about the impact the changes would have on them. 48% of respondents who identified as having a disability were concerned about the impact the changes would have on them.	advertised, they could be allocated to people who may not make full use of the home. The direct letting procedure provides a more tailored approach to allocating homes to people with significant disabilities and as such is considered preferable. Applicants are still able to express choice of property and area, in much the same way as those who bid for available vacancies. Additionally, there is no refusal penalty unlike those who are required to bid, thus providing a further adjustment to help meet need. Applicants with acute medical/welfare need As above these applicants are directly offered properties on occasion (e.g if they have not accepted an offer through the usual bidding process). Choice will still be considered by officers making decisions but will not be the determining factor. Applicants in this situation will benefit over and above all other applicants in that they will be offered properties before they are advertised, mitigating the risk of the policy restricting their access to housing Applicants who need to move on medical grounds including grounds relating to a disability Applicants whose only
		identified housing need is

Impact	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions &
Assessment	- Samo or impuor	Mitigating Actions
		physical or mental disability
		will be placed into band C3, a
		lower band. In the case of
		those who need to move due
		to a physical disability, e.g. to
		ground floor accommodation,
		property adverts will continue
		to be designed to give them
		priority over those in higher
		bands who do not require this
		adjustment. It is therefore not
		anticipated there will be any
		lengthening in rehousing
		times for those who need to
		move on mobility grounds.
		Applicants who need to
		move on medical/welfare
		grounds but who do not
		require a specific property
		type
		These applicants will in the main be placed into band
		C(3). The council will consider
		in each case whether the
		threshold for Band A1 is met, taking into account the likely
		waiting time if no further
		priority was given.
		priority was given.
		A benefit of introducing this
		new policy and accompanying
		IT system is that it will enable
		better intelligence and
		business reporting, assisting
		with examining trends relating
		to different applicants'
		rehousing prospects, helping
		to inform policy development
		in the future.
		W
		If an applicant's need
		changes due to a change in
		their health any additional
		information provided would be

Impact	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions &
Assessment		Mitigating Actions
		reassessed and their banding
		will be updated if this resulted
		in a band change.
Gender	Children who identify as a different	This may indicate an increase in bedroom need which in turn
Reassignment	gender to the one assigned at birth	may increase the length of
		time to be rehoused. The
		council will consider on a
		case-by case basis whether
		these cases should result in
		an award of a medical/welfare priority. An award may result
		in the applicant either
		qualifying for housing where
		previously they did not, or
		increase their existing priority.
Care Experienced	Addressed in Age	N/A
Marriage and	None identified	N/A
Civil Partnership		
Pregnancy and	None identified	N/A
Maternity Race	There must be a need to live together	Where an applicant wants to
Nacc	in order for people to be included in	include extended family
	applications. This may impact people	members in an application but
	who live in extended families which is	there is no 'need' to live
	common in some communities.	together as defined by the
		policy, the council will offer advice on housing
		arrangements and other
		housing options which will
		allow families to remain living
		together in the home or close
		by. This could include considering whether to offer
		an applicant a property with
		fewer bedrooms if it were to
		result in an overall
		improvement to the housing
		situation- as identified in
		paragraph 90 of the policy- or considering on a case-by-
		case basis whether to make
		an exception to policy- e.g.
		where there has been a long-
		established extended family
		living arrangement within the household.
Religion or	None identified	N/A
Belief		7 1 11 11 11
Sex	Local connection criteria may impact	The council will comply with
	survivors of domestic abuse (DA) who	its duties under Domestic

Impact	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions &
Assessment		Mitigating Actions
	have fled to Southampton, and are statistically much more likely to be women	Abuse and Homelessness legislation and not apply residency criteria where there is unmet housing need and DA is the reason for having moved to the city.
Sexual Orientation	None identified	N/A
Community Safety	Housing of offenders	The policy details that the council will not house those who are considered unsuitable to be a tenant. In making a decision to rehouse an offender or applicants considered to pose a risk to the community, the council will consult with relevant agencies (e.g. Policy, Probation service) and its housing colleagues. Risk assessments are carried out when, during the application process, a history of offending or prison time is identified. Risk assessments place restrictions upon or void the application.
Poverty	The council is not able to rehouse most applicants in housing need quickly; the council will place some applicants in band D where they have unpaid debt	 Officers involved in processing applications to the housing needs register will offer advice on housing options and be trained to identify indicators of acute need, e.g. DA or risk of homelessness. Where the council places people in band D for unpaid housing debt, it will only be where the applicant is, despite the best efforts of the council, avoiding engaging with the council. We expect the numbers of people placed into this band for this reason to be very small and only reserved to those who have demonstrated

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
Assessment		consistent non- compliance and non- engagement.
Health & Wellbeing	The 'cost of living' crisis may squeeze household budgets, and therefore, affect the health and wellbeing of families and individuals.	Paragraph 44 of the policy details that the council will in exceptional cases make direct offers of accommodation to people in the most need. This may include those who, for example, are living in insanitary accommodation impacting health and wellbeing.
		Other categories of applicant in urgent housing need will be placed into band A and in effect, are guaranteed an offer after they have been in the band for 3 months. People with less acute health/wellbeing needs will often be in band B or C, which means they will have a realistic prospect of rehousing.
		The council will update its letting plan to take into account health and wellbeing issues as time develops, this may result in adverts for properties on occasion being restricted to certain categories of applicant (giving them preference over applicants with no health/wellbeing considerations)
Other Significant Impacts	Community safety	The policy will allow the council to determine someone is unsuitable to be a tenant for example if they have caused anti-social behaviour or committed violent/hate crimes. For potentially risky applicants who are accepted onto the register the council

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
		will liaise with the Police, Probation service and other agencies to ensure the applicant is housed in the most appropriate area and type of home





Contents



- Introduction and Methodology
- Respondents
 - Proposal to replace a point-based scheme with a banding scheme
- Proposed changes to the number of offers an applicant can refuse
- Proposed change that allows children to be entitled to their own bedroom from the age of 16
- Proposed changes to the amount of time an applicant must have lived in Southampton
- Proposal to require applicants to re-register every year
- <u>Proposed requirement that existing tenants have an inspection before they move that confirms a property has been kept to an acceptable standard</u>
- Reading the draft strategy
- Homebid



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Introduction & methodology





Southampton City Council undertook a public consultation on a Draft Allocations Policy consultation.

This consultation took place between 30/01/2024 – 18/03/2024 and received 428 responses.

The aim of this consultation was to:

- Communicate clearly to residents and stakeholders the proposals for the Draft Allocations Policy consultation;
- Ensure any resident, business or stakeholder in Southampton that wished to comment on the proposals had the opportunity to do so, enabling them to Allow participants to propose alternative suggestions for consideration which they feel could achieve the objectives of the policy in a different way.

The primary method of gathering feedback for this consultation was via online questionnaire. Physical paper versions of the questionnaire were also made available, and respondents could also email yourcity.yoursay@southampton.gov.uk with their feedback, as well as respond by post.

This report summarises the aims, principles, methodology and results of the public consultation. It provides a summary of the consultation responses both for the consideration of decision makers and any interested individuals and stakeholders.

It is important to be mindful that a consultation is not a vote, it is an opportunity for stakeholders to express their views, concerns and alternatives to a proposal. This report outlines in detail the representations made during the consultation period so that decision makers can consider what has been said alongside other information.

Southampton City Council is committed to consultations of the highest standard and which are meaningful and comply with the *Gunning Principles*, considered to be the legal standard for consultations:

- 1. Proposals are still at a formative stage (a final decision has not yet been made);
- 2. There is sufficient information put forward in the proposals to allow 'intelligent consideration';
- 3. There is adequate time for consideration and response, and;
- 4. Conscientious consideration must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is made.



New Conversations 2.0 LGA guide to engagement

Rules: The Gunning Principles

They were coined by Stephen Sedley QC in a court case in 1985 relating to a school closure consultation (R v London Borough of Brent ex parte Gunning). Prior to this, very little consideration had been given to the laws of consultation. Sedley defined that a consultation is only legitimate when these four principles are met:

- proposals are still at a formative stage
 A final decision has not yet been made, or predetermined, by the decision makers
- there is sufficient information to give 'intelligent consideration'
 The information provided must relate to the consultation and must be available, accessible, and easily interpretable for consultees to provide an informed response
- 3. there is adequate time for consideration and response
 There must be sufficient opportunity for consultees to participate in the consultation. There is no set timeframe for consultation, despite the widely accepted twelve-week consultation period, as the length of time given for consultee to respond can vary depending on the subject and extent of impact of the consultation
- 'conscientious consideration' must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is made
 Decision-makers should be able to provide evidence that they took consultation responses into account

These principles were reinforced in 2001 in the 'Coughlan Case (R v North and East Devon Health Authority ex parte Coughlan²), which involved a health authority closure and confirmed that they applied to all consultations, and then in a Supreme Court case in 2014 (R ex parte Moseley v LB Haringey³), which endorsed the legal standing of the four principles. Since then, the Gunning Principles have formed a strong legal foundation from which the legitimacy of public consultations is assessed, and are frequently referred to as a legal basis for judicial review decisions.⁴

⁴ The information used to produce this document has been taken from the Law of Consultation training course provided by The Consultation Institute





¹ In some local authorities, their local voluntary Compact agreement with the third sector may specify the length of time they are required to consult for. However, in many cases, the Compact is either inactive or has been cancelled so the consultation timeframe is open to debate

² BAILII, England and Wales Court of Appeal (Civil Decision) Decisions, Accessed: 13 December 2016.

³ BAILII, United Kingdom Supreme Court, Accessed: 13 December 2016



Methodology & promotion



The agreed approach for this consultation was to use an online questionnaire as the main route for feedback; questionnaires enable an appropriate amount of explanatory and supporting information to be included in a structured way, helping to ensure respondents are aware of the background and detail of the proposals.

Respondents could also write letters or emails to provide feedback on the proposals: emails or letters from stakeholders that contained consultation feedback were collated and analysed as a part of the overall consultation.

The consultation was promoted in the following ways:

people on the Housing Needs Register either emailed, texted or written too.

Housing Tenants – Article in the edition of Tenants' link and attendance at 3x groups organised by the tenant Engagement Team Social housing landlords

- [∞]Social Media
- Nextdoor
- eBulletin
- Internal All Staff Bulletin
- Housing Internal Bulletin
- Tenants' Link

All questionnaire results have been analysed and presented in graphs within this report. Respondents were also given opportunities throughout the questionnaire to provide written feedback on the proposals. All written responses and questionnaire comments have been read and then assigned to categories based upon sentiment or theme.



Who are the respondents?

Age

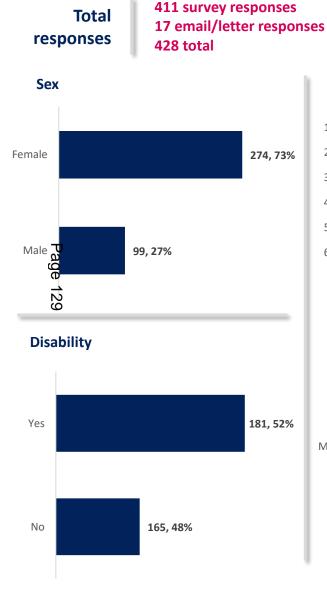
groups

Other ethnic group

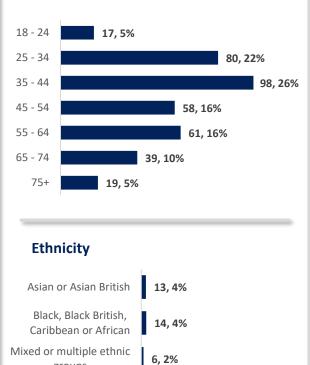
White British

White other





Graphs on this page are labelled as percentage (count).

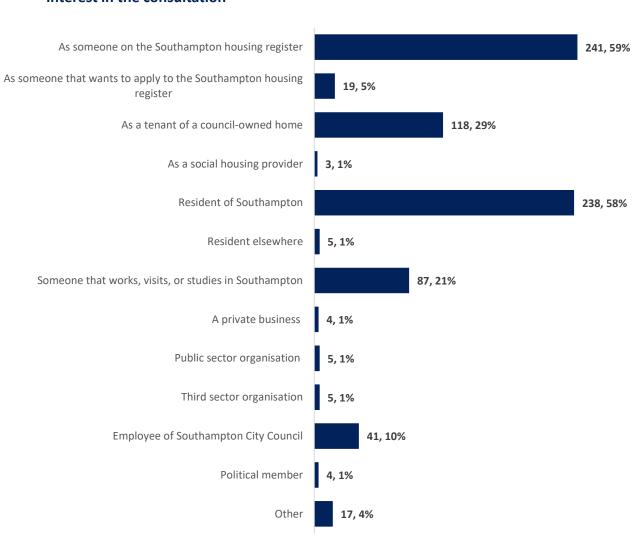


4, 1%

29,8%

291, 82%

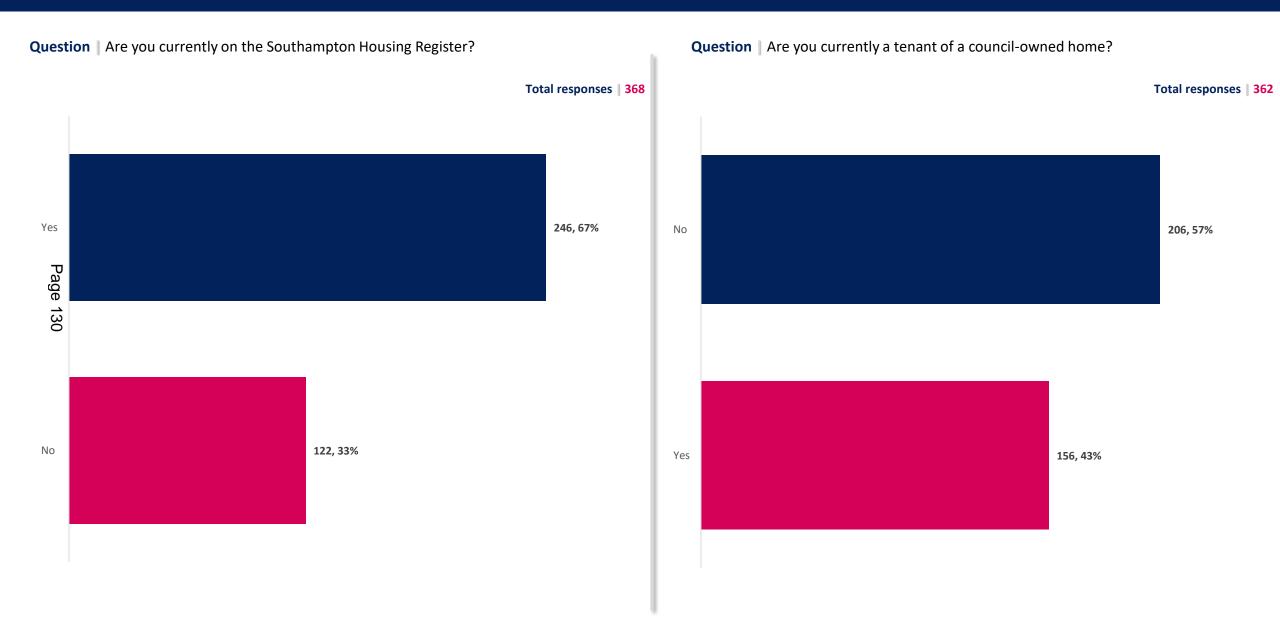
Interest in the consultation





Southampton Housing Register & Tenant of a council-owned home







Consultation feedback



Proposal to replace a point-based scheme with a banding scheme



Current policy:

Currently, the council allocates social housing using a points-based system. Applicants receive a certain number of points based upon their circumstances, and then also receive one point per month for waiting.

Proposed changes:

We are proposing to replace the point-based system with a banding scheme. The banding scheme would start from Band A (highest level of priority) down to Band D. Applicants would be placed into bands according to their circumstances and the degree of their housing need and those with the highest need will be given the great priority. We are not proposing any changes to who is eligible to join the Housing Needs Register itself.

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The reason for proposing this change, is to ensure that those with the highest need for housing are given the highest priority. It should make the process simpler to understand, easier to administer and is also a system that is used more widely by other councils.

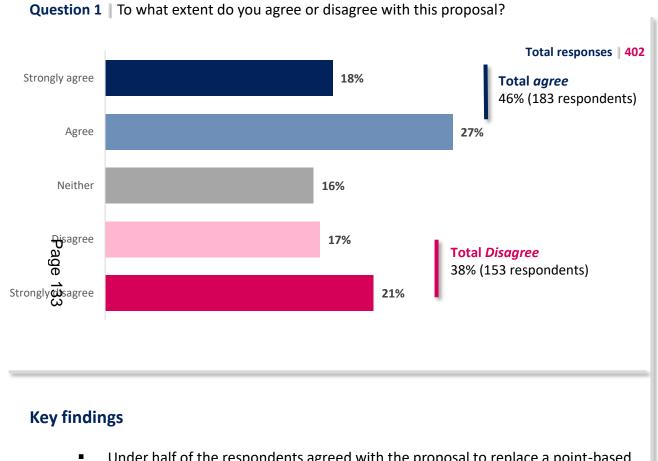
Under the proposed scheme, the tiebreaker for separating two applicants with the same band will be the date they were awarded the band (or when they would have been assigned to that band in the past if we had always used a banding system). If two applicants have the same band date, the tiebreaker will be the date they first qualified for the Housing Needs Register.

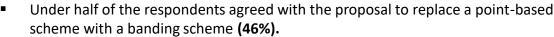
The following table sets out what each band includes:

Band	Band name
Α	1. Urgent housing needs: A life-threatening illness or sudden disability
	2. Urgent housing needs: Social housing tenants at risk of violence or threats of violence, including intimidated witnesses, and those escaping serious antisocial behaviour or domestic abuse. The tenant's landlord must decide whether they are required to move for these reasons. Private tenants, owner-occupiers and those with no housing will be referred to the council's Homelessness service.
	3. Under occupation: Social housing tenants who are giving up 3+ bedroom social housing.
	4. Efficient use of Housing Stock: Giving up a wheelchair-accessible or extensively adapted home which is no longer needed.
	5. Decant: Council tenants whose home is part of a regeneration scheme.
	6. Decant: Council tenants whose home is being permanently disposed of (e.g. due to disrepair).
В	1. Main Homeless Duty: The applicant is owed the main housing duty under s.193(2) of the Housing Act 1996 and is ready to move on from temporary accommodation.
	2. Under occupation: Giving up 2-bedroom social housing which is no longer needed.
	3. Efficient use of Housing Stock: Giving up ground-floor social housing which is no longer needed.
	4. Care Leavers Move – On: A young person who has been looked after, fostered or accommodated by the council and is now ready for independent living.
	5. Applicants with two or more categories in Band C2-C4.
С	1. Homeless Prevention or Relief Duty: Applicants owed the prevention or relief duties under Part VII of the Housing Act 1996.
	2. Applicants occupying insanitary, overcrowded, or unsatisfactory housing conditions.
	3. Medical /welfare need: Applicants with an assessed welfare reason to move home, including grounds related to a disability.
	4. Hardship: Applicants who need to move to a particular locality in Southampton to avoid hardship to themselves or others.
	5. Right to Move: Any social housing tenant in England who needs to move to Southampton under the Right to Move regulations.
D	Intentionally Homeless: Applicants who are homeless within the meaning of Part VII of the Housing Act but who are considered to be intentionally homeless.
	2. Housing related debt: Applicants who have housing related debt owed to the council or a social landlord and are not repaying this or do not have a repayment plan agreed.
	3. Care Leavers Not Ready to Move: A young person who has been looked after, fostered or accommodated by the council but is not yet ready for independent living.
	4. Refusal penalty: Applicants who have refused 3 offers of accommodation will be placed in Band D for six months.

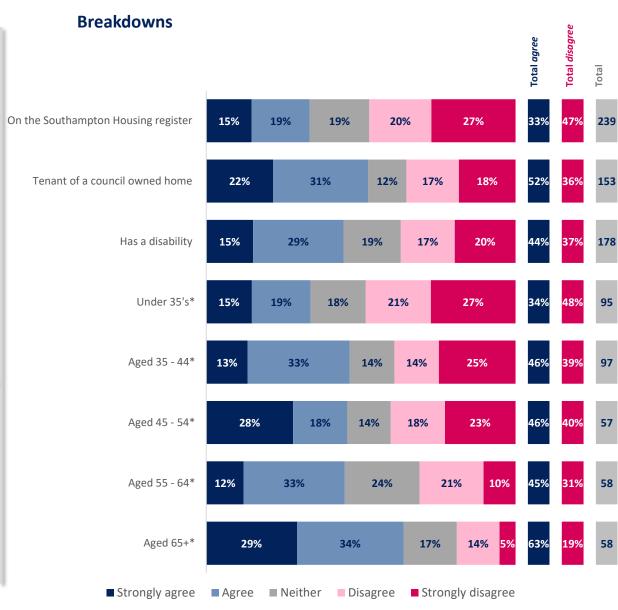






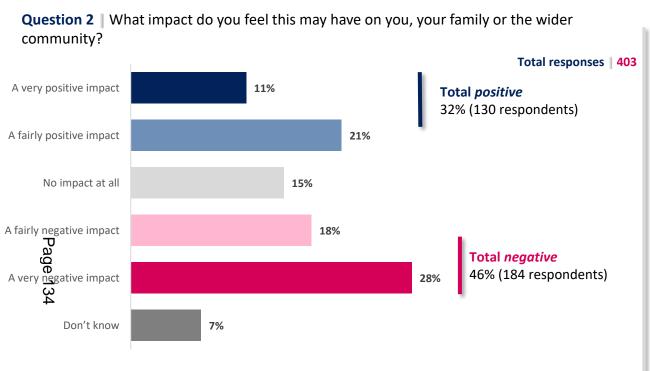


- Those on the Southampton Housing register had the highest level of disagreement with 47%.
- Those aged 65+ had the highest level of agreement with 63%.



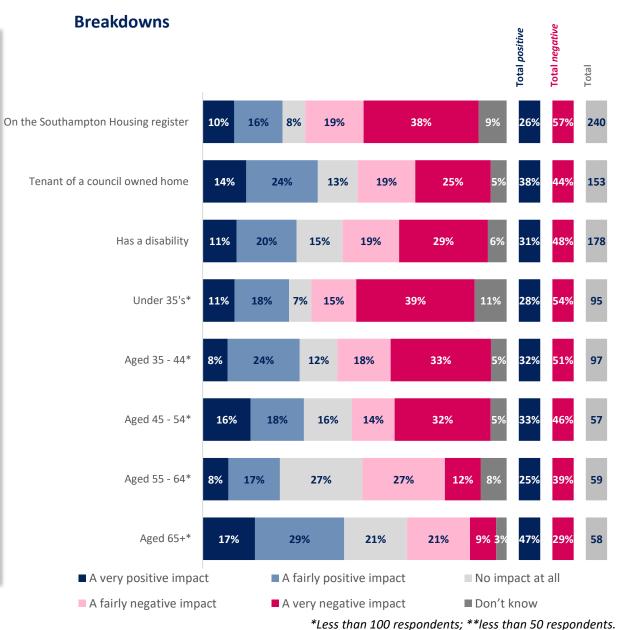








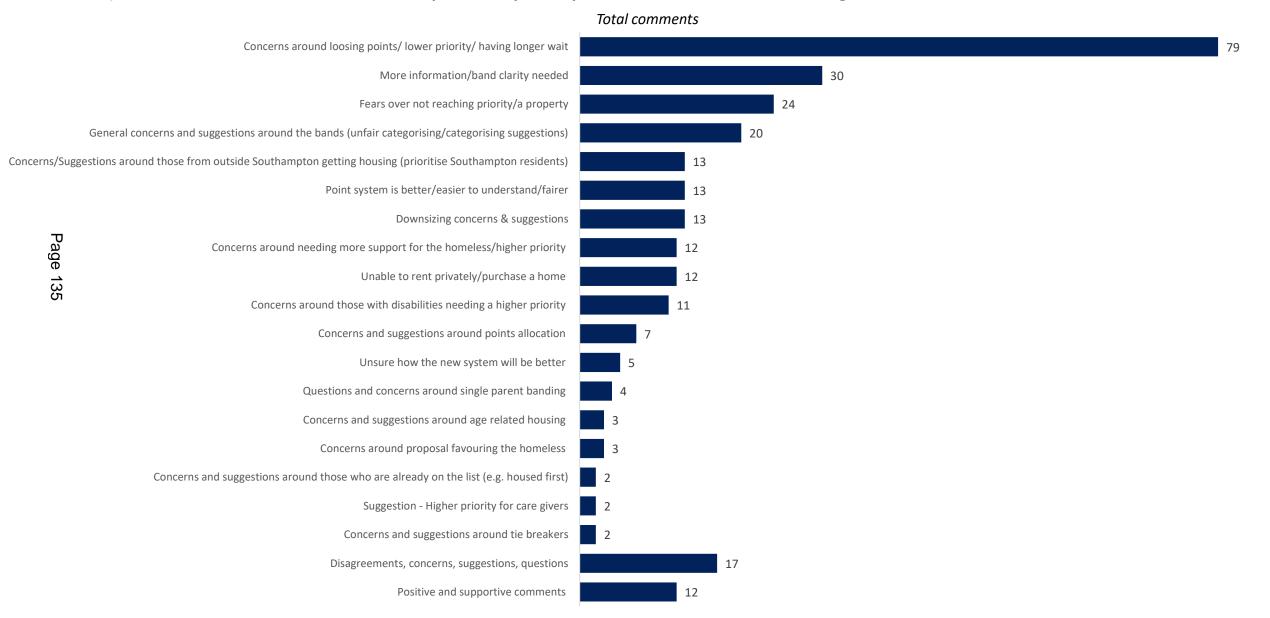
- 46% of respondents said this proposal would have a negative impact.
- Those under the age of 35 found this proposal to have the most negative impact (54%) compared to other age groups.
- Those currently a **tenant of a council owned home** found replacing a point based scheme with a banding scheme to have more a **positive impact (38%)** than those on the **Southampton Housing register (26%).**



Free Text Comments



Total comments | 201





Consultation feedback

Page 1

Proposed changes to the number of offers an applicant can refuse



Proposed changes to the number of offers an applicant can refuse



Current policy:

Applicants use the Homebid site to view available properties and make bids for homes they are eligible and interested in. If the applicant is offered a property, currently they can refuse as many offers as they would like without penalty.

Proposed changes:

We are proposing that if three suitable offers are refused by an applicant, the applicant will be placed into Band D (the lowest priority band) for a total of 6 months. If a suitable offer is refused a fourth time, the applicant would be removed from the Housing Needs Register.

We are proposing these changes as refusal of properties is time consuming for the council and can result in potential rent being lost.

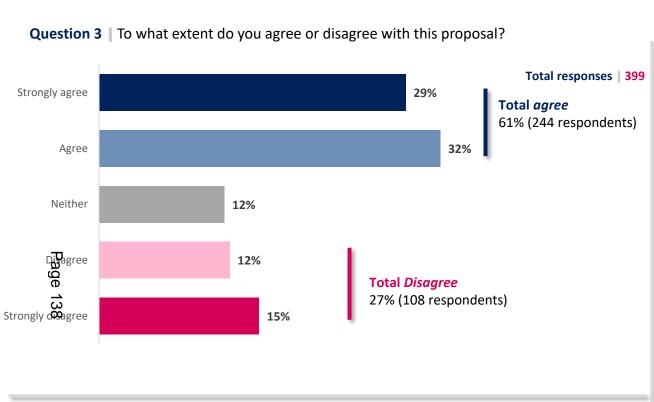
Times when this would not apply include:

- Applicants placed in Band A1 and A2 (those needing to move due to urgent medical or welfare needs and people escaping violence or intimidation), will receive one offer. If this offer is refused, they will be placed back into their previous band. If the applicant did not previously have a band, they will be removed from the Housing Needs Register.
- The Council will continue with the policy that if an urgent Adapted Property Direct Let is refused by an applicant, they will no longer be considered and wait in turn.



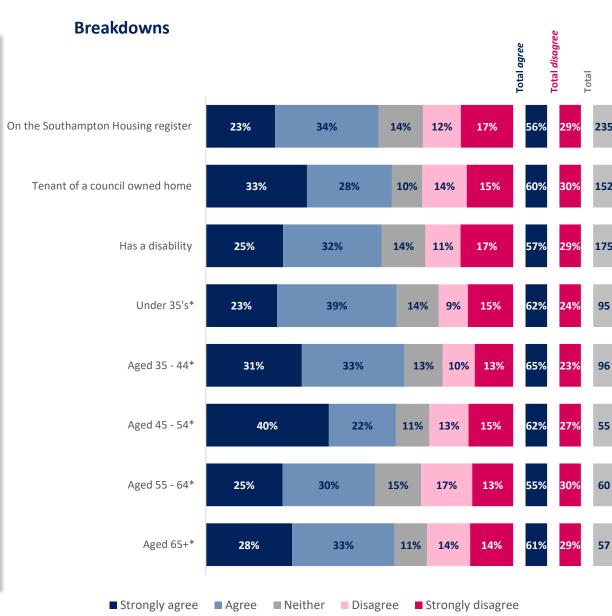
Proposed changes to the number of offers an applicant can refuse







- 61% of respondents agreed with the proposal to change the number of offers an applicant can refuse.
- 56% of those currently on the Southampton Housing register also agreed with this proposal, while 29% disagreed.

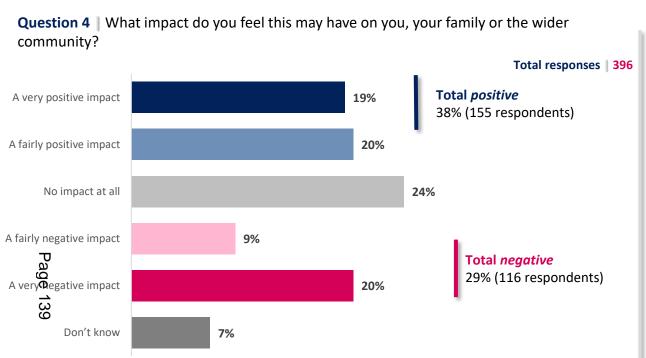


*Less than 100 respondents; **less than 50 respondents.



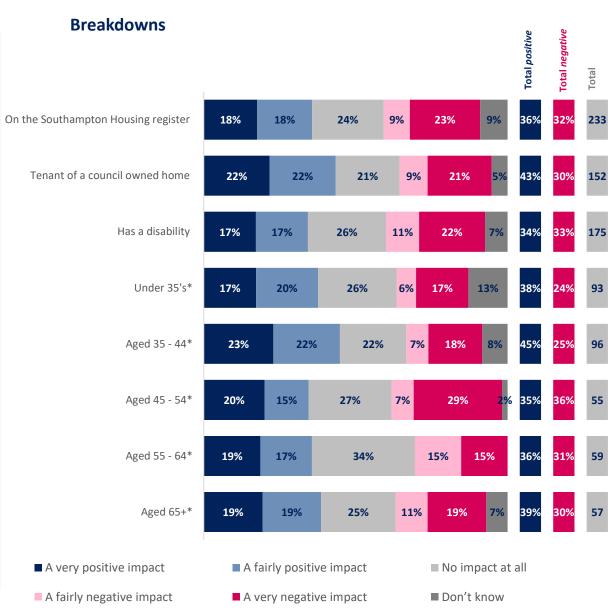
Proposed changes to the number of offers an applicant can refuse







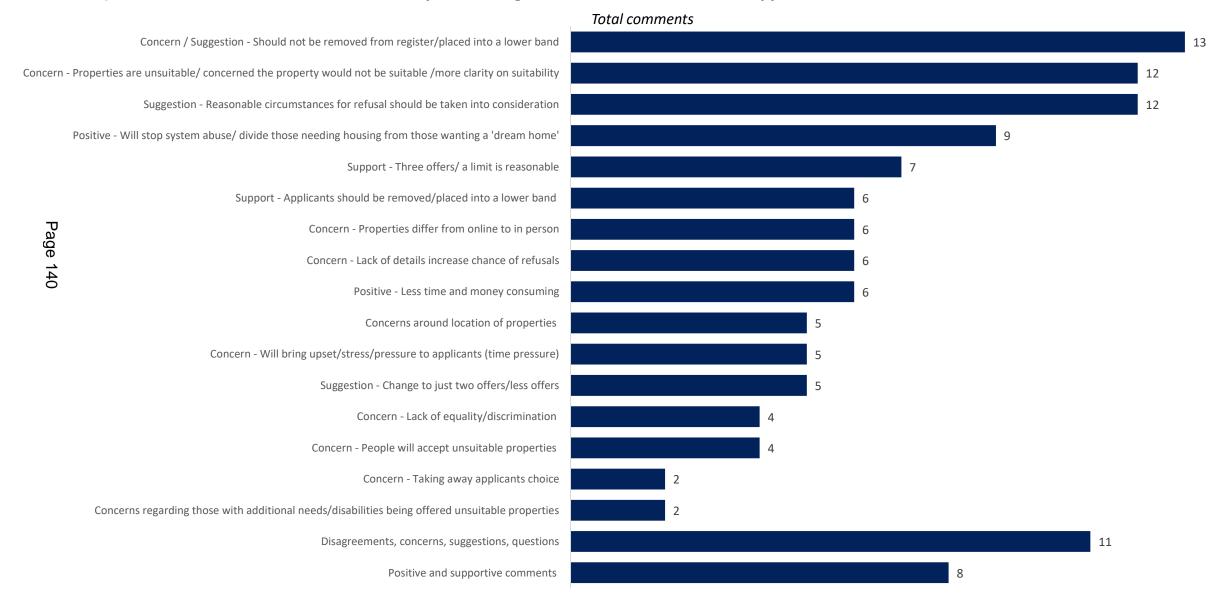
- Respondents were more split in their views on impact, however **38%** said changing the number of offers an applicant can refuse will have a **positive impact**, compared to **29%** negative impact.
- Those with disabilities (34% positive and 33% negative) and those aged between 45-54 (35% positive and 36% negative) were closely divided.





Total comments | 105

Proposed changes to the number of offers an applicant can refuse





Consultation feedback

Proposed change that allows children to be entitled to their own bedroom from the age of 16







Current policy:

Currently two children of the same sex are expected to share a bedroom regardless of their age gap.

Proposed changes:

We are proposing that children will be entitled to their own bedroom from the age of 16. This mirrors the rules that currently apply to tenants in the private sector, with regard to Housing Benefit and Local Housing allowance regulations.

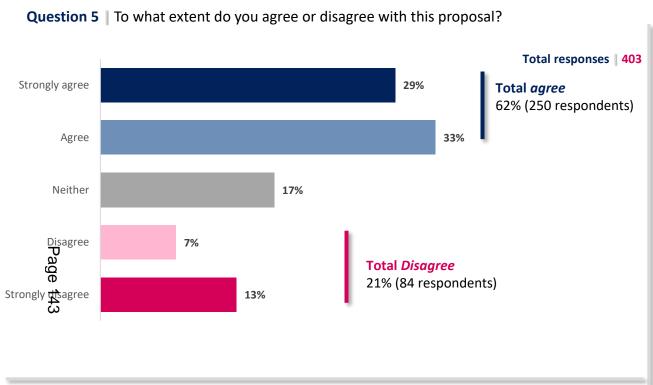
This may mean that there is a longer wait for larger properties. However, the council can still offer smaller properties to families if they would prefer to move sooner and if this would improve their housing situation.

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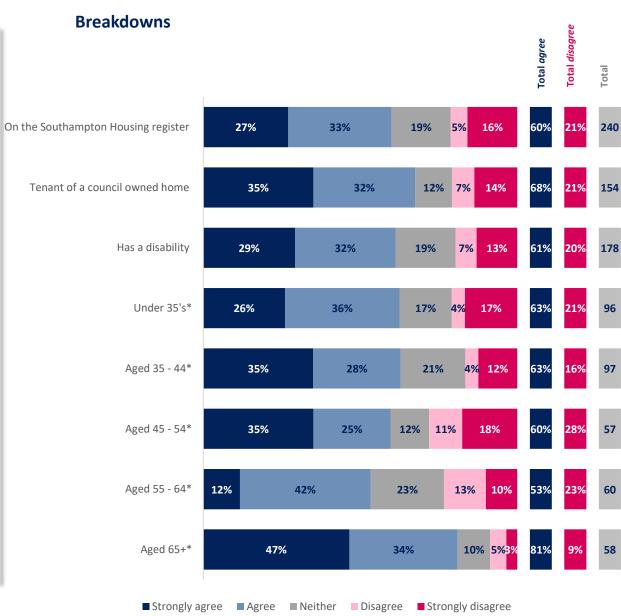
Proposed change that allows children to be entitled to their own bedroom from the age of 16







- Respondents had a higher agreement for the proposal to allow children to be entitled to their own bedroom from the age of 16 (62%).
- All breakdowns had a larger agreement than disagreement for this proposal.

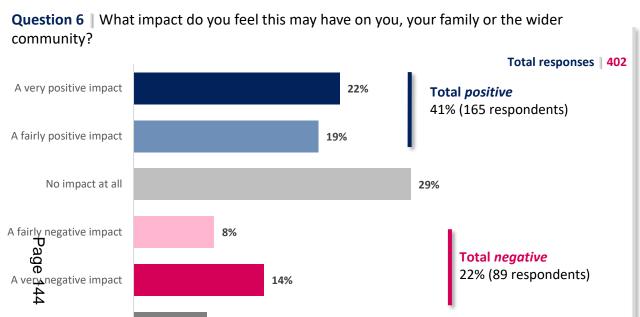


*Less than 100 respondents; **less than 50 respondents.



Proposed change that allows children to be entitled to their own bedroom from the age of 16



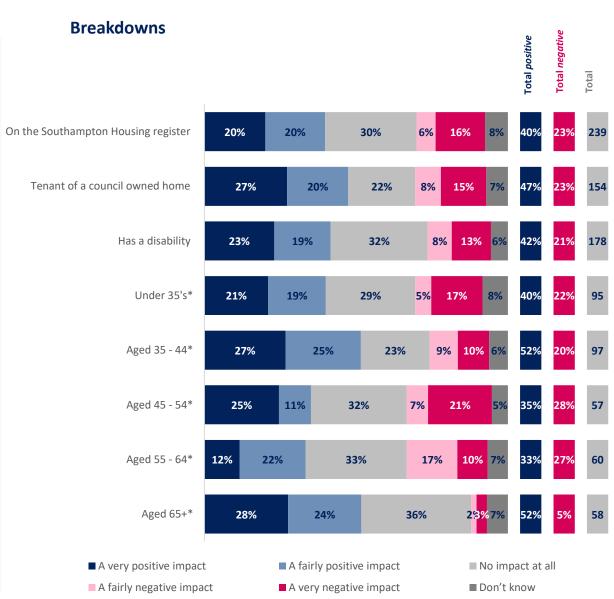




Don't know

8%

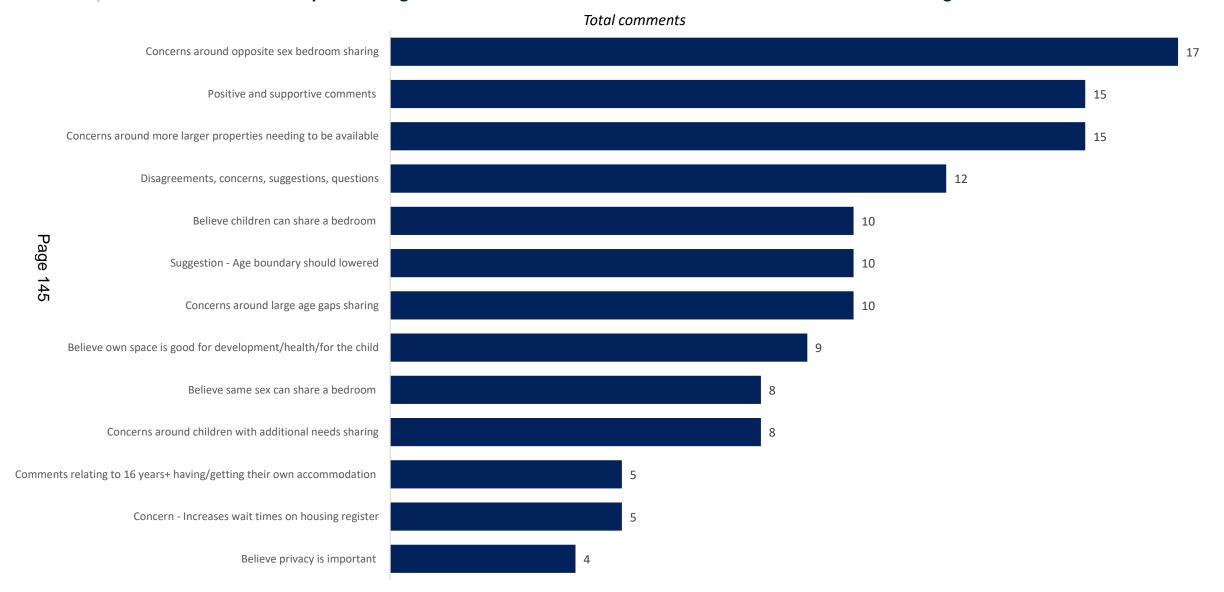
- 29% of respondents said this proposal would have no impact at all on them.
- **47%** of respondents who are currently a **tenant of a council owned home** said this proposal would have a **positive impact.**





Total comments | 101

Proposed change that allows children to be entitled to their own bedroom from the age of 16





Consultation feedback

Proposed changes to the amount of time an applicant must have lived in Southampton



Proposed changes to the amount of time an applicant must have lived in Southampton



Current policy:

Currently, applicants must have lived in Southampton for three continuous years before they are allowed to be on the Housing Needs Register.

Proposed changes:

We are proposing that applicants can apply to the Housing Needs Register if they have lived in Southampton for three out of the past five years.

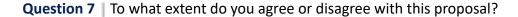
This means that those who have had to leave Southampton to find temporary accommodation, would not be excluded from the Housing Needs Register for that reason.

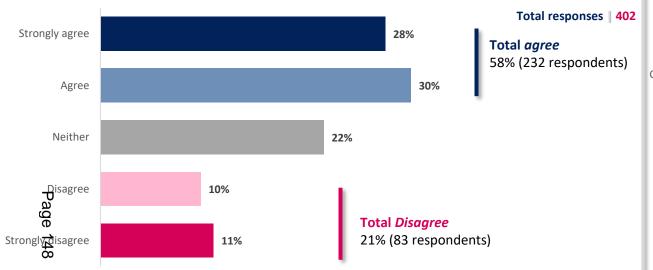
Page



Proposed changes to the amount of time an applicant must have lived in Southampton

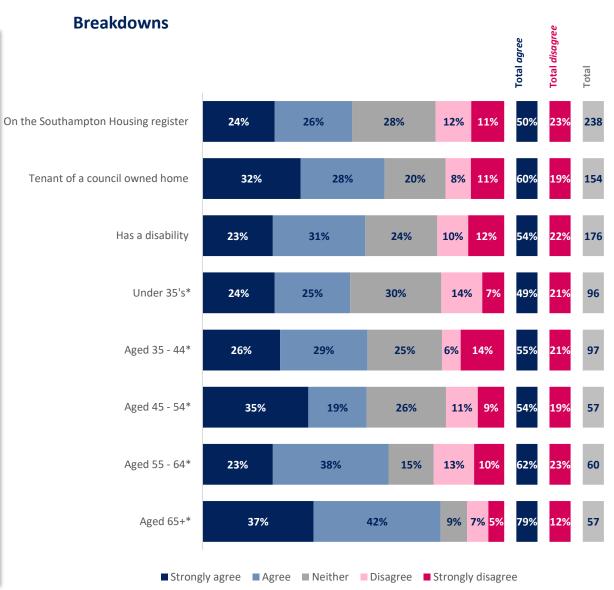






Key findings

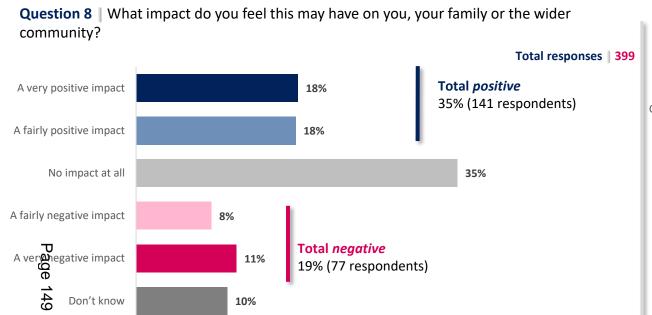
- This proposal was met with 58% of respondents agreeing to the amount of time an applicant must have lived in Southampton, with just 21% disagreeing.
- Just half (50%) of the respondents who are currently on the Southampton Housing register agreed with this proposal.





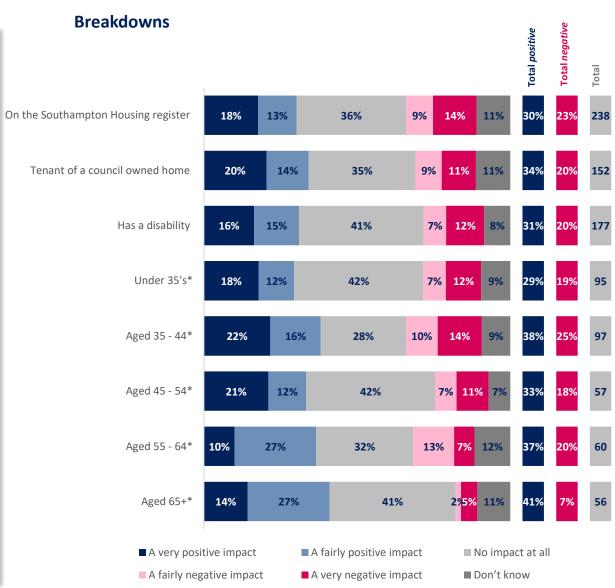
Proposed changes to the amount of time an applicant must have lived in Southampton







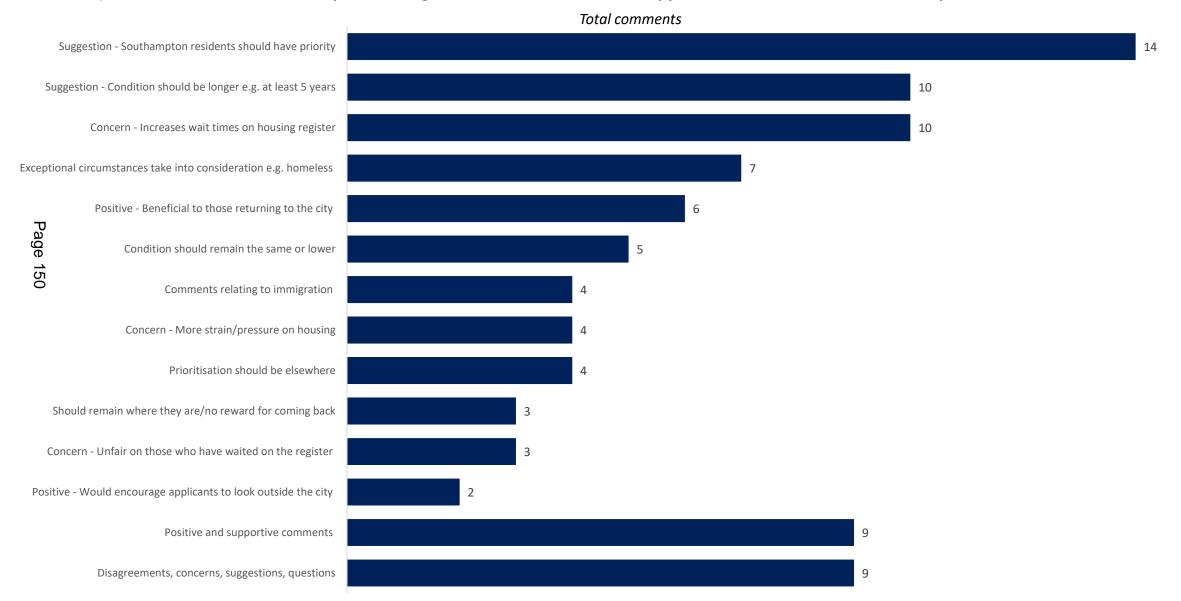
- A large proportion of respondents said this proposal would have no impact at all (35%).
- Those aged between 35-44 & 65+ had the highest percentages for positive impact (38% & 41%).





Total comments | 83

Proposed changes to the amount of time an applicant must have lived in Southampton





Consultation feedback

Proposal to require applicants to re-register every year



Proposal to require applicants to re-register every year



Current policy:

Currently, once applicants are accepted onto the Housing Needs Register, they do not have to re-register on an annual basis.

Proposed changes:

We are proposing that all applicants will have to re-register annually. This will confirm whether circumstances have changed and ensure applicants are assigned to the correct band.

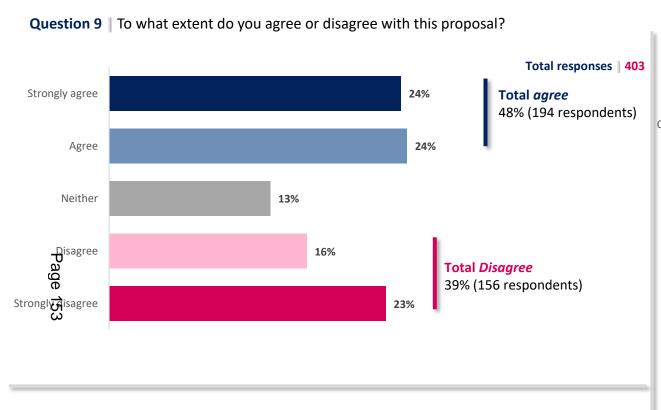
For the majority, the process to re-register will include a simpler exercise and not a full new application to be made.

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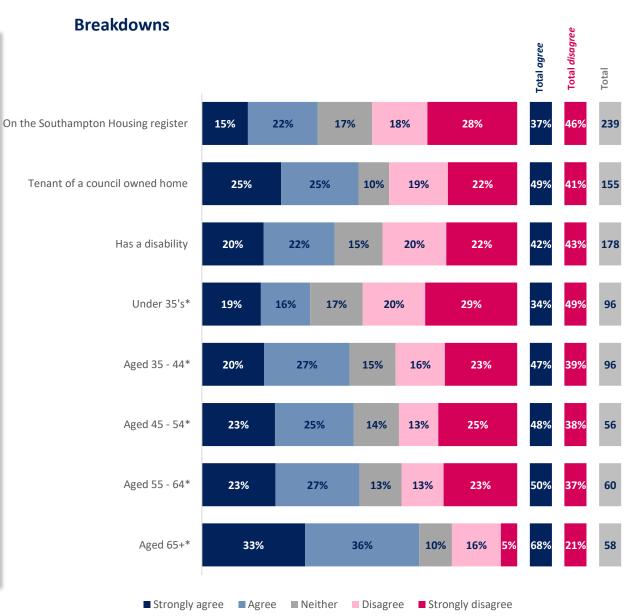
Proposal to require applicants to re-register every year







- Again, respondents were split, 24% of respondents strongly agreed with this proposal while 23% strongly disagreed.
- Those in the older aged categories (55-64 & 65+) had higher levels of agreement, 50% & 68%.

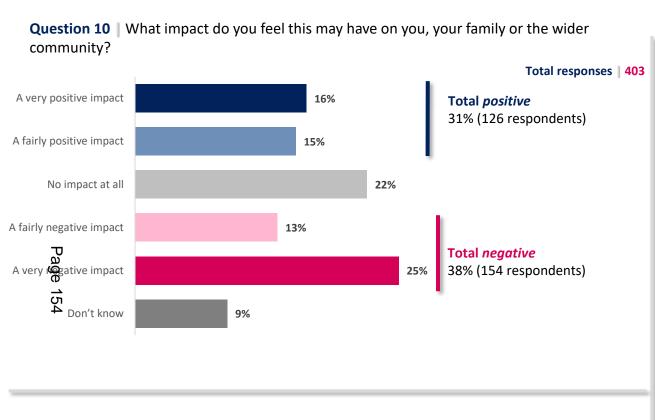


*Less than 100 respondents; **less than 50 respondents.



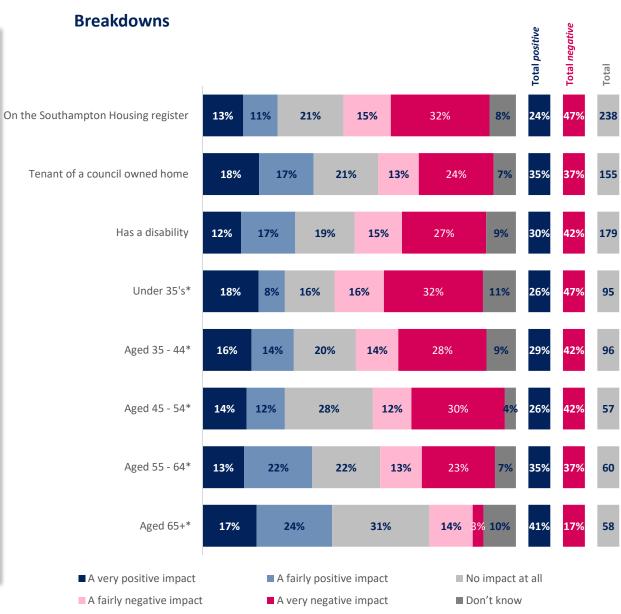
Proposal to require applicants to re-register every year







- A quarter of respondents said the requirement to re-register every year would have a 'very negative impact' (25%).
- Those aged 65+ had the highest positive impact for re-registering every year (41%).

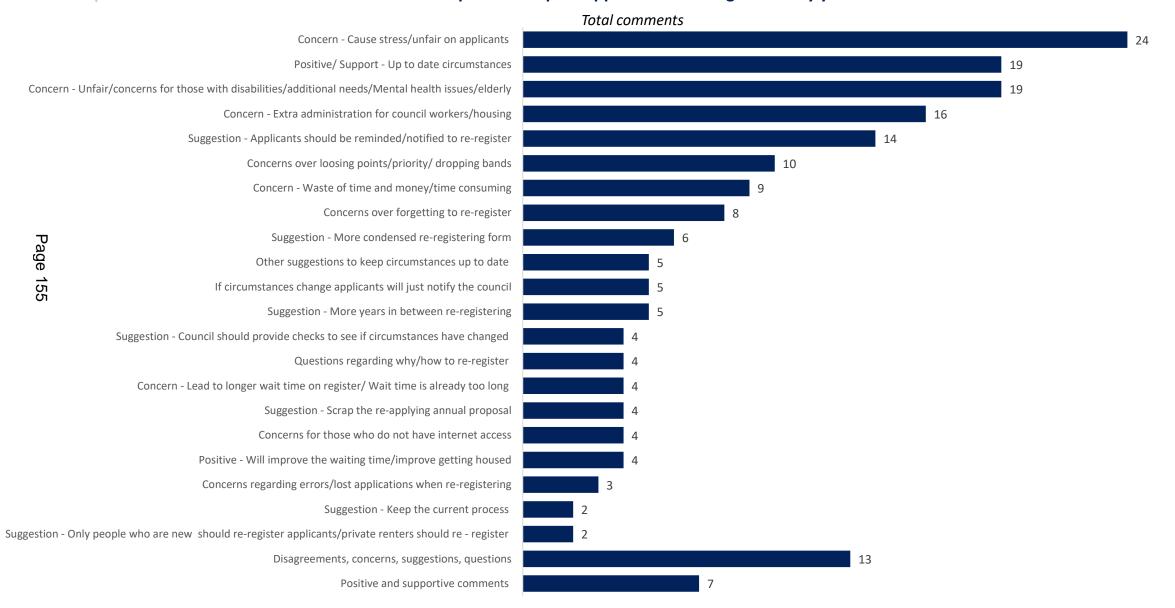


*Less than 100 respondents; **less than 50 respondents.

southampton dataobservatory

Total comments | 132

Proposal to require applicants to re-register every year





Consultation feedback

Prosed requirement that existing tenants have an inspection before they move that confirms a property has been kept to an acceptable standard



Proposed requirement that existing tenants have an inspection before they move that confirms a property has been kept to an acceptable standard



Current policy:

The council currently consider past management of a tenancy as a factor in deciding whether someone is suitable to be a tenant, but it does not expressly word how this might happen.

Proposed changes:

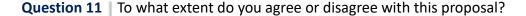
This proposal reflects existing practice as it is already a contractual requirement of the tenancy agreement that people will keep their council homes in good order and that access must be granted for periodic tenancy checks by the council. It is also already a requirement in the current allocations policy that the council will consider "past management of a tenancy" as a factor determining suitability. This proposal provides additional clarity that people may have a pre-vacation inspection.

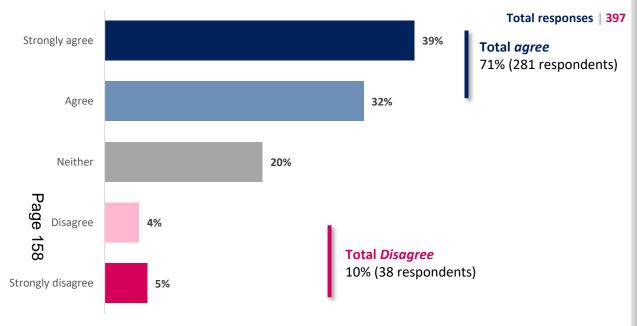
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Proposed requirement that existing tenants have an inspection before they move that confirms a property has been kept to an acceptable standard

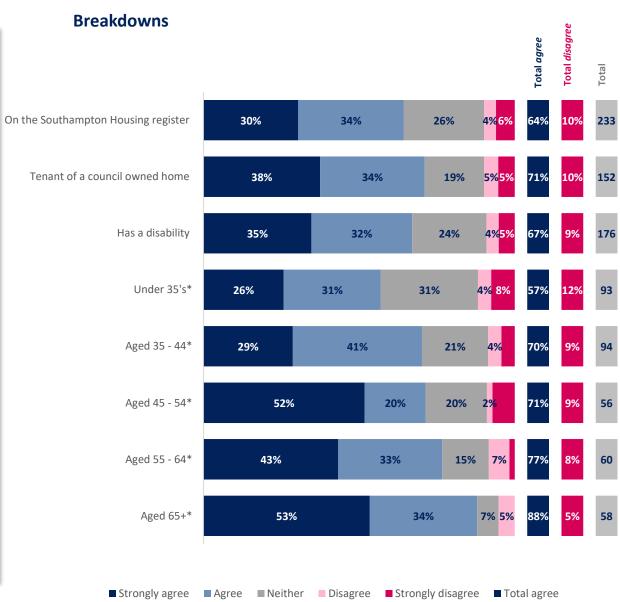








- **71% of respondents agreed** with this proposal, while just **10% disagreed**.
- All breakdown groups largely agreed with the proposal for existing tenants to have an inspection before they move.

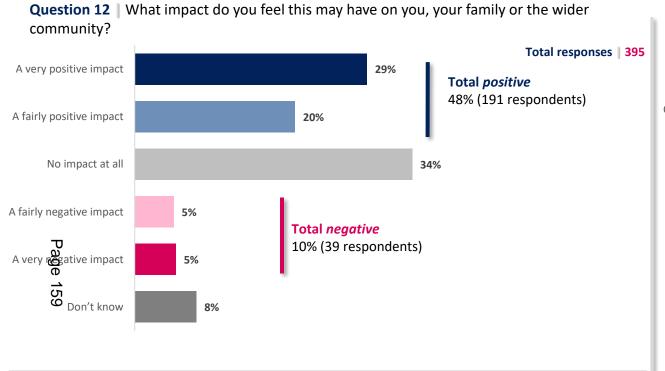


*Less than 100 respondents; **less than 50 respondents.



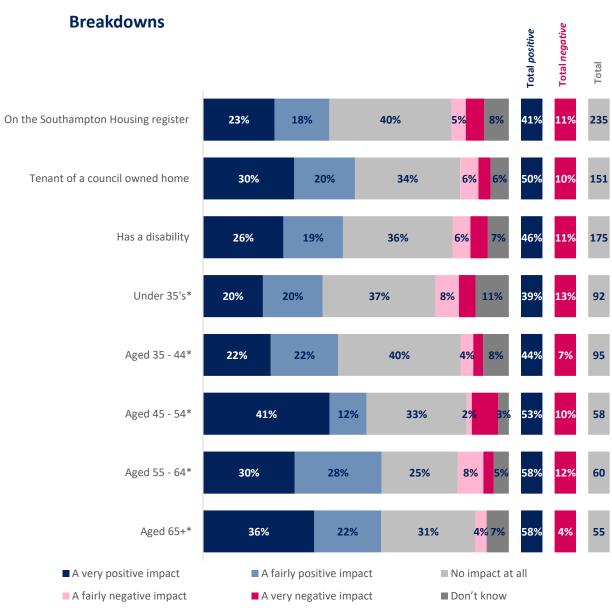
Proposed requirement that existing tenants have an inspection before they move that confirms a property has been kept to an acceptable standard

southampton dataobservatory





- Almost half of respondents felt this proposal would have a positive impact (48%).
- Those under the age of 35 had the highest negative impact, however this was at just 13%.

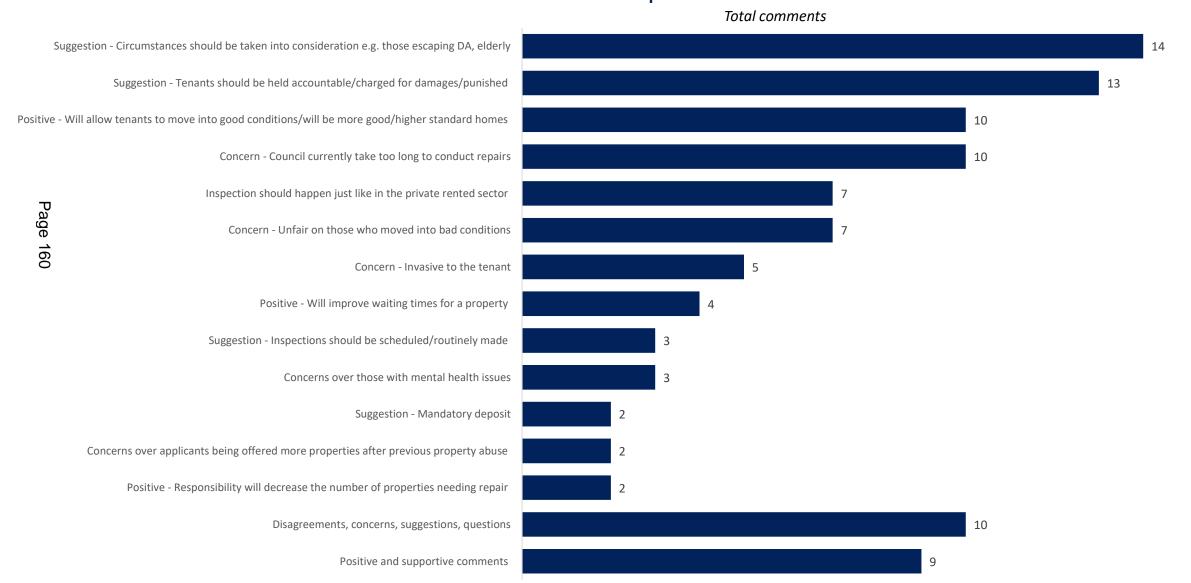


*Less than 100 respondents; **less than 50 respondents.



Total comments | 84

Proposed requirement that existing tenants have an inspection before they move that confirms a property has been kept to an acceptable





Consultation feedback

Reading the draft strategy

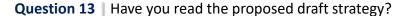


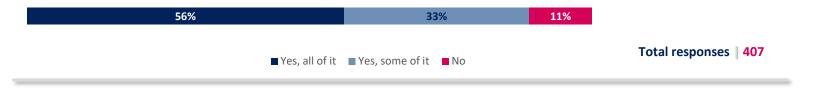




Reading & understanding the draft strategy

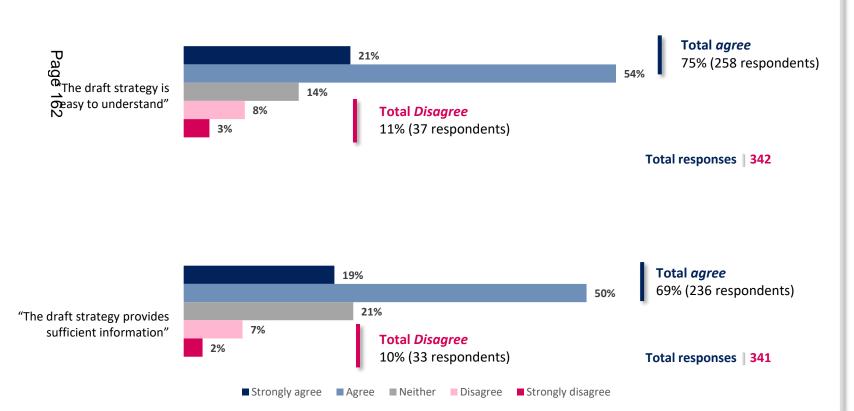






Question 14 If you have read the proposed draft strategy, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

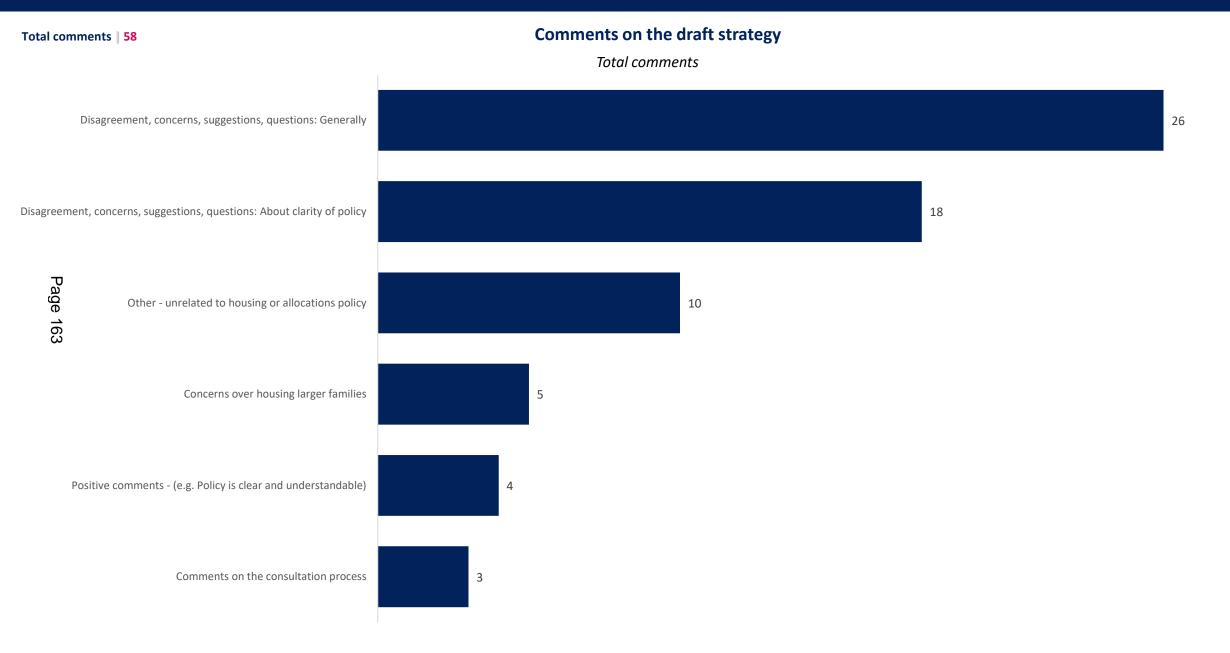
Asked if "Yes, all of it" or "Yes, some of it" response to question 13.



Key findings

 Of the 89% of respondents who either read all the proposed draft strategy or some or it, 75% agreed it was easy to understand. While 69% agreed that it provides sufficient information.









Consultation feedback

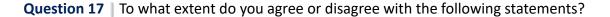
Page 1

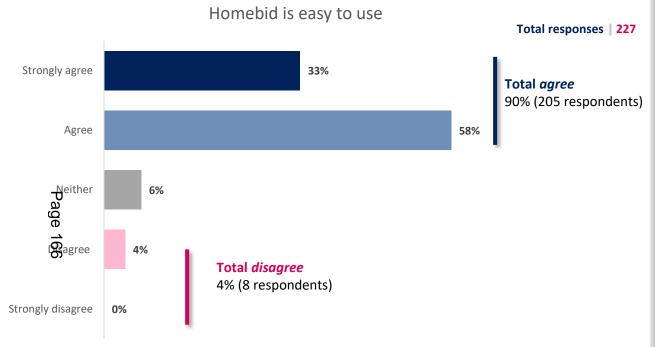
Homebid



Homebid

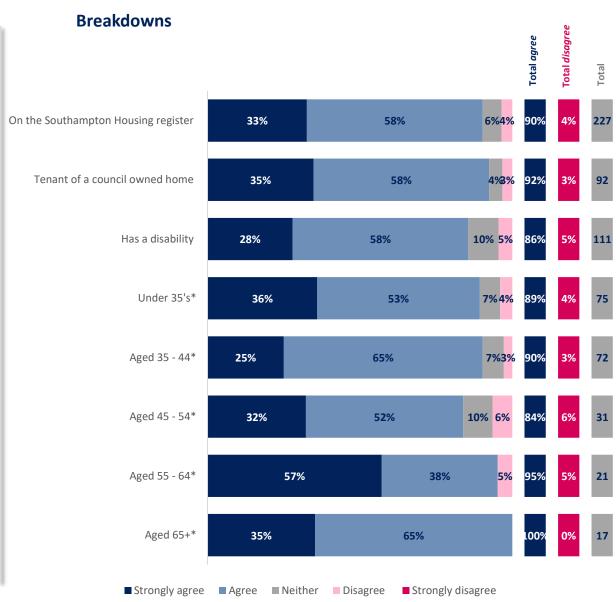






Key findings

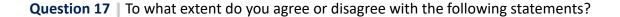
- 90% of respondents find Homebid easy to use.
- 6% of those aged between 45-54 disagreed that Homebid is easy to understand.

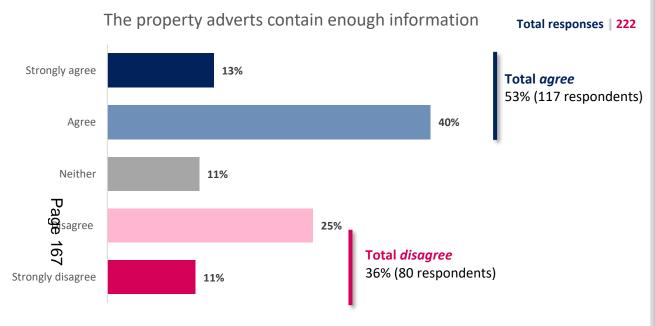




Homebid

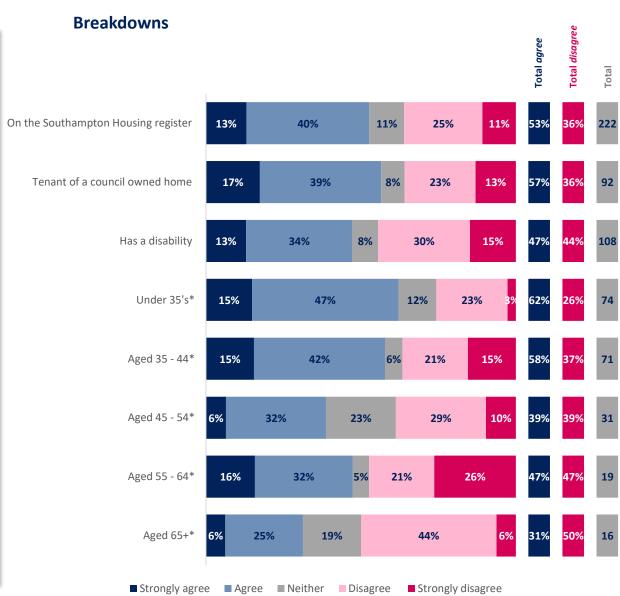






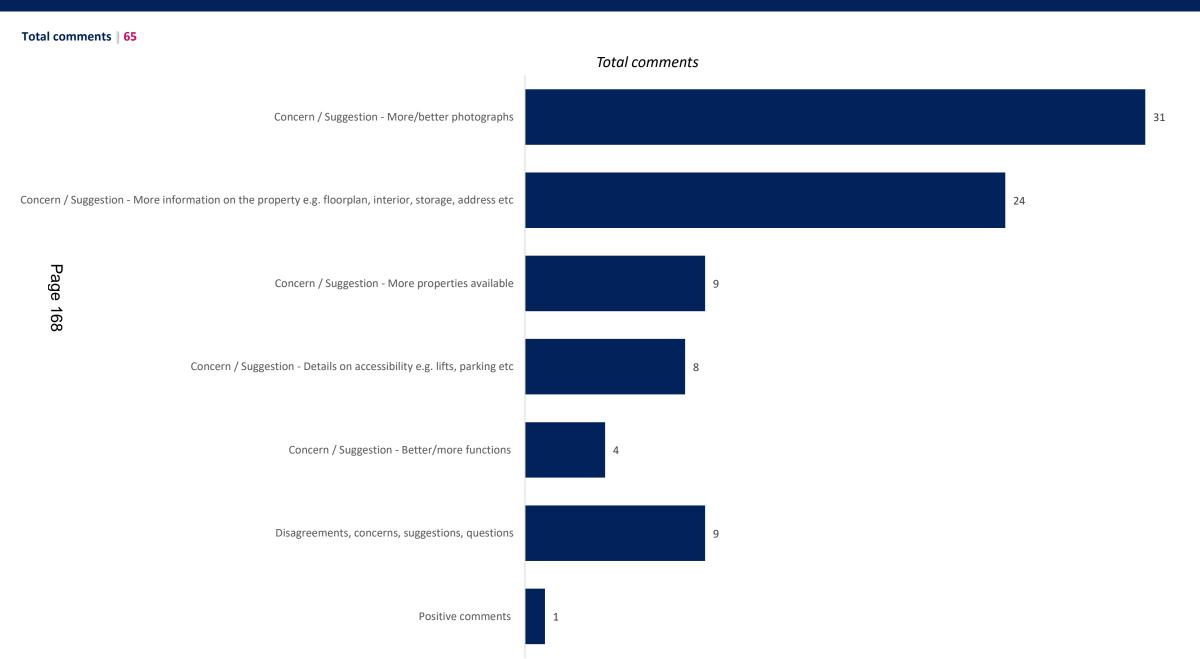
Key findings

- Just over half the respondents said they find the property advert to contain enough information (53%).
- 50% of those aged 65+ said they disagree that the property adverts contains enough information.



Homebid free text comments





Agenda Item 11

DECISION-MAKER:		Cabinet				
SUBJECT:		Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy				
DATE OF DECISION:		16 th July 2024				
REPORT OF:		Councillor Marie Finn, Cabinet Member for Adults & Health				
CONTACT DETAILS						
AUTHOR:	Name:	Emily Walmsley	Tel:			
	E-mail:	Emily.walmsley@southampton.gov.uk				
Director	Name:	Dr Debbie Chase	Tel:			
	E-mail:	Debbie.chase@southampton.gov.uk				

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

Not Applicable

BRIEF SUMMARY

This report seeks Cabinet approval of the new Southampton Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy and accompanying documents.

This strategy is for the whole city. It was developed with our partners across the city, including people with lived experience of poor mental health and those who support them. It reflects our shared priorities and the aspirations of services that support mental health and wellbeing in Southampton.

This strategy aims to support people in Southampton to have good mental health whatever their background or the circumstances in which they live. This strategy describes our joint approach to achieving this vision. It outlines the actions that we will take together to address the needs of our residents and communities. It will be supported by an action plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

(i)	To approve the new Southampton Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy and supporting documents.
(ii)	To approve delegation to the Director of Public Health to make minor changes to the strategy during its lifetime.
(iii)	To provide formal approval for the establishment of the Southampton Mental Health and Wellbeing Partnership.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Southampton Mental Health and Wellbeing strategy has now been finalised, following the completion of the full strategy development cycle including engagement, drafting, public consultation, and refinement from feedback.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

2. Not having a city-wide Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the city risks worsening the health of Southampton residents, increasing inequalities, and creating a wider impact on services downstream. There would also be Page 169

	impacts on the existing local suicide prevention work programme as the new strategy aimed to replace the local Suicide Prevention Plan 2020-2023 through inclusion as one of the six priorities.
3.	Having only a strategy and detailed action plan for suicide prevention in Southampton (i.e. adopting only priority outcome 6: 'Working together to prevent suicide and self-harm and support those who are impacted' from the Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy). The three-year Southampton Suicide Prevention Plan ended in 2023. To incorporate and refresh this plan, priority 6 of the new strategy is focussed on suicide prevention.
DETAIL	(Including consultation carried out)
4.	In September 2022 the Health and Wellbeing Board approved the adoption of the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health for Southampton. This is a nationally recognised commitment that aims to take a prevention-based approach to improving public mental health. A requirement of the Concordat is that there is a local public mental health plan in place and that a multi-agency partnership for mental health and wellbeing is established.
5.	The city-wide Southampton Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy sets out our shared vision that people in Southampton have good mental health and wellbeing, whatever their background or the circumstances in which they live. It describes our approach and underlying principles to achieving this vision. The strategy outlines six priority areas in which collaborative work across the city will be focused and includes accompanying aims and actions of each. The current landscape of mental health and wellbeing for Southampton, the wider determinants of health, and inequalities for mental health and wellbeing are detailed in the strategy and have formed the basis of the approach.
6.	The strategy has been developed by the Public Health and Policy teams of Southampton City Council. A successful engagement phase for the strategy ran from July to October 2023, including involvement of a wide range of stakeholders from providers, community and voluntary organisations, people with lived experience, and key service leads and Boards at Southampton City Council. Input gained from this phase informed the priorities and strategy content. The Strategy was presented to Health and Wellbeing Board on March 13 th 2024 and it was recommended for approval by Cabinet.
7.	Southampton City Council undertook a public consultation on a draft Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy over an 8-week period between 24th November 2023 and 18th January 2024. The consultation was publicised by press releases, e-bulletins, social media, stakeholder forums and the SCC website. Printed copies of the consultation were available from Southampton libraries. People were able to respond via the online questionnaire, by letter or email. Overall, the consultation received 191 responses. Active consultation was also carried out to increase participation in target groups. These included receiving verbal feedback from mental health participation groups, peer support groups, community groups, and conversations with individuals who did not have access to the internet.
8.	Feedback from the consultation showed most respondents agreed with the proposed vision and six priority areas in the draft strategy overall (86%) and found it clear and easy to understand (77%). Most respondents also agreed Page 170

with each priority (89-90%) and rated them as effective (57-70%). In comments, feedback covered themes including inclusivity, the need for clarity around terms used and raised the need for additional focus on specific groups. A full breakdown of the results can be found the full consultation report (Appendix 3). Feedback from the consultation has now been reflected in the strategy and is detailed in the table of post-consultation strategy amendments (Appendix 4).

9. A new multi-agency partnership will be established to oversee the delivery of the Southampton Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the city. This partnership will include membership across relevant Southampton City Council services, NHS services, voluntary and community organisations, and people with lived experience. This Partnership will sit alongside the existing Southampton Suicide Prevention Partnership and report to the Health and Wellbeing Board. Links to other relevant partnerships and strategies will be maintained through membership on this group. The partnership will continue to develop the detailed action plan to deliver the strategy. The new multiagency Southampton Mental Health and Wellbeing Partnership will report progress annually to stakeholders and to the Health and Wellbeing Board. Monitoring of progress and outcomes will also be via the Health and Care Partnership Board. Work to deliver the Southampton Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy will be evidence informed through support from the Health Determinants Research Collaboration (HDRC) Southampton.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

There is no statutory requirement to have a mental health and wellbeing strategy. Local authorities do, however, have responsibility for local suicide prevention action plans through Health and Wellbeing Boards. There are no additional financial commitments arising from approving this strategy, to Southampton City Council or partner organisations. The commitments made will be delivered through utilising and targeting the existing resources available in the system through partnership working, and effective delivery will therefore require some level of commitment for continued funding of existing services. Adoption and delivery of this strategy will work to support the reduction in demand into secondary mental health services.

Property/Other

11. There are no property or other implications.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

There is no statutory requirement to have a mental health and wellbeing strategy. Local authorities do, however, have responsibility for local suicide prevention action plans through Health and Wellbeing Boards. This strategy is within the remit of Cabinet to review and approve under s1 of the Localism Act as legal authority.

Other Legal Implications:

13. The consultation and design of the proposed strategy has been undertaken having regard to the requirement of the Equality Act 2010, in particular s.149 of the Public Sector Equality Duty ("PSED"). All actions delivered under the

	strategy and associated Action Plans will be implemented having regard to this duty. Further detail is provided in the ESIA attached at appendix 2.					
RISK N	RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS					
14.	Although it is not a statutory requirement to have a mental health and wellbeing strategy, there is a risk that without one the mental health and wellbeing of residents in Southampton will be worse and inequalities will increase.					
	Considerable engagement with this strategy has already taken place from partner organisations, community and voluntary organisations, and members of the public. If this strategy does not reach completion there is the risk of reputational damage for the Council as the organisation leading the development.					
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS						
16.	The proposals in this strategy are in accordance with the councils policy framework.					

KEY DE	KEY DECISION? Yes					
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED: ALL						
	SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION					
Append	lices					
1.	Southampton Ment	Southampton Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy				
2.	Southampton Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy ESIA					
3.	Consultation on a draft Southampton mental health and wellbeing strategy - full report					
4.	Table of post-consultation strategy amendments					
Docum	ents In Members' R	ooms				
1.	None					
Equality	y Impact Assessme	ent				
Do the	implications/subjec	t of the report	require an Equality a	and	Yes	
Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.						
Data Protection Impact Assessment						
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out.						
Other B	Other Background Documents					
Other Background documents available for inspection at:						
Title of Background Paper(s) Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)						
1.						

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1 2	



Agenda Item 11

Appendix 1

SOUTHAMPTON MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY

This strategy is dedicated to the memory of Cllr Terry Streets, a strong advocate for mental health in Southampton

Foreword.

Mental health and wellbeing affects us all. Research from The Mental Health Foundation suggests that nearly 2 in 3 of us will experience a mental health problem during our lives, and 1 in 6 is managing fluctuating levels of distress each week. It could be a family member, a neighbour, a colleague, you, or me. This is why it's important we all recognise that mental health and wellbeing is everybody's business.

In recent years we have travelled a long way as a society in acknowledging mental health. Much ground has been covered in challenging the taboo and stigma in which it was once surrounded, and we have made steps towards tackling discrimination. Likewise, the importance of wellbeing has become a widely discussed topic, and significantly more is understood about how we can all live healthier, happier, and more balanced lives. Despite this, life remains tough for many people in our city. The pressures of the pandemic, rapidly followed by a cost-of-living crisis, means chronic stress remains an everyday factor for far too many, and there is much to still be done to address this.

wifying our work on mental health is a welcomed development, as it demonstrates clear purpose in the city's ambition to help improve the mental health and wellbeing of the whole population, and the steps needed to get there. This strategy provides a focus for local leadership to take collaborative and concerted action to tackle poor mental health, and the conditions that drive it. Our collective challenge is improving the wellbeing, and lives, of the people of Southampton, so we can all truly thrive.

Rob Kurn, CEO, Southampton Voluntary Services

I would like to thank everyone who participated in developing the city's new Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This includes Council officers, many partner agencies and especially those of our residents with lived experience who gave so generously of their time and expertise. This is a meaningful strategy that offers us ways to enhance our wellbeing while recognising that there are times when people will struggle and require extra support.

The underlying principles in the strategy include kindness, respect and compassion to others. It also strongly highlights the protective power of supporting people to make social connections with each other. By working together as genuine partners on a systems level and by supporting each other individually in our communities and workplaces, we can move towards our goal of a mental health friendly Southampton and truly make this happen.

Councillor Marie Finn, Cabinet member for Adults and Health

Improving the mental health and wellbeing of Southampton's residents is a goal Solent Mind is passionately committed to. We know its success will take many different people working together, from across all parts of the City, and at times, in new ways, to make a long term difference. We are determined to play our role in rising to this task, and work alongside others to deliver both this strategy and our own purpose "Supporting everyone to develop positive mental wellbeing, live well and thrive". We look forward to working with you.

Sally Arscott, CEO, Solent Mind.

As Solent Mind's Peer Support Service in Southampton, and as people with lived experience, we are grateful that our opinions have been valued, enabling us to be part of the development of this strategy. The engagement and participation of people with lived experience is vital to understanding, and addressing, the mental health inequalities within our city. We believe all Southampton residents have the right to good mental health and well-being, and that the subject of mental health should be on everyone's agenda. As people with lived experience, we want to be consulted and included in meaningful change.

The peer Support Service works across the whole of Southampton, and as such, is well placed to see the everyday struggles that people are facing. Every day, we bear

Feer Support Service works across the whole of Southampton, and as such, is well placed to see the everyday struggles that people are facing. Every day, we bear witness to the social, economic, and the intergenerational trauma, that is adversely affecting health and wellbeing within our city. As Peer Workers, human connection is at the heart of our approach – 'we listen, connect and inspire hope authentically, through our lived experience'. As with everybody who has inputted into this strategy, we feel it is vital that we all work collaboratively, holistically, and proactively in order to fulfil this strategy's shared vision. We all need to support those in need, when they need it, and to challenge the stigma around mental health, self-harm and suicide that still prevails.

Southampton Peer Support Service welcomes this mental health strategy. We pledge to support this vital work in any way we can, and are committed to working with our partners across Southampton – to make Southampton a great place to live in line with Solent Mind's own values:

'Compassionate, Listening, Inclusive, Effective, Together'

Solent Mind Peer Support Service

Overview

This is a strategy for the whole city. It was developed with our partners across the city, including people with lived experience of poor mental health and those who support them. It reflects our shared priorities and the aspirations of services that support mental health and wellbeing in Southampton.

Our shared vision is that people in Southampton have good mental health and wellbeing, whatever their background or the circumstances in which they live. This strategy describes our approach to achieving this vision. It outlines the actions that we will take together to address the needs of our residents and communities.

This strategy does not contain all the details about how we will achieve our ambitions. These will be in an accompanying action plan. To facilitate a city-wide approach to this strategy we are setting up a multi-agency, Southampton Mental Health and Wellbeing Partnership. This will complement our existing Southampton Suicide Prevention Partnership.
Our actions align to six priority areas:

- 1. There is a positive culture that promotes mental health and wellbeing in Southampton.
- 2. We have greater focus on the areas of people's lives that impact their mental health and wellbeing.
- People in Southampton get support for their mental health and wellbeing when they need it.
- Everyone has the opportunity to have positive mental health and wellbeing and is able to benefit from support that is right for them.
- Children and young people get the best start in life for their mental health and wellbeing and families are supported.
- Working together to prevent suicide and self-harm, and support those who are impacted.

What is mental health and wellbeing and who is this strategy for?

Mental health and wellbeing are not just about the absence of mental illness. It is about our feelings and emotions, our social connections, connections with the world around us, and our ability to live the lives we want to live. Mental health and wellbeing are fundamental to everything we do. In Southampton we are taking a positive approach to mental health. We are focusing on the importance of mental wellbeing for people to live a fulfilling and productive life within their families and communities. This strategy is for everyone.

Everyone has ups and downs in their lives at different times. Emotions and challenges form a part of the human experience. Life is particularly hard at the moment for a lot of people. The pandemic, the cost of living and other national and global challenges have impacted our mental health and wellbeing. As well as creating environments that promote wellbeing, it is essential that support is provided when people are struggling with their mental health. Mental health services are crucially important for people with mental illness or crisis, but this strategy is not only about these services. It focuses on preventing poor mental health and promoting wellbeing, looking at all the different things that are important for mental health and wellbeing.

There are many things that affect mental health and wellbeing, both negatively (risk factors) and positively (protective factors). Through the prevention of risk factors and promotion of protective factors we hope to improve mental health and wellbeing in Southampton.

Although this strategy is not about specific mental health disorders or conditions, it is relevant to people who have mental health illnesses like depression, anxiety, schizophrenia or bipolar, a condition like dementia, a learning disability, who have a drug or alcohol issues or who are neurodiverse. It is important that this strategy mental health and wellbeing. We know that everyone, including those who are living with other diagnoses, disabilities or difficulties, can benefit.

we are in challenging financial times, and we know that services are under pressure. However, there is amazing work going on across Southampton that we need to celebrate and build on. Community groups, libraries, mosques, gurdwaras, synagogues, churches, temples, coffee mornings, sports teams (and so much more) are all supporting mental health and wellbeing of people in Southampton.

This is an ambitious strategy that reflects the importance of mental health and wellbeing across nearly every area of our lives. It outlines how partners across Southampton will work together to promote mental health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities. This strategy reflects the ambitions around mental health and wellbeing of the whole city. The responsibility for making these ambitions happen is a shared one.

Our shared vision is that:

People in Southampton will have good mental health and wellbeing, whatever their background or the circumstances in which they live.

Our approach to achieving this.

- We will ensure "parity of esteem" where mental health is valued the same as physical health and gets the same recognition and support that physical health does.
- We will work together in **partnership** to promote good mental health and wellbeing.
- We will recognise that different challenges and life events, at different stages of life, impact mental health and wellbeing.
- We will recognise the value of our voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations as equal partners in preventing mental health problems and promoting wellbeing.
- We will focus on prevention and early intervention of mental health illness, escalation and crisis and celebrate lived experience and recovery to help others.
- We will recognise the impact of trauma on mental health and wellbeing and take a Trauma Informed Practice approach to all our work and services.
- We will use the **evidence base** to inform our decisions.

Our underlying principles

There are some principles that underpin this strategy and the work that we will do together to improve the mental health and wellbeing of people in Southampton:

Page Everyone should be understood, respected and supported and everyone's mental health will be valued (to create a Mental Health Friendly City).

- We will 'be human' and show kindness and compassion to those around us and those we are supporting.
- Language will be used that demonstrates the respect, value and kindness that every resident of Southampton deserves. We acknowledge that the language we use matters and is ever-changing, and we will be kind and patient when people don't always get it "right".
 - People with lived experience will be involved and included in all our decisions on mental health and suicide prevention.
 - Inequalities will be reduced by providing intervention and support according to need.
 - Mental, physical and social health are interwoven and need to be valued equally and considered together.
 - Stigma around mental health and suicide will be challenged.
 - Suicide prevention is everyone's business.

Our commitments that include mental health and wellbeing in Southampton.

Trauma Informed Practice

In Southampton we are committed to the delivery of Trauma Informed Practice. This means that we recognise that trauma can affect individuals, groups and communities and that exposure to trauma can impact an individual's neurological, biological, psychological and social development. Our approach works to increase awareness within

services of how trauma can impact on individuals, groups and communities. This can include their ability to feel safe and develop trusting relationships with health, care and education services. We hope that taking this approach will make it easier for people who have experienced trauma to get the help they need.

Prevention Concordat

We have shown our commitment to cross-sector action to improve the mental health and wellbeing of residents by our intention to sign the <u>Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health (OHID)</u>. This reflects our chosen focus on:

- The wider determinants for mental health and wellbeing, including protective and risk factors and reducing health inequalities.
- A prevention-focused approach to improving the public's mental health.
- Evidence-based planning and commissioning to increase the impact on reducing health inequalities.

Setting the Scene.

ଭ Mental health and wellbeing in Southampton

Each mental health affects a lot of people. Data taken from Southampton Data Observatory show that nearly a fifth (18.7%) of people over 16 years old in Southampton have a common mental health problem and 1.13% of registered patients have a diagnosis of severe mental illness. Both figures are higher than the average in England. "Common mental health problems" means conditions like anxiety and depression. "Severe" or "serious" mental illness means conditions like bipolar disorder, or schizophrenia. Anxiety and depression can still significantly impact some people. When asked about their mental health, nearly a quarter of adults in Southampton report high anxiety and 10% report low happiness. When children and young people in Southampton were surveyed, only 51% said they are happy with their mental health.

Wider determinants of mental health and wellbeing

There are many areas of people's lives that affect their mental health and wellbeing. These include social, economic, and physical environments in which they live at different times. Southampton has a high prevalence of risk factors for poor mental health and wellbeing:

- **Deprivation**: Southampton is ranked 55th most deprived out of 317 local authorities in England, where 1 is the most deprived.
- **Low income and financial insecurity**: In 2019, 13.5% of Southampton residents lived in an area experiencing deprivation relating to low income, this is higher than the English average of 12.9%.

- Child poverty: In 2021/22, 25% of children in Southampton aged under 16 were living in relative low-income families, significantly higher than the national average (23.8%).
- **Housing:** 6.2% of houses in Southampton are overcrowded, significantly higher than national average (4.8%).
- Educational attainment: Average attainment 8 scores (at GCSE) in Southampton are worse than England overall and significantly worse for children in care and children eligible for free school meals.
- Preparation for employment: 6% of Southampton's 16-17yr olds are either not in education, employment or training or their activity is not known. This is significantly worse than the national average (4.7%).
- Adverse Childhood Experiences: 363 per 10,000 children in Southampton are supported by Children's Services due to abuse or neglect, significantly worse than England average.
- Physical health conditions: 16% of Southampton's population have a long-term health problem or disability.
- Social isolation and loneliness: 36.7% of Southampton's over 65yr olds live alone, this is higher than the national average. Although living alone does not necessarily mean someone is lonely, a 2016 residents survey found 30,000 residents said they feel lonely in their daily lives.

- **Employment**: Rates of employment in Southampton are similar to the England average (74.3% in Southampton and 75.4% in England).
- Access to green space and the Natural Environment: 95% of the city have access to green space of at least 2 hectares (just under the size of five football pitches), within 5 minutes walking time. However, access to green space is not experienced equally across the city, some areas have far less.

Inequalities in mental health and wellbeing

There is inequality in the conditions in which people in Southampton live. This results in inequalities in mental health and wellbeing. People with poor mental health are more likely to experience other health inequalities. For example, people with severe mental illnesses in England on average die 15-20 years earlier than the general population.

There are some people and communities in Southampton that we know are at higher risk of poor mental health and wellbeing:

- Ethnic minorities: People from ethnic minority groups have higher rates of diagnosis of mental illness, delays in support until crisis situations, hospital admissions due to mental illness, poor treatment outcomes and disengagement from mental health services.
- Children in care and care leavers: Nationally, half of children in care meet the criteria for a mental health disorder.
- People who identify as LGBTIQ+: Nationally, half of LGBTIQ+ people experience depression, three in five experience anxiety, one in eight LGBTIQ+ people (aged 18 to 24) had attempted to end their life and almost half of trans people had thought about taking their life.

- **Carers**: Carers are twice as likely to have a long term physical or mental health condition. Furthermore, only 30% of adult carers in Southampton get as much social contact as they would like.
- **Young carers**: Nationally, 60% young carers feel their caring role has affected their emotional wellbeing. Their caring role can be associated with stress, anxiety, low self-esteem, missing school, not participating in activities, and a lack of social connections.
- **Neurodiversity**: 1 in 7 people in the UK are neurodivergent and neurodivergent people have a higher risk of poorer mental health and suicide. An estimated 70% of people who are on the autistic spectrum have a co-occurring mental health condition.
- Co-occurring conditions: Nearly two thirds of people entering drug and alcohol treatment programmes have mental health needs.
- Social care users: Half of all adult social care users in Southampton have depression or anxiety.
- **Homeless households and rough sleepers**: In Southampton 10.4 per 1,000 households are assessed as being homeless. 45% of people experiencing homelessness have been diagnosed with a mental health issue. This rises to 8 out of 10 people who are sleeping rough.
- **Domestic abuse victims/survivors:** Nationally, people who are survivors of domestic abuse are three times more likely to develop a serious mental illness, and twice as likely to have already experienced some form of mental illness.
- Gypsy, Roma and Travellers: People who are Gypsy, Roma and Travellers have higher rates of depression and anxiety and are at higher risk of suicide.

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Sticide and self-harm

The rate of suicide in Southampton has decreased over recent years and is now similar to the England average (9.5 per 100,000 in Southampton). There are approximately 21 deaths by suicide each year in Southampton. Every death is an avoidable tragedy and the impact of each death is huge, with estimates of 60 to 135 people affected by each one. Three quarters of deaths by suicide are in males and one quarter in females.

Self-harm is a concern in its own right, as well as being a risk factor for suicide. Local hospital admissions for self-harm in 10-24 year olds are significantly higher in Southampton than the national average (689 vs 550 per 100,000).

Priority outcome 1: There is a positive culture that promotes mental health and wellbeing in Southampton.

Our mental health and wellbeing is impacted by our surroundings and our social connections. Therefore, it's important that our city promotes and protects the mental health and wellbeing of everyone.

We know that stigma, discrimination and racism have harmful effects on mental and physical health through the trauma they cause. We also know that stigma and discrimination against people with mental health problems can have a big impact and create further inequalities through bodily stress responses, poor access to mental and physical healthcare, dying earlier, exclusion from education and employment, increased risk of contact with the criminal justice system, victimisation, poverty and homelessness.

A city that promotes mental health and wellbeing needs to recognise and overcome stigma, discrimination, racism and promote inclusivity for everyone. It needs to celebrate the city and communities within it and the mental health of people who live and work here.

While developing this strategy, we heard from people with lived experience that the societal pressures and the traumas that they experience have the greatest impact on their mental health. We heard about people's experiences of visiting services where they felt like there was "something wrong with them" for not fitting into societal norms or that they "needed to be fixed". Individuals feel isolated and we recognise that the city needs to take a more holistic approach.

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क्रे here is a positive culture and environment that promotes mental health and wellbeing in Southampton.	
What do we want to achieve?	How will we achieve this?
Southampton is a place where everyone can benefit from our city-wide commitment to	Make Southampton a Mental Health Friendly City where everyone's mental health is encouraged and valued.
mental health and wellbeing.	Work in collaboration to strengthen the delivery and promotion of cultural and community focused activities that bring people together and support physical and mental health. This will build on community assets and celebrate Southampton as a place to live.
	Embed a Trauma Informed Practice approach in all our settings and services using the Southampton Trauma Informed Practice Concordat Delivery Framework. This includes supporting both children and adults who have experienced trauma in childhood (Adverse Childhood Experiences).
	Create positive, safe places to live- supporting housing, food security, sleep and protection from "public nuisances" of excess noise, light or smells.

People with lived experience are at the heart of	People with lived experience will have membership on the Southampton Suicide Prevention Partnership and
our work and decision making around mental health and wellbeing.	Southampton Mental Health and Wellbeing Partnership.
-	Feedback updates on progress on delivery of this strategy to people with lived experience.
We all share agreed language about mental health and wellbeing that includes, values and respects people.	Agree shared language around mental health and suicide to be used by partners in collaboration with people with lived experience.
We will increase awareness and inclusivity and reduce stigma and discrimination.	Collective action on understanding and addressing systemic racism and community trauma, and the impacts on mental health and wellbeing.
	An understanding of the impacts of trauma caused through discrimination and stigma to be promoted widely through services via training, equalities champions and increased diversity of workforce where possible.
P သ	Strengthening work with faith communities around awareness and reducing stigma, empowering people within communities to speak about mental health.
We are promoting positive messaging about mess	Promote messaging about mental health and wellbeing via regular comms and campaigns, using agreed public mental health and wellbeing messaging across partners and organisations.
	Promote messaging that celebrates mental health and encourages people in Southampton to make connections with others, recognising the importance of social connectedness and the power of saying "hello".
Workplaces in Southampton are committed to improving the mental health and wellbeing of their staff.	Map the range of mental health and wellbeing support that is available to people working across Southampton to enable policy and workforce development programmes to be embedded in all organisations.
	Workplaces, including Anchor institutions, will be encouraged and supported to improve mental health and wellbeing through frameworks and tools that are right for them.
There will be strong leadership in mental health and wellbeing.	Establish Southampton's Mental Health and Wellbeing Partnership.
-	Demonstrate our commitment to prevent poor mental health and promote good mental wellbeing through adoption of the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health and embedding mental health in all policies.

Priority outcome 2. We have greater focus on the areas of people's lives that impact their mental health and wellbeing.

Everyone should have the right to live healthy lives and have positive mental health. However, inequalities in some of the basic building blocks of life such as education, good employment, housing, and health mean this is not the case. It's these same building blocks that are impacted by poverty. A focus on these factors means doing things like improving people's opportunity to stay in education, find opportunities for work, and have adequate housing. These are things that we know are important for mental health and wellbeing.

We also need to focus on protective factors like physical activity and social connections. Building social networks is incredibly important for daily wellbeing and for protecting against the impacts of challenges when they arise.

We heard from people with lived experience that there needs to be a focus on loneliness and isolation and that, for lots of people, loneliness and isolation are the biggest trigger in why their wellbeing declines. We heard that a positive social circle of supportive, trustworthy and honest people that recognise you as who you are is a protective account that improves mental health and wellbeing.

While developing this strategy we also heard that people with poor mental health do not always know where to get financial support and sometimes have additional needs of get into employment.

We have greater focus on the areas of people's lives that impact their mental health and wellbeing.		
What do we want to achieve?	How will we achieve this?	
Conditions in which people live and the opportunities for education and employment in Southampton are improved, and this will	Improve the quality of homes, help people live in the home that's right for them and reduce homelessness and rough sleeping.	
reduce inequality.	Keep people in their homes by strengthening partnerships and integration between housing services and other services that support vulnerable people or people in crisis (e.g. substance use and mental health) so people at risk of losing their homes are identified and supported early.	
	Support people to be in employment and reduce the numbers of those not in education, employment or training by offering independent life skills workshops and apprenticeship schemes, including support for employers.	

	Help children and young people to stay in their own schools through anti-bullying work and support during transitions (e.g. from year 6 to 7).
Everyone in Southampton can enjoy and benefit from things that improve mental	Clean air and increased access to, and perception of safety of green spaces in Southampton.
health and wellbeing.	Access to physical activity is increased through the delivery of the We Can Be Active Strategy and the development and promotion of activities that support people's physical and mental wellbeing, provided by members of the Physical Activity Alliance, Energise Me and others.
	Health and care partners support people to move more. For example, through social prescribing and other services such as talking therapies.
People are supported to build social connections.	Work collectively to provide and promote opportunities for creating and maintaining social connections through activities run by peer-led, community and faith groups, and other activities such as volunteering and befriending.
Page	Implement the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Partnership social connectedness framework in Southampton.
187	Work with Young Southampton to support the provision of positive activities for young people across the city to participate in.
People can access advice about managing the cost of living and the mental health impacts of	Provide debt and mental health training for frontline workforces.
financial anxiety, and food insecurity.	Enhance advice and signposting for mental health in financial support services and ways to provide financial support and advice when people are struggling.

Priority outcomes 3: People in Southampton get support for their mental health and wellbeing when they need it.

This strategy strives to promote mental wellbeing and to prevent poor mental health in everyone. However, there will be times when support is needed, and people should be able to access appropriate levels of support at the right time. This should include support in the community as well as specialist support if needed. We need to continue to support the creation of connections between people and the organisations that support mental health and wellbeing.

While developing this strategy we heard from people with lived experience about the importance of peer support and community groups/projects and how they have positively impacted the mental health and wellbeing of people with lived experience. We also heard how difficult it is to find appropriate support and that there is a lack of understanding of when the "right time" is to seek support. There needs to more accessible information about mental health support across the city.

People in Southampton get support for their mental health and wellbeing when they need it.		
What do we want to achieve?	How will we achieve this?	
Communities support the mental health and wellbeing of their residents.	Voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations that provide support for mental health and wellbeing will be connected via the Southampton Mental Health Network and other community networks. Directories of mental health, wellbeing and social support will be provided.	
Page 188	Develop and promote recognised mental health and wellbeing and suicide prevention training for the workforce and volunteers, accompanied by appropriate support structures to retain competence and capability in using these skills.	
ω	Develop a city-wide communications plan around what's available to support mental health and wellbeing.	
A broad range of support for mental health and wellbeing is available to people before they need specialist services.	Promote mental health and wellbeing support and services so people know what is available and how to access it, ensuring that the information can be understood by the people who need it.	
	Health partners, such as primary care, facilitate navigation into support and activities in the community.	
	Peer models of support in the community are strengthened, and sharing of stories about experience and recovery are encouraged and celebrated.	
If people need help, they are able to access mental health services or crisis support.	Promote accurately what mental health services and crisis support is available, along with an understanding of when it is needed and how it should be accessed.	

Priority outcome 4: Everyone has the opportunity to have positive mental health and wellbeing and is able to benefit from support that is right for them.

There are inequalities in mental health and wellbeing and many of these are linked to other challenges a person might be facing, whether that's physical health problems, neurodiversity, disability, addiction or discrimination. Not everyone is able to get the help they need, and we must work towards overcoming barriers they face. We need to think about the whole person and all their needs. We need to recognise that people are complex and diverse and that a "one-size fits all" approach won't work.

We know that people who experience long term physical conditions are more likely to have poor mental health and wellbeing. We also know that people experiencing poor mental health are more likely to have poor physical health leading to worse outcomes. It is therefore important that the physical health of people with mental health problems is properly supported.

This strategy does not include preventing dementia as a disease because this is included in cardiovascular disease prevention. However, dementia can be associated with poor mental health, and people with dementia may benefit from the same mental health and wellbeing support as others.

While developing this strategy we heard from people with lived experience that some ethnicities and cultures have felt left behind or missed from previous plans or attached that people with learning difficulties and neurodiversity require appropriate support. We also heard from some people that their mental health is taken seriously because of their addictions so a stronger understanding of mental health with addiction is needed.

Everyone has the opportunity to have positive mental health and wellbeing and is able to benefit from support that is right for them.

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What do we want to achieve?	How will we achieve this?
Inequalities in mental health and wellbeing are reduced.	Ensure mental health support is accessible and appropriately tailored for everyone who needs it. For example, for people with learning disability or neurodiversity.
	A person-centred approach is taken for people with co-occurring needs such as mental health, social care, and addiction (alcohol, drugs, gambling), and joined up working between services that support them is strengthened.
	Mental health and wellbeing support is tailored for people most vulnerable to poor mental health, such as care leavers, LGBTIQ+ people, refugees and asylum seekers and those who've experienced trauma.

	Carers are supported to look after their mental health and wellbeing and maintain social connections, including through flexible respite options that are right for them and the cared for person. The mental health and wellbeing needs of older people are addressed through strengthening social connectedness and improving access to appropriate services and support for them. This will include talking therapies, preparation for older age, bereavement, and alcohol use support.
The mental health and wellbeing needs of people from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds are met and they are supported in the way that is right for them.	Work with communities to better understand the mental health and wellbeing needs of people from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds in Southampton. Communities could be formed of people from geographical locations or be made up of people from particular ethnic backgrounds or faiths, or Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.
	Promote an understanding of the barriers and needs of ethnic minorities among the mental health work force, education settings and other partner organisations in Southampton.
Page	Use data from services to inform provision, accessibility and the promotion of services to those who are not being reached.
The needs of people with mental health problems are Solistically met, reducing the inequality in health and wellbeing.	People with severe mental health problems are supported to improve their physical health. For example, treating tobacco dependency, reducing alcohol-related harm and reducing the risk of cardio-vascular disease.
	Making Every Contact Count (MECC) is adopted and used in mental health services to support healthy conversations about improving physical health.
	Training for professionals around co-occurring conditions including the causes of substance use and how we talk about it.

Priority outcomes 5: Children and young people get the best start in life for their mental health and wellbeing, and families are supported.

Putting in the ingredients for positive mental health and wellbeing needs to start in the early years. We know that half of mental health problems are established by age 14 and three quarters by age 24. We also know that the mental health of parents and carers has a significant impact on children and young people's current and future mental health and life chances. Supporting the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people through their families, communities and education settings is essential.

While developing this strategy we heard from people with lived experience that there needs to be better connection with schools about awareness of mental health and wellbeing support. We were told that tools and resources, such as peer support groups in schools, are needed to help support young people to look after each other's wellbeing. We also heard that support is needed for the parents or carers of young people who have poor mental health.

Children and young people get the best start in life for their mental health and wellbeing and families are supported.

What do we want to achieve?	How will we achieve this?
Positive perinatal mental health and wellbeing	Make perinatal mental health and wellbeing support available to pregnant people and new parents.
for all the family.	
	Other professionals who come into contact with new families are trained and supported to identify mental health
	concerns.
Parents, carers and families can access a wide	Groups and parenting programmes will be provided by Family Hubs and other community organisations, including support
range of support in their communities.	for dads.
	Mental health and therapeutic support within Family Help (previously Children and Families First).
	Implement the Family Safeguarding Model, including mental health support workers who support families most at risk.
	Promote accurately what mental health services and crisis support is available for children and young people, along with
	an understanding of when it is needed and how it should be accessed.

A positive concept of emotional and mental health will be promoted and children and young people are able to have healthy conversations about emotions.	Promoting confidence in talking about emotions, the language to use, the risks of labelling, and encouraging body positivity and inclusivity. This will be achieved via delivery of education sessions to staff in schools, and training in children and young people's emotional wellbeing to wider workforces. Helping families have confidence in having conversations with young people, particularly if they have additional needs via training.
Education settings are healthy environments that promote good mental health and wellbeing of children, young people and staff, as well as teaching them about maintaining emotional wellbeing.	Delivery of the Healthy Early Years Award and Healthy High 5 to education settings across the city. Schools in Southampton have access to Mental Health Support Teams and a 'whole school approach' to promotion of student and staff wellbeing is adopted, ensuring that the school community works together to maintain good mental health and wellbeing for all. BeeWell survey (a national and independently evaluated wellbeing survey) is conducted in schools and intervention based on the findings are delivered.
Thildren, young people and families are upported through transitions, both in their development and between services.	New families are supported into parenthood via antenatal support and Family Hubs. Early help is provided at critical reachable moments e.g. school transition, during puberty, students arriving in the city for university etc. Young people leaving care or transitioning from child to adult social care or mental health care, or out from tier 4 (inpatient) mental health placements are appropriately supported.
Parents, carers and families who provide support for a child or young person are given the tools and support they need.	Increase identification of young carers and their access to support, and increase the number of people in the city who can offer that support. Parents and carers of children and young people with additional needs are supported to look after their mental health and wellbeing through understanding of the support that's available to them and their families, access to activities, and flexible respite options that are right for them and the child or young person they care for. Foster carers will be supported with training around mental health, therapeutic support during placements, and provision of support at placement endings.

Priority outcome 6: Working together to prevent suicide and self-harm and support those who are impacted.

Deaths from suicide are tragic and have a devastating effect on families, friends, and communities. Suicide prevention refers to the collective efforts needed to reduce these deaths, recognising that each death is often the endpoint in a complex history of events and risk factors. Much of the prevention for suicide at a population level will be the same as prevention for poor mental health, such as reducing isolation, unemployment and the impact of trauma, taking a holistic approach. However, preventing deaths by suicide also requires more specific action based on who we know is at risk and what we know works. From national and local data, we know that risk factors for suicide include:

- Men, particularly middle-aged men (and also younger males).
- People experiencing mental health problems.
- People experiencing relationship difficulties, unemployment, financial difficulties, physical health problems, housing difficulties and/or social isolation.
- u Bereavement, especially bereavement by suicide.
- People with previous attempts of suicide.
- People with adverse childhood experiences including sexual abuse
- S People with co-occurring drug and/or alcohol use and mental health problems.
 - People formerly convicted of a crime.
 - People who have experienced abuse (either as victims or witnesses).
 - People experiencing isolation from others.
- People who have been diagnosed with a terminal or chronic illness.
- People experiencing bullying.
- People who are neurodivergent.
- People who identify as LGBTIQIA+.

While developing this strategy we heard from people with lived experience that stigma and the language used about suicide needs to be addressed. We also heard that support services for those experiencing suicidal thoughts need to more accessible and that support for those bereaved by suicide should be widely available. People with lived experience shared concerns about young people and the harms of social media, calling for further interventions for online safety. We also heard that we need to talk more with parents and schools about suicide and self-harm, and the support that is available to them.

What do we want to achieve?	How will we achieve this?
Partners across the city will work together to make suicide prevention everyone's business and maximise collective impact to prevent suicide and self-harm	Continue Southampton's multi-agency suicide prevention partnership, including people with lived experience in the membership.
	Clear messaging using the correct language and terminology about suicide prevention that is shared by all partners and organisations in their comms and promotion.
	Promotion and encouragement across the city of basic training in suicide prevention and how to talk about suicide.
Improved data and evidence so that effective, evidence-informed and timely interventions continue to be adapted.	Real time surveillance (RTS) of data via the Hampshire Isle Of Wight (HIOW) RTS group informs prevention and postvention action.
TD	Southampton Suicide Audits completed regularly, complemented with findings from drug-related audits where helpful.
Page 19	Strengthen links to academic research about suicide prevention for the purposes of both informing and learning.
Provision of tailored support to priority groups, including those at higher risk.	Appropriate support is provided and promoted for people at greater risk of suicide including middle aged males, neurodivergent people, people in contact with the criminal justice system, LGBTQIA+ people, and other priority groups. Public awareness mental health campaigns aiming to reduce stigma are targeted at these groups.
	Develop and provide a comprehensive training offer to ensure the provision of mental health, self-harm and suicide prevention training to frontline staff who come into contact with those at risk of suicide.
	Workplace wellbeing and suicide prevention and postvention support targeted at workplaces with employees of higher risk of suicide, including the development of suicide prevention tools and policies.
Common risk factors linked to suicide are addressed by providing early intervention and tailored support.	Review self-harm pathway to improve early identification and early intervention.
	Alcohol, drugs and gambling recovery services are skilled in identifying and supporting suicide risk and working collaboratively with mental health services.

	Domestic abuse is recognised as a risk factor for suicide and early support is provided for both victims and
	perpetrators.
Promotion of online safety and responsible media content to reduce harms and improve signposting to	Develop shared messaging around online harms and social media, to be delivered by all partners.
helpful information about suicide and self-harm	Education about social media harms and safe use of social media for CYP, families and professionals who work
prevention.	with them. Promotion of the R;pple browser extension across all educational establishments (schools, colleges
	and universities) which signposts to relevant support services instead of harmful searches.
	Work with media to ensure Samaritan's best practice guidance is adhered to, including signposting to local
	crisis support when appropriate.
Enabling access to effective crisis support for people who need it	Promote accurately what crisis support is available and how to access it.
	Support for families and carers of people who are at risk of, or have tried to, take their own life (support those
	who are supporting).
Reducing access to means and methods of suicide to -arevent deaths.	Timely surveillance and appropriate response to methods via the HIOW RTS group.
ag	Review of high-frequency locations in Southampton and appropriate action to reduce deaths by suicide,
Φ	including inclusion of suicide risk assessment and mitigation included in planning. Collaborative working with
general deaths.	British Transport Police and Network Rail.
	Promotion of safe prescribing, supply and storage of medicines.
Continue to provide effective bereavement support to those affected by suicide.	Continue providing and improving access to bereavement support and services locally, for all age groups.
Focus on preventing suicide in children and young	Develop suicide prevention and response plans including a prevention/postvention protocol for education
people.	settings and a HIOW RTS plan for responding to deaths by suicide in children and young people.
	Review self-harm pathways and support for young people and provide support in local Emergency Departments
	for young people who attend for self-harm.
	Work with Universities in Southampton to support universities to embed the Suicide-safer
	universities guidance, which covers both prevention of suicide and compassionate responses to suicide in universities.

Delivering our strategy.

Next steps

Further details about how we will achieve the ambitions within this strategy will be described in an action plan. A multi-agency Mental Health and Wellbeing Partnership will be established to coordinate and oversee the delivery of this action plan and strategy, complementing our existing Suicide Prevention Partnership. In addition to regular oversight by these partnerships, progress will be reviewed and reported annually to the Health and Wellbeing Board. We will also share our learning and experience with stakeholders and nationally whenever possible.

Monitoring for this strategy

To demonstrate progress towards the delivery of this strategy and to monitor outcomes to inform future direction of work, a mental health and wellbeing outcome measures can provide a broad view of how well we are doing across the city on delivering this strategy, they paint a complete picture. We will therefore also include feedback in the form of stories, case studies or feedback from people with lived/living experience, service providers where appropriate. The outcome measures will include:

Diagnosed mental health and suicide.

Rates of mental illness provided by these measures do not necessarily indicate the true number of people with poor mental health, they reflect the number who have attended services (GP, A&E or hospital) needing help and have received a diagnosis that has been recorded on an NHS system. They may therefore only reflect a proportion of those with problems. It may be that, by working on reducing the stigma associated with mental health, more people come forward for help and these numbers increase.

- Percentage of adults diagnosed with depression.
- Percentage of adults diagnosed with severe mental illness.
- Rates of death by suicide.
- Hospital admissions as a result of self-harm (10-24 years).

Self-reported mental health and wellbeing.

- Percentage of people (16+) with low happiness score.
- Percentage of people (16+) with high anxiety score.

• Young people wellbeing score on school survey (BeeWell).

Measures of impact on risk/protective factors.

- Percentage of adult carers (18+) who have as much social contact as they would like.
- Percentage of adult carers (65+) who have as much social contact as they would like.
- Percentage of adult social care users who have as much social contact as they would like (18+ years).
- Percentage of adult social care users who have as much social contact as they would like (65+ years).
- Percentage of physically active adults (age 19+).
- Percentage of physically active young people (age 5-16).
- Number of people in alcohol and drug treatment.
- Percentage of school pupils (with SEN) with social emotional and mental health needs.
- Percentage of looked after children whose emotional wellbeing is a cause of concern.

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Measures of impact on wider determinants.

Percentage of persistently absent pupils primary.

- Percentage of persistently absent pupils secondary.
- Average Attainment 8 score (GCSE).
- Percentage of 16 to 17 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) or whose activity is not known.
- Percentage of people aged 16 64 years in employment.

Engagement work and consultation.

This strategy was developed collaboratively with our partners across the city, including people with lived experience of poor mental health and/or suicide and those who have supported them. Southampton's Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy reflects the priorities of residents with lived experiences and the aspirations of our partners and services across the city who support the mental health and wellbeing of Southampton.

Engagement with partner organisations across the city.

We have talked to partner organisations across the city via a number of engagement workshops in the early stages of strategy development to determine the shared priorities of the city. During these sessions we spoke with service providers, the voluntary community sector, charities and the Southampton Mental Health Network. We worked with attendees to identify their shared priorities and commitments and began to map assets across the city to identify what is working well and what more may be required.

Engagement with key stakeholders within the Council.

To emphasise a focus on the risk and protective factors of mental health we have talked to key individuals and services across the Council who can influence on the wider determinants of resident's health. We have also spoken with key Boards and groups to develop priorities and ensure the voices of the residents they work to represent are heard.

Engagement with people with experience of mental health and suicide.

reporder to truly reflect the priorities of residents across the city, we have talked to people across the city who have lived experience of poor mental health and suicide. People with lived experience have shared their experiences to inform the development of the strategic priorities. This has been through engagement forums such as the initial workshops, peer support groups, young peoples' participation groups and engagement sessions within care settings such as Natalie House. People with lived experience have also supported the development of the strategic vision, our approach and the principles identified in this strategy.

Links with existing plans and strategies.

- Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2017-2025)
- Southampton City Council Corporate Plan (2022-2030)
- Children and Young People's Strategy (2022-2027)
- Southampton City Children and Young People's Emotional and Mental Health Wellbeing Plan 2022 refresh
- Prevention and Early Intervention priorities (2022-27)

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- Early Years priorities (2022-27)
- Children in our care: Our Corporate Parenting Plan (2022-2027)
- Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Strategy 2023-2028
- Physical Activity and Sports ('We Can Be Active') Strategy (2022)
- Adult Carers Strategy 2021-26
- Young Carers Strategy 2021-26
- Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2023-2028
- Homelessness Prevention Strategy (2018-2023)
- Cultural Strategy (2021-2031)
- CVD prevention local delivery action plan (awaited)
- Southampton Trauma Informed Practice Concordat Delivery Framework (awaited)

Glossary of terms used in this strategy

People with lived experience: Also called people with living experience or people with experience. These are people who either are or have been affected in some way by poor mental health or suicide in themselves or someone they are close to.

Wider determinants: These are the social, economic and environmental factors which impact on people's physical and mental health. They are like the building blocks of health. To create a healthy society that supports mental health and wellbeing we need the right building blocks in place like quality housing, good education and stable jobs. These will allow people to withstand the shocks and challenges of life.

Inequalities: Not everybody has the same amounts of money, power or resources in their lives because these are not fairly distributed across society. This means that some people face more challenges than others which impacts their physical, social and mental health.

Deprivation: In health and social care, deprivation usually refers to lacking income, employment, education, health, housing, or could relate to higher local crime levels, barriers to services, or quality of outside space. When the term poverty is used, it usually refers to low income.

LGBTQIA+: People who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, or asexual (LGBTQIA+)

Trauma: Often defined as an experience that happens in a person's life resulting in physical, mental, or emotional harm. This can be a single event or series of events like being a victim of sexual or other abuse or can be due to a persons' circumstances such as experiencing ongoing trauma from racism or discrimination or trauma from the stigma of having a mental health illness. All these causes of trauma can have negative impacts on physical, social and mental health.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs): Highly stressful and potentially traumatic events or situations that occur in childhood and/or adolescence. These can include neglect as well as physical, sexual and emotional abuse.

Trauma Informed Practice: This is an approach that thinks about all the ways a person can have experienced trauma in their lives and how this can affect them physically, and mentally. If people in services are trained in this approach, they can help people recover from this trauma.

Stemic racism: Sometimes called Institutional racism. Policies and practices that exist throughout societies or organisations that result in and support a continued unfair advantage to some people, and a harmful and unfair treatment of others, based on race.

Community trauma: Also called collective trauma. It relates to a shared experience that affects a whole community rather than an individual. Examples are racism, slavery, forcible removal from a family or community, genocide or war.

Holistic: This is taking into account the whole person, both physically and mentally, and providing care and support for all their needs.

Early intervention: This means identifying and providing early support to people who may be at risk of poorer mental health and wellbeing. It can also mean providing support at an earlier age to mitigate the factors that could contribute to poor mental health and wellbeing later in life.

Real Time Surveillances (RTS): This is a system for monitoring suspected deaths by suicide captured from police data in real time. This up-to-date information about suicide in our area helps to identify and implement support to prevent suicide in a timely manner.

Postvention: This refers to interventions provided for people who have been impacted by suicide. This aims to reduce risk of further deaths by suicide and also to help bereavement and healing. Postvention can be aimed at anyone who has been impacted by the death, including family, friends, work colleagues, communities, first responders etc.

Anchor Institutions: Anchor Institutions are large organisations that are unlikely to relocate and have a significant stake in local communities, effectively anchored in their surrounding areas. They usually employ a lot of people and have sizeable assets that can be used to support local community health and wellbeing, including tackling inequalities.

R;pple browser extension: This is a software tool that provides mental health resources to people who are searching for harmful online content relating to suicide and self-harm.

Data included in this strategy can be found on the Southampton City Council Data Observatory Homepage (southampton.gov.uk)

Byou need help with your mental health a list of local, national and online mental health support services and resources on our website: https://www.southampton.gov.uk/mental-health

If you, or someone you know, are experiencing an emotional crisis, phone Samaritans for free from any phone on 116 123.

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Equality and Safety Impact Assessment

The **Public Sector Equality Duty** (Section 149 of the Equality Act) requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people carrying out their activities.

The Equality Duty supports good decision making – it encourages public bodies to be more efficient and effective by understanding how different people will be affected by their activities, so that their policies and services are appropriate and accessible to all and meet different people's needs. The Council's Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) includes an assessment of the community safety impact assessment to comply with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act and will enable the Council to better understand the potential impact of proposals and consider mitigating action.

Name or Brief	Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2023-2028
Description of	
Proposal	

Brief Service Profile (including number of customers)

This is a city-wide strategy for all who live and work in Southampton. While mental health services are crucially important for people with mental illness, this strategy is not directly about these services. It focuses on prevention of mental health problems and promotion of wellbeing, taking a wider determinants approach to supporting people to have better mental health and wellbeing.

There are many factors that affect mental health and wellbeing, both negatively (risk factors) and positively (protective factors). This strategy aims to address these through action to prevent or support the experience of risk factors for those who need it, and to promote the enjoyment of protective factors for everyone. Although this strategy is not about specific mental health disorders or conditions, it is relevant to people who do have a disorder (e.g. common mental health illness like depression or anxiety, a serious mental health illness like schizophrenia or bipolar, or a condition like dementia) as there will still be things that can improve their mental health and wellbeing in addition to specialist support.

This is an ambitious strategy that covers a broad range of factors for mental health and wellbeing, which reflects the importance of mental health and wellbeing across nearly every area of our lives. It outlines how partners across Southampton will work together to promote mental health and wellbeing and reduce the inequalities that some people experience.

Summary of Impact and Issues

This Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy focuses on prevention of mental health problems and promotion of wellbeing, taking a wider determinants approach to supporting people to have better mental health and wellbeing. There is a risk of greater ongoing mental health and wellbeing inequalities if we do **not** pursue this strategy.

We have not identified any risks of delivering this strategy, that would have a negative impact on the protected characteristics identified in this ESIA.

Data provided below are taken from the Southampton Data Observatory <u>Homepage</u> (southampton.gov.uk)

Potential Positive Impacts

This strategy aims to deliver positive impacts though 6 priority areas:

- 1. There is a positive culture that promotes mental health and wellbeing in Southampton.
- 2. We have greater focus on the areas of people's lives that impact their mental health and wellbeing.
- 3. People in Southampton get support for their mental health and wellbeing when they need it.
- 4. Everyone has the opportunity to have positive mental health and wellbeing and is able to benefit from support that is right for them
- 5. Children and young people get the best start in life for their mental health and wellbeing and families are supported.
- 6. Working together to prevent suicide and self-harm, and support those who are impacted.

Responsible Service	
Manager	
Date	
Approved by Senior	
Manager	
Date	

Potential Impact

Impact	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions &
Assessment		Mitigating Actions
Age	No negative impacts of the draft	We will continue to consider
	strategy identified. There could be potential impacts across all age	the voices of, and impacts to people of all ages, when
	groups if we did not pursue this strategy.	developing and implementing this strategy.

Impact	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions &
Assessment		Mitigating Actions
	Nearly a fifth (18.7%) of people >16 years old in Southampton have a common mental health problem and 1.13% of registered patients over 16 have a diagnosis of severe mental illness, both of which are higher than the England average. Nearly a quarter of adults in Southampton report high anxiety and 10% report low happiness. When children and young people in Southampton were surveyed, only 51% said they are happy with their mental health. Older people are at higher risk of loneliness and isolation which we know is a risk factor which had led to poor mental health.	This strategy takes an across the life course approach with a dedicated priority focusing on children and young people being given the best start in life for their mental health and wellbeing and helping families to support each other. The mental health and wellbeing need of older people are addressed through strengthening social connectedness and improving access to appropriate services and support for them, including preparation for older age, bereavement and alcohol use.
Disability	No negative impacts of the draft strategy identified. There could be potential impacts associated in people with disabilities if we did not pursue this strategy. 16% of Southampton's population have a long-term health problem or disability. This strategy recognises disability as a risk factor of mental health.	We will continue to consider the voices of, and impacts to people with disabilities, when developing and implementing this strategy. This strategy will support and create equal opportunities to have positive mental health and wellbeing, and equal opportunity to benefit from support when it is needed, including those with disabilities.
		It focuses on the protective factors that support to

Impact	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions &
Assessment		Mitigating Actions
		improve mental health and wellbeing.
Gender Reassignment	No negative impacts of the draft strategy identified. There could be potential impacts associated with those undergoing/completed gender reassignment if we did not pursue this strategy.	We will continue to consider the voices of, and impacts to people of all sexes and genders, when developing and implementing this strategy.
	Nationally, half of LGBTQIA+ people experience depression, three in five experience anxiety, one in eight LGBTQIA+ people aged 18 to 24 had attempted to end their life and almost half of trans people had thought about taking their life.	This strategy aims to reduce inequalities in mental health and wellbeing, through the available tailored mental health and wellbeing support for people most vulnerable to poor mental health such as those going through or completed gender reassignment.
Care Experienced	No negative impacts of the draft strategy identified. There could be potential impacts associated with those who have experienced being in care if we did not pursue this strategy. Southampton has 560 children in care, half of children in care meet criteria for a mental health disorder.	We will continue to consider the voices of, and impacts to people who have experienced being in care, when developing and implementing this strategy. This strategy aims to appropriately support Young people leaving care or transitioning from children's to adult social care or mental health care, or out from tier 4 mental health placements.
		Foster carers will be supported with training around mental health, therapeutic support during placements, and provision of support at placement endings.
Marriage and	No negative impacts of the draft	
Civil Partnership	strategy identified.	
Pregnancy and Maternity	No negative impacts of the draft strategy identified. There could be	We will continue to consider the voices of, and impacts to
	January Indianica. There could be	the voices of, and impacts to

Impact	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions &
Assessment		Mitigating Actions
	potential impacts associated within pregnancy and maternity residents if we did not pursue this strategy.	people who are pregnant or parents, when developing and implementing this strategy.
	This strategy takes an across the life course approach and recognises this protected characteristic as a risk factor of mental health and reflects the protective factors to support residents.	This strategy aims to achieve positive perinatal mental health and wellbeing for all the family, with other professionals who come into contact with new families being trained and supported to identify mental health concerns.
Race	No negative impacts of the draft strategy identified. There could be potential impacts for residents of all races if we did not pursue this strategy.	We will continue to consider the voices of, and impacts to people of all ethnicities, when developing and implementing this strategy.
	People from ethnic minority groups have higher rates of diagnosis of mental illness, delays in support until crisis situations, hospital admissions due to mental illness, poor treatment outcomes and disengagement from mental health services.	This strategy has a priority for people to have equal opportunity to have positive mental health and wellbeing, and equal opportunity to benefit from support when it is needed, including the mental health and wellbeing needs of people from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds being met, and they are supported in the way that is right for them.
		The strategy will achieve this by working with communities to better understand the mental health and wellbeing needs of people from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds in Southampton It will promote understanding of the barriers and needs of ethnic minorities among the mental health work force,

Impact	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions &
Assessment		Mitigating Actions
		education settings and other
		partner organisations.
Religion or Belief	No negative impacts of the draft strategy identified. There could be potential impacts for residents of all religions and faiths if we did not pursue this strategy. This strategy will increase awareness and inclusivity and reduce stigma and discrimination, strengthening work with faith communities around awareness and reducing stigma, and empower people within communities to speak about MH.	We will continue to consider the voices of, and impacts to people of all religions and beliefs, when developing and implementing this strategy. This strategy will encourage and support residents to build social connections by promoting opportunities for creating and maintaining social connections through activities run by peer-led,
Sex	No negative impacts of the draft strategy identified. There could be potential impacts for residents of all genders if we did not pursue this strategy.	We will continue to consider the voices of, and impacts to people of all genders, when developing and implementing this strategy.
Sexual Orientation	No negative impacts of the draft strategy identified. There could be potential impacts associated with LGBTQIA+ residents if we did not pursue this strategy. Nationally, half of LGBTQIA+ people experience depression, three in five experience anxiety, one in eight LGBTQIA+ people aged 18 to 24 had attempted to end their life and	We will continue to consider the voices of, and impacts to people of all sexual orientation, when developing and implementing this strategy. This strategy aims to reduce inequalities in mental health
	almost half of trans people had thought about taking their life.	and wellbeing, through the available tailored mental health and wellbeing support for people most vulnerable to poor mental health such as those who identify as LGBTQIA+.

Impact	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions &
Assessment		Mitigating Actions
Community Safety	No negative impacts of the draft strategy identified. This strategy aims to allow everyone to enjoy and benefit from protective factors for mental health and wellbeing, including increased access to, and perception of safety of green spaces in Southampton.	We will continue to consider the impact on community safety, when developing and implementing this strategy.
Poverty	No negative impacts of the draft strategy identified. There could be potential impacts associated with residents experiencing poverty if we did not pursue this strategy. Southampton is ranked 55th most deprived out of 317 local authorities in England, where 1 is the most deprived. In 2019, 13.5% of Southampton residents lived in an area experiencing deprivation relating to low income, this is significantly higher than the English average of 12.9%. We identify the impact of poverty, low income, financial insecurity and poor housing as a risk factor for poor mental health in the strategy.	We will continue to consider the voices of, and impacts to people of experiencing poverty, when developing and implementing this strategy. This strategy has a priority to have greater focus on the areas of people's lives that impact their mental health and wellbeing. Specifically, people are supported with cost of living, including the mental health impacts of financial anxiety and food insecurity.
Health & Wellbeing	No negative impacts of the draft strategy identified. There could be potential impacts associated with Mental Health and Wellbeing of residents if we did not pursue this strategy.	We will continue to consider the voices of, and impacts to people's health and wellbeing, when developing and implementing this strategy.
Other Significant Impacts	No negative impacts of the draft strategy identified.	We will continue to consider other significant impacts,

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
		when developing and implementing this strategy.





Introduction

Consultation principles

Methodology & promotion

Who are the respondents?

Vision statement & overall priorities

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- Feedback on the overall vision
- Summary of feedback on the priorities
- Free-text comments on the draft strategy overall

Reading & understanding the draft strategy

PRIORITIES

- Priority 1 A Positive Culture
 - Responses
 - Free-text comments
- Priority 2 Areas of impact
 - Responses
 - Free-text comments
- Priority 3 Support
 - Responses
 - Free-text comments
- Priority 4 Equal opportunities
 - Responses
 - Free-text comments
- Priority 5 Children & young people
 - Responses
 - Free-text comments
- Priority 6 Suicide & self-harm
 - Responses
 - Free-text comments

Communicate clearly to residents and stakeholders the proposals for the Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy;

Southampton City Council undertook a public consultation on a draft Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy.

- Ensure any resident, business or stakeholder in Southampton that wished to comment on the proposals had the opportunity to do so, enabling them to raise any impacts the proposals may have, and;
- Allow participants to propose alternative suggestions for consideration which they feel could achieve the objectives of the strategy in a
 different way.

The primary method of gathering feedback for this consultation was via online questionnaire, distributed by public health networks, stakeholder groups, and on social media. Physical paper versions of the questionnaire were also made available, and respondents could also email yourcity.yoursay@southampton.gov.uk with their feedback, as well as respond by post.

This report summarises the aims, principles, methodology and results of the public consultation. It provides a summary of the consultation responses both for the consideration of decision makers and any interested individuals and stakeholders.

It is important to be mindful that a consultation is not a vote, it is an opportunity for stakeholders to express their views, concerns and alternatives to a proposal. This report outlines in detail the representations made during the consultation period so that decision makers can consider what has been said alongside other information.

Southampton City Council is committed to consultations of the highest standard and which are meaningful and comply with the *Gunning Principles*, considered to be the legal standard for consultations:

- 1. Proposals are still at a formative stage (a final decision has not yet been made);
- 2. There is sufficient information put forward in the proposals to allow 'intelligent consideration';
- 3. There is adequate time for consideration and response, and;
- 4. Conscientious consideration must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is made.



New Conversations 2.0 LGA guide to engagement

Rules: The Gunning Principles

They were coined by Stephen Sedley QC in a court case in 1985 relating to a school closure consultation (R v London Borough of Brent ex parte Gunning). Prior to this, very little consideration had been given to the laws of consultation. Sedley defined that a consultation is only legitimate when these four principles are met:

- proposals are still at a formative stage
 A final decision has not yet been made, or predetermined, by the decision makers
- there is sufficient information to give 'intelligent consideration'
 The information provided must relate to the consultation and must be available, accessible, and easily interpretable for consultees to provide an informed response
- 3. there is adequate time for consideration and response
 There must be sufficient opportunity for consultees to participate in the consultation. There is no set timeframe for consultation, despite the widely accepted twelve-week consultation period, as the length of time given for consultee to respond can vary depending on the subject and extent of impact of the consultation
- 'conscientious consideration' must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is made Decision-makers should be able to provide evidence that they took consultation responses into account

These principles were reinforced in 2001 in the 'Coughlan Case (R v North and East Devon Health Authority ex parte Coughlan²), which involved a health authority closure and confirmed that they applied to all consultations, and then in a Supreme Court case in 2014 (R ex parte Moseley v LB Haringey³), which endorsed the legal standing of the four principles. Since then, the Gunning Principles have formed a strong legal foundation from which the legitimacy of public consultations is assessed, and are frequently referred to as a legal basis for judicial review decisions.⁴

⁴ The information used to produce this document has been taken from the Law of Consultation training course provided by The Consultation Institute





¹ In some local authorities, their local voluntary Compact agreement with the third sector may specify the length of time they are required to consult for. However, in many cases, the Compact is either inactive or has been cancelled so the consultation timeframe is open to debate

² BAILII, England and Wales Court of Appeal (Civil Decision) Decisions, Accessed: 13 December 2016.

³ BAILII, United Kingdom Supreme Court, Accessed: 13 December 2016

Methodology & promotion



The agreed approach for this consultation was to use an online questionnaire as the main route for feedback; questionnaires enable an appropriate amount of explanatory and supporting information to be included in a structured way, helping to ensure respondents are aware of the background and detail of the proposals.

Respondents could also write letters or emails to provide feedback on the proposals: emails or letters from stakeholders that contained consultation feedback were collated and analysed as a part of the overall consultation.

The consultation was promoted in the following ways:

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- Press release;
- Council e-bulletins;
- Social media channels;
- Stakeholder forums;
- Southampton City Council website.

All questionnaire results have been analysed and presented in graphs within this report. Respondents were also given opportunities throughout the questionnaire to provide written feedback on the proposals. All written responses and questionnaire comments have been read and then assigned to categories based upon sentiment or theme.



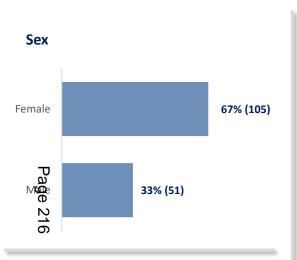
Who are the respondents?

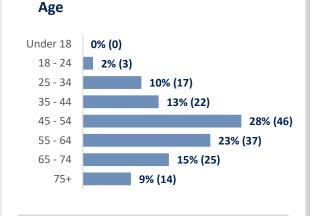


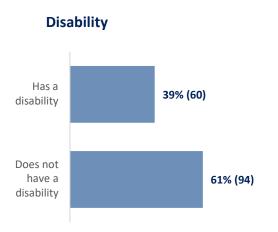


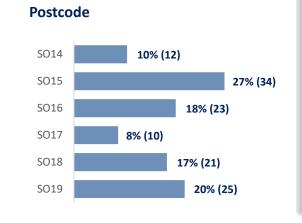
184 survey responses 7 email/letter responses 191 total

Graphs on this page are labelled as percentage (count).

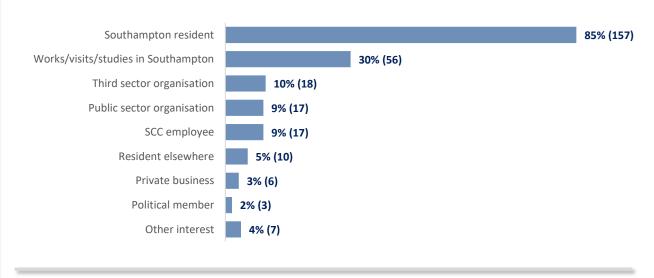




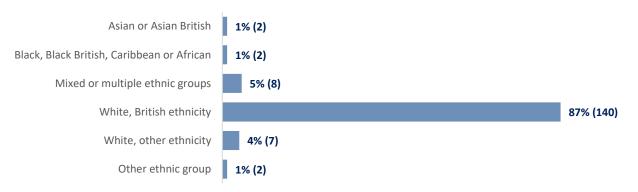








Ethnicity



Consultation feedback

Vision statement & overall priorities





Vision & broad priorities



This is a draft strategy for the whole city. It was developed with our partners across the city, including people with lived experience of poor mental health and those who support them. It reflects our shared priorities and the aspirations of services that support mental health and wellbeing in Southampton.

Our vision for the draft strategy is:

"People in Southampton will have good mental health and wellbeing, whatever their background or the circumstances in which they live."

This strategy describes our approach to achieving this vision. It outlines the actions that we will take together to address the needs of our residents and communities.

here are many things that affect mental health and wellbeing, both negatively (risk factors) and positively (protective factors). Through the prevention of risk factors and promotion of protective factors we hope to improve mental health and wellbeing in Southampton.

Mental health services are crucially important for people with mental illness or crisis, but this strategy is not only about these services. It focuses on preventing poor mental health and promoting wellbeing, looking at all the different things that are important for mental health and wellbeing.

Although this strategy is not about specific mental health disorders or conditions, it is relevant to people who have mental health illnesses like depression, anxiety, schizophrenia or bipolar, a condition like dementia, a learning disability, who have a drug or alcohol issues or who are neurodiverse. It is important that this strategy considers everyone's mental health and wellbeing. We know that everyone, including those who are living with other diagnoses, disabilities or difficulties, can benefit.

This is an ambitious strategy that reflects the importance of mental health and wellbeing across nearly every area of our lives. It outlines how partners across Southampton will work together to promote mental health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities.

Our actions align to six priority areas:

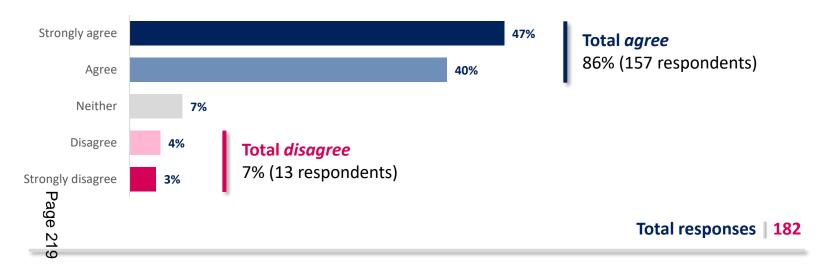
- 1. There is a positive culture that promotes mental health and wellbeing in Southampton.
- 2. We have greater focus on the areas of people's lives that impact their mental health and wellbeing.
- 3. People in Southampton get support for their mental health and wellbeing when they need it.
- 4. People have equal opportunity to have positive mental health and wellbeing and equal opportunity to benefit from support when it is needed.
- 5. Children and young people get the best start in life for their mental health and wellbeing and families are supported.
- 6. Working together to prevent suicide and self-harm, and support those who are impacted.



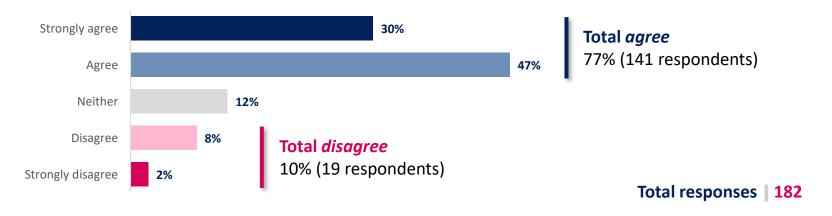
Feedback on the overall vision



Question 1 | To what extent do you agree or disagree with the focus of the proposed vision and six priority areas overall?

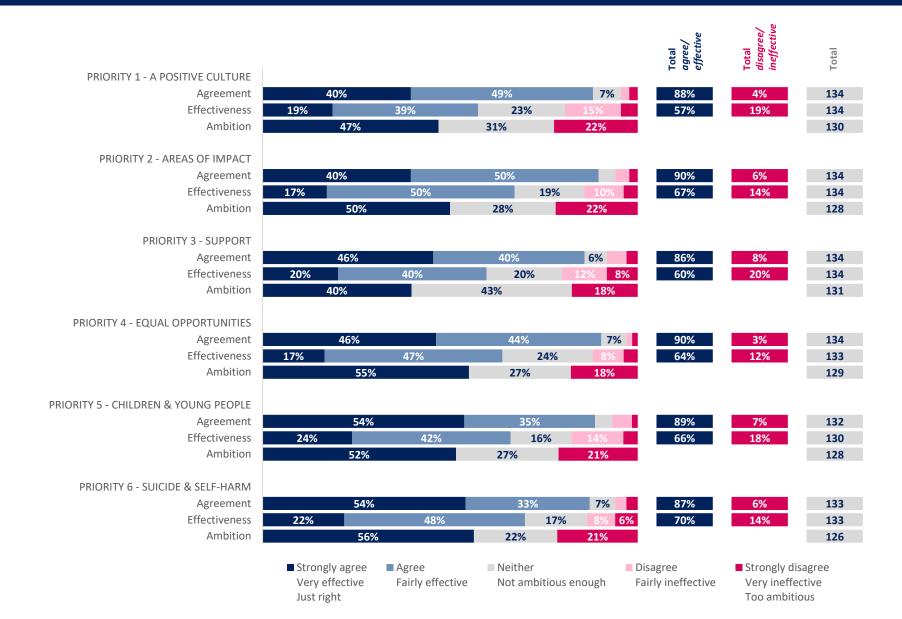


Question 2 | To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed vision and six priority areas are clear and easy to understand?



- 86% of respondents said they agreed with the draft vision and the priorities overall, including 47% that said they strongly agreed
- All breakdowns responded similarly, between 80% and 93% agree
- 77% of respondents agreed that the draft strategy was clear and easy to understand



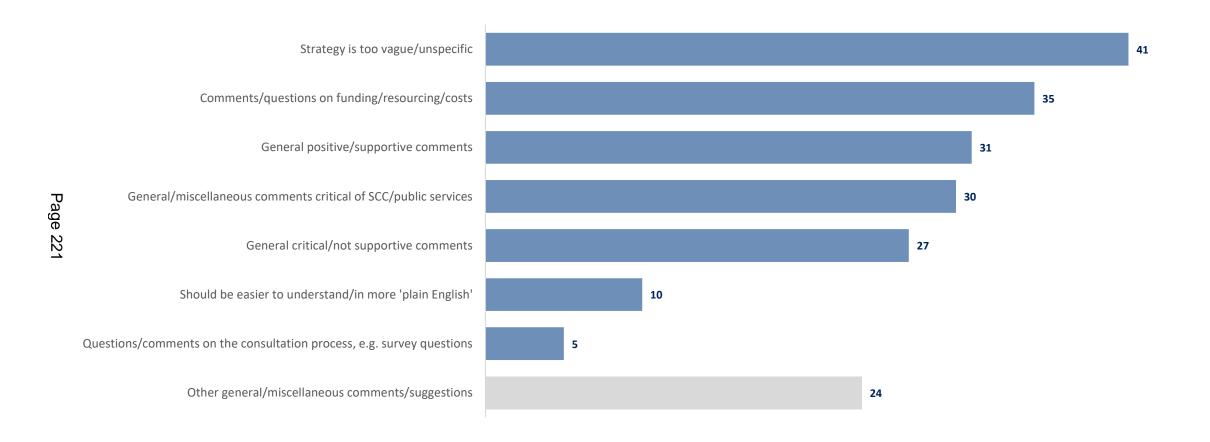


Summary of feedback on the priorities

Free-text comments on the draft strategy overall*



*Number of comments per comment theme.





Consultation feedback

age 222

Priorities





Priority 1 – A Positive Culture



Our mental health and wellbeing is impacted by our surroundings and our social connections. Therefore, it's important that our city promotes and protects the mental health and wellbeing of everyone.

We know that stigma, discrimination and racism have harmful effects on mental and physical health through the trauma they cause. We also know that stigma and discrimination against people with mental health problems can have a big impact and create further inequalities through bodily stress responses, poor access to mental and physical healthcare, dying earlier, exclusion from education and employment, increased risk of contact with the criminal justice system, victimisation, poverty and homelessness.

A city that promotes mental health and wellbeing needs to recognise and overcome stigma, discrimination, racism and promote inclusivity for everyone. It needs to celebrate the city and communities within it and the mental health of people who live and work here.

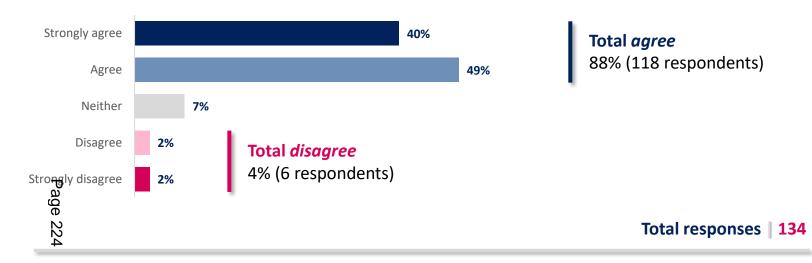
- Southampton is a place where everyone can benefit from our city-wide commitment to mental health and wellbeing
- People with lived experience are at the heart of our work and decision making around mental health and wellbeing
- We all share agreed language about mental health and wellbeing that includes, values and respects people
- We will increase awareness and inclusivity and reduce stigma and discrimination
- We are promoting positive messaging about mental health and wellbeing
- Workplaces in Southampton are committed to improving the mental health and wellbeing of their staff
- There will be strong leadership in mental health and wellbeing



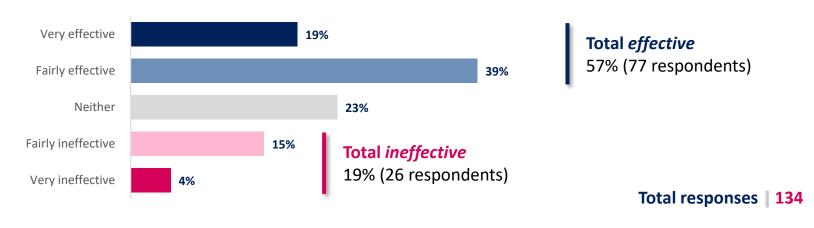
Priority 1 – A Positive Culture



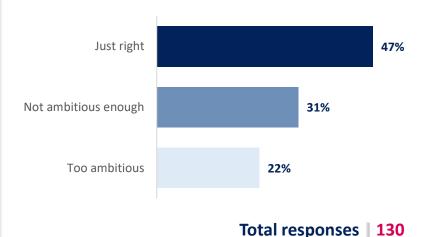
Question 5 | To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals for this priority?



Question 6 | How effective do you feel these proposals would be towards achieving this priority?



Question 7 | How ambitious do you feel our plans are?

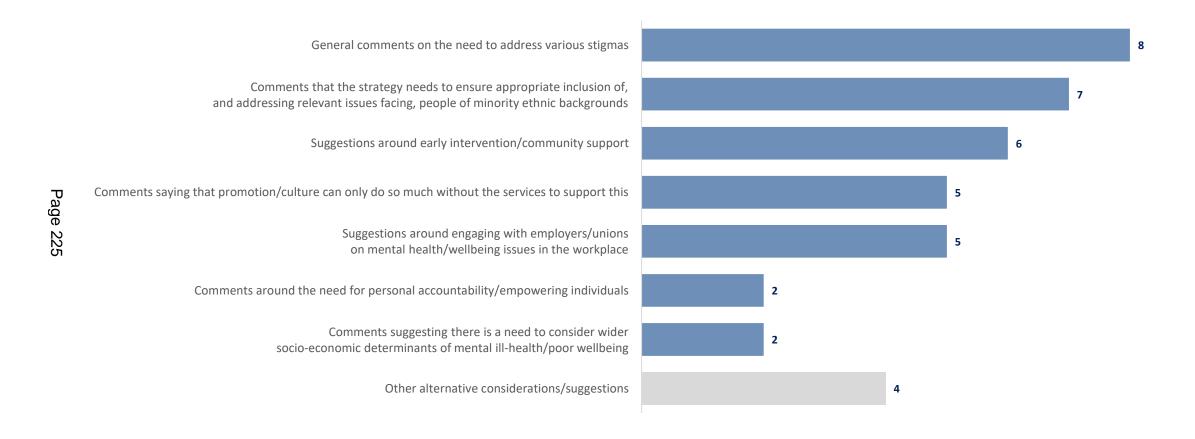


- 88% of respondents said that they agreed with the proposals regarding this priority, including 40% that said they strongly agreed
- 57% of respondents said this part of the draft strategy would be effective if implemented, less than the 88% that said they agreed with this element overall
- More responded neither (23%) than responded ineffective (19%)
- 47% said that this priority had the right amount of ambition

Priority 1 – A Positive Culture free-text comments*



*Number of comments per comment theme.





Priority 2 – Areas of Impact



Everyone should have the right to live healthy lives and have positive mental health. However, inequalities in some of the basic building blocks of life means this is not the case. A focus on these building blocks means improving people's opportunities for things like education, employment, and housing. These are things that we know are important for mental health and wellbeing.

We also need to focus on protective factors like physical activity and social connections. Building social networks is incredibly important for daily wellbeing and for protecting against the impacts of challenges when they arise.

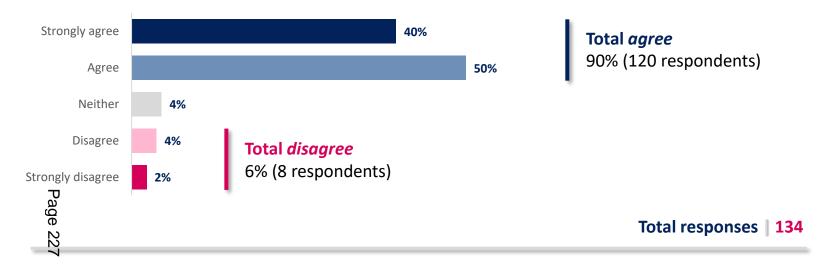
- Conditions in which people live and the opportunities for education and employment in Southampton are improved, and this will reduce inequality
- Everyone in Southampton can enjoy and benefit from things that improve mental health and wellbeing
- People are supported to build social connections
- People can access advice about managing the cost of living and the mental health impacts of financial anxiety and food insecurity



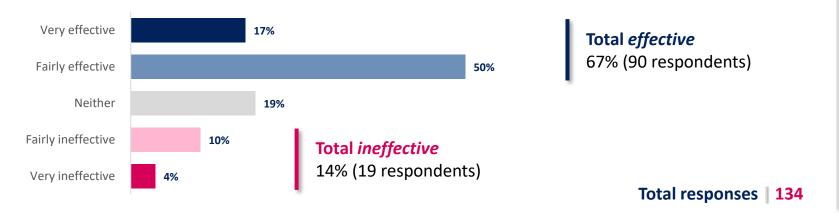
Priority 2 – Areas of Impact



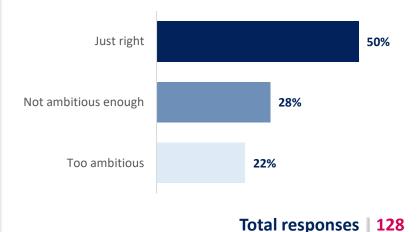
Question 9 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals for this priority?



Question 10 | How effective do you feel these proposals would be towards achieving this priority?



Question 11 | How ambitious do you feel our plans are?

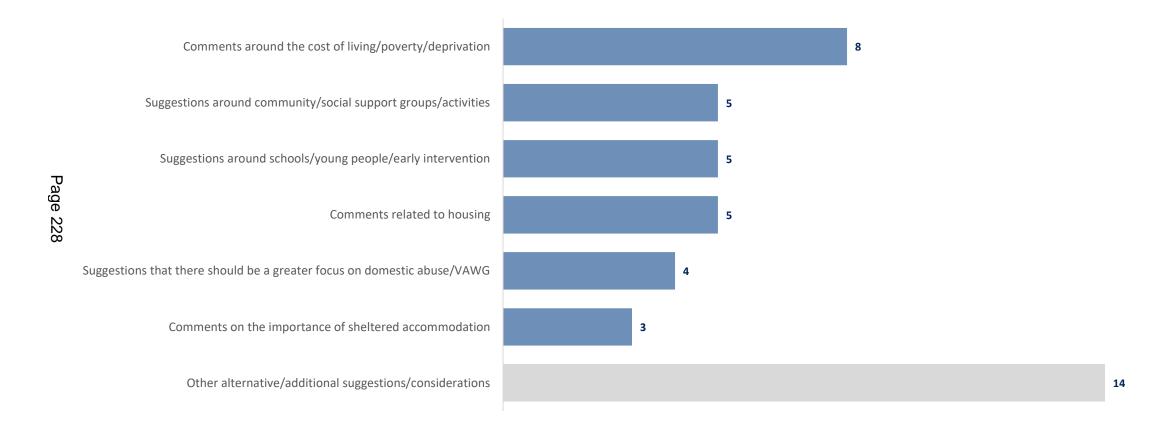


- 90% of respondents said that they agreed with the proposals for this priority
- 67% said that the proposals on this priority would be effective, again, less than the 90% that said they agreed with the proposals generally
- Again, all breakdowns responded similarly, responding effective between 59% and 71%
- 50% said that the proposals for this priority had the right levels of ambition

Priority 2 – Areas of Impact free-text comments*



*Number of comments per comment theme.



Priority 3 – Support



This strategy strives to promote mental wellbeing and to prevent poor mental health in everyone. However, there will be times when support is needed, and people should be able to access appropriate levels of support at the right time. This should include support in the community as well as specialist support if needed. We need to continue to support the creation of connections between people and the organisations that support mental health and wellbeing.

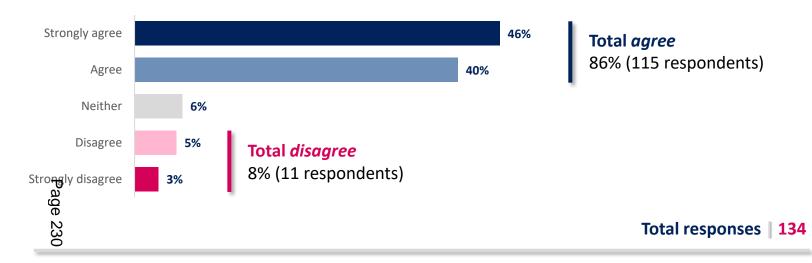
- Communities support the mental health and wellbeing of their residents
- A broad range of support for mental health and wellbeing is available to people before they need specialist services
- If people need help, they are able to access mental health services or crisis support.



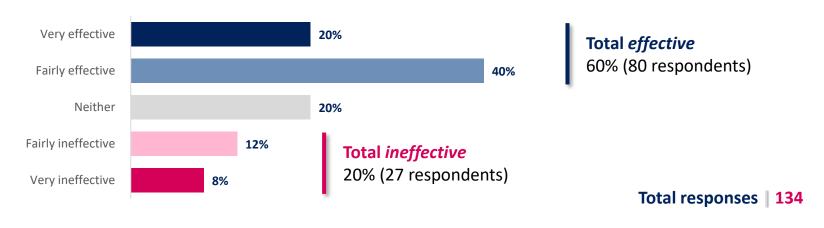
Priority 3 – Support



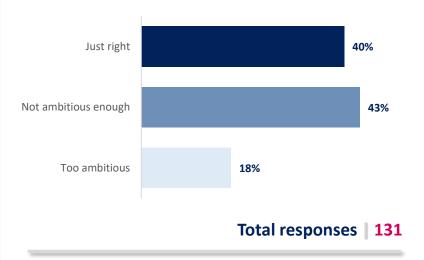
Question 13 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals for this priority?



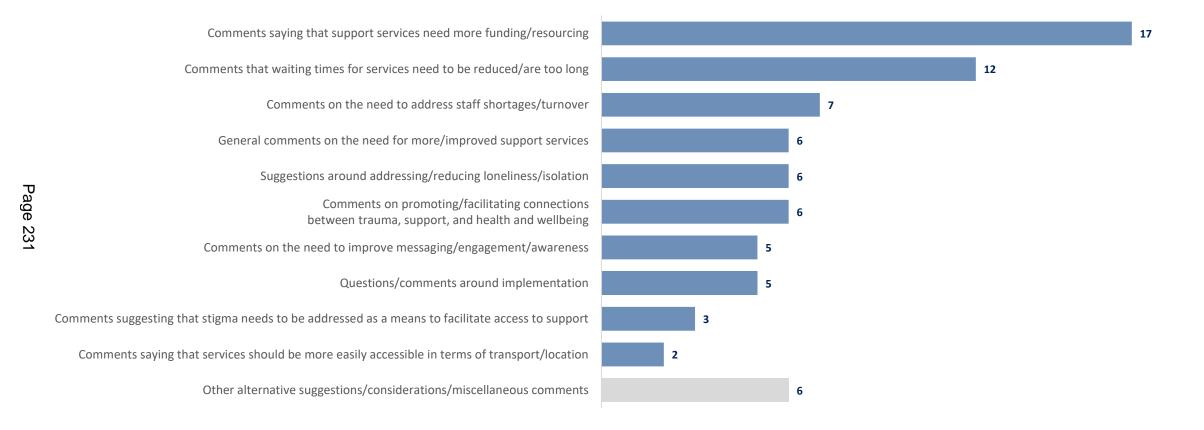
Question 14 | How effective do you feel these proposals would be towards achieving this priority?



Question 15 | How ambitious do you feel our plans are?



- 86% agreed with the proposals for this priority, including 46% that said they strongly agreed
- 60% said the proposals for this priority would be effective, again, less than the 86% that said they agreed with the proposals generally
- Responses overall were split between just right (40%) and not ambitious enough (43%)





Priority 4 – Equal opportunities



There are inequalities in mental health and wellbeing and many of these are linked to other challenges a person might be facing, whether that's physical health problems, neurodiversity, disability, addiction or discrimination. Not everyone is able to get the help they need and we must work towards overcoming barriers they face. We need to think about the whole person and all their needs. We need to recognise that people are complex and diverse and that a "one-size fits all" approach won't work.

We know that people who experience long term physical conditions are more likely to have poor mental health and wellbeing. We also know that beople experiencing poor mental health are more likely to have poor physical health leading to worse outcomes. It is therefore important that the physical health of people with mental health problems is properly supported.

This strategy does not include preventing dementia as a disease because this is included in cardiovascular disease prevention. However, dementia can be associated with poor mental health, and people with dementia may benefit from the same mental health and wellbeing support as others.

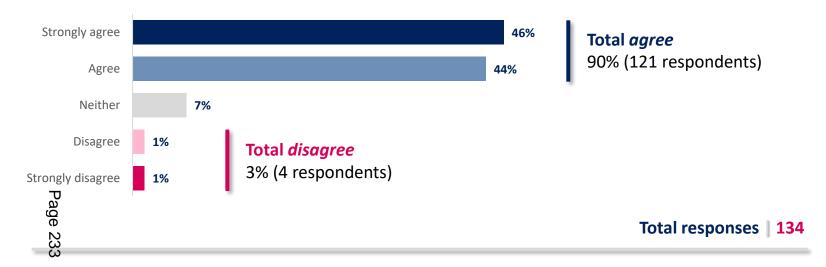
- Inequalities in mental health and wellbeing are reduced
- The mental health and wellbeing needs of people from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds are met and they are supported in the way that is right for them
- The needs of people with mental health problems are holistically met, reducing the inequality in health and wellbeing



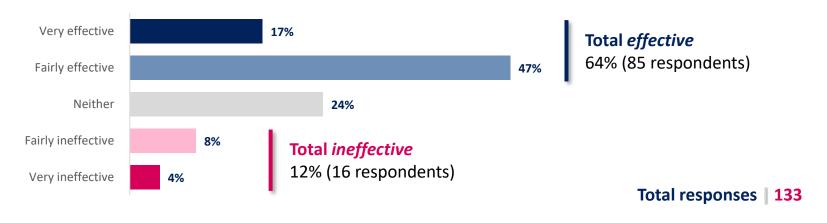
Priority 4 – Equal opportunities



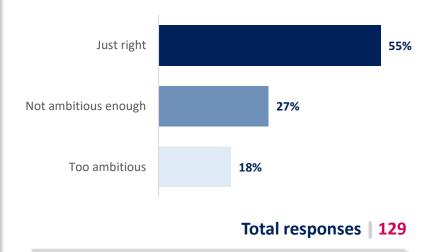
Question 17 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals for this priority?



Question 18 | How effective do you feel these proposals would be towards achieving this priority?



Question 19 | How ambitious do you feel our plans are?

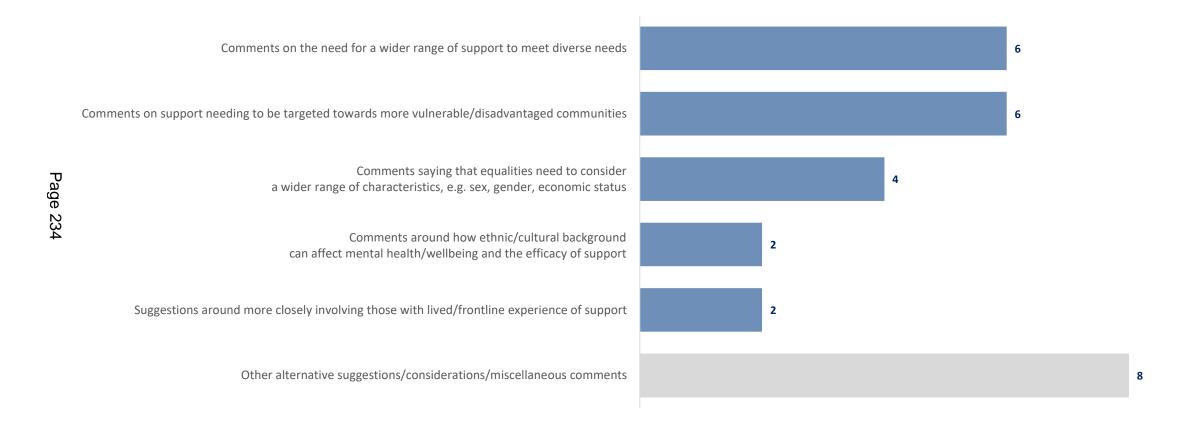


- 90% of respondents agreed with this priority, including
 46% that said they strongly agreed
- 64% said these proposals would be effective if implemented, with a quarter (24%) saying they would be neither effective or ineffective
- As with the other priorities, less said these proposals would be effective than the 90% that agreed with them overall
- Overall responses were 55% just right, with all breakdowns responding similarly

Priority 4 – Equal opportunities free-text comments*



*Number of comments per comment theme.





Priority 5 – Children & Young People



Putting in the ingredients for positive mental health and wellbeing needs to start in the early years. We know that half of mental health problems are established by age 14 and three quarters by age 24. We also know that the mental health of parents and carers has a significant impact on children and young people's current and future mental health and life chances. Supporting the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people through their families, communities and education settings is essential.

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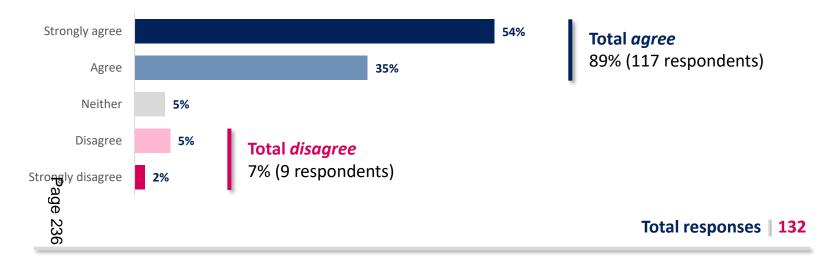
- Positive perinatal mental health and wellbeing for all the family
- Parents, carers and families can access a wide range of support in their communities
- A positive concept of emotional and mental health will be promoted and children and young people are able to have healthy conversations about emotions
- Education settings are healthy environments that promote good mental health and wellbeing of children, young people and staff, as well as teaching them about maintaining emotional wellbeing
- Children, young people and families are supported through transitions, both in their development and between services
- Parents, carers and families who provide support for a child or young person are given the tools and support they need



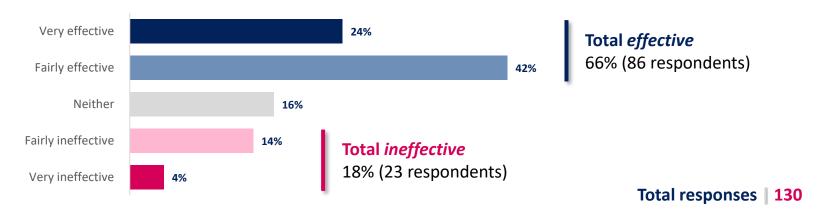
Priority 5 – Children & Young People



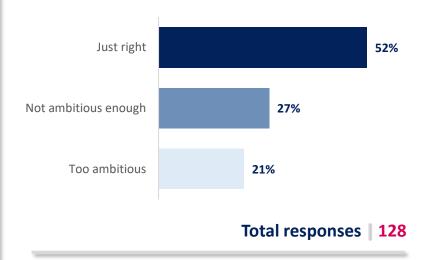
Question 21 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals for this priority?



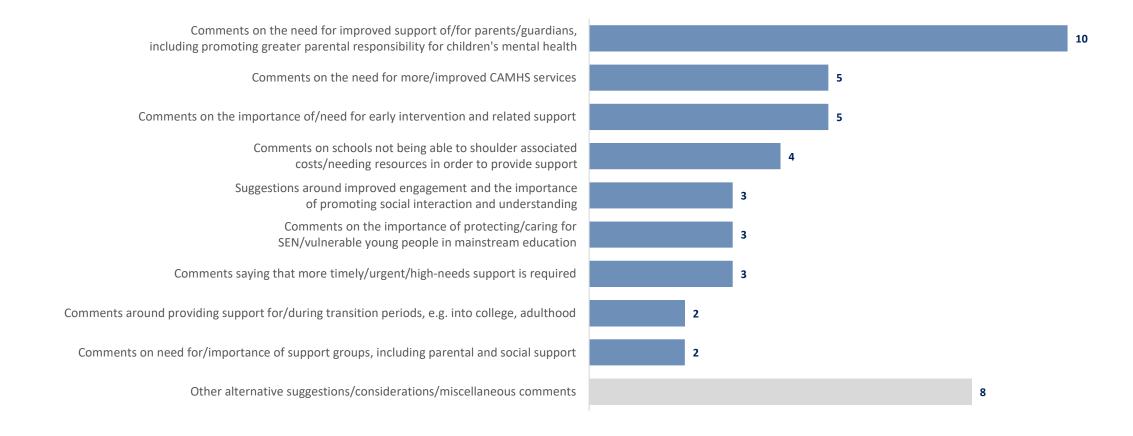
Question 22 | How effective do you feel these proposals would be towards achieving this priority?



Question 23 | How ambitious do you feel our plans are?



- 89% said that they agreed with this priority, including 54% that said they strongly agreed
- 66% of respondents said that the proposals for this priority would be effective if implemented, again, less than the 89% that said they agreed with the priority
- 52% said the level of ambition was just right



Priority 6 – Suicide & self-harm

Deaths from suicide are tragic and have a devastating effect on families, friends, and communities. Suicide prevention refers to the collective efforts needed to reduce these deaths, recognising that each death is often the endpoint in a complex history of events and risk factors. Much of the prevention for suicide at a population level will be the same as prevention for poor mental health, such as reducing isolation, unemployment and the impact of trauma. However, preventing deaths by suicide also requires more specific action based on who we know is at risk and what we know works. From national and local data, we know that risk factors for suicide include:

- Men, particularly middle-aged men (and also younger males)
- People experiencing mental health problems
- People experiencing relationship difficulties, unemployment, financial difficulties, physical health problems, housing difficulties and/or social isolation
- Bereavement, especially bereavement by suicide
- People with previous attempts of suicide
- People with co-occurring drug and/or alcohol use and mental health problems
- People formerly convicted of a crime
- People who have experienced abuse (either as victims or witnesses)
- People experiencing isolation from others
- People who have been diagnosed with a terminal or chronic illness
- People experiencing bullying
- People who are neurodivergent
- People who identify as LGBTIQ+

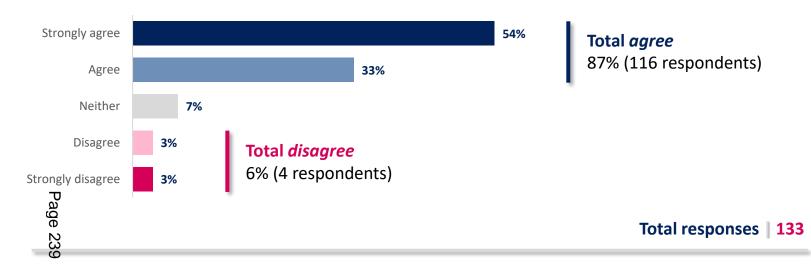
- Partners across the city will work together to make suicide prevention everyone's business and maximise collective impact to prevent suicide and self-harm
- Improved data and evidence so that effective, evidence-informed and timely interventions continue to be adapted
- Provision of tailored support to priority groups, including those at higher risk
- Common risk factors linked to suicide are addressed by providing early intervention and tailored support
- Promotion of online safety and responsible media content to reduce harms and improve signposting to helpful information about suicide and self-harm prevention
- Enabling access to effective crisis support for people who need it
- Reducing access to means and methods of suicide to prevent deaths
- Continue to provide effective bereavement support to those affected by suicide
- Focus on preventing suicide in children and young people

southampton dataobservatory

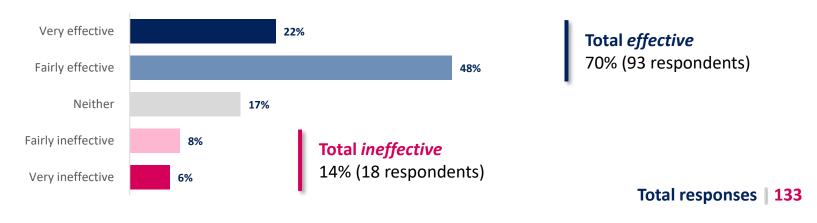


Question 25 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals for this priority?

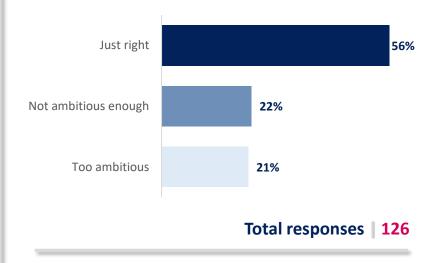
Priority 6 – Suicide & self-harm



Question 26 | How effective do you feel these proposals would be towards achieving this priority?



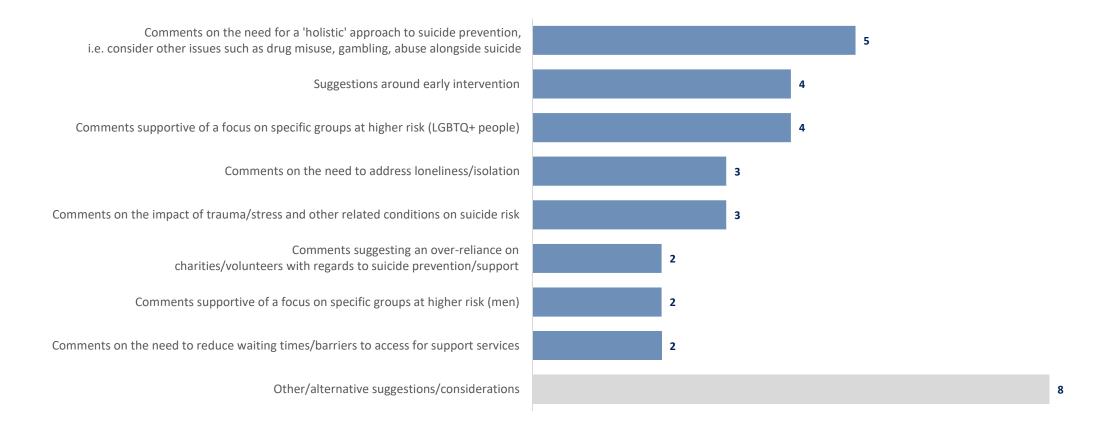
Question 27 | How ambitious do you feel our plans are?



- 87% said that they agreed with this priority, including 54% that said they strongly agreed
- 70% of respondents said that the proposals for this priority would be effective if implemented, again, less than the 87% that said they agreed with the priority
- Over half (56%) said the level of ambition was just right

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Priority 6 – Suicide & self-harm free-text comments*





Consultation feedback

Reading the draft strategy







Reading & understanding the draft strategy

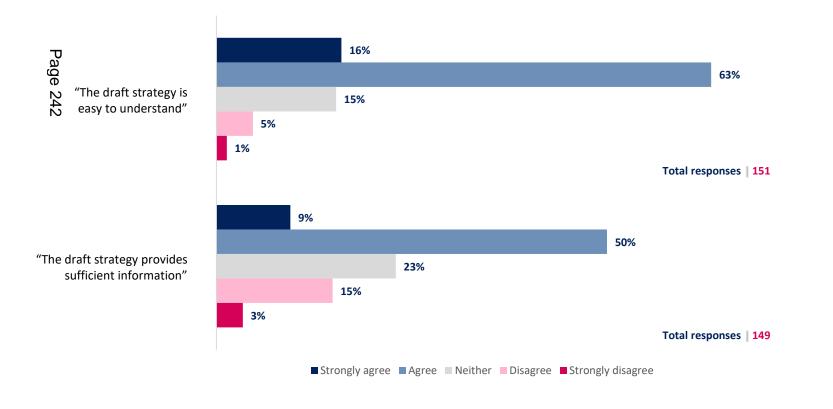


Question 29 | Have you read the proposed draft strategy?



Question 30 | If you have read the proposed draft strategy, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Asked if "Yes, all of it" or "Yes, some of it" response to question 29.



- Of the 87% of respondents that said they'd read at least some of the draft strategy, 79% said that it was easy to understand, and 59% said that it contained an appropriate amount of information
- For both questions, neither was a more popular response than overall disagree responses – 15% versus 6% and 23% versus 18% respectively

Considerations of the consultation feedback – Draft Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2024

Consultation feedback			
Broad themes	Comment themes	Officer response	Actions proposed
Quantitative feedback	86% of respondents said they agreed with the draft vision and the priorities overall, including 47% that said they strongly agreed.		None
	77% of respondents agreed that the draft strategy was clear and easy to understand.	While it is positive that a large majority of respondents found the strategy clear and easy to understand we are committed to making the strategy as accessible as possible.	We will create a one page strategy that is more accessible. Some of the more complex terms have been added to the glossary at the bottom.
	Respondents agreed with each individual priority between 86% and 90%.		None
	Respondents said that each individual priority would be effective between 57% and 70%.		None
	Respondents said each individual priority had the right levels of ambition by 50% or more apart from priority one (positive culture – 47% just right, 31% not ambitious enough) and priority three (support – 40% just right, 43% not ambitious enough)		None
	87% of respondents said that they'd read at least part of the draft strategy: of these, 79% said that it was easy to understand, and 59% said that it contained an appropriate amount of information	We are really pleased that such a high proportion of respondents have read the strategy and gave positive feedback about the accessibility and relevance.	None
General/overall	Strategy is too vague/unspecific (41 comments)	We have chosen to keep the strategy high level and then create an action plan that will set out how we will deliver against the priority areas and how we will measure success.	We will create an action plan that we will use to deliver the strategy.
243	Comments/questions on funding/resourcing/costs (35 comments)	The strategy does not have additional budget attached to it – it is intended to set out the principles we will use to work in partnership with services across the city.	None
	General/miscellaneous comments critical of SCC/public services (30 comments)		None
	General positive/supportive comments (31 comments)	We welcome the supportive comments on the draft strategy.	None
	General critical/not supportive comments (27 comments)		None
	Should be easier to understand/in more 'plain English' (10 comments)	While it is positive that a large majority of respondents found the strategy clear and easy to understand we are committed to making the strategy as accessible as possible.	We will create a one page strategy that is more accessible.
	Questions/comments on the consultation process, e.g. survey questions (5 comments)	One comment references that readers of the strategy might be upsetting for some readers.	We have added in signposting to mental health support.
culture	Comments that the strategy needs to ensure appropriate inclusion of, and addressing relevant issues facing, people of minority ethnic backgrounds (7 comments)	There were suggestions around supporting ethnic minority residents to lead conversations about mental health and take on roles within services as this would improve accessibility of services and improve service delivery.	We have covered our ambition to further diversify our workforce and work with community leaders in priority four.
	Comments saying that promotion/culture can only do so much without the services to support this (5 comments)	We understand this but would like to improve the way we work alongside other partners and promote what is available to residents. This is not in place of service delivery.	None
	General comments on the need to address various stigmas (8 comments)	Addressing the stigma that accessing mental health services can bring is central to the strategy.	We will broaden
		We understand the impact of stigma and trauma on mental health and have added our commitment to increasing awareness of this in priority one.	Appendix
	Suggestions around engaging with employers/unions on mental health/wellbeing issues in the workplace (5 comments)	We acknowledge that working with unions and work places as well as sources of employment support is really important and will include this in the action plan.	We will reference the importance of employment to good mental health in the strategy.

Agenda Item 11

Consultation feedback		Off:	Actions proposed
Broad themes	Comment themes	Officer response	Actions proposed
	Suggestions around early intervention/community support (6 comments)	We have acknowledged the importance of early intervention and community support throughout the strategy.	None
	Comments around the need for personal accountability/empowering individuals (2 comments)	We acknowledge the power of empowering people to look after their mental health in our communications and campaigns.	None
	Comments suggesting there is a need to consider wider socio-economic determinants of mental ill-health/poor wellbeing (2 comments)	This strategy takes a wider determinants approach.	None
Priority 2 - Areas of impact	Suggestions around community/social support groups/activities (5 comments)	We recognise that isolation and loneliness contribute to poor mental health – community and social support activities are set out under priority two. This includes activities for children and young people.	None
	Suggestions around schools/young people/early intervention (5 comments)	This strategy establishes early intervention as a key principle and the importance of mental health awareness and support at school as well as a safe stable home. This is set out under priority five.	None
	Comments around the cost of living/poverty/deprivation (8 comments)	Poverty and deprivation are a contributing factor to poor mental health.	We have added poverty as a risk factor in the introduction to the strategy and in priority two.
	Comments related to housing (5 comments)	There were a number of comments suggesting that links between mental health and housing could be stronger. We want to recognise the impact of poor quality housing on mental health as well as the impact of insecure housing.	None.
	Comments on the importance of sheltered accommodation (3 comments)		None
	Suggestions that there should be a greater focus on domestic abuse/VAWG (4 comments)	The Councils Domestic Abuse Strategy sets out how victims and survivors of domestic abuse can access mental health support. There are representatives from mental health services that sit on the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board.	The Southampton Mental Health and Wellbeing Partnership will also have links to the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board.
riority 3 - Support Ge 244	Comments that waiting times for services need to be reduced/are too long (12 comments)	This strategy aims to set out principles and ways of working rather than address issues with service provision.	·
	Comments saying that support services need more funding/resourcing (17 comments)	While this strategy shows our commitment to improving mental health in Southampton. The strategy will help us make best use of existing resources through partnership working but there is no additional funding attached to the strategy.	None
	General comments on the need for more/improved support services (6 comments)		None
	Comments on the need to improve messaging/engagement/awareness (5 comments)	We have committed to creating a city wide communications plan to share information about services available to support mental health and wellbeing in priority one of the strategy. We will consider using channels that will help us reach all residents.	None
	Comments suggesting that stigma needs to be addressed as a means to facilitate access to support (3 comments)	This is a really important point and we address how we reduce stigma under priority one. We will work with faith groups and other community groups to address the stigma attached to accessing support, this is set out in priority 4.	None
	Questions/comments around implementation (5 comments)	We will work on an action plan which will detail how we will deliver the various elements of this strategy. A mental health and wellbeing partnership will also be established that will oversee delivery of the strategy.	None
	Comments on the need to address staff shortages/turnover (7 comments)	These specific points commenting on service delivery are beyond the scope of this strategy.	None
	Suggestions around addressing/reducing loneliness/isolation (6 comments)	We recognise that isolation and loneliness are key contributors to poor mental health and reference this in the strategy.	None
	Comments saying that services should be more easily accessible in terms of transport/location (2 comments)	Services need to be accessible to users and we will promote services available locally. Transport planning is beyond the scope of this strategy.	None
	Comments on promoting/facilitating connections between trauma, support, and health and wellbeing (6 comments)	A couple of respondents ask for a definition of trauma and trauma informed practice they ask that the trauma informed board is referenced in the strategy. The Mental Health and Wellbeing Partnership will also have representation from the Trauma Informed Board. Some respondents references links between trauma, mental health and substance use and this is referenced in the strategy.	None

	Consultation feedback	Off:	A
Broad themes	Comment themes	Officer response	Actions proposed
Priority 4, Equal opportunities	Comments on the need for a wider range of support to meet diverse needs (6 comments)	Support needs to meet diverse needs of residents across the city and this is set out in the strategy.	We have made a number of amendments to wording in the strategy to specifically reference particular communities and address comments.
	Comments on support needing to be targeted towards more vulnerable/disadvantaged communities (6 comments)	Mental health services should reflect the cities diversity. One comment states that mental health services for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities is not mentioned in the strategy – especially given a recent EHRC report about poor mental health within this community.	One comment referencing mental health in the Gypsy Roma Traveller Community has been addressed and this group is identified in the strategy.
	Comments saying that equalities need to consider a wider range of characteristics, e.g. sex, gender, economic status (4 comments)	Some feedback suggested our definition of characteristics was too narrow. We have amended this in line with those used by the Charity Mind. This strategy also links to the Violence Against Women and Girls strategy which	We have amended the acronym used from LGBTIQ+ to LGBTQIA+ as suggested by a respondent.
		addresses some specific support for victims of FGM.	
		One comment references language as a barrier to accessing mental health support – the strategy sets out that services will be "accessible and appropriately tailored" and this would include meeting language needs.	
Pa	Comments around how ethnic/cultural background can affect mental health/wellbeing and the efficacy of support (2 comments)	We have addressed this important point in the strategy and are committed to working with communities to better understand mental heath and wellbeing needs.	None
	Suggestions around more closely involving those with lived/frontline experience of support (2 comments)	Working with people with lived experience of poor mental health and of barriers to accessing support is central to the strategy and we will continue to do this as we deliver the strategy.	None
Priority 5, Children & Noung people	Comments on the need for improved support of/for parents/guardians, including promoting greater parental responsibility for children's mental health (10 comments)	The strategy includes multiple commitments to supporting families throughout childhood.	None
	Comments on schools not being able to shoulder associated costs/needing resources in order to provide support (4 comments)	The strategy acknowledges that services and budgets are stretched but that we need to consider how to deliver the best services we can for young people within existing budgets. The mental health support teams are currently funded by central government to support young people in schools.	None
	Comments on the need for more/improved CAMHS services (5 comments)	The availability of (CAMHS) Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services is beyond the remit of this strategy. The strategy does cover promotion of what services are available rather than access criteria for specific services.	We have added a section on the promotion of CAHMS and how to access it.
	Comments on the importance of/need for early intervention and related support (5 comments)	We agree that early intervention is key to supporting good mental health in children and young people. The Healthy Early Years award is an accreditation that offers support for early years settings to support good mental health and wellbeing to under fives this includes a mental health and wellbeing strand.	None
	Suggestions around improved engagement and the importance of promoting social interaction and understanding (3 comments)	We cover this under priority 3 the strategy states "A positive concept of emotional and mental health will be promoted and children and young people are able to have healthy conversations about emotions."	We have added a refence to inclusivity.
	Comments around providing support for/during transition periods, e.g. into college, adulthood (2 comments)	We cover the importance of transitions for young people in priority three.	None
	Comments on need for/importance of support groups, including parental and social support (2 comments)	The strategy covers groups and parenting programmes provided by Family Hubs.	None
	Comments on the importance of protecting/caring for SEN/vulnerable young people in mainstream education (3 comments)	The provision of SEND support and education reform is out of scope of this strategy.	None

	Consultation feedback	Officer recognition	A ations arounded
Broad themes	Comment themes	Officer response	Actions proposed
	Comments saying that more timely/urgent/high-needs support is required (3 comments)	The availability of (CAMHS) Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services is beyond the remit of this strategy. The strategy does cover promotion of what services are available rather than access criteria for specific services.	None
Priority 6 - Suicide and self-harm	Comments on the need for a 'holistic' approach to suicide prevention, i.e. consider other issues such as drug misuse, gambling, abuse alongside suicide (5 comments)	We detail how we will take a holistic approach to suicide prevention in both the introduction to priority 6 but have clarified this.	We have reiterated our commitment to taking a holistic approach in the introduction to priority 6.
	Suggestions around early intervention (4 comments)		None
	Comments supportive of a focus on specific groups at higher risk (LGBTQ+ people) (4 comments)	We are grateful for comments that alerted us to the need to add in some further detail here.	We have added in a commitment to focus on suicide prevention for those who identify as LGBTQIA+ in table six.
	Comments on the need to address loneliness/isolation (3 comments)	We have reference the importance of reducing loneliness and social isolation in the introduction to this section and in priority two.	None
	Comments suggesting an over-reliance on charities/volunteers with regards to suicide prevention/support (2 comments)	Charities and community organisations are key to delivery of suicide prevention. The strategy outlines the charity and voluntary sector as equal partners.	None
	Comments supportive of a focus on specific groups at higher risk (men) (2 comments)		None
	Comments on the need to reduce waiting times/barriers to access for support services (2 comments)	The strategy establishes priorities and principles for partnership working rather than service delivery or commissioning.	None
Pag	Comments on the impact of trauma/stress and other related conditions on suicide risk (3 comments)	We recognise that we need to be clear on the impact of childhood and other trauma on poor mental health and suicide risk. We have made some amendments to affirm our commitment here.	We have added sexual abuse as a risk factor in the strategy and the strategy commits to taking a trauma informed approach to preventing suicide.

Agenda Item 12

DECISION-MAKER:		CABINET					
SUBJECT:		Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 TO 2028/29 REBASE					
DATE OF DECISION	:	16 JULY 2024					
REPORT OF:		COUNCILLOR LETTS DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES					
	CONTACT DETAILS						
Executive Director	Title:	Executive Director Enabling Se	ervices	and S151 Officer			
	Name:	Mel Creighton	Tel:	023 8083 3528			
	E-mail:	Mel.Creighton@southampton.g	gov.uk				
Author:	Title:	Director of Finance					
	Richard Williams	Tel:	023 8083 2936				
	E-mail:	Richard.Williams@southampto	n.gov.	<u>uk</u>			

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY
Not Applicable
BRIEF SUMMARY

The report outlines the quarterly update including an exercise to rebase the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). The rebase helps to ensure a clearer base position for members and budget holders on which the impact of any future decisions including the transformation programme can be assessed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

	Cabine	et is asked to:						
	i)	Approve the rebasing amendments to the MTFS and set out in Appendix 1.						
	ii)	Agree the revised medium term financial forecast after the quarter 1 review and rebasing exercise for the period 2024/25 to 2028/29 and MTFS update commentary as set put in Appendix 1.						
	iii)	Agree in year savings that are transformation related and recurrent in nature, a budget adjustment will be completed to remove the budget once there is evidence of achievement. This will be completed on a quarterly basis and used to offset the Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) requirement.						
	iv)	Agree the next steps to developing the MTFS and creating a balanced budget including further developing the business planning framework to deliver savings going forward.						
REASONS	REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS							

1. This report details a rebasing the MTFS to set the base year to 2024/25. Cabinet is being asked to approve the amendments to the MTFS from this exercise and to note the commentary provided.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

2. Not reviewing previously agreed budget adjustments included in the MTFS is not considered appropriate because this may result in the double counting of transformation savings with existing budget reductions or retention of budget increases that will not be required in the light of remodelled services. It would also result in a lack of clarity for members and budget holders over what is contained within the budget going forward.

DETAIL

3. Rebasing the budget

Significant work has been undertaken to ensure the 2024/25 budget is correct. This work included all budget holders detailing the pressures the services are facing and proposing savings that could be delivered within this financial year.

The work also involved budget holders signing accountability statements to ensure they fully understood the budget they are responsible for.

Due to this work, it is an optimal point to rebase the budget to use 2024/25 budget as the starting point for any decision going forward. As a result of this a review has been undertaken of all budget adjustments in future years. The result of this work has been set out in Appendix 1.

4. Quarter 1 Review

The 2024/25 to 2027/28 MTFS introduced a practice of reviewing the MTFS on an ongoing basis and reporting this each quarter in line with best practice. Due to timings this quarters update is based on figures at month 2.

A review of the assumptions that drive the MTFS has also been undertaken, due to the uncertainty around the future comprehensive funding assessment and national policy, we have adopted the scenario-based planning method. This approach was taken in Q1 last financial year and served as a useful planning tool.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

- 4. The revenue implications are contained in the report. The costs of transformation can are still be determined as the project plans are being developed. The council currently has the following available to pay for transformation:
 - 1. Exceptional Financial Support (classed as capital expenditure)
 - 2. Capital receipts flexibilities (classed as capital expenditure)
 - 3. Transformation reserve (classed as revenue expenditure)

Each of the transformation portfolios are likely to have capital requests attached to them some of these are already included in the capital programme (for example the new social care system) others may require additions to the capital programme.

A full update on the capital programme will be brought forward in the MTFS Q2 report.

Property/Other

5. None.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

3.		udget reports are consistent with the		
<u>Othe</u>	r Legal I	mplications:		
4.	No	one.		
RISK	MANAC	SEMENT IMPLICATIONS		
5.	Ri	sk management implications are co	ntained in the report.	
POLI	CY FRA	MEWORK IMPLICATIONS		
6.	No	one.		
	KEY DI	ECISION? No		
	WARD	S/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All	
	Append	dices		
	1.			
	2.			
	3.			
	1.	ents In Members' Rooms None y Impact Assessment		
	Do the Assess	implications/subject of the report red ment (EIA) to be carried out?	quire an Equality Impact	No
	Privacy	/ Impact Assessment		
		implications/subject of the report red ment (PIA) to be carried out?	quire a Privacy Impact	No
		Background Documents y Impact Assessment and Other tion at:	Background documents av	ailable for
	Title of	Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of th Information Procedure Re	

		2A allowing document to be xempt/Confidential (if applicable)
4	The 2024/25 Dudget and Medium Town	
1.	The 2024/25 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (Council 6 March 202	
2.		

Appendix 1

Appendix 1

Medium Term Financial Strategy Update Quarter 1

Introduction

The Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) reported to Council 6 March 2024 has been updated following an exercise to review all existing adjustments and assumptions. It reflects the position as at Month 2 and aligns the MTFS into the current directorate structures. Specifically, this is the creation of Resident Services and a directorate for Growth and Prosperity from the previous Place Directorate.

The purpose of the rebased MTFS is to reset 2024-25 as the base year for financial projections. The rationale for this is all directorates have been involved in the creation of these estimates reflecting pressures and savings agreed in March. This gives the council a stable base to go forward from.

The month 2 position of a forecast underspend of £3.25M demonstrates the council is now heading into the stable phase of the financial strategy previously agreed at Council.

The development of the transformation plan will ensure the council address the underlying structural deficit of £39.2M ensuring a move to the sustainable phase of the strategy, with expenditure that matches the income we receive, and any budget pressures going forward being manageable within the cash limits set.

The document also rolls forward the MTFS by 1 year to ensure we have the rolling 5-year strategy. As we go through the year the intention is to create a 10-year view of the financial position and this report sets the base from which to do that.

The main area of focus has been on the savings and pressures already built in, including those based on previous years' decisions. Specifically, to remove those changes that are superseded by transformation business cases.

As per the agreed MTFS, this is the first quarterly update of the year. However, due to timings it is based on Month 2 monitoring.

The next MTFS refresh will be reported at the end of Quarter 2 (in October 2024). This report will propose further changes to this MTFS refresh, including realising forecast in-year savings and underspends.

Rebased MTFS 2024/25 to 2028/29

The rebased MTFS is summarised in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Rebased MTFS by Directorate 2024/25 to 2028/29

	Approved 2024/25 Budget £M	Forecast Changes £M	Forecast 2025/26 Budget £M	Forecast Changes £M	Forecast 2026/27 Budget £M	Forecast Changes £M	Forecast 2027/28 Budget £M	Forecast Changes £M	Forecast 2028/29 Budget £M
Children & Learning	61.83	0.90	62.72	0.29	63.02	0.70	63.72	0.67	64.39
Community Wellbeing	97.66	4.80	102.46	3.83	106.29	3.82	110.11	2.82	112.93
Enabling Services	26.52	0.85	27.37	1.35	28.71	0.61	29.32	0.66	29.98
Growth & Prosperity	38.64	2.08	40.72	2.38	43.10	2.66	45.76	0.82	46.57
Resident Services	25.14	0.47	25.61	0.77	26.38	1.07	27.44	0.92	28.37
Strategy & Performance	3.93	0.09	4.02	0.04	4.06	0.11	4.16	0.14	4.31
Directorate Expenditure	253.72	9.18	262.89	8.66	271.56	8.97	280.52	6.03	286.55
Capital Asset Management	12.86	2.93	15.79	2.53	18.32	1.51	19.83	0.00	19.83
Other Expenditure & Income and movement	,								
in reserves and balances	11.95	0.07	12.02	4.49	16.51	1.44	17.95	0.00	17.95
Net Revenue Expenditure	278.52	12.18	290.70	15.68	306.39	11.92	318.31	6.03	324.33
Funding									
Council Tax	(121.43)	(5.00)	(126.43)	(3.68)	(130.11)	(3.63)	(133.75)	(4.00)	(137.75)
Business Rates	(51.21)	(5.79)	(57.00)	(1.11)	(58.11)	(1.11)	(59.22)	(1.22)	(60.44)
Collection Fund Surplus/Deficit	(2.25)	2.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Revenue Support Grant	(13.73)	1.93	(11.80)	1.31	(10.50)	1.27	(9.23)	1.36	(7.87)
Top Up Grant/Tariff Payment	(6.10)	(0.20)	(6.29)	1.92	(4.37)	(0.09)	(4.46)	(0.09)	(4.55)
New Homes Bonus	(0.04)	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S31 Business Rates Grants	(18.66)	3.77	(14.88)	0.07	(14.82)	(0.31)	(15.13)	(0.31)	(15.44)
Other Non-Specific Government Grants	(25.83)	0.08	(25.75)	0.15	(25.60)	0.03	(25.56)	0.03	(25.53)
Total Funding	(239.24)	(2.92)	(242.16)	(1.34)	(243.50)	(3.84)	(247.34)	(4.23)	(251.57)
(Surplus)/Deficit	39.28	9.26	48.54	14.34	62.88	8.08	70.96	1.80	72.76
Exceptional Financial Support (EFS)	(39.28)	39.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
(Surplus)/Deficit (after EFS)	0.00	48.54	48.54 48.54	14.34	62.88 14.34	8.08	70.96 8.08	1.80	72.76 1.80
Incremental Change			70.04		17.04		0.00		1.00
Forecast Underspend at Month 2	(3.25)								
Revised EFS Requirement (based on M2 Forecast)	(36.03)	36.03							
(Surplus)/Deficit based on M2 Forecast	0.00	45.29		14.34		8.08		1.80	

The breakdown of the budget gap (£48.5M in 2025/26) and subsequent years is set out in table 2 below. Note this does not include the impact of the forecast underspend reported at Month 2 2024/25 (£3.25M).

Table 2 Breakdown of Forecast Budget Gap 2025/26 to 2028/29

	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	Total
	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M
Removal of EFSsupport	39.28				39.28
Pay & Price Inflation	6.48	6.32	6.09	5.31	24.19
Council Tax increase (2.99% increase)	(5.00)	(3.68)	(3.63)	(4.00)	(16.31)
Demography & Demand	2.34	2.35	2.59	0.72	8.01
Removal of Pressures	(1.61)	(0.53)			(2.14)
Savings Adjustment	(0.59)	(0.12)			(0.71)
Executive Commitments	(0.34)				(0.34)
Reversals of one year decisions	0.99	0.63	0.29		1.90
Capital Asset Management – revenue cost of capital expenditure	2.93	2.53	1.51		6.98
Other income and expenditure – adjustments to reserves & balances	0.07	4.49	1.44		6.00
Remove Collection Fund 24/25 Surplus	2.25				2.25
Business Rates, Revenue Support Grant and other SFA funding	(0.09)	0.27	(0.15)	(0.17)	(0.15)
Change in Top Up grant	(0.20)	1.92	(0.09)	(0.09)	1.55
Service Specific Grant Funding Ending	1.91	0.02			1.92
Other Government Grants	0.12	0.15	0.03	0.03	0.34
Total Budget Gap	48.54	14.34	8.08	1.80	72.76

The projected gap is based on current MTFS assumptions that are summarised in Table 2 and set out in more detail in this report. The main reason for the 2025/26 gap is that the Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) facility that the government is minded to agree for 2024/25, is for one year only. This immediately creates a budget gap of £39.28M for 2025/26.

Pay and price inflation adds £6.5M to the cost base, and this is not matched by the assumed increase in council tax, resulting in a net cost increase for the council.

In relation to council tax, the MTFS assumes annual increases in line with current referendum limits (2.99%) and includes the assumption of the second homes premium but makes no assumption about the additional 2% adult social care precept, as this has not been confirmed for 2025/26.

Other taxation and funding – primarily business rates and Revenue Support Grant (RSG) – are assumed to be broadly neutral in cash terms in line with the Autumn 2023 Statement. In addition, several service specific grants have not been confirmed beyond 2024/25 so these are assumed not to continue or be replaced.

Potential Scenarios to Address the Gap

Given that currently future funding and flexibilities are uncertain as described above, we are presenting three scenarios in line with the practice followed in May 2023.

Table 3 illustrates three scenarios representing the optimistic, middle, and pessimistic case, and the resulting gap that would remain under each scenario. A commentary on each follows.

Table 3 – Potential scenarios to address the forecast budget gap.

	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	Total
	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M
Optimistic Scenario					
Forecast Budget Gap	48.54	14.34	8.08	1.80	72.76
Transformation Savings (per profile in Table 4 below)	(24.75)	(7.32)	(1.83)	(0.40)	(34.30)
In-Year Transformation savings (24/25) (per table 4 below)	(7.30)				(7.30)
Target Transformation savings not currently identified are delivered		(3.84)	(3.84)		(7.68)
Revenue Cost of EFS (based on £32M assuning in-year savings delivery)	2.90				2.90
Demand Management Savings (Prevention portfolio)		(2.35)	(2.59)	(0.72)	(5.67)
Baseline Funding assumed (service specific grants retained)	(1.91)	(0.02)			(1.92)
Additional Council Tax, ASC precept restored for one year (total 4.99%)	(2.45)				(2.45)
RSG in line with inflation (rather than flat cash SFA assumption)	(2.20)	(1.59)	(1.56)	(1.65)	(7.00)
Total Budget Gap Ramaining	12.83	(0.77)	(1.74)	(0.97)	9.35
Middle Scenario					
Forecast Budget Gap	48.54	14.34	8.08	1.80	72.76
Transformation Savings (per profile in Table 4 below)	(24.75)	(7.32)	(1.83)	(0.40)	(34.30)
In-Year Transformation savings (24/25) (per table 4 below)	(7.30)				(7.30)
Revenue Cost of EFS (based on £32M assuning in-year savings delivery)	2.90				2.90
Demand Management Savings (Prevention portfolio)					0.00
Baseline Funding assumed (service specific grants retained)					0.00
Additional Council Tax, ASC precept restored for one year (total 4.99%)	(2.45)				(2.45)
RSG in line with inflation (rather than flat cash SFA assumption)	(2.20)	(1.59)	(1.56)	(1.65)	(7.00)
Total Budget Gap Ramaining	14.73	5.44	4.69	(0.25)	24.61
Pessimistic Scenario					
Forecast Budget Gap	48.54	14.34	8.08	1.80	72.76
Transformation Savings (with 20% optimism bias) plus balance of in-year					
savings 2024/25	(23.85)	(5.85)	(1.46)	(0.32)	(31.49)
In-Year Savings (24/25) (per Month 2)	(3.25)				(3.25)
Revenue Cost of EFS (based on £36M, allowing M2 forecast savings)	3.26				3.26
Demand Management Savings (Prevention portfolio)					0.00
Baseline Funding assumed (service specific grants retained)					0.00
Additional Council Tax, ASC precept restored for one year (total 4.99%)					0.00
RSG in line with inflation (rather than flat cash SFA assumption)	(2.20)	(1.59)	(1.56)	(1.65)	(7.00)
Total Budget Gap Ramaining	22.50	6.90	5.06	(0.17)	34.28

Optimistic Scenario

This scenario assumes:

- Transformation savings are delivered in line with the profile set out in Table 4 below. That is £24.8M in 2025/26.
- 100% delivery of 2024/25 transformation savings scheduled (£7.3M) and a reduction in EFS repayments as a result.
- The currently unidentified elements of the transformation target (£7.7M) are identified and then delivered in 2026/27 and 2027/28.
- EFS repayments are based on £32M which is the EFS requirement to balance the 2024/25 budget (£39.3M) less the in-year transformation savings (£7.3M).
- Demographic growth is provided in 2025/26. However, from 2026/27 it is assumed to be contained within service budgets and managed by the transformation projects, particularly the prevention workstream.
- Time limited grants including Family Hubs and Adult Social Care Market Sustainability which are due to end continue at their current level.
- The adult social care precept is assumed to be extended for a further year, so Council Tax is increased by an additional 2% in 2025/26.
- The Revenue Support Grant (RSG) is increased by inflation (2%) from its 2024/25 base. This assumption will require confirmation, and so the MTFS central assumption

is for 'flat cash' across RSG and business rates in line OBR estimates. If RSG does grow by inflation, this would add and initial £2.2M to council funding in 2025/26.

If all the assumptions in this optimistic scenario are realised, the forecast 2025/26 budget gap is reduced from £48.5M to £12.8M

Middle Scenario

This scenario assumes:

- Transformation savings are delivered in line with the profile set out in Table 4 below.
 That is £24.8M in 2025/26.
- The savings scheduled for in-year will be delivered in 2024/25 (£7.3M).
- EFS financing costs are based on £32M which is the EFS requirement to balance the 2024/25 budget (£39.3M) less the in-year transformation savings (£7.3M).
- Demographic growth is maintained for the full MTFS period in this scenario with the expected increases subject to further modelling work.
- Time limited grants including Family Hubs and Adult Social Care Market Sustainability will end in 2024/25.
- Adult social care precept is assumed to extend by a further year, so Council Tax is increased by an additional 2% in 2025/26.
- Revenue Support Grant (RSG) is increased by inflation (2%) from its 2024/25 base.

If all the assumptions in this middle scenario are realised, the forecast 2025/26 budget gap is reduced from £48.5M to £14.7M

Pessimistic Scenario

This scenario assumes:

- Transformation savings are delivered in line with the profile set out in Table 4 below, but with a 20% Optimism Bias reduction built in. This means 80% delivery of the middle scenario is assumed.
- In addition, it assumed that the Month 2 monitoring forecast of £3.25M is delivered in year, and the balance of the in-year transformation savings (£4.05M) slip to 2025/26.
- Demographic growth is retained and will be subject to further modelling work by the Prevention project and services.
- Time limited grants will end in 2024/25 and not be replaced.
- Adult social care precept is not extended so no additional Council Tax income is assumed.
- Revenue Support Grant (RSG) is increased by inflation (2%) from its 2024/25 base.

If all the assumptions in this pessimistic scenario are realised, the forecast 2025/26 budget gap is reduced from £48.5M to £22.5M

Addressing the Revenue Budget Gap

The budget gap of £48.5M in 2025/26 and beyond will be addressed through the following:

- Transformation plans (see report to Cabinet 16 July 2024 and scenario modelling above) required to address the structural deficit.
- Demand management see prevention work contained in the Transformation report elsewhere on the agenda.
- All directorates are also looking at business as usual savings for example reducing procurement spend.

Whilst this position is a slightly wider gap than previously reported, once the work on demographics and demand (see demographics section) has been completed and the work on in year transformation savings has progressed, it is expected this position will change.

In addition, and as illustrated above, if the trend in the current year of a £3.25M underspend reported at Month 2 continues into next year this will lead to a reduced £45.3M gap.

Transformation Programme and Transformation Funding Strategy

Table 4 below summarise out the cumulative savings identified to date, which are set out in more detail in the Transformation Programme Update report:

Table 4: Summary of Transformation Savings

	2024/25 (In-Year)		2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M
Savings Identified by Programme Portfolio					
Adults Social Care & Health	2.24	13.90	17.00	17.00	17.00
Children's services	2.70	6.55	9.17	9.17	9.17
Schools & SEND	1.32	2.56	3.21	3.67	3.67
Growth & Prosperity	0.00	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39
Resident Services	0.64	5.94	6.63	8.00	8.39
Customer & Community	0.30	0.76	1.00	1.00	1.01
Enabling Services	0.10	1.94	1.97	1.97	1.97
Total Savings Identified (cumulative)	7.30	32.05	39.37	41.20	41.60
Incremental	7.30	24.75	7.32	1.83	0.40

It is recommended that for in year savings that are transformation related and recurrent in nature, a budget adjustment will be completed to remove the budget once there is evidence of achievement. This will be completed on a quarterly basis and used to offset the EFS requirement.

The EFS request included an allocation for transformation costs to support the delivery of savings. These can be paid for using borrowing or capital receipts. The council can also utilise capital receipt flexibilities in this financial year only, if the spend required is more than the EFS allocation for transformation costs.

The transformation funding strategy is to use capital receipts as the first call to fund the Transformation Programme as the expenditure is one off in nature. This will ensure that the Transformation Reserve remains intact (at £6.1M) to fund future years' transformation activities when neither EFS nor capital flexibilities may be available.

Exceptional Financial Support (EFS)

The budget gap for 2024/25 (the base year) of £39.3M was closed by the assumption of Exceptional Financial Support (EFS). Under EFS the council can use capital resources (capital receipts and borrowing) to fund revenue expenditure up to a limit agreed with central government.

This is called a Capitalisation Directive, and the Council has been advised that government is minded to issue such a directive to Southampton, subject to some assurance requirements.

The current EFS facility offered by government is only available for one financial year (2024/25). This means that the full budget gap and structural deficit needs to be addressed for 2025/26.

Any EFS used to fund the 2024/25 budget gap will need to be paid for using either capital receipts or borrowing.

The repayment cost (principal and interest) of borrowing for the EFS has not been included in the figures above. Any borrowing taken out to fund EFS must be repaid over 20 years and attracts a 1% premium over normal PWLB rates. The potential cost could be £3.6M per annum to fund the £39.3M per annum for 20 years (based on prevailing interest rates) if this amount is borrowed. If the full amount of the capitalisation is utilised and funded from borrowing, the potential cost would be £11.5M

Capital receipts attract no such repayment costs but are limited to the amount of asset sales the council has or can achieve. Capital receipts are most appropriately used to fund new capital investment or to fund one-off initiatives such as transformation. Currently the Council has £14M of usable capital receipts, not counting any future potential receipts.

The in-year aim is to minimise the budget gap by implementing as many of the transformation savings early. This will reduce the amount that needs to be borrowed to fund the gap, and thereby reduce borrowing costs. For example, if the Council's final out-turn position reflects the position reported at Month 2 – that is an underspend of £3.25M – then the EFS borrowing requirement is reduced to just over £36M and the financing cost is reduced by £0.3M per annum (to £3.3M)

The Rebased MTFS 2024/25 to 2028/29 – Detailed Commentary

The remainder of this report sets out the MTFS assumptions in more detail, starting with the Directorate position.

Directorate Position

The Directorate MTFS for 2024/25 to 2028/29 is set out in Table 5 below.

Table 5 Directorate MTFS 2024/25 to 2028/29

	Approved 2024/25 Budget £M	Forecast Changes £M	Forecast 2025/26 Budget £M	Forecast Changes £M	Forecast 2026/27 Budget £M	Forecast Changes £M	Forecast 2027/28 Budget £M	Forecast Changes £M	Forecast 2028/29 Budget £M
Children & Learning	61.83	0.90	62.72	0.29	63.02	0.70	63.72	0.67	64.39
Community Wellbeing	97.66	4.80	102.46	3.83	106.29	3.82	110.11	2.82	112.93
Enabling Services	26.52	0.85	27.37	1.35	28.71	0.61	29.32	0.66	29.98
Growth & Prosperity	38.64	2.08	40.72	2.38	43.10	2.66	45.76	0.82	46.57
Resident Services	25.14	0.47	25.61	0.77	26.38	1.07	27.44	0.92	28.37
Strategy & Performance	3.93	0.09	4.02	0.04	4.06	0.11	4.16	0.14	4.31
Directorate Expenditure	253.72	9.18	262.89	8.66	271.56	8.97	280.52	6.03	286.55

The directorate 2024/25 base budget and MTFS now reflects the new directorate structure that was put in place at the start of this financial year. Overall, this is financially neutral as all changes are contained within the previously approved budget for 2024/25.

Resident Services and Growth and Prosperity Directorates have been created. This involves a separation of the Place directorate and some movements of functions from other directorates. For example, the Service Centre from Enabling Services to Resident Services and Housing (including HRA) from Community Wellbeing to Resident Services.

Resident Services comprises Environmental and Regulatory Services, Housing and Customer Experience (incorporating Service Centre and Leisure).

Growth & Prosperity comprises Transport and Planning including strategic partner spend, Economic Development and Regeneration, Corporate Estates and Assets, and Culture and

Tourism. The Home to School Travel Service is also in this directorate having previously been transferred from Children and Learning to Place.

The Corporate Services Directorate has been re-titled Enabling Services reflecting its focus on enabling services in the wider organisation to deliver on their priorities.

Overall Directorate expenditure is planned to grow by

- £9.2M from 2024/25 to 2025/26.
- £8.7M from 2025/26 to 2026/27.
- £9.0M from 2026/27 to 2027/28.
- £6.0M to 2028/29.

This is before any reductions in spending from the Transformation Programme. These savings will be reflected when they are signed off and there is sufficient confidence to include the savings in the MTFS and future budgets.

Several proposed transformation savings are partially deliverable in 2024/25 and when these have been validated and are deliverable, they will similarly be reflected in the MTFS. The mechanism to make these adjustments will be the quarterly MTFS refresh, and any in-year savings will be transferred to contingency to offset the EFS borrowing requirement.

Forecast Movements in Directorate Budgets

The main forecast movements in Directorate budgets relate to assumptions on:

- Pay and Price Inflation;
- Demography;
- · Changes in Service Specific Grants;
- Pressures:
- · Savings; and
- Reversals, Executive Commitment, and other adjustments.

These forecast movements and associated assumptions are summarised in Table 6 below. Further detail is provided in the subsequent paragraphs.

Movements in individual directorates are shown at Annex 1.

Table 6: Forecast Movements in Directorate Budgets

All Directorates	Forecast 2025/26 Budget £M	Forecast 2026/27 Budget £M	Forecast 2027/28 Budget £M	Forecast 2028/29 Budget £M
Pay and Price Inflation	6.48	6.32	6.09	5.31
Demography	2.34	2.35	2.59	0.72
Changes to Specific Grants	1.91	0.02		
Pressures	(1.61)	(0.53)		
Savings	(0.59)	(0.12)		
Executive Commitments	(0.34)			
Reversals and other adjustments	0.99	0.63	0.29	
Total	9.18	8.66	8.97	6.03

Pay and Price Inflation

Pay and price assumptions are revisited on a quarterly basis with September Consumer Price Index being the key indicator for funding. The assumptions on pay and price inflation are set out in Table 7 below:

Table 7: MTFS Inflation Assumptions

MTFS Assumptions	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Pay inflation (%)	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
Consumer Price Index (CPI) (%)	2.1%	2.0%	2.1%	2.0%
Adult Social Care Provider Uplift (£M)	2.50	2.50	2.50	1.50
Contract Inflation	3.2%	2.6%	2.0%	2.0%

Pay inflation has been set at 2% per annum for the period of the MTFS period to recognise falling inflation in the wider economy. As in previous years, including 2024/25, any excess in actual pay awards will need to be met from cash limited budgets.

The inflation trend is recognised in the projection for CPI which is estimated to be on or around the Bank of England's central target for inflation. This target was met in the twelve months to May 2024 following a period of high inflation.

The Council's pay and price inflation forecasts also recognise specific areas of higher price pressures. For this reason, a provider price uplift of £2.5M additional per annum is provided for adult social care recognising market conditions in that sector.

Contract inflation covers the Council's major supplier and third-party contracts. The sums provided in the MTFS are for average likely increases (based on specific sector indices). These are adjusted at budget preparation for the financial year ahead to reflect actual increases that are built into individual contracts (usually by way of a formula or reference to a specific index).

Table 8 below shows the impact of inflation projections on individual directorates:

Table 8: Pay and Price Inflation (by Directorate)

Directorate Inflation	Pay	Price	Total									
	2025/26	2025/26	2025/26	2026/27	2026/27	2026/27	2027/28	2027/28	2027/28	2028/29	2028/29	2028/29
	£M											
Children & Learning	0.64	0.00	0.64	0.66	0.00	0.66	0.66	0.00	0.66	0.67	0.00	0.67
Community Wellbeing	0.47	2.66	3.13	0.48	2.64	3.12	0.50	2.60	3.10	0.48	1.62	2.10
Enabling Services	0.49	0.18	0.67	0.50	0.15	0.65	0.50	0.11	0.61	0.51	0.14	0.66
Growth & Prosperity	0.40	0.52	0.92	0.41	0.44	0.85	0.42	0.33	0.74	0.46	0.36	0.82
Resident Services	0.53	0.51	1.04	0.53	0.43	0.96	0.55	0.32	0.87	0.57	0.36	0.92
Strategy & Performance	0.09	0.00	0.09	0.09	0.00	0.09	0.11	0.00	0.11	0.14	0.00	0.14
Total DirecTorate Inflation	2.61	3.88	6.49	2.67	3.66	6.32	2.73	3.36	6.09	2.83	2.48	5.31

The overall increase in inflationary provision is nearly £6.5M for 2025/26 compared to the current years' budget. Of this £2.6M provides for pay inflation, £1.4M for price and contract price inflation, and £2.5M for adult social care provider uplifts. Similar increases are provided in subsequent years in line with the inflation assumptions set out in table 7.

Demography

The MTFS provides provision for demographic increases across a range of service areas to recognise increasing demand, population growth, the ageing population and demand for council services. The main demographic provisions in the MTFS period are set out below. These represent the increases over the 2024/25 base budget. The demographic changes in the MTFS are shown in Table 9 below:

Table 9: Current demographic change assumptions in the MTFS

Directorate	Service Area/ Client Group	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
		£M	£M	£M	£M
Community Wellbeing	Older People	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72
Children & Learning	Demand Pressure (Social Care)	0.09			
Growth & Prosperity	School Travel Service	1.39	1.58	1.83	
Growth & Prosperity	Concessionary Fares Patronage	0.05	0.05	0.05	
Resident Services	Waste Volumes - City Growth	0.10			
Resident Services	Homelessness	0.00			
Total		2.34	2.35	2.59	0.72

The demographic changes set out above have not been amended as part of the rebasing exercise. However, the intention is commission modelling work to review the Council's assumptions and methodology on demographic change and growth. This will be undertaken as part of the Prevention project in the Transformation Programme and will test and potentially revise the assumptions above.

Service Specific Grants

There are several service specific grants where there is no confirmation that funding will continue. This means that in the MTFS the assumption is that the base budget needs to increase in future years to compensate for this lost grant income. The grant income affected is shown in Table 10.

In the absence of confirmation of continuation of funding the impact of this is to increase the pressure on the MTFP and to increase the future years' budget gap.

Table 10: Service Specific Grants – Potential Lost Funding included in the MTFS.

Directorate	Service Specific Grant	2025/26 £M	2026/27 £M
Children & Learning	Family Hubs	0.45	
Children & Learning	Education Related	0.02	0.02
Community Wellbeing	ASC Market Sustainability	0.95	
Resident Services	Homlessness Grant	0.50	
Total		1.91	0.02

Note: No additional impact after 2026/27.

Notable grants where there is no confirmed future funding are the Family Hubs grant and the Adult Social Care Sustainability Grant. This will be reviewed again in Q2 post the General Election and any subsequent funding announcements.

Pressures and Savings

The pressures and savings built into the MTFS for 2025/26 and beyond relate to the full year effect or ramp up (or down) of changes agreed in previous years. They also include the removal of one-off pressures and savings, and unachievable savings from previous years.

The pressures and savings included in the MTFS are set out in Table 11 below. These are compared to pressures and savings built into the MTFS agreed as part of budget setting on 6 March 2024.

No new pressures or savings are proposed at this stage. These will be introduced in future MTFS updates and as part of the budget setting process for 2025/26.

Table 11: Savings and Pressures

Pressures and Savings	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
_	£M	£M	£M	£M
Pressures - MTFS 6 March 2024	(0.92)	(0.22)		
Proposed Changes	(0.69)	(0.31)		
Pressures - Rebased MTFS	(1.61)	(0.53)	0.00	0.00
Savings - MTFS 6 March 2024	(1.95)	(0.31)		
Proposed Changes	1.36	0.19		
Savings - Rebased MTFS	(0.59)	(0.12)	0.00	0.00
_				

The proposed changes are to reflect that some pressures and savings built in originally are superseded by the Transformation Programme, and for this reason are removed from the MTFS to be delivered through the transformation projects. When the savings (and reversals of pressures) are agreed these will be reflected in future MTFS updates. The net effect of these changes is to increase the budget gap (in 2025/26) by 0.7M.

Tables 12 and 13 set out the changes to pressures and savings, and where these are expected to be delivered:

Table 12: Pressures now being addressed within the Transformation Programme

Directorate	Pressure Removed	Transformation	2025/26	2026/27
		OBC	£M	£M
Children & Learning	Children's Social Care - Residential units	Demand Reduction	(0.04)	
	Workforce Academy	Right Children, Right Homes	0.02	
	Residential unit savings projections deferred	Demand Reduction	(0.21)	
	Fostering - savings projections deferred	Right Children, Right Homes	(0.18)	
Enabling Services	Supplier Management	Offsets Savings Removal below	(0.18)	(0.18)
	Additional costs of client care management system	Social Care Case Management system		(0.10)
Growth & Prosperity	Investment Property additional income target not achievable	ADDP	0.25	
	Update of Local Plan	Growth and Prosperity Plan	0.04	
	British Libraries Business	Service Re-design	(0.10)	
	Property rental income	Offsets Savings Removal below	(0.40)	
Resident Services	Waste Operations - new staffing model	Waste, Fleet and City Services	0.04	
	Waste Operations - transformation costs	Waste, Fleet and City Services	0.05	
	Household waste recycling centre contract retendering	Waste, Fleet and City Services	0.05	
	Waste Service cost reductions not achievable	Waste, Fleet and City Services	(0.03)	(0.03)
Total			(0.69)	(0.31)

Note: there are no changes beyond 2026/27

Table 13: Savings now being addressed within the Transformation Programme

Saving removed	Transformation	2025/26	2026/27	
	OBC	£M	£M	
Children's Residential unit projections	Demand Reduction	0.15		
Fostering	Right Children, Right Homes	0.35		
Project Manager Resource	Transformation Team	0.05		
Procurement savings (Supplier Management)	Offsets Pressure removal above	0.19	0.19	
Finance Improvement	Reshaping Financial Management	0.01		
Founding partner contributions to Cultural Trust	Service Re-design	(0.01)		
Property rental income	Offsets Pressure removal above	0.40		
Waste Operations - service improvements	Waste, Fleet and City Services	0.01		
Waste Service cost reductions	Waste, Fleet and City Services	0.03		
Income from Dry Mixed Recyclables	Waste, Fleet and City Services	0.03		
Increase income from the City Golf Course	Leisure Strategy	(0.07)		
Review of the schools grounds maintenance contract	Waste, Fleet and City Services	0.06		
Outsource winter maintenance of mowers and plant	Waste, Fleet and City Services	0.02		
Street Cleansing Review	Waste, Fleet and City Services	0.15		
		1.36	0.19	

Note: there are no changes beyond 2026/27

Other Changes – Reversals, Executive Commitments and MTFS Amendments

Reversals are largely one-off items from 2024/25 that are being reversed out for 2025/26 and future years. There is also the reversal of a one-year Executive Commitment of £0.34M for Homes for Ukraine.

The net effect of these reversals and other changes is an increase to the MTFP in 2025/26 of £0.6M

Other Income and Expenditure

Other Income and Expenditure includes Capital Asset Management and several centrally held budgets. The latter includes planned transfers and contributions to reserves and balances. All these movements are unchanged from the MTFS reported at budget setting on 6 March 2024.

The breakdown of assumptions to Capital Asset Management are shown in Table 14 below:

Table 14: Capital Asset Management

Capital Asset Management	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
	£M	£M	£M	£M
Base Position	12.86	15.79	18.32	19.83
Inflation on Capital Projects	0.10	0.11	0.08	
Slippage and re-phasing	0.18	(0.06)	(0.15)	
Impact of higher interest rates	1.46	0.84		
Borrowing on New Projects	1.12	1.67	1.58	
Other Adjustments	0.07	(0.03)		
Total Movement	2.93	2.53	1.51	0.00
Revised Base Position	15.79	18.32	19.83	19.83

The breakdown of the other elements of centrally held funds and planned transfers to and from reserves and balances are shown in table 15.

Table 15: Other Income and Expenditure Summary of Movements

Summary of Movements	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
	£M	£M	£M	£M
Base Position	11.95	12.02	16.51	17.95
Other Income and Expenditure	1.68	1.00	0.00	
Transfer to/from Reserves	0.33	3.48	1.44	
General Fund balances	(1.93)	0.00	0.00	
Total Movement	0.07	4.49	1.44	0.00
Revised Base Position	12.02	16.51	17.95	17.95

Funding and Taxation

The assumptions on Funding and Taxation remains unchanged from the MTFS position reported in March.

These main taxation assumptions are summarised in Table 16.

Table 16: Taxation Assumptions

Assumption	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Increase in Core Council Tax Charge	2.99%	2.99%	2.99%	2.99%
Increase in Adult Social Care Precept	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Council Tax Base (No. of Band D equivalents)	67,725	67,672	67,543	67,543
Increase in Small Business Rates Multiplier	3.20%	2.10%	2.00%	2.10%
Increase in Standard Business Rates Multiplier	3.20%	2.10%	2.00%	2.10%
Change in Revenue Support Grant	-14.00%	-11.10%	-12.10%	-14.80%
Change in Top Up Grant	3.20%	-30.60%	2.00%	2.10%

This assumes funding growth of £2.9M from 2024/25 to 2025/26 and subsequent increases of £1.3M and £3.8M respectively.

In relation to Council Tax, the assumption is for a 2.99% increase in core council tax each year which is the maximum currently allowable without referendum. It also assumes the introduction of the second homes premium from 2025/26. The MTFS has however not assumed a continuation of the 2% additional adult social care precept.

The main underlying funding assumption in the MTFS is that the settlement funding assessment (SFA) for 2025/26 onwards will remain at the same cash amount for 2024/25, as indicated by the spending plans in the government's 2023 Autumn Statement. SFA comprises RSG and business rates baseline funding and as the latter is assumed to increase with inflation RSG is expected to reduce. This assumption may change to allow inflationary growth on RSG. This is the assumption used in the budget gap scenario modelling (at Table 3 above) and will be confirmed once financial announcements have been made.

There are several known and anticipated changes to specific grant funding, and these are reflected in the assumptions in the table.

Benchmarking

To demonstrate that savings described in the transformation programme should be achievable benchmarking data has been produced and is set out in the table below. As with any benchmarking data there are limitations as it is generally a year behind, but it does give reassurance the savings should be achievable.

The benchmarking in Table 17 below has been derived from 2023 outturn figures. It shows how much Southampton would save if its cost per capita was the same as Portsmouth and the least expensive statistical neighbour in each area.

Table 17: Benchmarking Comparisons

Area	ea Poi		
		Portsmouth CC	Lowest Spend Statistical Neihghbour
All data based on 22/23 actuals	Basis of Comparison	£M	£M
Childrens Social Care Services	Under 18 Population	14.6	40.1
Adult Social Care	Over 18 Population	21.0	40.6
Environment & Regulatory	Population - all	0.9	15.1
Highways & transport	Population - all	0.0	14.3
Cultural & Related	Population - all	0.0	9.8
Planning and Development	Population - all	3.9	9.7
Housing	Population - all	0.0	4.7
Central Services	Population - all	0.0	0.0

Where the figure is zero Southampton is less expensive per head. In the case of central services Southampton is the least expensive of all the statistical neighbours.

Collection Fund

There are no changes to the Collection Fund position because of the re-basing exercise. Therefore, the position reported in March is reflected in this MTFS update. That is, an attributable surplus on Business Rates of £3.2M and a deficit on Council Tax of £1M, a net surplus position of £2.2M.

To improve collection performance several initiatives are currently being implemented. To better monitor in-year collection performance an improved collection tracking approach is being developed, to monitor actual versus expected performance monthly. A new Income Collection Service is being implemented this year, that will take a centralised approach to debt management including on council tax. This is expected to increase collection performance and reduce debt levels.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is a self-financing element of Council activity and covers both planned capital and revenue activity. The HRA can only be funded via the rents and other housing related charges it generates, being a ring-fenced account.

There are no changes to the HRA because of this MTFS rebasing exercise. The 2024/25 and future planned position of the HRA is therefore as approved by Council in March 2024, including capital investment proposals, stock investment and improvement, and planned increases in revenue balances.

The Transformation Programme includes proposals for a 'Being a Good Social Landlord Project' designed to designed to fundamentally change the way the council delivers its landlord function. This includes by providing quality housing across the city and access to support when needed. The project will have implications for both HRA capital investment and operations, and these will be developed and incorporated into HRA business and service planning.

Capital Programme

The planned capital expenditure and the associated financing is detailed within the budget report that was approved by Council in March 2024. The Capital Programme for 2023/24 to 2028/29 totals £544.82M and includes £264.81M for the General Fund and £280.01M for the HRA.

Consideration has been given to the most appropriate use of capital resources in supporting the programme and meeting the investments and the priorities for the city. All capital projects must ensure purposeful investment and focus on delivering the optimum value for money for the council and its benefits are fully considered against taking account of the financial challenges the council faces.

The Transformation Programme will include the need to increase capital expenditure, and any proposed purposeful capital investment to support transformation will be brought forward for Cabinet approval in due course. This will be based on the Transformation Programme that is coming to Cabinet today for approval. Some elements of capital investment that will support transformation business cases are already included in the capital programme including for the social care case management system and investment in special schools.

There are therefore no proposed amendments to the Capital Programme, and therefore no additional revenue impacts have been factored into the MTFS.

Next steps

Over the next quarter the following actions will be taken to further develop the MTFS and model.

- 1. Updates with Cabinet and the management team to set clear financial policies.
- 2. Updates to further reflect new policies and strategies developed via transformational work.
- 3. Updates to reflect the outcome of any funding or legislative changes.
- 4. Updates to reflect the work being carried out on demand modelling and addressing this demand.
- 5. Further development of the business planning framework described in the MTFS report agreed at March Council, and the identification of further proposals to close the financial gap in 25/26 onwards.

Annex 1: Directorate MTFS movements 2024/25 to 2028/29

This annex sets out the Directorate by Directorate spend and funding movements from 2024/25 to 2028/29 showing how these change over the five-year life of the MTFP, starting with the base year (2024/25)

This is the position after the proposed changes and adjustments proposed in the main body of the report have been made. This then provides the base position for future MTFP quarterly updates and for budget setting 2025/26.

Children and Learning MTFS Rebased Position	2025/26 £M	2026/27 £M	2027/28 £M	2028/29 £M
WIT 3 Nebased Fosition	A.III	2.111	2.111	Sili
Base Budget (commencing 2024/25)	61.83	62.72	63.02	63.72
Pay and Price Inflation	0.63	0.66	0.66	0.67
Demography				
Continuing demand pressures - social care	0.09			
Pressures:				
Residential Unit Pressures	(0.29)	(0.44)		
Loss of Service Specific Grants:				
Holiday Activities Fund.	0.02			
Family Hubs grant.	0.45			
Virtual School		0.02		
Savings				
Reversal of prior year decisions:				
Education Property Budget (Academisation)	0.02	0.06	0.05	
Net Movement	0.90	0.29	0.70	0.67
Forecast Budget	62.72	63.02	63.72	64.39

Community Wellbeing MTFS Rebased Position	2025/26 £M	2026/27 £M	2027/28 £M	2028/29 £M
Base Budget (commencing 2024/25)	97.66	102.46	106.29	110.11
Pay and Price Inflation	3.13	3.12	3.10	2.10
Demography - Adult Social Care	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72
Pressures				
Loss of Service Specific Grants: Market Sustainability Grant	0.95			
Savings				
Reversal of prior year decisions:				
Net Movement	4.80	3.83	3.82	2.82
Forecast Budget	102.46	106.29	110.11	112.93
Enabling Services	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29

Enabling Services MTFS Rebased Position	2025/26 £M	2026/27 £M	2027/28 £M	2028/29 £M
Base Budget (commencing 2024/25)	26.52	27.37	28.71	29.32
Pay and Price Inflation	0.67	0.65	0.61	0.66
Demography				
Pressures				
Rebasing	(0.03)	0.03		
Additional cost of running local elections		0.27		
Loss of Service Specific Grants	0.00			
Savings				
Fallow year elections - one year savings	(0.20)	0.20		
Discontinue Insurance Schools IT Equipment	(0.01)			
Compliance savings	(0.02)			
Service Re-design Debt Management	(0.01)			
Supplier Management Redesign	(0.15)			
Reversal of prior year decisions and MTFS amendments				
Contribution to self insurance fund (reverse holiday)	0.70			
Added Years Pension Payments	0.02	0.19		
Change in contingency (Enabling Services Rebase)	(0.12)			
Net Movement	0.85	1.35	0.61	0.66
Forecast Budget	27.37	28.71	29.32	29.98

Growth & Prosperity MTFS Rebased Position	2025/26 £M	2026/27 £M	2027/28 £M	2028/29 £M
Base Budget (commencing 2024/25)	38.64	40.72	43.10	45.76
Pay and Price Inflation	0.92	0.85	0.74	0.82
Demography				
Home to school transport	1.39	1.58	1.83	
Concessionary fares patronage	0.05	0.05	0.05	
Pressures				
Update of Local Plan		(0.16)		
Network Eagle Labs	(0.06)			
Procurement post in Corporate Estates team	(80.0)			
Visitor Economy	(0.05)			
Highways & Street Lighting Contracts Pressure & Unachievable				
Income	(0.06)	0.01		
Loss of Service Specific Grants				
Savings				
Service Redesign - Construction project delivery	(0.01)	(0.01)		
Service Redesign - Design Team		(0.11)		
School Crossing Patrol Service Reduction	(0.03)			
Reversal of prior year decisions and MTFS amendments				
Building Control - Competition Account Review		0.14	0.04	
Founding partner contributions to Cultural Trust		0.03		
Sale of Library Bus	0.01			
Net Movement	2.08	2.38	2.66	0.82
Forecast Budget	40.72	43.10	45.76	46.57

Resident Services	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
MTFS Rebased Position	M3	£M	£M	£N
Base Budget (commencing 2024/25)	25.14	25.61	26.38	27.44
Pay and Price Inflation	1.04	0.96	0.87	0.92
Demography				
Waste volumes due to City growth	0.10			
Pressures				
Temporary closure of Itchen Bridge for capital works	(0.44)	(0.05)		
Private Sector Housing condition survey Housing Benefits Subsidy & homeless costs	(0.60)	(0.25)		
Loss of Service Specific Grants				
Homelessness grant (covering staff cost)	0.50			
Savings				
Barrier control at Mayflower Park	(0.04)			
To simplify the Itchen Bridge tariff	(0.13)			
Executive Commitments				
Homes for Ukraine - reverse commitment to fund in lieu of grant confirmation	(0.34)			
Reversal of prior year decisions and MTFS amendments				
Waste Transformation Budget	0.12	0.01		
Electricity generation in Waste contract	0.00		0.20	
Private Sector Housing Condition Survey	0.25			
Prior Year Virements (Strategy and Performance)		0.05		
Net Movement	0.47	0.77	1.07	0.92
Forecast Budget	25.61	26.38	27.44	28.37
Strategy and Performance	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29

Strategy and Performance MTFP Rebased Position	2025/26 £M	2026/27 £M	2027/28 £M	2028/29 £M
Base Budget (commencing 2024/25)	3.93	4.02	4.06	4.16
Pay and Price Inflation	0.09	0.09	0.11	0.14
Demography				
Pressures				
Savings				
Reversal of prior year decisions and MTFS amendments Prior Year Virements (Resident Services)		(0.05)		
Net Movement	0.09	0.04	0.11	0.14
Forecast Budget	4.02	4.06	4.16	4.31



DECISION-MAKER:		CABINET			
		COUNCIL			
SUBJECT:		CAPITAL OUTTURN 2023/24			
DATE OF DECISION	:	CABINET 16 JULY 2024			
		COUNCIL 17 JULY 2024			
REPORT OF:		COUNCILLOR LETTS			
		DEPUTY LEADER AND CABI			
		FINANCE AND CORPORATE	SERV	ICES	
		CONTACT DETAILS			
Executive Director	Title:	Executive Director Enabling Se	ervices	and S151 Officer	
	Name:	Mel Creighton	Tel:	023 8083 3528	
	E-mail:	Mel.Creighton@southampton.gov.uk			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

None.

BRIEF SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to summarise the capital outturn position of the council for 2023/24, both General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

This report also sets out the revised capital programme estimates for 2023/24 which take account of slippage and re-phasing.

The position is reflected in the statement of accounts. This is subject to external audit scrutiny, which means this report is provisional, until such a time as the audit has been completed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Cabin	et is recommended to:
i)	Notes the actual capital spending in 2023/24 for the General Fund was £61.73M and for the HRA was £36.77M, as detailed in paragraphs 2 to 5.
ii)	Notes the capital financing in 2023/24 as shown in table 3.
iii)	Recommends Council to approve the revised capital programme for 2023/24 to 2028/29 and financing as summarised in paragraph 18 and detailed in Appendix 2.
iv)	Notes the latest prudential indicators for the revised capital programme as detailed in Appendix 3.
Counc	cil is recommended to:
v)	Notes the actual capital spending in 2023/24 for the General Fund was £61.73M and for the HRA was £36.77M, as detailed in paragraphs 2 to 5.

vi)	Notes the capital financing in 2023/24 as shown in table 3.
vii)	Approves the revised capital programme for 2023/24 to 2028/29 and financing as summarised in paragraph 18 and detailed in Appendix 2.
viii)	Approves the latest prudential indicators for the revised capital programme as detailed in Appendix 3.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To ensure that Cabinet fulfils its responsibilities for the overall financial management of the council's resources.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

2. None, as the capital outturn position for 2023/24 has been prepared in accordance with statutory accounting requirements.

DETAIL (including consultation carried out)

3. The focus for this report is on the capital outturn position for 2023/24, the variances compared with the agreed programme, the financing of the capital spend and any changes to the programme.

4. 2023/24 CAPITAL OUTTURN POSITION

- 5. The total General Fund capital expenditure in 2023/24 was £61.73M compared to a budget of £80.73M, giving a variance of £19.00M or 23.53% of the programme. The variance is comprised of £17.82M net slippage and £1.18M of underspend. Net slippage is the net effect of slippage where budget is rolled forward into future years and rephasing where budget from future years has been brought forward to the current year.
- 6. The total HRA capital expenditure in 2023/24 was £36.77M compared to a budget of £40.72M, giving a variance of £3.95M or 9.69% of the programme. The variance is comprised of £2.50M net slippage and £2.71M of underspend. Net slippage is the net effect of slippage where budget is rolled forward into future years and rephasing where budget from future years has been brought forward to the current year.
- 7. The performance of individual capital programmes in 2023/24 is summarised in table 1 and 2.

8. Table 1 – Summary of the General Fund & HRA Capital Outturn 2023/24

	Approved Programme	Actual	Varia	ance
	£M	£M	£M	%
Children & Learning	11.68	9.02	(2.66)	(22.74)
Corporate Services	2.89	1.88	(1.01)	(34.84)
Place	60.26	46.92	(13.34)	(22.14)
Strategy & Performance	2.68	1.46	(1.22)	(45.57)
Wellbeing & Housing	3.21	2.44	(0.77)	(24.00)
Total GF Capital Programme	80.73	61.73	(19.00)	(23.53)
Total HRA Capital Programme	40.72	36.77	(3.95)	(9.69)
Total Capital Programme	121.44	98.50	(22.94)	(18.89)

9. Table 2 – 2023/24 Breakdown of Variance by Programme

Programme	(Under)/ Overspend £M	Slippage/ (Rephasing) £M	Variance £M
Children & Learning	(0.76)	(1.90)	(2.65)
Corporate Services	0.04	(1.04)	(1.01)
Place	(0.16)	(13.19)	(13.35)
Strategy & Performance	0.00	(1.22)	(1.22)
Wellbeing & Housing	(0.31)	(0.47)	(0.77)
Total GF Capital Programme	(1.18)	(17.82)	(19.00)
Total HRA Capital Programme	(2.71)	(2.50)	(5.21)
Total Capital Programme	(3.89)	(20.32)	(24.21)

10. Reasons for major variances on individual schemes since the last reported position are detailed for each programme in appendix 1.

CAPITAL FINANCING

11. The resources used to finance the 2023/24 expenditure for the General Fund HRA capital programmes are summarised in table 3 below. The most significant source of financing for the General Fund was capital grants and for the HRA it was MRA financing.

12. Table 3 – Capital Financing 2023/24

	General Fund £M	HRA £M	Total £M
Total Financing Required	61.73	36.77	98.50
Financed By: -			
Council Resources	15.14	7.17	22.31
Capital Receipts	1.47	2.74	4.21
Direct Revenue Financing	2.00	6.00	8.00
Capital Grants	36.52	2.20	38.72
Contributions	6.60	0.69	7.29
MRA	0.00	17.97	17.97
Total	61.73	36.77	98.50

- 13. Any overspend on individual schemes are financed from identified additional funding or from savings elsewhere within the programme. Programmes are required to balance their capital programmes within the resources available to them, this may result in reduced outputs where it results in reductions being made elsewhere in the programme.
- 14. The impact of scheme variances for 2023/24 on future years' capital expenditure will feed into future capital programme updates aligned to Council priorities.

THE 5 YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME

15. Table 4 shows a comparison of the latest capital estimate for the period 2023/24 to 2028/29

	including any amendmen reported programme for t devolved capital spend from	he same	peri	od, and	shows a	an incr	ease	of £1	.86M. T	his	is due to
16.	Table 4 – Programme Cor	nparison									
	Actual 2023/24	2023/ 2024 £M	202 202 £N	25 20		2026/ 2027 £M	20)27/)28 `M	2028/ 2029 £M		[⊺] otal £M
		102.39	176.	.79 106	5.04	76.20	45	5.32	39.94	54	6.68
	Previous Programme		156			76.23		5.32	39.94		4.83
	-	(18.52)				(0.03)		0.00	0.00		1.86
17.	Tables 6 and 7 show cap capital programme up to a		•	•	rate an	d the	use (of reso	urces t	o fir	nance the
18.	Table 6 – Capital Budgets										
	Programme	202	23/ 24 M	2024/ 2025 £M	2025/ 2026 £M	202 202 £N	27	2027/ 2028 £M	202 202 £M	9	Total £M
	Children & Learning		9.78	20.36	9.8	4 20	5.22	0.7	'1 C	0.00	66.92
	Corporate Services		1.85	4.65	5.0	0 :	3.50	1.5	50 C	0.00	16.49
	Place	4	7.07	78.33	26.6	9 !	5.63	4.2	20 1	.00	162.92
	Strategy & Performance		1.46	8.13	0.0	0 (0.00	0.0	00 C	.00	9.59
	Wellbeing & Housing		2.75	4.10	3.3	5 (0.55	0.0	00 0	0.00	10.75
	General Fund Total	6	2.91	115.56	44.8	8 3	5.90	6.4	1 1	.00	266.67
	HRA Total	3	9.48	61.23	61.1	6 40	0.30	38.9	1 38	3.94	280.02
	Overall Total	10	2.39	176.79	106.0	4 70	5.20	45.3	32 39	.94	546.68
	Table 7 – Use of Resource	<u>es</u>									
	Capital Grants	(3	8.57)	(75.14)	(16.77	7) (2	2.05)	0.0	00 0	0.00	(132.53)
	Contributions	(6.14)	(9.89)	(4.48	3) (0	.05)	0.0	00 0	0.00	(20.56)
	Revenue Financing	(3.29)	(2.25)	(1.16	S) (C	.45)	(0.5	5) (0	.93)	(8.63)
	Capital Receipts	(2.61)	(12.41)	(2.75	5) (2	2.50)	(2.6	3) (1.	.89)	(24.78)
	MRA	(2	2.30)	(24.86)	(22.84	4) (23	3.40)	(23.7	9) (24	.20)	(141.39)
	CR – Borrowing	(2	9.49)	(52.25)	(58.0	5) (47	'.74)	(18.3	5) (12.	.92)	(218.80)
	Total	(10	2.39)	(176.79)	(106.04	4) (76	5.20)	(45.3	2) (39.	94)	(546.68)
	*CR – Council Resources			NE	3: Table in	cludes ro	ounded	d figures			
19.	Appendix 2 provides deta by each programme up to			ed budg	et by in	dividua	al sch	neme a	and use	of I	esources
	PRUDENTIAL INDICATO	RS									
20.	The Prudential Code req	uires the	Pru	dential Ir	dicator	for A	ctual	Capita	al Expe	ndit	ure to be

reported against the estimates previously reported. The estimates shown in the tables in appendix 3 are those reported to Council as part of the March 2024 Annual Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Limits report.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

21. The capital implications are contained in the report. The revenue implications are contained within the Revenue Outturn 2023/24 report elsewhere on this agenda.

Property/Other

22. There are no specific property implications arising from this report other than the schemes already referred to within Appendix 2 of the report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

23. Financial reporting is consistent with the Section 151 Officer's duty to ensure good financial administration within the Council.

Other Legal Implications:

24. None.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

25. Risk management implications are contained in the report.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

26. The proposals contained in the report are in accordance with the Council's Policy Framework Plan.

KEY DECISION? No.

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	GF & HRA Major Variance Explanations 2023/24
2.	GF & HRA Scheme Budgets and Use of Resources for 2023/24 to 20287/29
3.	Capital Prudential Indicators 2023/24

Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None	
Equality	y Impact Assessment	
	mplications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact ment (EIA) to be carried out?	No
Privacy	Impact Assessment	

Do the implications/subject of the report requi Assessment (PIA) to be carried out?	re a Privacy Impact	No
Other Background Documents Equality Impact Assessment and Other Bainspection at:	ckground documents avai	lable for
Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Information Procedure Rule 12A allowing document to Exempt/Confidential (if app	es / Schedule be

1.	The General Fund Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2028/29 (Council 6 March 2024)	
2.		

Appendix 1

GF & HRA MAJOR VARIANCE EXPLANATIONS SINCE LAST REPORTED POSITION

CHILDE	REN & LEARNING
	Slippage and Rephasing
1.	School Condition works (slippage of £0.27M from 2023-24 to 2024-25
	 Net Variance £0.87M slippage rephasing on schemes within Schools Capital Maintenance programme. Slippage is predominantly due to: Oakwood Primary School replacement of roof. The original profile was too ambitious as the tenders only went out in January 2024. It is hoped a contract would be awarded and work to commence in time for summer 2024. Mount Pleasant Junior – Roof. Delays while the full scope of the project were being assessed.
2.	Early Years (Slippage of £0.13M from 2023/24 to 2024/25)
	Weston Park: Delays due to extended legal exchanges between SCC and previous occupier. The building handover back to SCC was completed in April 2024. The capital allocation will need to be slipped into 23/24 into 24/25.
	Townhill Nusery: Delayed due to a water leak, which insurers have now approved the damages claim and works to repair extensive water damage and EY capital works will begin to take place during summer term/summer holiday period.
	Sholing Day Nursery (100 spaces): Planning approvals have taken much longer than expected. Developer is keen to progress the project with vigour to make up some of the lost time. Capital works expected to complete in summer 2024 with an opening date of September 2024 if not before.
	Wordworth Primary School Expansion of Early years: Delays in securing a suitable contractor to undertake the works outside of term time has resulted in a delay to undertake the minor works needed to expand the number of EY places. This is expected to now take place over the summer school holidays in readiness for an increase in places for September 2024.
3.	St Marks (Slippage of £0.20M from 2023/24 to 2024/25) Currently in defects period, which has identified Knott weed on the field and has been treated awaiting removal by a specialist. Bad weather has also delayed the landscaping of the school field. This work will be completed in 2024/25.
4.	St Georges Expansion (Slippage of £0.23M from 2023/24 to 2024/25) Works were due to commence in February 2024; however, due to delay in execution of the Contract, works were postponed, to take place during the Easter holidays – providing the 2-week break to complete intrusive works and limit disruption during school hours and any health / safety concerns.
5.	SEND Review (Slippage of £0.61M from 2023/24 to 2024/25) Works to complete RIBA Stage 2 have taken longer than anticipated and will complete in Q1 of 2024/25. Any underspend will then be transferred to the construction phase of the project.

6.	SEND Units (slippage of £0.25M From 2023/24 to 2024/25) Additional number in 2023/24 have been accommodated without any capital investment. Plans for additional SEND units are being finalised and a cabinet paper will be coming forward detailing proposal for a new unit in 2024/25.
	Under & Overspend
7.	School Condition Works (Underspend of £0.45M) A number of schemes have been completed and this is the unused contingency in year. There is currently sufficient contingency in future years. This grant will now be available for new projects which will emerge in 2024/25.
8.	St Marks (Underspend of £0.12M) The project is nearing completion, and in a position to release unused contingency.
9.	Newlands (Underspend of £0.13M) The project is nearing completion, and in a position to release unused contingency.
CORPO	RATE SERVICES
	Slippage and Rephasing
10.	CareDirector (Slippage of £0.68M from 2023/24 to 2024/25) This project has been implemented. There are a number of minor improvements that need to be made, which are being developed alongside the transformation programme and implementation of a new system. It is likely that this budget will be able to reduced in 2024/25, once plans are fully scoped.
11.	IT Equipment and Software Refresh (Slippage of £0.26M from 2023/24 to 2024/25) Small proportion of the budget unspent in year, due to lower costs and unspent contingencies, which will be carried forward for use in 2024/25.
PLACE	
	Slippage and Rephasing
12.	Transforming Cities (Slippage of £2.49M from 2023/24 to 2024/25) The most significant proportion of this slippage is due to delay starting the Northern Inner Ring Road project, due to network capacity constraints. Ther project is now in fully delivery and progressing well. Another significant slippage relates to the Portland Terrace scheme which also had to be reprogrammed to fit with other TCF schemes. All works within the programme will be complete in 2024/25, in line with the DfT grant deadline.
13.	Future Transport Zone (Slippage of £2.94M from 2023/24 to 2024/25) Delays to some of the schemes within the Solent Future Transport Zone Programme combined with the one-year extension (to June 2025) have resulted in slippage. The major slippage is on Theme 2 area of the programme (Drones, Macro & Micro Consolidation) because of lack of resource to progress following unsuccessful rounds of recruitment.
14.	ITS (Slippage of £0.33M from 2023/24 to 2024/25) The programme is a rolling programme split over financial years and as such money will need to be carried over into 2024/25 to continue these programmes as some work is delayed from its original schedule.

15.	Northam Bridge (Slippage of £0.22M from 2023/24 to 2024/25) Following the successful bid for funding of the business case for Northam Rail Bridge, the project is in the initial stages and will continue in 2024/25.
16.	Cycling (Slippage of £0.24M from 2023/24 to 2024/25) The programme is a rolling programme split over financial years and as such money will need to be carried over into 2024/25 to continue these programmes as some work is delayed from its original schedule.
17.	Improved Safety (Slippage of £1.01M from 2023/24 to 2024/25) The programme is a rolling programme split over financial years and as such money will need to be carried over into 2024/25 to continue these programmes as some work is delayed from its original schedule.
18.	Outdoor Sports Centre (Slippage of £0.28M from 2023/24 to 2024/25) Progress was delayed slightly whilst a value engineering exercise was undertaken, following the start of the pre-construction service agreement. It is hoped that this will not impact the overall delivery timescale.
19.	Corporate Assets Decarbonisation Scheme (CADS) (Slippage of £1.10M from 2023/24 to 2024/25) The slippage is primarily due to the project to replace the street lighting across the City. It was delayed while the contract was being re-negotiated. This is now complete, and works is expected to progress in 2024/25 and deliver the intended efficiencies.
20.	Belgrave Industrial Estate Roof (Slippage of £0.29M from 2023/24 to 2024/25) This project is nearly completion and will be entering into the retention phase in 2024/25. Once final accounts are known it is expected that some of this budget will be released as underspend, as part of Q1 monitoring.
21.	District Centre Improvements (Slippage of £0.36M from 2023/24 to 2024/25) Design works have taken longer than anticipated due to the importance of stakeholder engagement. It is planned that this project will conclude in 2024/25.
22.	Bargate North Walls Restoration Works (Slippage of £0.48M from 2023/24 to 2024/25) The work is dependent on the external development of the Bargate site, which has been delayed due the contractor going into administration. It is hoped that this work will move forward in 2024/25.
23.	Corporate Council Buildings (Slippage of £0.45M from 2023/24 to 2024/25) The majority of this relates to Kanes Hill Traveller site. A paper will be coming forward later in 2024 to set out the wider plans for the site. To ensure that resources were not duplicated or wasted, work was delayed on this project.
24.	Solar Powered Compactor Bins (Slippage of £0.21M from 2023/24 to 2024/25) This project was placed on hold while there was a review of all capital projects, to ensure purposeful investment. The business case for this project is currently being reviewed to ensured it still can deliver the efficiencies originally proposed.
25.	Mayflower Park Revetments (Slippage of £0.43M from 2023/24 to 2024/25) This project had been paused whilst additional external funding was explored. The project has recently been taken over by the property team and a project manager has been appointed and is moving forward with design works. This will complete in 2024/25 and additional budget will be sought as necessary to implement the project.

26.	
	SANGS Improvements Works (Slippage of £0.15M from 2023/24 to 2025/26) This budget was added as a commitment made for the use of community infrastructure
	levy to provide Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANGS). Several schemes
	are being developed and therefore the profile of the budget was unknown. There is
	already sufficient funding in 2024/25 for new projects that arise so £0.15M is being
	slipped into 2025/26 for projects in future years.
STRATE	EGY & PERFORMANCE
	Slippage and Rephasing
27.	Transformation Programme (Slippage of £1.22M from 2023/24 to 2024/25)
	The original phasing of the project was based on high level assumptions and was
	always going to need refining and rephasing. A full review has been undertaken of the
	transformational activity required across the whole organisation to ensure that these
	resources are best utilised to maximise efficiencies both in financial terms and service
	delivery. The updated transformation plan will be presented to Council in July 2024,
	detailing future projects.
HOUSIN	IG & THE GREEN ENVIRONMENT
	Slippage and Rephasing
28.	Safer Neighbourhoods (Slippage of £0.41M from 2023/24 to 2024/25)
	There have been delays to the design and procurement of this project to deliver
	motorcycle interventions. Work is now underway and will complete in 2024/25.
HRA	
пка	
ПКА	Slippage and Rephasing
29.	ECO: City Energy Scheme (Slippage of £0.38M from 2023/24 to 2024/25)
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33. Structural Inspections to High Rise Blocks (Slippage of £0.59M from 2023/24 to 2024/25) There have been changes in the route/approach to procuring works from Frameworks. This has led to delay which has also required re-draft of contracts and revisions to quotes, all impacting on delivery. Holyrood Estate Heating Upgrade (Slippage of £0.39M from 2023/24 to 2024/25) The project is still being developed, with pilot work currently taking place to inform full delivery which has taken longer than expected. The project has also experienced a change in Project Management due to staff leaving SCC. 35. Roofing Lot 1 West (Rephase of £0.29M from 2024/25 to 2023/24) Due to a review of the project, it has been identified that the roofs have deteriorated and are coming to the end of their working lifespan. This has been identified from stock condition records and from feedback from the maintenance team. There have also been several incidents of leaks that have been reported in properties of similar age and roof construction. As a result, works were progressed earlier than planned to reduce impact to residents. 36. Block Modernisation Programme (Rephase of £1.23M from 2024/25 to 2023/24) Fire safety work has been progressed ahead of programme. **Under & Overspend** External Windows and Doors (Overspend of £0.58M in 2023/24) 37. The overspend was mainly due to unexpected costs from 2022/23, for which the costed were not budgeted for 2023/24. HFRS Fire Safety / Sprinkler Project (Overspend of £0.78M in 2023/24) 38. Additional extensive fire stopping works have been uncovered that previously was not identified. This is required to comply with fire safety legislation and must be rectified to ensure resident's safety and avoid enforcement action and non-compliance. Disabled Adaptations (Overspend of £0.25M in 2023/24) 39. This project carried out more referrals than anticipated. There was a decision to deal with the essential works as there is a legal obligation to ensure tenants can continue living in their homes provided. These works need to be completed in a suitable timeframe. 40. Structural Works (Overspend of £0.25M in 2023/24) This budget has an element of contingency works within it which depends on new issues being found and resolved. In addition, there are condition survey generated concrete repair works lasting 3 years which resulted in more repair requests this year. Due to the nature of the works, they cannot be delayed until the next year. Passive Fire Safety Works (Overspend of £0.26M in 2023/24) Consultants surveyed the building to identify costs of remediating the building and identified more works to be carried out. As a result, the current funding has substantially increased resulting in the overspend.

All projects within the SCC require asbestos surveys to be carried out in advance of any work being carried out, to comply with health and safety legislation. This will give the contractors as much prestart information as possible. Once the surveys have been

Asbestos Removal (Overspend of £0.69M in 2023/24)

	carried out any asbestos removal cost is then applied to each project. The asbestos works from other projects have been brought into this cost code.
43.	Major Works – reactive (Overspend of £0.77M in 2023/24) Around 19% of the annual Responsive Repair spend relates to reactive major repair jobs over £1k. The major repairs in this project where ordinary responsive repairs are carried out not sufficient i.e. Patch repair/ make safe but cannot wait until a planned programme of work takes place.
	As this project is reactive in nature the costs are higher due to loss of economies of scale resulting in the overspend. The service is reviewing the budget to help minimise the high and rising costs.
44.	Roofing Lot 2 East (Underspend of £0.33M in 2023/24) Contractor completed works early resulting in minimal spend under the existing contract for the current year. A further contract is currently being set up for future works which will be covered by future year budgets.
45.	Bathroom Refurbishment Programme (Underspend of £0.49M in 2023/24) Due to a change in scope by the Housing Director, the numbers of properties in the programme have reduced.
46.	Renew Warden Alarm (Underspend of £0.61M in 2023/24) The project tender and specification, which is still being developed, has taken longer than expected. The project has also experienced a change in Project Management due to staff leaving SCC. As a result, the project will incur a surplus and any further works will be covered by the future year budgets.
47.	Insulation Upgrades (Underspend of £0.42M in 2023/24) Due to the delays in the asbestos surveys being returned in time, the project faced slow progress and therefore incurring an underspend.
48.	Electrical System Upgrades/Refurb (Underspend of £0.22M in 2023/24) Due to works being reactive with no issued programmed/planned works provided. Therefore, there was no works to react to. Therefore, the project has incurred a surplus.
49.	Wyndham Court Refurbishment (Underspend of £0.20M in 2023/24) The scheme has been impacted by delays and design changes and the contractor is looking likely to claim for prolongation costs in future years. Therefore, opening at Wyndham Court required re-design of the exterior walls. This also was impacted by changes to Fire Regulations, which has also impacted the contractor's progress.
50.	Container Homes (Underspend of £0.45M in 2023/24) This project has been completed. Therefore, no further expenditure has incurred.
51.	1000+ Parking Spaces (HRA Element) (Underspend of £0.77M in 2023/24) The scheme has come to an end and several sites were removed from the scope.

52.	Fire Detection Upgrades (Underspend of £0.77M in 2023/24) After a review of the program improvements were identified to carry out the required works more efficiently. This means a better way of working has been implement by the Housing Ops to install or replace CO alarms and Smoke alarm upgrade to LD3 where necessary.
53.	Wimpson Lane & Oakley Road - external improvement works (Underspend of £0.20M in 2023/24) This project is closed, due to the lack of project management capacity to deliver.
54.	Kitchen refurbishment programme (Underspend of £0.80M in 2023/24) Due to a change in scope by the Housing Director, the numbers of properties in the programme have reduced.



CHILDREN & LEARNING

Scheme No.	Project Description	Budget 2023/24 £M	Budget 2024/25 £M	Budget 2025/26 £M	Budget 2026/27 £M	Budget 2027/28 £M	Budget 2028/29 £M	Total £M
CC0014	St Denys	0.004	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.004
CC0020	Schools Condition Works	1.748	3.564	0.059	0.000	0.000	0.000	5.371
CC0021	Early Years Expansion Programme	0.122	0.400	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.522
CC0023	St Mark's School	0.394	0.600	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.994
CC0025	Schools Devolved Capital	1.799	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.799
CC0035	Regent Park Expansion	0.010	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.060
CC0037	St George's Expansion	0.084	2.940	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	3.024
CC0039	Chamberlayne Refurbishment	1.851	0.036	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.887
CC0047	Mount Pleasant Junior Health & Safety	0.006	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.006
CC0048	Newlands Resource Base	1.417	0.060	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.477
CC0049	SEND Review	0.889	0.366	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.255
CC0050	Childrens Services- Residential Unit	0.824	0.517	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.341
CC0051	Childrens Services- Assessment Unit	0.092	0.808	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.900
CC0052	Maytree School Playground	0.025	0.025	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.050
CC0053	Surestart	0.028	0.113	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.141
CC0055	Modular relocation & purchase from Springwell to Vermont	0.008	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.008
CC0058	St Marks ICT Equipment	0.027	0.055	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.082
CC0060	Young Peoples Hub	0.003	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.003
CC0061	SEND - 2 primary classrooms for Sept 22	0.000	0.250	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.250
CC0062	Townhill Junior	0.040	0.860	0.250	0.340	0.000	0.000	1.490
CC0063	Fire Safety Works Mason Moor Primary	0.243	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.243
CC0064	1 - St Georges - Boilers	0.150	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.150
CC0065	3 - St Marys - Downpipes	0.000	0.110	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.110
CC0066	St Marks - Wall	0.000	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.100
CC0067	2 - Oakwood - Heating	0.007	0.157	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.164
CC0068	7 - Redbridge Primary School - Screed	0.000	0.145	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.145
CC0069	Fairisle Infants - Pipework	0.000	0.418	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.418
CC0070	8 - Regents Park Flooring	0.010	0.129	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.139
CC0071	New Children's Residential Home	0.000	1.800	0.598	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.398
CC0072	New Children's Residential Home	0.000	0.150	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.150
CC0073	Moorlands Primary School	0.000	0.175	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.175
CC0074	Bassett Green Primary School	0.000	0.294	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.294
CC0075	Foundry Lane Primary School	0.000	0.469	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.469
CC0076	Valentine School Primary (including early years)	0.000	0.392	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.392
CC0077	Fairisle Jr School	0.000	0.221	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.221
CC0078	Early Years & Childcare Capital Expansion Programme	0.000	0.200	0.150	0.063	0.000	0.000	0.413
CC0079	Great Oaks Green Lane Site	0.000	1.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.000
CC0080	Great Oaks Vermont Site	0.000	2.710	4.780	19.820	0.711	0.000	28.021
CC0081	Vermont School St Monica Site	0.000	1.250	4.000	6.000	0.000	0.000	11.250
		9.781	20.364	9.837	26.223	0.711	0.000	66.916
Sources o	f Finance							
	Council Resources	0.827	2.727	4.766	25.820	0.711	0.000	34.851
	Central Govt Grants	8.954	17.637	5.071	0.403	0.000	0.000	32.065
	Total Programme	9.781	20.364	9.837	26.223	0.711	0.000	66.916

CORPORATE SERVICES

Scheme No.	Project Description	Budget 2023/24 £M	Budget 2024/25 £M	Budget 2025/26 £M	Budget 2026/27 £M	Budget 2027/28 £M	Budget 2028/29 £M	Total £M
CA0012	CareDirector	0.881	0.682	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.563
CG0158	Civic Centre Upgrade	0.024	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.024
CG0211	IT Equipment and Software Refresh	0.895	1.761	3.500	2.000	1.500	0.000	9.656
CI0003	CM-Pro Upgrade	0.006	0.204	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.210
CI0004	Client Case Management System	0.000	2.000	1.500	1.500	0.000	0.000	5.000
CI0040	Contact Centre Telephony	0.040	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.040
		1.846	4.647	5.000	3.500	1.500	0.000	16.493
Sources o	f Finance							
	Council Resources	1.840	4.443	5.000	3.500	1.500	0.000	16.283
	Capital Receipts	0.006	0.204	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.210
	Total Programme	1.846	4.647	5.000	3.500	1.500	0.000	16.493

PLACE

Scheme No.	Project Description	Budget 2023/24 £M	Budget 2024/25 £M	Budget 2025/26 £M	Budget 2026/27 £M	Budget 2027/28 £M	Budget 2028/29 £M	Total £M
CG0004	QE2 Mile - Bargate Square	0.027	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.027
CG0006	Cycling	0.563	1.442	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.005
CG0008	Public Transport	0.149	0.988	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.137
CG0009 CG0010	Improved Safety Travel to School	0.369 0.551	1.165 0.373	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000 0.000	1.534 0.924
CG0010	Accessibility	0.083	0.375	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.324
CG0016	Local Transport Improvement Fund (MMW)	0.120	0.098	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.218
CG0017	ITS	0.330	0.632	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.962
CG0024	Electric Vehicle Action Plan	0.053	0.017	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.070
CG0026 CG0027	Carriageways Essential Highways Minor Works	8.203 0.061	2.946 0.147	2.246 0.100	0.000	0.000	0.000 0.000	13.395 0.308
CG0027	Cycleways Improvements Programme	0.022	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.022
CG0038	Bus Corridor Minor Works	0.000	0.145	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.145
CG0040	Northam Rail Bridge	0.058	2.539	0.504	0.000	0.000	0.000	3.101
CG0042	Other Bridge Works	1.151	0.228	0.150	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.529
CG0050 CG0052	Footways - Various Treatments Highways Drainage Investigations	2.046 0.281	0.450 0.600	0.450 0.300	0.000	0.000	0.000 0.000	2.946 1.181
CG0052	St Lighting	0.018	0.006	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.024
CG0054	Road Restraint Systems	0.594	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.894
CG0060	Highways Improvements (Developer)	0.027	0.502	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.529
CG0139	Outdoor Sports Centre Improvements	0.878	14.001	14.328	0.000	0.000	0.000	29.207
CG0148 CG0198	Town Depot	0.017 0.005	0.037 0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000 0.000	0.054 0.005
CG0198 CG0199	S106 - Integrated Transport Redbridge Wharf	0.003	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.003
CG0209	FTZ Theme 1 - Personal Mobility	1.755	3.239	0.191	0.000	0.000	0.000	5.185
CG0215	Transforming Cities Fund	19.039	16.847	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	35.886
CG0216	Art Gallery Roof	0.112	4.018	0.901	0.129	0.000	0.000	5.160
CG0217	FTZ Theme 2 - Sustainable Urban Loggistics	1.333	6.904	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	8.237
CG0218 CG0220	FTZ Programme - Other Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme	1.667 0.049	1.487 0.000	0.439 0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	3.593 0.049
CG0220	Solent SkySky Museum	0.030	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.049
CG0241	Safer Streets	0.176	0.527	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.703
CG0242	Restoring and Promoting Heritage Assets	1.594	2.234	0.450	0.000	0.000	0.000	4.278
CG0244	British Library IP Centre	0.027	0.003	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.030
CG0246	Belgrave Industrial Estate Roof	0.178	0.286	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.464
CG0247 CG0250	District Centre Improvements Bedford Place	0.285 0.557	0.658 0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000 0.000	0.943 0.557
CG0251	Materials Recycling Facility	0.000	0.000	3.450	0.000	0.000	0.000	3.450
CG0252	Itchen Bridge	0.220	4.280	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	4.500
CG0265	River Itchen Flood Alleviation Scheme (RIFAS)	0.000	0.000	0.500	4.500	4.200	1.000	10.200
CG0267	Bargate North Walls Restoration Works	0.008	0.476	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.484
CG0268 CG0283	Corporate Council Buildings Daisy Dip Flood Alleviation	0.030 0.044	0.446 0.036	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000 0.000	0.476 0.080
CG0283	Schools Surface Water Resilience	0.026	0.284	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.310
CG0300	Mayflower Park Barriers	0.000	0.135	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.135
CG0301	St Mary's Leisure Centre	0.000	2.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.000
CT0001	Purchase of vehicles	3.270	0.613	1.000	1.000	0.000	0.000	5.883
CT0031 CT0039	Southampton Common Westwood Greenway	0.050 0.017	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000 0.000	0.050 0.017
CT0039	Blechynden Terrace Park	0.017	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.017
CT0055	Solar Powered Compactor Bins	0.002	0.422	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.424
CT0061	Weston Shore Coastal Erosion	0.012	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.012
CT0064	Welfare Improvements at Mayfield Depot	0.017	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.017
CT0065	Clean Air Zone	0.004	0.064	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.068
CT0071 CT0075	Tranman - Fleet System Upgrade City Services - Depots	0.019 0.062	0.000 0.061	0.000 0.322	0.000	0.000	0.000 0.000	0.019 0.445
CT0073	Crematorium Refurbishment	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.001
CT0083	Open Spaces	0.142	0.389	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.531
CT0084	High Priority Play Parks	0.013	0.720	0.350	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.083
CT0085 CT0090	Traveller Defences	0.024 0.057	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000 0.000	0.024
CT0090 CT0091	Green City Action Plan Corporate Assets Decarbonisation Scheme (CADS)	0.057	0.042 3.645	0.000 0.712	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.099 4.636
CT0091	Mayflower Park Revetments	0.022	0.434	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.456
CT0093	Weston Shore Play Area	0.000	0.256	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.256
CT0094	Green Flag Improvements	0.096	0.172	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.268
CT0095	Golf Course	0.097	0.038	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.135
CT0099 CT0100	Members Minor Works - Parks and Open Spaces SANGS Improvements Works	0.103 0.033	0.085 0.500	0.000 0.151	0.000	0.000	0.000 0.000	0.188 0.684
C10100	SANGS Improvements works	47.069	78.331	26.694	5.629	4.200	1.000	162.923
Sources of								
	Council Resources	13.742	14.845	12.169	5.629	4.200	1.000	51.585
	Capital Receipts Contributions	0.000 5.893	0.000 8.177	0.325 3.640	0.000	0.000	0.000 0.000	0.325 17.710
	Central Govt Grants	25.407	53.589	9.560	0.000	0.000	0.000	88.556
	Other Grants	0.027	0.009	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.036
	Direct Revenue	2.000	1.711	1.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	4.711
	Total Programme	47.069	78.331	26.694	5.629	4.200	1.000	162.923

STRATEGY & PERFORMANCE

Scheme No.	Project Description	Budget 2023/24 £M	Budget 2024/25 £M	Budget 2025/26 £M	Budget 2026/27 £M	Budget 2027/28 £M	Budget 2028/29 £M	Total £M
CG0270 Trans	sformation programme	1.461	8.127	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	9.588
		1.461	8.127	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	9.588
Sources of Finar	nce							
Capit	al Receipts	1.461	8.127	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	9.588
Total	l Programme	1.461	8.127	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	9.588

WELLBEING & HOUSING

Scheme	Project Description	Budget 2023/24	Budget 2024/25	Budget 2025/26	Budget 2026/27	Budget 2027/28	Budget 2028/29	Total
No.		£M	£M	£M	£M	£Μ	£M	£M
CA0006	Telecare Equipment	0.183	0.182	0.122	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.487
CG0018	CCTV Cameras	0.103	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.103
CG0236	1000 Parking Spaces (General Fund Element)	0.319	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.319
CG0269	Safer Neighbourhoods	0.091	0.407	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.498
CT0027	Disabled Facilities Grants - Approved Adaptations	1.600	1.800	1.888	0.000	0.000	0.000	5.288
CT0030	Estate Parking Improvements	0.002	0.034	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.036
CT0068	Warm Homes	0.450	0.550	0.550	0.550	0.000	0.000	2.100
CT0072	S106 - Affordable Homes	0.000	1.122	0.793	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.915
		2.748	4.095	3.353	0.550	0.000	0.000	10.746
Sources o	f Finance							
	Council Resources	0.605	0.182	0.122	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.909
	Capital Receipts	0.000	0.150	0.250	0.250	0.000	0.000	0.650
	Contributions	0.243	1.713	0.843	0.050	0.000	0.000	2.849
	Central Govt Grants	1.850	2.050	2.138	0.250	0.000	0.000	6.288
	Other Grants	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.050
	Total Programme	2.748	4.095	3.353	0.550	0.000	0.000	10.746

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

Part	S	Scheme	Decidet Decovirties	Budget 2023/24	Budget 2024/25	Budget 2025/26	Budget 2026/27	Budget 2027/28	Budget 2028/29	Total
Court Cou	sum2		·							
Control Cont			_							
Control Personal			-			0.200				
1900 10		CG0087	Wall Structure & Finish	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.350	2.100
Control Control Section Sec			-							
Contact Cont			•							
Part			, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,							
Page Control Control										
Conting	•									
Control Cont	Homes	CG0258	Wyndham Court Refurbishment	0.600	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.600
Control Cont			•							
C										
Count										
Section Sec			. 3							
Perform Court Perform Court Perform Court Perform Court Perform Court Perform Court Perform Perform Court Perform Perform										
Control Co		CG0297	Stock Appraisal Consultant	0.000	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.240
Control Con	Improving Qua									
Making Form Form										
Maining Norms										
Control Cont	Making Homos	CG0182								
Control Part Part	-	CC0183	Millbank House EWI Refurbishment	0.040	2.600	3.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	5.640
Contact Cont	Lifeigy Liffelett	CG0185								
Contact Cont			•							
February Fig. Fi										
Marciang Horse-Free Price P			,							
Communial Areas Works										
Content	Making Homes	Energy Effic	cient Total	5.548	19.574	19.800	8.170	9.400	9.400	71.892
Community Comm										
Structural Works										
Solit Soli										
Main										
C-00222 Fire Safety High Size Personal 0.000										
Making Home GC0025 Fire Detection Ungrades to ID2 - domestic diversiting (Co alarms) 0.070 0.015 0.030 0.000 0										
Safe Solution Safe CO277 (COmmunal Fire Detector Upgrade Safe CO278 (Fire Safety - Fire Safety Eng Communal Areas (Low & Medium Blocks) (CO278 (Fire Safety - Fire Safety Eng Communal Areas (Low & Medium Blocks) (CO278 (Fire Safety - Fire) Response (CO278 (Fire Safety - Fire) Response (CO278 (Fire Safety - We) Rahm Court Upgrade (CO278 (Fire Safety - Red) Removal - Walkway Ceilings) (CO279 (Fire Safety - Red) Removal - Walkway Ceilings) (CO279 (Fire Safety - Red) Removal - Walkway Ceilings) (CO279 (Fire Safety - Suiding Safety Case Remediation (Rahm Court Commercial and carp and England Res) (CO279 (Fire Safety - Cadeding Assessment) (A. & Assessment) Red (CO279 (Fire Safety - We)) (Fire Safety - We) Red (Fi		CG0228	Sprinkler Work	1.374	1.356	1.740	1.745	2.700	2.700	11.615
Safe COUZE Fire Safety - Fire Spragne (communal Areas (tow & Medium Blocks) 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 1.350 <td>Making Homes</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	Making Homes									
Fig. Fire Safety - High Rise Verhitation Upgrades 0,000 1,762 1,200 0,000 1,000		CG02//	, •							
C6028 Fire Safety - Windham Court Upgrafe 1,000 0,000										
CG0281 Fire Safety - Five Door Remedials 0.810 0.800										
C60128 Fire Safety - AddRitional Asbestos Removal - Walkway Cellings 0.000 1.200 0.0										
C60291 Fire Safety - Castle Housing Compartmentation (flat front replacements) 0.000 0		CG0289	•	0.000	1.250	1.250	1.250	0.000	0.000	3.750
GG0925 Fire Safety - Veryndham Court Comercial and car part sprinklers project 0,000 0,000 0,000 0,000 0,000 0,500 0,000 0,500		CG0290			0.400	0.400	0.200		0.200	1.400
National Properties Color Section Color Co										
Making Homes Safe Tail										
Col114 Commitment Col115 Commitment Col116 Co	Making Homes		Fire Safety - Wyndnam Court Commercial and car part sprinklers project							
Regeneration CG0115 (CG0191) (CG01	Waking Homes		Townhill Park Regeneration							
Column	Danamantian		_							
Regeneration	Regeneration	CG0190	GN New Homes	0.040	1.210	3.470	3.575	0.000	0.000	8.295
CG006 Decent Neighbourhoods Projects 0.868 1.132 1.000 1.000 1.000 1.000 1.000 0.			Starboard Way	0.193			0.000		0.000	1.073
CG0090	Regeneration T		Donat Natible of and Data to							
Supporting C60131 ON: Estate Improvement Programme (EIP) 0.150			·							
Supporting CG0207 (Cotainer Homes 0.100 (CG0232 (D)00+ Parking Spaces (HRA Element)) 0.000 (D)00 (D										
Supporting Communities CG0232 (CG024 CTV initiatives (IRRA Element) 0.600 (0.00 0.000 0										
CG0264 Deregistration - Cambridge Rd 0.00 0.00	Supporting									
CG0273 Tower block flooring, pipewor & gas plant programme 0.000 0.100 0.100 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.171 0.000		CG0240	CCTV initiatives (HRA Element)			0.000	0.000			0.150
C60285										
CG0295 HRA Shops Investment Programme 0.000 0.170 0.000										
Supporting Communities Supporting CG0104 Renew Warden Alarm CG0174 Disabled Adaptations Disabled Adaptations CG0177 Disabled Adaptations Dis										
Supporting CG0104 Renew Warden Alarm D.625 Z.180 D.840 D.000 D	Supporting Con									
Note Council Resources Council Resources	Supporting Con									
Living CG0255 CG0298 Suited locks Telecare Upgrades 0.055 0.0000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.0	Supporting									
CG0298 Telecare Upgrades 0.000 0.200 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.200	•		•							
Supporting Independent Living Total 3.380 5.380 3.840 3.000 3.000 21.600 2.001	Living									
Inflation	Supporting Inde									
Allowance CG0302 Inflation Allowance CG0302 Inflation Allowance Total CG0302 Inflation Allowance Total CG0302 CG0302		-periaciii Li		3.300	3.300	5.040	3.000	3.000	3.000	21.000
Sources of Finance 12.475 30.050 35.990 12.795 11.940 11.920 115.170 Capital Receipts 1.138 3.930 2.170 2.250 2.630 1.890 14.008 Central Govt Grants 2.280 1.850 0.000 1.400 0.000 0.000 5.530 MRA 22.298 24.859 22.840 23.401 23.790 24.200 141.388 Direct Revenue 1.290 0.540 0.160 0.450 0.550 0.930 3.920	Allowance	CG0302	Inflation Allowance	0.000	0.000	2.005	2.561	3.745	4.775	13.086
Sources of Finance Council Resources 12.475 30.050 35.990 12.795 11.940 11.920 115.170 Capital Receipts 1.138 3.930 2.170 2.250 2.630 1.890 14.008 Central Govt Grants 2.280 1.850 0.000 1.400 0.000 0.000 5.530 MRA 22.298 24.859 22.840 23.401 23.790 24.200 141.388 Direct Revenue 1.290 0.540 0.160 0.450 0.550 0.930 3.920	Inflation Allowa	ance Total		0.000	0.000	2.005	2.561	3.745	4.775	13.086
Council Resources 12.475 30.050 35.990 12.795 11.940 11.920 115.170 Capital Receipts 1.138 3.930 2.170 2.250 2.630 1.890 14.008 Central Govt Grants 2.280 1.850 0.000 1.400 0.000 0.000 5.530 MRA 22.298 24.859 22.840 23.401 23.790 24.200 141.388 Direct Revenue 1.290 0.540 0.160 0.450 0.550 0.930 3.920				39.481	61.229	61.160	40.296	38.910	38.940	280.016
Council Resources 12.475 30.050 35.990 12.795 11.940 11.920 115.170 Capital Receipts 1.138 3.930 2.170 2.250 2.630 1.890 14.008 Central Govt Grants 2.280 1.850 0.000 1.400 0.000 0.000 5.530 MRA 22.298 24.859 22.840 23.401 23.790 24.200 141.388 Direct Revenue 1.290 0.540 0.160 0.450 0.550 0.930 3.920		C	. Finance							
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Direct Revenue 1.290 0.540 0.160 0.450 0.550 0.930 3.920										
Total Programme 39.481 61.229 61.160 40.296 38.910 38.940 280.016										
			Total Programme	39.481	61.229	61.160	40.296	38.910	38.940	280.016

Appendix 3

GENERAL FUND AND HRA CAPITAL OUTTURN 2023/24 - PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS

1. Table 1 below reports the movement in the total capital programme since last reported and updates the prudential indicators up to and including 2027/28. These indicators reflect the change made in this report.

<u>Table 1 – Estimate of Capital Expenditure</u>

Capital Expenditure and	2023/ 2024	2023/ 2024	2023/ 2024	2024/ 2025	2025/ 2026	2026/ 2027	2027/ 2028
Financing	Actual £M	Forecast £M	Variance £M	Forecast £M	Forecast £M	Forecast £M	Forecast £M
General Fund	61.73	78.93	(17.20)	115.56	44.88	35.90	6.41
HRA	36.77	41.98	(5.21)	61.23	61.16	40.30	38.91
Total Expenditure	98.50	120.91	(22.41)	176.79	106.04	76.20	45.32
Capital receipts	(4.20)	(4.74)	(0.54)	(12.41)	(2.75)	(2.50)	(2.63)
Capital Grants	(38.72)	(46.70)	(7.98)	(75.14)	(16.77)	(2.05)	0.00
Contributions	(7.30)	(9.26)	(1.96)	(9.89)	(4.48)	(0.05)	0.00
Major Repairs Allowance	(17.97)	(21.49)	(3.52)	(24.86)	(22.84)	(23.40)	(23.79)
Direct Revenue Financing	(8.00)	(3.35)	4.65	(2.25)	(1.16)	(0.45)	(0.55)
Council Resources - borrowing	(22.31)	(35.37)	(13.06)	(52.25)	(58.05)	(47.74)	(18.35)
Total Financing	(98.50)	(120.91)	(22.41)	(176.79)	(106.04)	(76.20)	(45.32)

When the strategy was updated in March 2024, the capital financing requirement (CFR) for 31 March 2024 was estimated at £540.47M, the Council's actual CFR at the end of the year was £527.41M. This decrease was due to the variance in the capital programme. The CFR for future years, based on the proposed programme, is detailed in table 2 below.

Table 2 - Current and Estimated Capital Financing Requirement

	31/03/24 Actual	31/03/24 Forecast	Variance	31/03/25 Forecast	31/03/26 Forecast	31/03/27 Forecast	31/03/28 Forecast
	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M
Balance Brought forward	342.57	342.57	0.00	345.36	465.95	467.39	482.73
New Borrowing	15.14	20.40	(5.26)	140.71	21.69	34.97	6.41
MRP	(8.69)	(8.69)	(0.00)	(15.78)	(16.40)	(16.06)	(16.98)
Movement in Other Liabilities	(3.66)	(3.66)	(0.00)	(4.34)	(3.85)	(3.57)	(4.12)
Total General Fund Debt	345.36	350.62	(5.26)	465.95	467.39	482.73	468.04
HRA	182.05	189.85	(7.80)	221.51	271.03	282.52	291.29
Total CFR	527.41	540.47	(13.06)	687.46	738.42	765.25	759.33
Estimated Debt	366.05	420.75	54.70	569.02	640.65	658.89	656.83
Under / (Over) Borrowed	161.36	119.72	41.64	118.44	97.77	106.36	102.50

3. The estimated gross debt reported in March 2024 was £420.75M the actual debt at the end of the year was £366.05M, a reduction of £41.64M. This decrease was due to lower capital spend. The higher than expected level of short term borrow was due to volatility in the interest rate market and a

prudent decision to wait for rates to drop over the next six months before entering into further long term borrowing. Table 3 below details this and the estimated debt in future years based on the proposed programme.

4. Table 3 – Current and Estimated Gross Debt

	31/03/24 Actual	31/03/24 Forecast	Variance	31/03/25 Estimate Forecast	31/03/26 Estimate Forecast	31/03/27 Estimate Forecast	31/03/28 Estimate Forecast
	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M
Borrowing (Long Term GF)	116.59	159.29	(42.70)	300.18	326.17	344.17	344.17
Borrowing (Long Term HRA)	176.01	188.01	(12.00)	219.72	269.22	273.04	273.04
Borrowing (Short Term)	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Borrowing	312.60	367.30	(54.70)	519.90	595.39	617.21	617.21
Finance leases and Private Finance Initiatives	41.08	41.08	0.00	37.11	33.62	30.40	28.52
Transferred Debt	12.37	12.37	0.00	12.01	11.64	11.28	11.10
Total Other Debt	53.45	53.45	0.00	49.12	45.26	41.68	39.62
Total Debt	366.05	420.75	(54.70)	569.02	640.65	658.89	656.83

- 5. Table 4 below shows the ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream based on the proposed capital programme. This is an indicator of affordability and highlights the revenue implications of existing and proposed capital expenditure by identifying the proportion of the revenue budget required to meet borrowing costs. The ratio is based on the forecast of net revenue expenditure in the medium term financial model. The upper limit for this ratio is currently set at 15% and 11% for the General Fund only to allow for known borrowing decisions in the next five years and to allow for additional borrowing affecting major schemes.
- 6. This indicator is not so relevant for the HRA, especially since the introduction of self-financing, as financing costs have been built into their 40-year business plan including the voluntary payment of MRP. No problem is seen with the affordability but if problems were to arise then the HRA would have the option not to make principle repayments in the early years, which it has currently opted to do.

7. Table 4 - Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream

	2023/24 Actual	2023/24 Forecast	Variance	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Forecast	2027/28 Forecast
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
General Fund	10.29	9.50	0.79	12.03	13.48	12.63	12.65
HRA	7.55	7.87	(0.22)	8.57	10.51	11.88	12.00
Total	9.55	9.09	0.46	11.12	12.78	12.46	12.50

8. The General Fund is still within the previously set limit of 11% for financing existing borrowing and future estimated capital requirements. When the borrowing requirement to fund the full £120M Exceptional Finance Support (EFS) is include the ratio rises to 12% in 2024/25, as detailed in Table 4. Therefore, it is recommended to increase the indicator limit to 15%, whilst the final figure required for EFS is still unknown.

DECISION-MAKER:		CABINET COUNCIL		
			4	
SUBJECT:		REVENUE OUTTURN 2023/24	4 	
DATE OF DECISION	:	CABINET 16 JULY 2024		
		COUNCIL 17 JULY 2024		
REPORT OF:		COUNCILLOR LETTS		
		DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR		
		FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES		
		CONTACT DETAILS		
Executive Director	Title:	Executive Director Enabling Services and S151 Officer		
	Name:	Mel Creighton	Tel:	023 8083 3528
	E-mail:	Mel.Creighton@southampton.g	gov.uk	
Author:	Title:	Director of Finance		
	Name:	Richard Williams	Tel:	023 8083 2936
E-mail: Richard.Williams@southampton.gov.uk			<u>uk</u>	

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

Appendix 5 is exempt from publication by virtue of category 3 of rule 10.4 of the council's Access to Information Procedure Rules i.e. information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person. It is not in the public interest to disclose this information due to commercial sensitivity. If the information was disclosed, then the council's financial position would be available to other parties and prejudice the council's ability to achieve best value.

BRIEF SUMMARY

This report summarises the revenue outturn position of the council for 2023/24. The report sets out the General Fund, Collection Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) revenue outturn positions.

The position is reflected in the draft statement of accounts. The accounts and this outturn report are subject to external audit scrutiny, which means this report is provisional until the audit has been completed.

The outturn positions are as follows:

- General Fund £1.1M deficit
- HRA £0.59M surplus
- Collection Fund £7.19M Surplus

RECOMMENDATIONS:

	Cabii	net is asked to:	
	i)	Recommend the report to Full Council	
	Cour	ncil is asked to:	

General Fund

- ii) Agree the General Fund revenue outturn for 2023/24 as a balanced position after a transfer of £1.10M from reserves to meet the year-end deficit, as outlined in paragraph 3.
- iii) Agree the requests to carry forward un-ringfenced grant funding totalling £0.08M as outlined in paragraph 15.

Housing Revenue Account

iv) Agree the HRA revenue outturn for 2023/24 as outlined in paragraph 29 and Appendix 3.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To ensure that Cabinet fulfils its responsibilities for the overall financial management and transparency of the council's resources.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

2. None, as the revenue outturn position for 2023/24 has been prepared in accordance with statutory accounting requirements.

DETAIL (including consultation carried out)

General Fund

3. The overall 2023/24 outturn for the General Fund Revenue Account was a deficit of £1.10M, requiring a transfer from reserves to bring the revenue account back into balance. This compares with a budget deficit for 2022/23 of £11.38M. The position is summarised in Table 1.

4. Table 1 – General Fund Revenue Account 2023/24

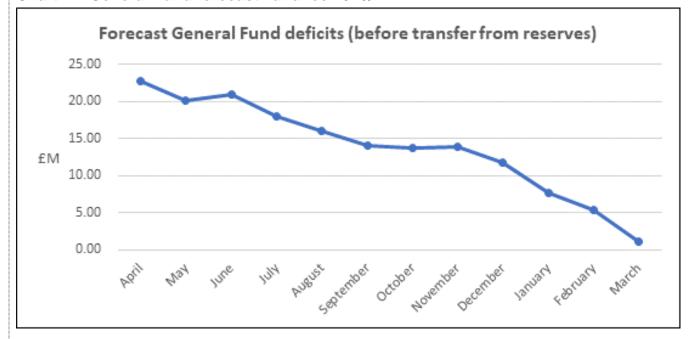
	Final Budget £M	Outturn £M	Outturn Variance £M
Directorate Net Expenditure	215.85	217.90	2.05 A
Centrally Held Budgets Net Expenditure (excluding budgeted reliance on reserves)	7.46	7.35	(0.11) F
Reliance on reserves in February 2023 budget	(20.62)	(20.42)	0.20 A
Net Council Expenditure	202.69	204.83	2.14 A
Financing	(202.69)	(203.73)	(1.04) F
Deficit for the year before transfer from reserves	0.00	1.10	1.10 A
Transfer from Reserves – Year End Deficit		(1.10)	(1.10) F
(Surplus) / Deficit for the year	0.00	0.00	0.00

Numbers are rounded. 'F' indicates as favourable variance, 'A' is an adverse variance

- 5. When the 2023/24 budget was set it was clear that there was a structural budget deficit, and this meant reliance on reserves to balance the budget. In addition, sizable new budget pressures and increases to existing pressures emerged early in the financial year.
- 6. Chart 1 below shows the trend in the forecast variance over the course of the year. A new financial strategy and action plan aimed at reducing expenditure, achieving a sustainable

budget over the medium term and improving financial resilience was agreed at full Council in July 2023. Work continued throughout the year to bring forward cost control measures and in-year savings, together with tight controls over spending through the operation of a cost control panel regime. These measures and the receipt of additional government grant helped reduce the deficit to £1.10M by the end of the year.

7. Chart 1 – General Fund forecast variance 2023/24



- 8. The Directorate adverse variance at year end was £2.05M. The main reasons for the variances by Directorate are set out below.
- 9. **Place directorate (£2.43M adverse)** this includes a £3.36M overspend on Home to School Transport driven by the increased numbers of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) who are eligible for home to school transport and by the unit costs for transport being higher than budgeted. Favourable variances elsewhere within the directorate have reduced the net deficit. This includes a £1.70M underspend on Property Services, mostly relating to removing vacant posts and increased staff recharges to the capital programme.
- 10. **Children & Learning (£1.41M adverse)** this includes a £3.19M overspend on Children Looked After relating to demand pressures on placement spend. Reductions in the level of agency staffing and additional grant funding helped reduce the net deficit within the directorate.
- 11. **Wellbeing & Housing (£1.96M favourable)** mostly from contract and staffing savings and additional grant funding. This is after the transfer of £2.0M of unused winter pressures budget to reserves for use in future years.
- 12. The £1.04M favourable variance for Financing is from additional un-ringfenced grants received in the year, including £0.46M Business Rates Levy Surplus and £0.43M Top-Up Grant adjustment.
- 13. Further details of outturn variances and significant movements since the financial position as at the end of February 2024 (month 11) reported to Cabinet in April 2024 are provided in Appendix 1.

Implementation of Savings Plans

14. £40.12M of directorate savings plans were agreed for 2023/24, including in-year savings and cost control measures. £37.18M (93%) were achieved and £2.94M (7%) were not. Unachieved savings are included in the adverse variances reported for directorates.

Carry Forwards

15. In view of the overall outturn deficit on the General Fund Revenue Account no budgets are being carried forward from 2023/24 into 2024/25. In accordance with accounting requirements, £4.13M of unspent specific revenue grant funding is however being carried forward via the Revenue Grants Reserve to be used in 2024/25. Approval is sought to carry forward £0.075M of un-ringfenced revenue grants that have been requested. This comprises £0.044M for enforcing cladding regulations, £0.019M for adult social care client level data collections and £0.012M relating to the operation of smoke control areas.

Treasury Management

16. The Treasury Management outturn for 2023/24 will be reported to Audit Committee on 29 July 2024.

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and Schools

17. The Dedicated Schools Grant is a ring-fenced grant that must be used to fund the Schools Budget and balances are carried forward each year. There was a £2.99M in-year surplus for 2023/24, reducing the cumulative net deficit to £7.11M, as shown in Table 2 below.

18. Table 2 - DSG Outturn

	£M
Net deficit carried forward from 2022/23	10.10
Net surplus in year	(2.99)
Balance to carry forward	7.11

Numbers are rounded

- 19. The DSG deficit has arisen from demand pressures within High Needs services due to increased numbers and complexity of Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs). Pressures on High Needs services is a nationally recognised issue with significant pressures being reported in most local education authorities. An increase in High Needs funding in 2023/24 helped mitigate some of the pressure being experienced and further work is being undertaken as part of the Department for Education's programme Delivering Better Value in Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) to address the deficit to reduce the need for higher levels of intervention. The council has put in place a strategy to manage the increase in High Needs which includes developing SEND units and resource provisions within mainstream schools reducing the need for more expensive independent placements.
- 20. Normally the DSG deficit would need to be covered by the council's General Fund reserves. However, the Government has put in place a statutory override of this requirement until the end of 2025/26. In accordance with regulations, the deficit that accumulated up to the end of 2021/22 is being held within an unusable reserve so that it does not form part of the balance on earmarked revenue reserves. Regulations stipulate that only in-year deficits can be added to this unusable reserve. The in-year surplus for 2023/24 (and that for 2022/23) is included within earmarked revenue reserves.
- 21. There are 14 schools (out of 42 schools maintained by the council) reporting a deficit balance as at the 31 March 2024 as shown in Table 3 below. This is two more than the number of schools reporting a deficit as at the previous year end and the total deficit has increased by £0.45M. During the year two schools returned to surplus from a deficit position and four

schools entered into deficit.

22. Table 3 – Schools in Deficit

	2022/23		2023/24	
	Deficit £M	No. of Schools	Deficit £M	No. of Schools
Primary	3.54	10	3.47	12
Secondary	0.90	2	1.43	2
Total	4.45	12	4.90	14

Numbers are rounded

23. These schools are working with the Executive Director Children & Learning supported by the Schools Finance team to agree deficit recovery plans.

Reserves & Balances

- 24. Earmarked revenue reserves totalled £44.79M at the end of 2023/24, comprising £4.21M of schools' balances and £40.58M other revenue reserves. This is an overall reduction of £10.26M compared with the £55.05M total reserves at the end of 2022/23. The forecast reduction in revenue reserves when the 2023/24 budget was set was £21.96M.
- 25. A new policy on reserves was adopted in July 2023 as part of the wider new financial strategy. This includes the approach of using one-off gains to start to build reserves to be used for non-recurrent purposeful investment or spend. One-off gains obtained during the year from a Leisure Services VAT reclaim and business rates refunds have been used to establish a Transformation & Improvement Reserve and Organisational Redesign Reserve, which had balances as at 31 March 2024 of £4.66M and £2.50M respectively. In addition, cover for risks has been strengthened by the creation of the Investment Risk Reserve (£0.80M balance) and re-instatement of the Social Care Demand Risk Reserve (£2.00M balance).
- 26. The council's primary reserve for addressing budget management risks is the Medium Term Financial Risk (MTFR) reserve. The balance on the MTFR Reserve reduced by £18.63M over the year, from £28.35M down to £9.72M. Of this, £17.75M was planned as part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) agreed in February 2023 and £1.10M was to meet the year-end deficit, Finally, net contributions of £0.22M were made to the reserve.
- 27. The General Fund balance as at 31 March 2024 stands at £10.07M. The MTFS agreed in March 2024 provides for this to increase to £12.00M in 2024/25 in line with Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) guidance for the balance to be at least 5% of the net revenue budget.
- 28. Further details of the year end balances and the changes since the month 11 position are set out in Appendix 2. The main changes to the position since month 11 are:
 - £5.80M reduction in use of the MTFR Reserve £4.34M improvement in the outturn position, £0.86M planned use for transformation projects replaced by use of capital receipts, £0.50M contribution to the reserve to provide cover for a potential school deficit on conversion to an academy and £0.10M of other changes;
 - £0.50M contribution to the Organisational Redesign Reserve to provide for potential redundancy costs;
 - £1.00M contribution to the Transformation & Improvement Reserve towards planned transformation costs and £0.36M from further business rates refunds, £0.13M forecast call on reserve moved to 2024/25:

- £2.00M contribution to the Social Care Demand Risk Reserve as noted in paragraph 8;
- £4.21M increase in the Revenue Grants Reserve for the carry forward of revenue grants as noted in paragraph 12;
- Additional £0.40M contribution to the Investment Risk Reserve to provide cover for a reduction in the pooled property fund valuation;
- £0.57M improvement in the On Street Parking Account due to £0.48M better than forecast performance and planned use of £0.09M not being required;
- £1.24M improvement in the DSG surplus, which includes the carry forward of £0.56M of additional support grant for schools in deficit;
- A £1.20M improvement for other reserves is mainly due to a £1.07M reduction in the use of the Public Health Reserve.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA)

29. The HRA had a surplus of £0.59M in 2023/24 which has allowed for an increase in the working balance as summarised in Table 4 below. Further details on significant variances to budget and movements since month 11 are provided in Appendix 3.

30. Table 4 - Housing Revenue Account Outturn 2023/24

HRA	Final Budget £M	Outturn £M	Outturn Variance £M
Expenditure	79.77	79.26	(0.51) F
Income	(79.77)	(79.85)	(0.08) F
(Surplus) / Deficit for the year	0.00	(0.59)	(0.59) F

Numbers are rounded. 'F' indicates as favourable variance, 'A' is an adverse variance

COLLECTION FUND (for Council Tax and Business Rates)

- 31. Proceeds from local council tax and business rates are paid into the Collection Fund operated by the council, and then paid out to meet the net budgeted amounts of not only Southampton City Council, but also the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Police & Crime Commissioner and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Authority. Government also receives a 50% share of the proceeds from the local business rates collected.
- 32. The outturn for the Collection Fund as a whole is an overall surplus of £7.19M, as shown in Appendix 4 and summarised in Table 5. The table shows a comparison of the outturn position with the revised estimate as at January 2024 that was taken into account in setting the 2024/25 budget.

33. Table 5 - Overall Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit Carried Forward

	January 2024 Revised Estimate £M	Outturn £M	Movement from Revised Estimate £M
Council Tax	1.18	1.24	0.06 A
Business Rates	(6.61)	(8.42)	(1.81) F
Total	(5.43)	(7.19)	(1.76) F

- Numbers are rounded. 'F' indicates as favourable variance, 'A' is an adverse variance
- 34. The increase in the council tax deficit is mainly from an increase in the level of exemptions. The improvement in the business rates surplus is primarily due to a reduction in the amount set aside for estimated losses from successful appeals against rateable values.
- 35. The council's share of the overall surplus of £7.19M is shown in Table 6.

36. Table 6 – SCC Share of Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit 2023/24

	January 2024 Revised Estimate £M	Outturn £M	Movement from Revised Estimate £M
Council Tax	0.99	1.04	0.05 A
Business Rates	(3.24)	(4.13)	(0.89) F
Total	(2.25)	(3.09)	(0.84) F

Numbers are rounded. 'F' indicates as favourable variance, 'A' is an adverse variance

- 37. The Council's share of the estimated surplus was considered in setting the 2024/25 General Fund revenue budget. The outturn position shows a favourable variance of £0.84M compared with the revised estimate. Under the arrangements for operating the Collection Fund, differences between the outturn position and the estimates used when setting the budget for the next year are reflected in the following year's estimates. This favourable variance will therefore be taken into account in setting the 2025/26 General Fund revenue budget.
- 38. The council receives grant funding for certain business rates reliefs determined by the government and to compensate for the business rates multiplier not increasing in line with inflation each year since the business rates retention scheme was introduced. There was a shortfall in the grant of £0.47M compared to budget, largely due to a lower level of reliefs being awarded. This shortfall was met from centrally held contingency.

Property Investment Fund

39. As part of the scheme of delegation it was agreed the performance of the Property Investment Fund would be reported at outturn stage to full Council. Appendix 5 gives the details of this fund and Cabinet is asked to recommend Council note the performance.

Statement of Accounts 2023/24

- 40. The 2023/24 draft statement of accounts will be presented to Audit Committee on 29 July 2024.
- 41. The annual audit, carried out by our appointed auditors Ernst & Young LLP, commenced in June 2024 and is expected to be completed by September 2024. Changes to the statement of accounts (if any) arising from the annual audit will be reported to the Audit Committee before the Committee is formally asked to approve the accounts.

Conclusion

42. The outturn position reflects the actions taken to reduce expenditure to within budget for 2023/24. The overall deficit of £1.10M for the year compares to the deficit of £11.38M for the previous year (2022/23). The reduction in revenue reserves during 2023/24 was not as significant as forecast when the 2023/24 budget was set. However, there has still been a reduction of £10.26M in usable reserves for the year and this has further weakened the council's financial resilience. The MTFS agreed in March 2024 includes plans to add to reserves over the next few years to strengthen the council's financial sustainability and resilience.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS Capital/Revenue 43. The revenue implications are contained in the report. The capital implications are contained within the Capital Outturn 2023/24 report elsewhere on this agenda. **Property/Other** 44. None. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS** Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report: 45. Financial reporting is consistent with the Section 151 Officer's duty to ensure good financial administration within the Council. **Other Legal Implications:** 46. None. **RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS** 47. Risk management implications are contained in the report. POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS 48. The proposals contained in the report are in accordance with the Council's Policy Framework Plan.

KEY DECISION?	No
ILI DEGIGIOITI	110

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	General Fund Revenue Outturn 2023-24
2.	Revenue Reserves 2023-24
3.	HRA Outturn 2023-24
4.	Collection Fund 2023-24
5.	Property Fund 2023-24 CONFIDENTIAL

Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None		
2.			
Equality	Equality Impact Assessment		
	Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out?		

Privacy	Privacy Impact Assessment				
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) to be carried out?			No		
Other Background Documents Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:					
Inf. 12		Informati 12A allov	t Paragraph of the ion Procedure Rul wing document to Confidential (if app	es / Schedule be	
1.	The Revenue Budget 2023/24, Medi Term Financial Strategy and Capital Programme (Council 22 February 20	trategy and Capital			
2.					



Agenda Item 15

GENERAL FUND REVENUE ACCOUNT OUTTURN 2023/24 ppendix 1

A summary of the overall outturn for the General Fund Revenue Account is shown in the table below. A commentary on the variances follows.

Directorate	Final Budget £M	Outturn £M	Outturn Variance £M
Children & Learning	51.43	52.84	1.41 A
Corporate Services	30.85	31.12	0.26 A
Place	42.87	45.30	2.43 A
Strategy & Performance	3.76	3.67	(0.09) F
Wellbeing & Housing	86.93	84.97	(1.96) F
Total Directorates	215.85	217.90	2.05 A
Levies & Contributions	0.09	0.09	0.00 A
Capital Asset Management	9.40	8.48	(0.92) F
Other Expenditure & Income	(22.64)	(21.64)	1.00 A
Net Council Expenditure	202.69	204.83	2.14 A
Council Tax	(115.51)	(115.51)	0.00 A
Business Rates	(49.14)	(49.15)	(0.01) F
Non-Specific Government Grants	(38.04)	(39.08)	(1.04) F
Total Financing	(202.69)	(203.73)	(1.04) F
Deficit before transfer from reserves	0.00	1.10	1.10 A
Transfer from Reserves – Year End Deficit		(1.10)	(1.10) F
(Surplus)/Deficit	0.00	0.00	0.00

Numbers are rounded. 'F' indicates as favourable variance, 'A' is an adverse variance

EXPLANATIONS BY DIRECTORATE

1. CHILDREN & LEARNING DIRECTORATE

COMMENTARY – OUTTURN 2023/24

The directorate had a deficit of £1.41M at year-end, which is a variance against budget of 2.7%. The directorate outturn variance has moved favourably by £0.34M from the position reported as at the end of February 2024.

	Final Budget	Outturn	Outturn Variance	% of Budget
	£M	£M	£M	%
Directorate Outturn	51.43	52.84	1.41 A	2.7

A summary of the directorate outturn variance by Service Area is shown in the table below:

Service Area	Final Budget	Outturn	Outturn Variance
	£M	£M	£M
Divisional Management	(5.77)	(6.18)	(0.41) F
Legal (Children's)	0.60	0.29	(0.32) F
Quality Assurance Business Unit	2.40	2.10	(0.30) F
Safeguarding	9.96	9.26	(0.70) F
Children Looked After	29.43	32.62	3.19 A
Care Leavers	0.71	0.98	0.26 A
ICU - Children's Services	0.37	0.34	(0.03) F
Children & Families First	2.60	2.11	(0.49) F
Young Peoples Service	2.68	2.44	(0.24) F
Youth Offending	0.66	0.55	(0.11) F
Stronger Communities	0.02	0.07	0.06 A
Education & Learning	0.83	0.93	0.10 A
Education - Asset Management	0.92	1.39	0.47 A
Education - High Needs	6.09	6.02	(0.07) F

Dedicated Schools Grant	(0.06)	(0.06)	0.00
Total	51.43	52.84	1.41 A

The significant variations and explanations for the Directorate are:

Service Area	Outturn Variance	Explanation:
Divisional Management	£M (0.41) F	The outturn variance is £0.41M favourable. This is due to reduced project costs by focusing projects and change support on a smaller number of key projects as well as increased funding from Family Hub and Supported Families grants to offset staffing costs.
		The favourable movement of £0.13M from Period 11 relates to additional savings across areas such as staffing, translation costs and court costs.
Legal (Children's)	(0.32) F	The outturn variance is £0.32M favourable. This is following a review of current and future spend between the Service, Legal and Finance teams resulting in lower than expected spend. This spend is reviewed bi-monthly to ensure any potential fluctuations in spend are captured as soon as possible.
Quality Assurance Business Unit	(0.30) F	The outturn variance is £0.30M favourable. This is due to a review of in year non-essential spend around training and development amounting to a £0.25M favourable variance. There is also a £0.05M favourable variance due to a recovery of SCC contributions to the Local Safeguarding Children's Board. This position is net of a £0.23M carry forward of Family Safeguarding Grant.
Safeguarding	(0.70) F	The outturn variance is £0.70M favourable due to the implementation of improvements to reduce costs of expensive and intrusive social care interventions with families by providing efficient and cost effective support for families at the earliest opportunity. Additionally, there are staffing vacancies forecasted within the service teams.
		The favourable movement of £0.18M from period 11 mainly relates to additional agency and permanent staff savings.
Children Looked After	3.19 A	The outturn variance is £3.19M adverse and relates to several demand pressures within the Children Looked After Teams' placement spend. These adverse variances against budget are detailed below:
		Residential placements - £1.43M

		SCC Foster Carers - £0.66M
		Special Guardianship - £0.54M
		Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children costs - £0.23M
		Children in Care Teams - £0.47M
		Within the above variances there are savings unachieved of £0.37M in the Fostering and Residential Unit.
		This has been partially offset by a favourable variance of £0.22M due to staffing underspends in the Fostering, Adoption, Contact, Placements and Phoenix Teams as well as placements spend reduction in Independent Foster Carers. However, within the Foster Care Team there is also a grant carry forward included of £0.08M which reduces this offset to £0.14M.
		The spend in Children Looked After (CLA) and Pathways for 2023/24 (£32.62M) is significantly below the 2022/23 outturn of £35.29M.
Care Leavers	0.26 A	The outturn variance is £0.26M adverse. This is due to the current number of clients. Mitigating this adverse position has been the use of the Staying Close grant that has been awarded to the service.
Children & Families First	(0.49) F	The outturn variance is £0.49M favourable due to additional cost reductions following allocation of the Family Hubs Grant to the sum of £0.47M, a favourable variance of £0.29M due to a reduction of spend on care contracts in Families Matter and £0.04M in the Families First teams, partially offset by a £0.31M adverse variance for No Recourse to Public Funds spend.
		The adverse movement of £0.16M since Period 11 relates to a £0.13M adverse movement in No Recourse to Public Funds spend, plus £0.09M allocation of staffing funding elsewhere, partially offset by a £0.06M favourable movement due to an increase in allocation of Family Hub grant funding to offset in year spend.
Young Peoples Service	(0.24) F	The outturn variance is £0.24M favourable due to a £0.49M favourable variance relating to staffing reductions in the Behaviour Resilience Service following cost reduction work between the service and the finance team. This is partially offset by an adverse variance of £0.25M relating to increases in permanent staffing and preventative spend in the Young Peoples Service team.

Education -	0.47 A	The outturn variance is £0.47M adverse.
Asset Management		Cost mitigations totalling £0.03M have been achieved. A
Management		provision of £0.50M has been set aside in reserves to meet expected costs arising from school academisation.
		Theer expected costs anding from school academisation.

2. CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

COMMENTARY - OUTTURN 2023/24

The directorate has a deficit of £0.26M at year-end, which represents a variance of 0.9%. The directorate outturn variance has moved favourably by £0.92M from the position reported as at the end of February 2024.

	Final Budget	Outturn	Outturn Variance	% of Budget
	£M	£M	£M	%
Directorate Outturn	30.85	31.12	0.26 A	0.9

A summary of the directorate outturn variance by Service Area is shown in the table below:

Service Area	Final Budget	Outturn	Outturn Variance
	£M	£M	£M
Accounts Payable	0.26	0.51	0.25 A
Accounts Receivable	2.16	2.12	(0.04) F
Business Support	1.78	2.12	0.34 A
Centrally Apportionable Overheads	(7.67)	(7.64)	0.02 A
Corporate Finance	2.94	2.89	(0.05) F
Customer Services	2.20	2.11	(0.09) F
Democratic Representation & Management	2.64	2.61	(0.03) F
HR Services	3.34	3.29	(0.05) F
IT Services	9.35	9.75	0.41 A
Legal Services	1.93	1.62	(0.31) F
Local Taxation & Benefits Services	2.10	2.09	0.00
Pension & Redundancy Costs	5.82	5.55	(0.27) F
Risk Management	1.68	1.53	0.15 A
Supplier Management	1.59	1.37	(0.21) F
Other	0.75	1.19	0.44 A

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Service Area	Outturn Variance	Explanation:
	£M	
Accounts Payable	0.25 A	The adverse variance of £0.25M relates to unachievable prior-year savings targets for charging for the appointeeship service £0.03M; IDEA income £0.05M; renegotiation of payment terms with suppliers £0.03M; greater use of purchase cards £0.11M; and savings for cost reduction of £0.03M. Plus staffing overspends of £0.02M and printing & postage costs of £0.01M. This is offset by £0.03M of income for the recovery of duplicate payments in year.
		In 2024/25 this adverse position will be resolved by the budget rebasing exercise carried out in year.
Business Support	0.34 A	The adverse variance of £0.34M relates to non-achievement of efficiency targets for the current year of £0.23M, the unfunded pay inflation cost of £0.03M and further salary pressure due to non-achievement of the full vacancy management target of £0.09M.
		In 2024/25 this adverse position will be resolved through the new Service Centre structure which has been designed to achieve the prior year savings.
IT Services	0.41 A	The adverse variance of £0.41M relates to the unbudgeted cost of the full establishment of staff of £0.56M, a shortfall to budget for capital recharge income of £1.0M and a shortfall in the income from schools of £0.40M, and £0.08M for the unfunded pay award. This is offset by £0.12M for savings within the telecommunications budget and £0.35M for salaries from deleting posts. In addition, a review of licences has resulted in an underspend of £0.52M and after the offsetting costs the other expenses budget has a surplus of £0.64M.
		The favourable movement of £0.10M since month 11 relates to additional underspends from the review of licences.
		In 2024/25 this adverse position will be resolved by the budget rebasing exercise carried out in year.

Legal Services	(0.31) F	The favourable variance of £0.31M relates to savings from the removal of two posts of £0.08M; increases in S106 income of £0.04M, salary underspends of £0.13M due to vacancies plus £0.11M of additional income from partnership working; capital recharges and external grant funding. This is offset by £0.04M for the unfunded pay award and minor overspends on supplies and services of £0.01M.
		The favourable movement of £0.23M since month 11 relates to £0.13M of additional income and £0.10M of salary underspends.
Pension & Redundancy Costs	(0.27) F	The favourable variance of £0.27M relates to a saving from realigning the pensions budget for compensatory added years (CAY) to reflect future forecast expenditure more accurately.
Supplier Management	(0.21) F	The favourable variance of £0.21M is due to a favourable staffing variance and changes to the funding for some posts of £0.37M. Plus additional income of £0.03M from recharges to capital and some minor underspends of £0.02M. This is offset by £0.03M for the unfunded pay award and £0.18M of unachievable procurement savings.

3. PLACE DIRECTORATE

COMMENTARY - OUTTURN 2023/24

The directorate has a deficit of £2.43M at year-end, which represents a variance of 5.7%. The directorate outturn variance has moved favourably by £0.78M from the position reported as at the end of February 2024.

	Final Budget	Outturn	Outturn Variance	% of Budget
	£M	£M	£M	%
Directorate Outturn	42.87	45.30	2.43 A	5.7

A summary of the directorate outturn variance by Service Area is shown in the table below:

Service Area	Final Budget	Outturn	Outturn Variance
	£M	£M	£M
Home to School Transport	5.58	8.94	3.36 A
City Services	20.94	21.17	0.24 A
Transport & Planning	13.29	13.71	0.42 A
Environment (excluding City Services)	(6.48)	(7.15)	(0.67) F
Corporate Assets & Estates	5.08	4.35	(0.73) F
Culture & Tourism	3.99	3.49	(0.51) F
Economic Development & Regen	0.58	0.55	(0.02) F
Others	(0.10)	0.23	0.33 A
Total	42.87	45.30	2.43 A

Service Area	Outturn Variance £M	Explanation:
Home to School Transport	3.36 A	The £3.36M adverse outturn variance is driven by two factors. Firstly, an increase in the unit costs for transport that was experienced in 2022/23 which has increased the average cost of the routes. Secondly, an increase in the numbers of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) who are eligible for home to school transport. This factor leads to increased costs of school escorts as well as increased transport costs. There has been a favourable movement in the outturn from the initial forecast by £1.07M because of reducing the number of journeys through route optimisation and retendering journeys that use larger vehicles.
		The favourable movement since period 11 is due to further cost reductions of £0.51M for the taxi and minibus routes.
		Further route optimisation and the introduction of a new dynamic procurement system are planned for 2024/25 to mitigate the cost pressures in the service.
City Services	0.24 A	There are adverse positions in Fleet of £0.42M from reduced recharge income due to the change in policy for recharges for older vehicles. A pressure for this has been included in the 2024/25 budget. Landscapes of £0.28M as the service is budgeted to breakeven on the basis that the team would look to generate external customers to ensure overheads could be fully recovered but the service had a significant proportion of internal capital work and therefore unable to fully recover overheads. District Operating Areas of £0.36M from increased operating costs and unachieved savings and other net pressures of £0.10M including Trees team income which has also been included as a pressure in the 2024/25 budget.
		There is a favourable position in Waste of £0.91M from increased income, including the introduction of a new income stream for electricity generation in the Waste disposal contract, the Waste Improvement & Transformation project intentionally being paused in year to generate a saving whilst waiting for guidance from central government, along with a reduction in forecast disposals costs based on the contract inflation for 2024 being lower than previously estimated.
		The adverse movement of £0.31M in period 11 is from lower income than estimated in Waste on Dry Mixed Recyclables which is often volatile as it is based on the rates achievable in the materials markets. Along with an adverse movement to reflect the position in Landscapes.

Transport & Planning	0.42 A	There is an adverse variance in Planning of £0.48M due to planning application income being below budget, along with the requirement to fund unbudgeted Local Plan activity undertaken in year. For 2024/25 there have been increases in the statutory planning fees set by government which should alleviate this pressure in the future. There is also an adverse position on Highways Contracts of £0.35M predominately from energy costs associated with Streetlighting. This has been included as a pressure in the 2024/25 budget. There are favourable positions in Transportation and Flood Risk Management of £0.40M from cost control measures implemented in year and Public Health grant funding ultimately covering some budgeted expenditure for active travel.
		The favourable movement of £0.26M in period 11 is from application of public health funding.
Environment (excluding City Services)	(0.67) F	There is a favourable variance of £0.87M in Parking & Itchen Bridge from new tariffs in city centre car parks generating additional income, along with a wider increase in usage. The is also a favourable position in Environment Health of £0.29M from holding vacant positions and the application of grant funding to existing budgeted spend. Along with a favourable position in the Green Cities team of £0.10M due to staffing vacancies There are also other net favourable variances of £0.07M mainly from cost control measures implemented in year. There is an adverse position on Bereavement Services of £0.48M due to increased recharges from the Coroners service of £0.29M and £0.19M from income at the Crematorium being below budget. There is also an adverse variance of £0.18M on Port Health due to reduced income and a back dated business rate liability. The adverse movement of £0.10M in period 11 is predominately in Bereavement Services from increased recharges from the Coroner and lower than forecast income at the Crematorium.
Corporate Assets & Estates	(0.73) F	There is a favourable variance from in-year savings to remove vacant posts of £0.48M, along with other action of £0.56M to increase staffing recharges to capital and generate external income through Joint Working Arrangements with other authorities. There is a £0.66M favourable variance on corporate landlord energy costs through better rates. There are adverse variances on reactive repairs of £0.47M through increase demand, £0.41M on the investment portfolio mainly due to voids and one off legal costs and £0.15M on Facilities Management.

Culture & Tourism	(0.51) F	There is a favourable position on venues of £0.41M from a reduced business rates liability in relation to Tudor House and SeaCity, along with increased income. There are also favourable positions on Archaeology and Monuments of £0.06M from income generating work and controlling spend on repairs. Along with other cost control measures of £0.03M.
		The favourable movement of £0.35M from Period 11 included some pressures not being incurred in year, increased venues income and utilising Public Health Grant funding to cover previously reported pressures in Libraries.
Others	0.33 A	There is a historic unachievable directorate wide saving related to agency staff. This has previously been held centrally and applied to relevant services as part of the year end process. As part of budget planning this saving is being removed for 2024/25 and replaced by service specific proposals to ensure the overall cash limit is achieved.

4. STRATEGY & PERFORMANCE DIRECTORATE

COMMENTARY - OUTTURN 2023/24

The directorate has a surplus of £0.09M at year-end, which represents a variance of 2.5%. The directorate outturn variance has moved favourably by £0.40M from the position reported as at the end of February 2024.

	Final Budget	Outturn	Outturn Variance	% of Budget
	£M	£M	£M	%
Directorate Outturn	3.76	3.67	(0.09) F	2.5

A summary of the directorate outturn variance by Service Area is shown in the table below:

Service Area	Final Budget	Outturn	Outturn Variance
	£M	£M	£M
Business Development Management Team	0.20	0.07	(0.14) F
Corporate Communications	0.93	0.73	(0.20) F
Data & Intelligence	0.80	1.11	0.31 A
Projects, Policy & Performance	0.99	0.99	0.00
Strategic Management of the Council	0.84	0.78	(0.06) F
Total	3.76	3.67	(0.09) F

Service Area	Outturn Variance	Explanation:
	£M	
Corporate Communications	(0.20) F	The favourable variance of £0.20M relates to vacant posts being held empty (pending restructuring) of £0.05M, reductions in advertising expenditure of £0.05M and additional income of £0.17M. This is offset by a pressure of £0.05M relating to salaries as a post within the team met by a recharge from the HRA has not been fully funded, plus £0.02M for the unfunded pay award inflation.

Data & Intelligence	0.31 A	The adverse variance of £0.31M relates to the non-achievement of prior year savings, £0.08M for a review of policy related roles across the organisation, plus unbudgeted staff costs identified following a detailed review of policy and data related roles of £0.23M, this
		includes unfunded pay award inflation of £0.01M.

5. WELLBEING & HOUSING DIRECTORATE

COMMENTARY - OUTTURN 2023/24

The directorate has a surplus of £1.96M at year-end, which represents a variance of 2.3%. The directorate outturn variance has moved favourably by £2.11M from the position reported as at the end of February 2024.

	Final Budget	Outturn	Outturn Variance	% of Budget
	£M	£M	£M	%
Directorate Outturn	86.93	84.97	(1.96) F	2.3%

A summary of the directorate outturn variance by Service Area is shown in the table below:

Service Area	Final Budget	Outturn	Outturn Variance
	£M	£M	£M
Adults - Adult Services Management	1.66	1.40	(0.26) F
Adults - Long Term	34.25	36.07	1.82 A
Adults - Provider Services	4.29	3.80	(0.49) F
Adults - Reablement & Hospital Discharge	8.80	7.81	(0.99) F
Adults - Safeguarding Adult Mental Health & Out of Hours	14.02	13.58	(0.44) F
Domestic Violence	0.56	0.29	(0.27) F
Housing Needs	2.96	3.56	0.60 A
ICU - Provider Relationships	14.69	14.03	(0.66) F
ICU - System Redesign	1.51	1.40	(0.11) F
Leisure Contracts and Leisure Strategy	2.52	1.89	(0.63) F
Public Health	0.19	0.19	0.00
Stronger Communities	0.52	0.23	(0.29) F
Other	0.97	0.73	(0.24) F
Total	86.93	84.97	(1.96) F

Service Area	Outturn Variance £M	Explanation:
Adult Services Management	(0.26) F	There is a £0.26M favourable variance due to a reallocation of staffing costs to the Ambitious Futures project.
Adults - Long Term	1.82 A	There is a £1.05M adverse variance due to increased costs of care for clients with Learning Disabilities. Similarly, there is a £0.57M adverse variance in relation to care costs for people with Physical Support, Memory & Cognition and Sensory support requirements. There is a £0.32M adverse variance for providing for potential bad debts due to increased levels of outstanding client contribution debt. There is a £0.13M favourable position due to staffing vacancies across the Social Wellbeing and LD operational teams. The overall adverse variance is partially offset by the receipt of central government grants -£1.69M for Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund, plus £0.30M for Urgent and Emergency Care pressures during winter. A sum of £2.00M of unused winter pressures budget was transferred to the Social Care Demand Risk Reserve at year end. There has been a favourable movement of £1.23M since month 11, due to care management costs during winter
		being less than anticipated and forecast costs not materialising. The 2024/25 budget includes an additional £4.0M for care costs and a further £4.0M for demographic pressures across the whole of the Adult Social Care budget.
Adults – Provider Services	(0.49) F	The £0.49M favourable variance is due to a £0.56M favourable variance for Holcroft House on agency staff and vacancies, replacement of £0.03M funding to Employment Support with Public Health funding and £0.07M due to staff vacancies and purchases. This is partially offset by an adverse variance of £0.07M for the 2023/24 pay award and £0.10M at Kentish Rd respite centre due to additional agency costs to support additional 1:1 support and 2:1 support for complex clients.
Adults - Reablement & Hospital Discharge	(0.99) F	There is a £0.99M favourable variance due to £0.56M from staff vacancies and reductions in agency spend, and application of winter grant funding of £0.25M and Disabled Facilities Grant funding towards occupational therapists of £0.18M.

Adults - Safeguarding Adult Mental Health & Out of Hours	(0.44) F	There is a £0.44M favourable variance, which is made up of a £0.21M adverse variance on the cost of packages of care and a £0.04M adverse variance for the 2023/24 pay award, offset by a £0.69M favourable variance due to vacant posts and delays in recruitment for Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS) and Best Interest Assessors (BIA).
Domestic Violence	(0.27) F	The £0.27M favourable variance is from additional grant funding for family safeguarding and is the main reason for a favourable movement of £0.28M from month 11.
Housing Needs	0.60 A	The adverse variance of £0.60M relates to additional homelessness costs over budget of £1.36M, partially offset by £0.18M Public Health funding towards homelessness prevention and £0.6M government funding for the Homes to Ukraine scheme. Homelessness levels continued to increase throughout 2023/24 and increases in Bed & Breakfast costs and private rented accommodation are reducing the level of housing benefit subsidy recovery, putting significant pressure on temporary accommodation costs and irrecoverable housing benefits expenditure.
		The 2024/25 budget includes an additional £2.35M in recognition of the pressure on the Housing Needs budget.
ICU - Provider Relationships	(0.66) F	The £0.66M favourable variance is due to a £0.40M favourable variance on the Oak Lodge and Northlands Road BUPA homes because of the Integrated Care Board purchasing unused beds from the block contract, a £0.11M favourable variance as a result of unbudgeted Family Hubs grant funding and £0.15M favourable variance on the Joint Equipment Store contract.
		The £0.31M improvement since month 11 is primarily due to the £0.15M favourable variance on the Joint Equipment Store and £0.16M reduction in staffing costs.
Leisure Contracts and Leisure Strategy	(0.63) F	The favourable variance of £0.63M is mostly due to pensions adjustments to contracts including a backdated adjustment for 2022/23 of £0.50M, plus a reduction in the contract values of £0.04M, unbudgeted income of £0.07M and other variances for leisure strategy totalling £0.02M.
Stronger Communities	(0.29) F	The favourable variance relates to vacancy savings within the team of £0.15M, Public Health grant funding of £0.12M and additional income of £0.02M.

6. CENTRALLY HELD BUDGETS AND FINANCING

COMMENTARY - OUTTURN 2023/24

Centrally held budgets had a deficit of £0.09M at year-end and Financing budgets had a surplus of £1.04M.

	Final Budget	Outturn	Outturn Variance	% of Budget
	£M	£M	£M	%
Centrally Held Budgets	(13.16)	(13.07)	0.09 A	0.7%
Financing	(202.69)	(203.73)	(1.04) F	0.5%

A summary of the outturn variances by service area is shown in the table below:

Service Area	Final Budget	Outturn	Outturn Variance
	£M	£M	£M
Levies & Contributions	0.09	0.09	0.00 A
Capital Asset Management	9.40	8.48	(0.92) F
Other Expenditure & Income	(22.64)	(21.64)	1.00 A
Centrally Held Budgets	(13.16)	(13.07)	0.09 A
Council Tax	(115.51)	(115.51)	0.00 A
Business Rates	(49.14)	(49.15)	(0.01) F
Non-Specific Government Grants & Other Funding	(38.04)	(39.08)	(1.04) F
Financing	(202.69)	(203.73)	(1.04) F

The significant variations are:

Service Area	Outturn Variance	Explanation:
	£M	
Capital Asset Management	(0.92) F	The favourable variance is from reduced capital financing costs following a review of the capital programme and scheme slippage, and better than expected treasury management investment performance.
Other Expenditure & Income	1.00 A	The adverse variance reflects additional contributions to reserves to provide cover for risks and future costs, in line with the CIPFA recommendation to replenish reserves.

Non-Specific Government Grants & Other Funding	(1.04) F	Additional government grants were notified during the year including £0.46M Business Rates Levy Surplus, £0.43M Top-Up Grant adjustment relating to the 2023 Business Rates Revaluation and £0.14M Green Plant & Machinery business rates compensation
		rates compensation.



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Reserve	Balance	Transfers	Balance	Forecast	
	as at	to/(from)	as at	as at	
	31/03/2023	Reserves	31/03/2024	Month 11	Difference
	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M
Medium Term Financial Risk Reserve	28.35	(18.63)	9.72	3.92	5.80
Organisational Redesign Reserve		2.50	2.50	2.00	0.50
Transformation & Improvement Reserv	е	4.66	4.66	3.17	1.49
Revenue Contributions to Capital	0.93	0.07	1.00	0.93	0.07
Social Care Demand Risk Reserve		2.00	2.00	0.00	2.00
Revenue Grants Reserve	5.43	(1.22)	4.21	0.00	4.21
Investment Risk Reserve		0.80	0.80	0.40	0.40
Directorate Carry Forwards	1.34	(1.34)	0.00	0.00	0.00
PFI Sinking Fund	4.38	(0.03)	4.35	4.26	0.09
Insurance General Reserve	2.00	0.20	2.20	2.00	0.20
On Street Parking Reserve	3.21	(0.73)	2.48	1.92	0.57
DSG Reserve*	0.99	3.00	3.99	2.75	1.24
Other Reserves	2.96	(0.28)	2.69	1.48	1.20
Sub-Total	49.59	(9.01)	40.58	22.83	17.76
Schools' Balances	5.46	(1.25)	4.21	2.74	1.47
Total	55.05	(10.26)	44.79	25.57	19.22

^{*} A cumulative deficit of £11.09M on the Dedicated Schools Grant as at 31/03/2022 is held separately in an unusable reserve in accordance with legislation.

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Appendix 3

Housing Revenue Account Outturn 2023/24

	Final Budget	Outturn	Outturn Variance
	£M	£M	£M
Expenditure			
Responsive repairs	15.10	15.36	0.26 A
Cyclical Maintenance	6.44	6.95	0.51 A
Rents payable	0.20	0.66	0.46 A
Debt management	0.09	0.08	(0.01) F
Supervision & management	26.16	26.48	0.32 A
Interest & principal repayments	5.71	5.77	0.06 A
Depreciation	22.07	17.97	(4.10) F
Direct revenue financing of capital	4.00	6.00	2.00 A
Total expenditure	79.77	79.26	(0.51) F
Income			
Dwelling rents	(75.14)	(74.82)	0.32 A
Other rents	(1.24)	(1.10)	0.14 A
Service charge income	(2.34)	(2.51)	(0.17) F
Leaseholder service charges	(1.05)	(1.31)	(0.26) F
Interest received	0.00	(0.10)	(0.10) F
Total income	(79.77)	(79.85)	(0.08) F
(Surplus) / Deficit for the year	0.00	(0.59)	(0.59) F

Numbers are rounded. 'F' is a favourable variance and 'A' is an adverse variance

The net favourable variance for the year has resulted in an increase in the HRA working balance from £2.00M to £2.59M.

The significant variations for the HRA are:

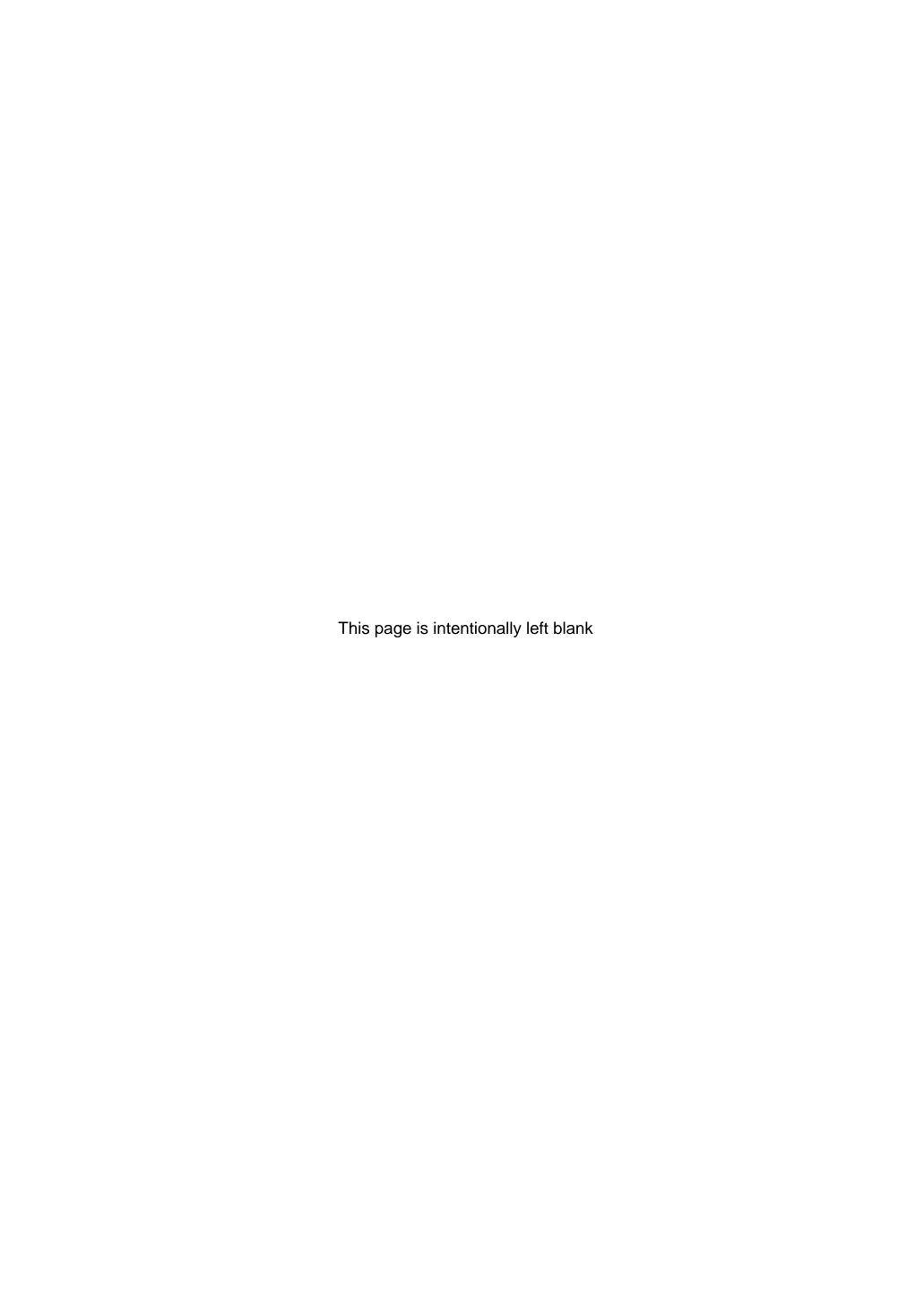
Service Area	Outturn Variance £M	Explanation:
Responsive repairs	0.26 A	The £0.26M adverse variance reflects increases in void and reactive repair costs. By undertaking work in a reactive manner there is a loss of economy of scale resulting in increased average repair cost.
Cyclical maintenance	0.51 A	The £0.51M adverse variance reflects the HRA's contribution to the cost of dealing with a sizeable backlog in asbestos record updates.
Rents payable	0.46 A	The adverse variance of £0.46M relates to council tax charges on empty properties, which has exceeded budget due to high levels of voids.

Supervision & management	0.32 A	 £0.08M disrepair claims costs over and above the existing budget; an increase of £0.05M on waste disposal costs as a result of new Persistent Organic Pollutants legislation; ongoing net operating loss of £0.08M at the Potters court cafe; unachieved savings of £0.23M in respect of housing management restructuring; and £0.18M in respect of redundancy costs. These were offset by favourable variances from: a reduction in the Employers pension contributions rate from 18.2% to 16.8% of 0.05M; Vacancy management across the service of £0.15M; and reduced capital financing costs on vans of £0.10M.
Depreciation	(4.10M) F	The depreciation charge for 2023/24 is significantly lower than budget due to a reduction in the valuation of HRA dwelling properties in 2023/24. The reduction in depreciation charge is offset through direct revenue financing of capital budgets to ensure the capital programme is not underfunded
Direct revenue financing of capital	2.00 A	The net pressures and favourable variances recorded for other service areas, allowing for an increase in working balances, have been offset by an overall increase to the direct revenue financing of capital expenditure.
Dwelling rents	0.32 A	The adverse variance reflects a high level of voids, which continued to increase up until the end of 2023/24 with an overall adverse variance of £0.32M.
Leaseholder service charges	(0.26) F	The favourable variance arises from increases in heating costs and general repairs costs being passed on to the leaseholders.

Appendix 4
Appendix 4

COUNCIL TAX COLLECTION FUND REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Original Estimate		Revised Estimate	Actual	Variance Adverse / (Favourable)
2023/24 £M	Council Tax	2023/24 £M	2023/24 £M	2023/24 £M
(140.44)	Income Total Council Tax Income	(139.73)	(139.61)	0.12
140.13	Expenditure Total Council Tax Expenditure (incl. precepts)	140.01	139.94	(0.06)
` ,	Council Tax - Deficit / (Surplus) for the Year Council Tax - Deficit / (Surplus) Brought Forward	0.28 0.90	0.34 0.90	0.06 0.00
0.00	Council Tax Deficit / (Surplus) Carried Forward	1.18	1.24	0.06
	Business Rates			
(94.03)	Income Total Business Rates Income	(92.64)	(89.99)	2.65
97.48	Expenditure Total Business Rates Expenditure	99.23	94.77	(4.47)
	Business Rates - Deficit / (Surplus) for the Year Business Rates - Deficit / (Surplus) Brought Forward	6.60 (13.20)	4.78 (13.20)	(1.81) 0.00
0.00	Business Rates Deficit / (Surplus) Carried Forward	(6.61)	(8.42)	(1.81)
0.00	Total Collection Fund Deficit / (Surplus) Carried Forward	(5.43)	(7.19)	(1.76)
	Council Tax (Surplus)/Deficit Contribution (to)/ from SCC Contribution (to)/ from H&IOWPCC Contribution (to)/ from H&IOWFRA Council Tax Collection Fund Balance c/f	<u>-</u>	1.04 0.15 0.05 1.24	
	Business Rates (Surplus)/Deficit Contribution (to)/ from SCC Contribution (to)/ from DLUHC Contribution (to)/ from H&IOWFRA NDR Collection Fund Balance c/f Total SCC (Surplus)/Deficit	_	(4.13) (4.21) (0.08) (8.42) (3.09)	



Agenda Item 15 by virtue of paragraph number 3 of the Council's Access to information Procedure Rules

Document is Confidential



DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET
SUBJECT:	SEND Programme - Statutory Notice Determination
DATE OF DECISION:	17 July 2024
REPORT OF:	COUNCILLOR WINNING
	CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN & LEARNING

CONTACT DETAILS				
Executive Director	Title	Executive Director		
	Name:	Robert Henderson Tel: 023 80		
	E-mail:	robert.henderson@southampton.gov.uk		
Author:	Title	Head of Education Services		
	Name:	Clodagh Freeston Tel: 023 80		
	E-mail:	clodagh.freeston@southampton.gov.uk		

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

Confidential Appendix 1 of this report is not for publication by virtue of category 5 (Legal Professional Privilege) of paragraph 10.4 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules. It is not in the public interest to disclose the contents of the appendix as they relate to matters in respect of which the Council is entitled to receive confidential legal advice on in order to inform its decision on this matter.

BRIEF SUMMARY

As part of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Expansion programme, a statutory notice describing the proposed scope of works was published in September 2023, this followed a public consultation in Summer 2023 on the plans to expand pupil numbers for Vermont School at the former St Monica Infant School (Bay Road) site and a new build school at Vermont Close for Great Oaks School.

This paper seeks a decision from Cabinet to determine the proposals set out in the statutory notice published in September 2023. This determination should have taken place in December 2023, however further design work with the schools in question has taken place which changes the scope (but not the statutory prescribed alterations) within the original proposals.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

(i) To determine the proposals set out in the Statutory Notice published in September 2023 (Appendix 2) with an implementation date of 20th April 2026.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet report of 14th March 2023 (SEND Programme) outlined an urgent need to increase the number of special school places in Southampton due to increasing demand (Appendix 3). The Council's six special schools reached capacity in September 2020. The current SEND Programme and expansion of Great Oaks and Vermont Schools mitigates the need for high cost of out of city

placements and enables children's needs to be met locally. A full consultation took place, and a statutory notice was published in September 2023.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

2. When determining statutory proposals, Cabinet may approve them (without modification), approve with minor modifications (usually limited to implementation date) or approve them conditionally (conditions limited to obtaining the relevant planning and other regulatory conditions). Cabinet may also reject the proposals in their entirety.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

3. In September 2023, a statutory notice was published, following a public consultation in Summer 2023 for plans to expand pupil numbers for Vermont School at the former St Monica Infant School (Bay Road) site and expand Great Oaks School on the Vermont Close site. Proposals for each site are as follows:

Vermont Close (Great Oaks planned expansion site)

The existing school building will be demolished and replaced with a 2-storey new build. Soft and hard landscaping (with a habitat area) will be provided for school use.

Works will include the design and construction of a staff and visitor car park with an enlarged drop off loop for pupil transport. A Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) will be incorporated for outside play.

Current estimated cost at end of previous design report stage is approx. £28 million.

Bay Road (Vermont School new site)

The refurbishment and remodelling of the existing Victorian building (previous St Monica Infant School site).

Works will include the design and construction of a staff and visitor car park with an enlarged drop off loop for pupil transport.

Current estimated cost at end of previous design report stage is approx. £11 million.

The local authority will remain the admission authority for both schools and student transport arrangements will be coordinated by the LA School Travel Service in collaboration with parents.

4. The consultation proposals were well received by respondents, and the responses were generally positive with the exception of some concerns around traffic management. A summary of results of the consultation is below:

Vermont School Proposals

The majority of respondents (84%) agreed with the proposed expansion of Vermont School, and this goes up to 91% from parents and pupils from school sites affected. Almost 3 quarters of respondents (74%) agreed with the proposed relocation of Vermont School. This goes up to 86% from parents and pupils from school sites affected and goes down to 48% from local residents from sites affected.

The most commented upon theme for this proposal was 'Concerns and suggestions new site location near busy road compared to Vermont School / will need traffic management' - the officer response to which was 'A detailed traffic management plan will be implemented to ensure good traffic flow especially at busy dropping off and picking up times'.

Great Oaks School expansion on Vermont Close Proposals

The majority of respondents (82%) agreed with the proposed expansion of Great Oaks School on Vermont Close. This goes up to 96% from employees from both school sites affected and other schools. This goes down to 51% from local residents from sites affected.

The most commented upon theme for this proposal was 'Concerns around traffic / parking nearby' (27 comments). The officer response to which was 'A detailed traffic management plan will be implemented to ensure good traffic flow especially at busy dropping off and picking up times.

A full response summary can be found in Appendix 4 & 5.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

Any delay to the determination of the previously issued statutory notice could impact construction completion dates. A delay to the construction completion dates would have, capital cost and time implications, as well as revenue implications as the pupil places would not be available as planned.

Schools funding is based on expanded places in relation to these developments. A delay could then affect the Dedicated Schools Grant balances which in the event of a deficit may subsequently adversely affect the General Fund if deficits become the General Fund's responsibility.

Property/Other

- 6. Vermont School on Vermont Close is part of a cooperative trust, which means when works are complete, the school will move to the vacant site on Bay Road and the Council will transfer the freehold of the buildings and the land to the trust.
- St Monica Infant site is currently a vacant site as the lease came to an end in August 2023.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

- 8. The power to propose changes to the organisation and provision of school spaces for pupils with SEN is set out in the School Standards & Frameworks Act 1998 as amended by the Education Act 2006 and Education & Inspections Act 2006 with detailed Regulations set out under the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2013 and statutory guidance 'Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to Maintained Schools. The guidance requires that, before proposals progress to a formal statutory notice of intent to make changes (and representation period) a period of public consultation on the proposals and any alternative options that have been considered is undertaken. The law does not prescribe the length of formal consultation prior to statutory notice processes being commenced but recognises time also taken to engage with stakeholders, users, pupils and staff in formulating the proposals for the wider public to comment on.
- Before a decision is made to progress proposals further consideration must be given to the outcome of consultation and the extent to which any proposals require formal statutory notices, playing field consents, planning permissions etc before a final decision to proceed is taken in due course.
- The detailed legal implications of not having withdrawn / determined the original proposals by the statutory deadline of 4th December 2023, the rescoping exercise and the reversion to the proposals as published in the Statutory Notice are set out in the confidential appendix to this report.

Other Legal Implications:

The Council must act in accordance with the Children and Families Act 2014. In designing changes to SEND provision the Council must at all ties consider and develop proposals that are wholly in accordance with the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Equalities Act 2010 and proposals taken forward will be full supported by EISA's.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There is a risk that the statutory consultees (school and Governing bodies) could make an objection to the statutory notice during the two-month period following the Cabinet determination of the statutory notice. However, this risk is unlikely to come to fruition as the schools and their Governing bodies / Trustees have been fully briefed and are in agreement with the proposed designs and have been engaged through all project stages thus far in a collaborative approach. The project team hold regular Client Engagement meetings where the plans are discussed, and their feedback is considered and hold design sign-off meetings at each design stage.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

13.	The recommendations of this report are consistent with and not contrary to
	the Council's policy framework. The proposal in this report reflects the
	Council's Corporate Plan, the Green City Charter and the Core Strategy. This
	includes The School Standards & Frameworks Act 1998 as amended by the
	Education Act 2006 and Education & Inspections Act 2006 with detailed
	Regulations set out under the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to
	Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 and statutory guidance
	'Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to Maintained Schools.

KEY DE	EY DECISION? Yes				
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFI		FECTED:	All Wards. Pupils/families likely to be from all over the city. Schools are located in the following Wards: St Monica (Sholing), Vermont (Bassett).		cated in the
	SL	JPPORTING D	•	•	
Append	dices				
1.	Confidential – Lega	al Advice			
2.	SEND Statutory No	otice			
3.	Cabinet Report 14 th	n March 2023			
4.	Consultation Full S	ummary Result	S		
5.	Consultation Office	r Response Do	cument		
Docum	ents In Members' R	looms			
1.	1. None.				
Equalit	Equality Impact Assessment				
	Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and YES				YES
	Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.				
	otection Impact As				T
	implications/subject Assessment (DPIA)	-	•	Data Protection	No
	Other Background Documents Other Background documents available for inspection at:				
	Title of Background Paper(s) Relevant Paragraph of the Access Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document be Exempt/Confidential (if applica		ules / ocument to		
1.					
2.					



Agenda Item 17 by virtue of paragraph number 5 of the Council's Access to information Procedure Rules

Document is Confidential



Agenda Item 17

Appendix 2



Vermont School, Southampton – Enlargement and Transfer of Site to the former St Monica Infant school site at Bay Road

- 1. Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, that Southampton City Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Vermont school, Vermont Close, Southampton, Hampshire SO16 7LT (Foundation (Trust) Special School) by enlarging the premises and capacity of the school by 26 places with effect from 20 April 2026. This proposal is a linked proposal with 2 below.
- 2. Notice is also hereby given, in accordance with, in accordance with Section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, that the Governing Body of Vermont School intends to make a prescribed alteration to Vermont school, Vermont Close, Southampton, Hampshire SO16 7LT (Foundation (Trust) Special School) by transferring the site of the school to the location of the former St Monica Infant School, Bay Road, Sholing, Southampton, SO19 8EZ, site with effect from 20 April 2026. This proposal is a linked proposal with 1 above.
- 3. The enlargement of Vermont School will provide additional accommodation to provide support for pupils with Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) Needs, moderate learning difficulties and Autistic Spectrum Condition where there is an increased need in this area of the County. This school will meet the needs of children with a range of needs in a safe and secure environment.
- 4. Vermont School is currently a 50-place special school for Primary School age pupils with SEMH, ADHD, Autistic Spectrum disorders, and attachment disorders. The enlargement of accommodation will be provided from 20 April 2026. From that date, 26 additional places will be added to a final overall capacity of 76 places once relocated to the new site at Bay Road.
- 5. The capital cost for this project will be funded by the Council, appropriate allocation has been set for the relocation of Vermont School to St Monica Infant School site to accommodate the increase of pupils where it is a catchment area for their pupils. It is proposed to refurbish the existing Victorian building with other existing building being demolished and a new two storey building to be constructed with landscaping works. A drop-off loop and other SEND requirements will be implemented. A Travel Plan which is makes up part of the Traffic Management Plan will be developed to mitigate impact on the local highways.
- 6. Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object or make comments on the proposals (including the Governing Body proposals to transfer the site of the school) by sending them to the address below. Tammy Marks, Head of Service of Special Educational Needs and

Disabilities, Children's Services Department, Civic Centre Rd, Southampton Hampshire SO14 7LY; by e-mail: yourcity.yoursay@southampton.gov.uk, with the reference: 'Tammy Marks - Vermont School notice'. The Governing Body of Vermont School has appointed Southampton City Council as its agents for publishing and collating responses to their element of these linked proposals.

Dated: 04 September 2023

Tammy Marks

Head of Service – Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Trevor Amos

Chair of Governor's at Vermont School

EXPLANATORY NOTES

If objections are made and not withdrawn within the statutory four-week period then, within two
months of the end of the representation period, Southampton City Council will decide whether
the proposals will be allowed to go ahead, with or without modifications. If no objections are
made within the objection period, then the Council will decide whether to implement the
proposals in the form published.

Agenda Item 13

Appendix 3

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET
SUBJECT:	SEND Programme
DATE OF DECISION:	14 March 2023
REPORT OF:	COUNCILLOR PAFFEY
	CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDERN AND LEARNING

CONTACT DETAILS				
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Author:	Title	Service Manager - Special Educational Needs and Disability		
	Name:	Tammy Marks Tel: 023 80832139		
	E-mail:	tammy.marks@southampton.gov.uk		

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

Not Applicable

BRIEF SUMMARY

There is an urgent need to increase the number of special school places in Southampton, due to an increase in demand. Following a Strategic Review of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) in 2017-18 (see Appendix F), a recommendation was made to expand and reconfigure specialist provision within the city. A significant amount of work has been undertaken by the SEND and Corporate Estate and Assets Teams, initially on consulting with stakeholders on potential options for expansion, followed by the development of detailed plans and feasibility studies.

An initial high-level appraisal presented costs outside the financial envelope available, so several reworked proposals were developed in consultation with the schools in scope. These have been progressed to feasibility studies to more closely identify the potential for reconfiguration and expansion.

The Council's six special schools reached capacity in September 2020. Temporary classrooms have been delivered on the Great Oaks School Sites, 20 spaces at Green Lane and 50 spaces on Vermont site, to meet increasing demand and to mitigate the high cost of out of city placements.

The Councils High Need Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant is currently £11m overspent, with projections to increase to a potentially £74m cumulative deficit position in 2027 (See appendix G) if significant mitigation activity is not in place. The DSG has had a 3 year extension applied to the ring fencing of this block but if the government remove this ringfence in the future, this will present a significant liability to the Council's general fund.

This paper seeks Cabinet support for the next stage of scheme development to create an additional 278 places within 3 existing School sites. Full public consultation on the proposals prior to any final decisions being taken in due course is planned to launch in May 2023.

The works proposed for the next phase of the Strategy (Appendix F) includes the progression of preparatory work on the three schemes, whilst not pre-judging the outcome of public consultation planned. The strategy includes a proposal to progress planning applications to convert temporary space provision at Green Lane and Vermont sites into permanent provision of accommodation. The development work will be performed prior to consultation closing and there is a risk of abortive costs, which will be paid from General Revenue Fund. This would need to be found by way of efficiencies and restructure of staffing resource.

REC	OMMENDAT	IONS:			
	(i)	To approve the commencement of consultation, based on the option recommended in section 23. The option outlined is for the expansion and reconfiguration of Southampton Special Schools to create 278 additional spaces across 3 identified sites as per Table 1, section 23, subject to consultation and statutory school organisation decisions.			
	(ii)	To agree a further report to be brought back to Cabinet prior to the commencement of the strategy. This report will detail the outcome of the consultation including any required amendments to the programme.			
	(iii)	To approve spend of £0.67m in 2023/24 for the next phase for the SEND programme to proceed with preparatory work as outlined in the report from General Fund capital. Should any of the schemes not proceed following the outcome of the consultation these costs will be abortive costs which will be charged to the General Fund revenue account and funded for from efficiencies and restructure of staffing resources identified should it be required.			
REAS	REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS				
1.	various S and school recomme	There is a requirement to deliver a programme of improvements and expansions at various SEND Schools across the city. From this, a reconfiguration of existing sites and schools were identified to meet targets for additional pupil places. This recommendation aligns with the proposed approach for delivering SEND provision across the city.			
2.	in the cap The origin 246 place potential a site, bring	The proposed strategy creates the maximum number (278 places) within the budget in the capital programme, based on the constraints within the sites as identified. The original number of extra spaces planned overall for these 3 sites was initially 246 places, with 63 places planned for the Great Oaks, Green Lane site. Increased potential accommodation for an additional 32 spaces have been identified for this site, bringing the total planned places to 95 spaces (63 +32) on the Great Oaks, Green Lane site.			
3.	provide a attend scl This will p	The proposed strategy will enable the council to meet its statutory obligation to provide a sufficiency of special school places, allowing children and young people to attend schools within the city, maximising their inclusion in their local communities. This will prevent the need for the Council to provide out of city places at a premium. *Refer to Table 1 within Option 3 Proposed Solution para 23.			
4.		The delivery of local school places prevents the need to rely on high cost independent placements, leading to savings and cost avoidance (reducing			

	overspend) in the ring fenced * High Needs Designated Schools Grant (DSG) and the General Fund Home to School Transport costs budget. * Appendix G
5.	Progressing a planning application to have the temporary modular builds converted into permanent provision significantly reduces the capital budget to achieve the number of places to meet the need in the city.
6.	Note: Should any of the schemes not proceed following the outcome of the consultation these costs will be abortive costs which will be charged to the General Fund revenue account. Funded from efficiencies and restructure of staffing resource
ALTE	RNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED
7.	Do Nothing: No funding required by the council.
	This will not meet the required statutory requirement to deliver sufficient school places, with a specific regard for children with SEND.
	**This will have a significant impact on the councils High Needs Funding and Home to School Transport budget, increasing the existing deficit.
	*Refer to Table 1 within Option 3 Proposed Solution para 23. **Appendix G
8.	Option 1: Seek an increase in capital funding in line with outcome of feasibility studies for the four sites, namely; Great Oaks (Green Lane & Vermont Close), Vermont School, St Monica and Polygon School.
	This option would provide an additional 338 places across the 4 sites and would help target the predicted pupil numbers for 2029. This is not recommended for the following reasons:
	 Financial pressures of the Local Authority. This does not consider the opportunities for national funding, specifically relating to the expansion/refurbishment of The Polygon School.(The Council applied for a rebuild of Polygon funding through the DfE and this was rejected in January 2023. The Council also applied for a secondary SEMH special school in the most recent free school round and were advised end of February 2023 this has been rejected.) Current Financial Situation of the Council, Costs estimated above the current budget and The refurbishment of Polygon school was included in original proposals however Polygon will not form part of the current phase of the SEND programme as it was not possible to achieve additional places on this site. Impact to existing service users on Green Lane Site as they would potentially need to offer up areas currently being used under existing arrangements, agreements and leases.
9.	Option 2: Seek increase in capital funding to fund 3 of the projects (Green Lane, Vermont School & St Monica) within the feasibility study (excluding the expansion/refurbishment of Polygon). Feasibility studies explored the potential for the various sites to provide places at industry benchmarked costs.
	This option removes the proposals for the Polygon school from the programme as, the site topography is challenging, and the school would not be able to offer any additional SEND places and Polygon has been omitted from this phase of the SEND Programme.
	This is not the recommended ention for the following recognity

This is not the recommended option for the following reasons:

Current Financial Situation of the Council, Costs estimated above the current budget and Impact to existing service users on Green Lane Site as they would need to offer up areas currently being used under existing arrangements, agreements and leases. 10. Several iterations of expansion provision have been developed and explored through formal appraisal and feasibility studies to determine what options could be financially viable. **DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)** Children with SEND vary in the complexity and level of needs. Some require 11. minimal support and can be managed within the resources available to the mainstream school through funding known as the SEN notional budget. These children are those on SEN Support. 12. Other children and young people have more complex needs which require a multiagency assessment and, if required, a multi-agency plan of provision, known as an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). 13. Over the last 10 years the numbers of children requiring SEN Support has been decreasing as schools become increasingly competent in managing the needs of a wider range of children. However, the numbers of children with an EHCP have been increasing at an average rate of 12% per annum. If this rate of increase continues there could be double the number of children with an EHCP by 2030. The reasons for this increase are multi-factorial and include an increase in the age 14. of statutory protection of children with SEND from 5-16 years to 0-25 years; increases in survival and longevity of babies born prematurely or with complex health or physical disabilities; increases in identification / prevalence of children with some conditions, most notably, autism and social, emotional and mental health needs (SEMH); changing perceptions of specialist provision as places of excellence; parental preference. 15. This increase is being seen nationally and is affecting all local authorities. 16. This increasing demand is contributing to an overspend in the High Needs Block. See Paragraph 23, Table 1 within Option 3 Proposed Solution *Appendix G 17. In response to this increasing demand the SEND Service plan to present the longterm Strategy as reflected in Appendix F, that includes: a. Address the High Needs Block overspend by providing permanent SEND places within the city, thus avoiding out of city placements and associated transport and care costs. b. Co-production and engagement with parents, carers and children and young people. c. Strategic planning, partnership working and joint commissioning across education, health and social care. d. Effective provision in the early years. e. Building inclusive capacity in mainstream schools and settings. f. Developing a range of mainstream+ options. g. Developing a range of resourced provisions including; Expanding special school provision. ii. Developing a robust Post-16 offer that effectively prepares young people for adulthood.

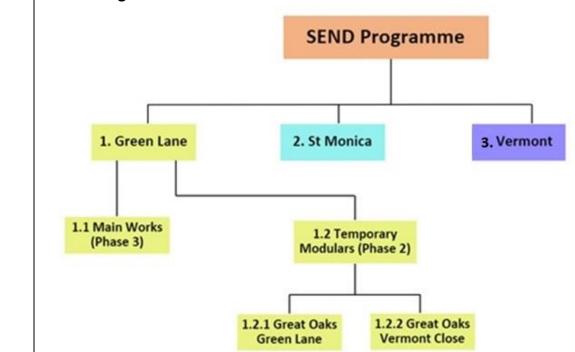
iii. Reducing the number of children and young people in 'Out of City' schools by increasing and improving the offer locally.

18. **Consultation (initial)**

In developing proposals to accommodate the increase in need, a series of workshops and stakeholder engagement events were held. Proposals were taken to the Corporate Estate and Assets team to develop a range of high-level options. Following the option appraisals, two options were agreed to be taken forward for high-level costing. Green Lane, Vermont School & St Monica School have been involved in three engagement sessions that included the Council's project delivery team, Head Teachers, school representatives and an external consultant team. All three schools involved in the proposed programme have advised that they are in support of the proposals.

All scheme activity in the proposed programme is currently governed by the SEND Capital Programme Board which convenes monthly and updates regularly into the Council's Capital Review Group. A formal change control process and robust governance process is in place.

20. **SEND Programme Structure**



21 Move to next stage of feasibility.

The total estimated cost for the recommendation to Cabinet to move forward with preparatory work relating to Vermont Close, St Monica Infant School site and the Green Lane site is estimated at £0.67m from an existing budget allocation for the SEND Programme of £45.2m. The cost includes consultancy fees to develop the planning application to change the temporary accommodation on both the Green Lane and Vermont Close sites to permanent, as detailed in paragraph 5, 23, 26 and 27.

22. **Solution**

Following the issue of the Stage reports, recommendations were presented to the Children Services to consider options to take the programme forwards. Various options were identified, and psympary is provided to align with the financial impact

to Council. This includes developing a higher level of scope definition for the Green Lane scheme which would translate into a higher level of financial certainty for the Council.

23. Option 3: Proposed Solution:

It is proposed to further develop the schemes at three sites, namely Green Lane, Vermont Close and the St Monica site to the end of feasibility and undertake the required Statutory Public consultation.

Green Lane

Feasibility work has been completed including preparation and briefing, using information gathered from the initial project brief which confirms the Project Objectives and clarifies the client's Business Case. An appraisal of the project cost is also outlined, along with forming a procurement strategy. These were informed by experience from previous similar projects.

The next stage proposed for this scheme starts the concept design, the stage at which the client receives the first visualisations or drawings of the design ideas developed from the project brief. Meetings, workshops or general correspondence to discuss iterations of the concept design will be undertaken during this stage.

Refurbishment and re-purposing / use of additional areas (to be agreed) in the existing buildings on the site to increase pupil numbers to 95.

See Appendix D for a graphic showing the site layout. The Great Oaks (Green Lane) site will potentially provide 102 new spaces.

Vermont Close

Feasibility work reflected a preferred option of the demolition of the existing school with the development of possible split levels (dependent on further detailed design and surveys). The phasing will be dependent on the Vermont School move to the St Monica site and how the risks and constraints are dealt with in managing a construction site within a school environment that would need to operate business / teaching as usual activities for the duration of the construction works. The school are supportive of the potential option. See *Appendix C for a graphic showing the site layout*. The Great Oaks (Vermont School site) will potentially provide 150 new spaces.

St Monica's Infant School Site

Feasibility work found three good options with mixes of refurbishments and new build in consultation with the head teacher and her staff representatives. The school are satisfied with the potential options subject to further design development. There is a risk register with regulatory risks e.g., planning and neighbour impact which will need to be addressed during the next stage.

See Appendix B for a graphic showing the site layout. The proposed Vermont School (on the St Monica's site) will potentially provide 26 new spaces.

This would provide a platform for the advancement of all three schemes based on their feasibilities to focus on the priority for places for secondary complex needs. A total of 278 additional SEND places will be provided across the three sites within

the city and reduce the number of pupils having to travel out of the city, as well as reducing cross-city transport with the proposed provision at St Monica.

	Green Lane / Ver	g full planning approval mont Close sites in Sul	mmer 2022 wil	I continue to p	rovide places
	•	pasis. Costs forecast in dular buildings and are		•	ning permission
	Project Name	School/End User	Existing Places	Additional Spaces	Spaces by 2027
	Green Lane	Great Oaks	63	32	95
		Great Oaks - Vermont Close	147	50	197
	Temps	Great Oaks - Green Lane		20	20
	Vermont School site	Great Oaks	50	150	150
	St Monica Site	Vermont School	260	26 278	76 538
	the pupil number	and planned extra place provision moving from site), to the new site at	existing place		
24.	expand onto the	Vermont School will mo Vermont site once work required to move into i	s are complete	ed. Due to the	size of the
25.	The specific development activities being proposed on the various schemes have been confirmed as preparatory work and therefore deemed not prejudge the outcome of the statutory school organisation consultation process and the impact of local elections and pre-election period.				
26.	It is recommended that Option 3 as set out above is taken forward which provides the best solution without the requirement for additional funding. This option allows the full development of two key sites, Vermont and St Monica's and a reduced scheme to provide additional accommodation and required infrastructure such as dining facilities at Green Lane. It will also ensure the temporary modular accommodation at the two Great Oaks sites are translated into permanent, long-term structures.				
27.	The temporary building units placed at Great Oaks in Summer 2022 are currently providing additional places and avoiding out of city placement costs. These savings will no longer be realised if the business case is not approved as it includes for seeking permanent planning permission for them and associated works to achieve this. If the business case is not approved, the units will need to be removed, hence the need for the additional out of city placements. Note: The original intention when purchasing the units was to use these on future capital schemes, which will no longer be possible, however this option offers greater value for money as the 70 permanent places will be created for £4.3m capital investment.				
28.	Programme				
		each of the sites have the next stage these new	•	•	
29.	pupil place provis	elopment and submission will happen concur mitigate the potential im ne and delivery of the re	ently. The time pact of the bu	ing of permane dgetary constr	ent provision will aints on the
		Building) at Green Lane	e: Developmer	nt of proposals	to upgrade

	maintained going forward due to the poor funded separately) St. Monica school site will become availate undertaken has demonstrated that with restructure and a new build block the requiallow for a temporary school site so work	able in Easter : efurbishment c red places can s are planned	2023 and the feasibility study of the existing Victorian be achieved. Funds do not to allow for some concurrent				
	· ·	activity on both sites where possible. This will maximise programme cost benefits of the new Vermont School (on the St Monica site), and the Great Oaks school (on vacated Vermont School site)					
	Vermont Site: (in Vermont Close) is the enable a 150 pupil expansion of the Great concurrently with all schemes and constructions concurrent activities anticipated as described.	at Oaks Schoo uction will be p ibed above for	I. Design development runs programmed to dovetail with the St Monica site.				
	Appendix E for a SEND Programme Upo	ate and Scher	ne Development.				
30.	Should the recommendations in this repo been progressing, the following will happ		d, whilst some activities have				
	Commence public consultation.						
	Commence the external appointm consultants and identification of C prepared to ensure a minimum of	ouncil resource	e requirements. This is being				
	Agree governance and approval paccelerations around the critical page.		•				
	 Carry out a cost vs design review recommendations. This is being u 	•					
	5. Progress and deliver RIBA stages	and end user	consultation				
	6. Report back to Cabinet in Spring / further consultation and other mat approval to deliver the SEND programmer.	erial considera	tions and, if appropriate, for				
31.	Note: Approval to progress planning approvision delivered in 2022 at Green Lan provision of accommodation. The approvice costs for developing and submitting the programy spaces are included within overpermanent provision of accommodation of programme and delivery of required place.	e and Vermonal requested in the standard requested in the series and the series in the	t sites, into permanent ncludes consultant team ations. (The current spaces proposed). The s required for the overall				
	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS						
	Capital/Revenue						
32.	Whilst consultation is being undertaken feasibility works can proceed at all the proposed sites. This includes progression of the main design stages which includes Concept Design, and this is the stage at which the client receives the first visualisations or drawings of the design ideas developed from the project brief. To complete this work there will be a cost of £0.67M to be charged to General Fund capital.						
33.	Approval to spend is requested of £0.67r Stage 2 design and planning application.	This will be fu	•				
	Description / Activity Cost £M						
	Vermont Stage 2 0.32						

Totals	0.67
Temp to permanent planning	0.08
Green Lane Stage 2	0.09
St Monica Stage 2	0.18

<u>Note</u>: Should any of the schemes not proceed following the outcome of the consultation these costs will be abortive costs which will be charge to the General Fund revenue account.

The current market is increasingly volatile due to political constraints within the UK Government, issues arising from the conflict in Ukraine and Brexit, leading to material scarcity, long lead-in times, labour shortages etc. With this volatility in mind, and to reduce the risk of overspend on the project, value engineering reviews will be undertaken throughout the project and costs will be developed as more detailed information is developed with inflation forecasts considered at each of the future project risk reviews.

35. Revenue Placement Costs

If the SEND programme expansion is not approved, the cost to provide out of city (OOC) placements for the additional 278 places needed would be £23.02M per annum compared to £6.17M in city charged to the ring fenced dedicated schools grant (DSG)

Placement	Average Cost	Total per Annum
	£M	£M
Out of City	0.083	23.02
In City	0.022	6.17
DSG Cost Avoidance		16.85
Less GF Financing Costs		2.57
Total Council Cost		14.28
Avoidance		

- In order to fund the SEND expansion programme, the Council will be incurring borrowing of over £32M, with financing costs of circa £2.57M per annum. This will be charged to the General Fund revenue account. It is hoped that this figure can be reduced if additional government grants become available.
- This forecast assumes that all the OOC placements would be non-residential. However, currently the demand for specialist places is so high that even the independent stock in the South East is diminished, meaning that the Council are having to search further afield which has a significant impact on the home to school travel budget. It is legislated that children should not travel for more than 45 minutes in transport if they are primary age, and 75 minutes for secondary age. If these limits are exceeded a court would automatically rule that the child is eligible for a residential placement if their needs cannot be met closer to home. The reality would therefore be that as well as additional transport fees, the Council would be looking to spend an additional £70k per annum for a 39-week residential placement for the 278 places. Even if the Council only did this for 139 (50%) of the numbers, this would equate to an additional £9.73M per annum.

Property/Other

The Council would continue to negotiate and arrange agreements/leases with the stakeholders involved on the Green Lane, Vermont Close and St Monica sites.

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LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

- The power to propose changes to the organisation and provision of school paces for pupils with SEN is set out in the School Standards & Frameworks Act 1998 as amended by the Education Act 2006 and Education & Inspections Act 2006 with detailed Regulations set out under the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2013 and statutory guidance 'Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to Maintained Schools. The guidance requires that, before proposals progress to a formal statutory notice of intent to make changes (and representation period) a period of public consultation on the proposals and any alternative options that have been considered is undertaken. The law does not prescribe the length of formal consultation prior to statutory notice processes being commenced but recognises time also taken to engage with stakeholders, users, pupils and staff in formulating the proposals for the wider public to comment on.
- 40. Before a decision is made to progress proposals further consideration must be given to the outcome of consultation and the extent to which any proposals require formal statutory notices, playing field consents, planning permissions etc before a final decision to proceed is taken in due course.

Other Legal Implications:

The Council must act in accordance with the Children and Families Act 2014. In designing changes to SEND provision the Council must at all ties consider and develop proposals that are wholly in accordance with the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Equalities Act 2010 and proposals taken forward will be full supported by EISA's.

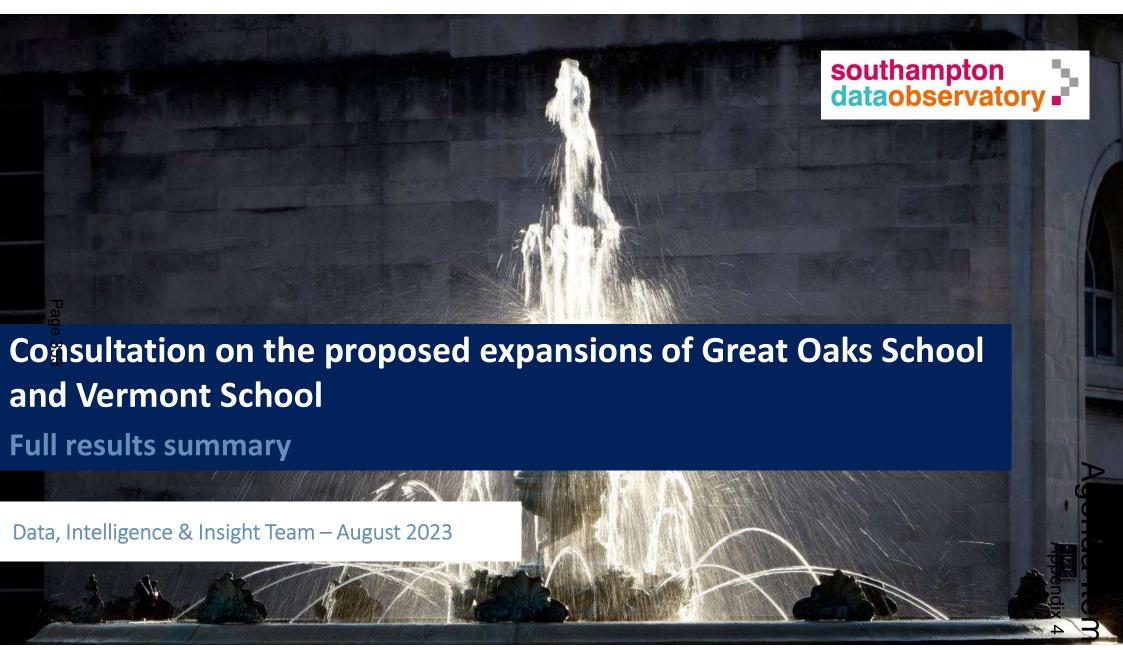
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- A best practice approach will be taken to risk in terms of identifying, assessing and managing risks at all stages, continually throughout the programme. A robust approach to managing risks will be adopted and there will be a regular review of all risks and visibility thereof at Programme Board. An overall programme risk register has been developed and will be reviewed and maintained throughout the programme.
- 43. Each individual project will have its own risk register. The Programme Board will receive regular reports relating to the current position of risk registers and all actions and mitigations will be reviewed robustly to ensure control and governance is maintained.
- The Programme Board will receive regular finance updates on each of the projects within the programme. Contingent and dependent risks such as those linked to planning which include securing approval for the schemes required and any utility provision impact will be closely monitored and managed.
- There are several risks to the SEND programme's success with the top risks for the programme as reflected. Key risk at this stage relating to the approval for funding requested in this paper would be the potential for abortive costs. If the next stage works for Vermont and St Monica's commence prior to completion of consultation, there is a risk of that the planned capital costs could then be charged to the General Fund Revenue account. To mitigate this risk the SCC Education team have already

	carried out extensive engagement early, during the feasibility option and preliminary design stages with the Trusts and Schools.
46.	Objections could impact on the programme and cost with the statutory consultation required to be concluded before any formal approval to spend on construction is granted.
47.	If the application for school rebuilds and application for the new secondary SEMH free school isn't successful, the council will need to take steps to consider other expansion options within the city.
48.	With the economy in such a fragile state and inflation increases it is difficult to estimate accurate costs, therefore a robust contingency budget has been identified within the budget envelope.
POLIC	Y FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS
49.	The recommendations of this report are consistent with and not contrary to the Council's policy framework. The proposal in this report reflects the Council's Corporate Plan, the Green City Charter and the Core Strategy. This includes The School Standards & Frameworks Act 1998 as amended by the Education Act 2006 and Education & Inspections Act 2006 with detailed Regulations set out under the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2013 and statutory guidance 'Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to Maintained Schools.

KEY DECISION?	Yes	/es			
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:		All Wards. Pupils/families likely to be from all over the city. Schools are located in the following Wards: Bargate Ward (councillor ward), St Monica (Sholing), Vermont (Bassett), Green Lane (Redbridge)			
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION					
Appendices					
1 A – Graphic of Spa	A – Graphic of Space provision / movement				
2 B – St Monica's Infa	B – St Monica's Infant School Site showing indicative plan / layout				
3 C – Vermont Site sl	C – Vermont Site showing indicative plan / layout				
4 D – Green Lane Sit	D – Green Lane Site showing indicative plan / layout				
5 E – SEND Program	E – SEND Programme. Update and Scheme Development				
6 F – Southampton S	F – Southampton SEND Strategic Review June 2017-March 2018				
7 G – SEND High Ne	G – SEND High Needs Block – Cumulative Deficit Stats				
Documents In Members' Rooms					
DBV Supporting Ev	DBV Supporting Evidence – Southampton				
Equality Impact Assessment					
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Yes/No					

Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.				
Data Protection Impact Assessment				
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Yes/Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out.			•	
Other Background Documents Other Background documents available for inspection at:				
Title of Background Paper(s)	Information Procedure R Schedule 12A allowing d	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)		
None				





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General SEND provisions / overall comments – free text responses

Introduction and Methodology



Introduction



Southampton City Council undertook public consultation on the proposed expansions of Great Oaks School and Vermont School.

- The consultation took place between **06/06/2023 31/07/2023**.
- The aim of this consultation was to:
 - Communicate clearly to pupil, parents, residents and stakeholders the proposals for Great Oaks and Vermont School expansions.
 - Ensure any pupil, parent, resident, business or stakeholder who wished to comment on the proposals had the opportunity to do so, enabling them to raise any impacts the proposals may have.
 - Allow participants to propose alternative suggestions for consideration which they feel could achieve the objective in a different way.
- This report summarises the aims, principles, methodology and results of the public consultation. It provides a summary of the consultation responses both for the consideration of decision makers and any interested individuals and stakeholders.
- It is important to be mindful that a consultation is not a vote, it is an opportunity for stakeholders to express their views, concerns and alternatives to a proposal. This report outlines in detail the representations made during the consultation period so that decision makers can consider what has been said alongside other information.



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Consultation principles



Southampton City Council is committed to consultations of the highest standard, which are meaningful and comply with *The Gunning Principles* (considered to be the legal standard for consultations):

1. Proposals are still at a formative stage (a final decision has not yet been made)

There is sufficient information put forward in the proposals to allow 'intelligent consideration'

- 3. There is adequate time for consideration and response
- 4. Conscientious consideration must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is made



New Conversations 2.0 LGA guide to engagement

Rules: The Gunning Principles

They were coined by Stephen Sedley QC in a court case in 1985 relating to a school closure consultation (R v London Borough of Brent ex parte Gunning). Prior to this, very little consideration had been given to the laws of consultation. Sedley defined that a consultation is only legitimate when these four principles are met:

- proposals are still at a formative stage
 A final decision has not yet been made, or predetermined, by the decision makers
- there is sufficient information to give 'intelligent consideration'
 The information provided must relate to the consultation and must be available, accessible, and easily interpretable for consultees to provide an informed response
- 3. there is adequate time for consideration and response
 There must be sufficient opportunity for consultees to participate in the consultation. There is no set timeframe for consultation,¹ despite the widely accepted twelve-week consultation period, as the length of time given for consultee to respond can vary depending on the subject and extent of impact of the consultation
- 'conscientious consideration' must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is made
 Decision-makers should be able to provide evidence that they took consultation responses into account

These principles were reinforced in 2001 in the 'Coughlan Case (R v North and East Devon Health Authority ex parte Coughlan²), which involved a health authority closure and confirmed that they applied to all consultations, and then in a Supreme Court case in 2014 (R ex parte Moseley v LB Haringey³), which endorsed the legal standing of the four principles. Since then, the Gunning Principles have formed a strong legal foundation from which the legitimacy of public consultations is assessed, and are frequently referred to as a legal basis for judicial review decisions.⁴

The information used to produce this document has been taken from the Law of Consultation training course provided by The Consultation Institute





¹ In some local authorities, their local voluntary Compact agreement with the third sector may specify the length of time they are required to consult for. However in many cases, the Compact is either inactive or has been cancelled so the consultation timeframe is open to debate

² BAILII, England and Wales Court of Appeal (Civil Decision) Decisions, Accessed: 13 December 2016.

³ BAILII, United Kingdom Supreme Court, Accessed: 13 December 2016



Methodology and Promotion



- The agreed approach for this consultation was to use an online questionnaire as the main route for feedback. Questionnaires enable an appropriate amount of explanatory and supporting information to be included in a structured questionnaire, helping to ensure respondents are aware of the background and detail of the proposals.
- Respondents could also write letters or emails to provide feedback on the proposals. Emails or letters from stakeholders that contained consultation feedback were collated and analysed as a part of the overall consultation.
- The consultation was promoted in the following ways by:
 - In-person consultation sessions
 - Page 358 Letters posted to local residents
 - Sending emails to stakeholder networks
 - Southampton City Council website and FAQs
 - Social media posts (including Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, Next Door targeted at specific ward)
 - Southampton City Council e-bulletins (including City News, Community Partners and Your City Your Say)
 - Leaders video
- All questionnaire results have been analysed and presented in graphs within this report. Respondents were given opportunities throughout the questionnaire to provide written feedback on the proposals. In addition anyone could provide feedback in letters and emails. All written responses and questionnaire comments have been read and then assigned to categories based upon similar sentiment or theme. We have also endeavoured to outline all the unique points and suggestions gathered as a part of the consultation and so there are tables of quotes or summaries of these for each theme of comment.



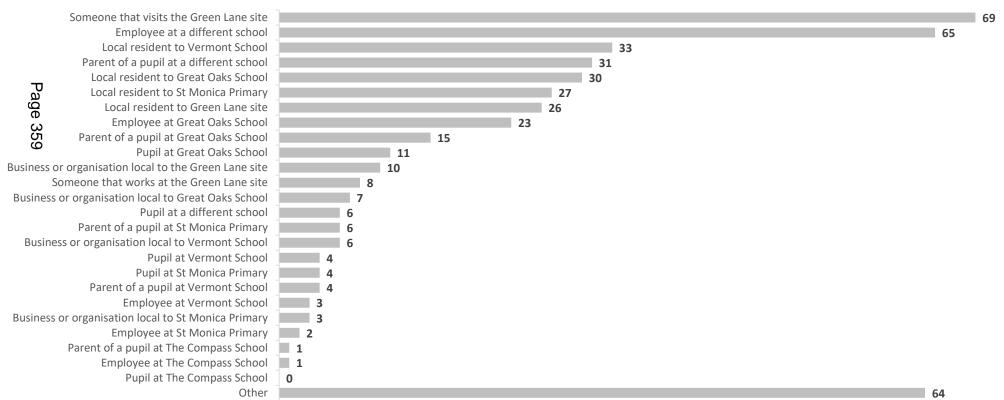
Who were the respondents?



Total respondents:

	Total number of responses
Questionnaire	355
Emails / letters	6
Total	361

Interest in the consultation:







Key findings



Key findings



In total, the consultation on the proposed expansions of Great Oaks School and Vermont School had 361 responses, and we heard from visitors, local residents, local businesses and organisations, employees, pupils and parents of sites affected, as well as wider city residents. The consultation aims were to communicate clearly the proposals for the Great Oaks and Vermont School expansions, and that any one who wished to comment on the proposals had the opportunity to do so and raise any impacts the proposals may have. They were also able to propose alternative suggestions for consideration.

Vermont School Expansion to St Monica Infant Site and Bay Road Proposals

The majority of respondents (84%) agreed with the proposed expansion of Vermont School, and this goes up to 91% from parents and pupils from school sites affected. Almost 3 quarters of respondents (74%) agreed with the proposed relocation of Vermont School. This goes up to 86% from parents and pupils from school sites affected, and goes down to 48% from local residents from sites affected. The most commented upon theme for this proposal was 'Concerns and suggestions – new site location near busy road compared to Vermont School / will need traffic management' (12 respondents).

Great Oaks School expansion on Vermont Close Proposals

The majority of respondents (82%) agreed with the proposed expansion of Great Oaks School on Vermont Close. This goes up to 96% from employees from both school sites affected and other schools. This goes down to 51% from local residents from sites affected. The most commented upon theme for this proposal was 'Concerns around traffic / parking nearby' (27 respondents).

Great Oaks School expansion on Green Lane Proposals

The majority of respondents (64%) agreed with proposals to expand Great Oaks School on Green Lane, and this went up to 95% from parents and pupils from school sites affected. Over a quarter of respondents (29%) disagreed with proposals to expand Great Oaks School on Green Lane, and this went up to 76% from respondents who visits or works at the Green Lane site. The most commented upon theme for this proposal was 'Concerns / suggestions around reducing community space (including at Testlands and City Farm) (60 respondents).





Proposed changes



Background



The questionnaire outlined the following background information:

Background:

There is an urgent need to increase the number of special school places in Southampton, due to an increase in need and demand.

Following a Strategic review of special educational needs and disability (SEND) in 2017-18, there was a recommendation to expand and reconfigure specialist provision within the City. A significant amount of work has been undertaken by the SEND and Corporate Estate and Assets Teams, initially on consulting with stakeholders on potential options for expansion, followed by the development of detailed plans and feasibility studies.

An mitial high-level appraisal presented costs outside the envelope of financial budgets available, so several reworked proposals were developed in consultation with the schools in scope, within the programme, and these have progressed to feasibility studies to more closely identify the potential for reconfiguration and expansion.

The March 2023 cabinet report set out the proposal to provide an additional 278 spaces with the City of Southampton. Great Oaks School reached capacity in September 2021 and as such temporary classrooms were delivered in 2022 on the two Great Oaks School Sites, 20 spaces at Green Lane and 50 spaces on the Vermont Close site, to meet increasing demand and to mitigate the high cost of out-of-city placements.



Vermont School Expansion to St Monica Infant Site and Bay Road Proposals



The questionnaire outlined the following proposals:

Vermont School expansion and relocation:

Vermont School is currently a 50-place special school for primary-aged pupils with Social, Emotional, and Mental Health (SEMH) needs.

The proposed relocation will be onto the St Monica infant school site, Sholing. Its existing Victorian building will be heavily refurbished with some existing buildings being demolished and a new two-storey building is to be constructed with language caping works. A drop-off loop and other SEND requirements will be implemented.

It is anticipated that the proposed enlargement and relocation of accommodation will be completed in an estimated period of the summer of 2026. From this date, it is planned to provide 26 additional places to the relocated site. These will be added to a final overall capacity of 76 places. This will provide additional accommodation for providing support for pupils with complex learning needs where there is an increased need in this area of the city.

This forms part of a wider programme of proposed works whereby the local authority are also seeking to expand Great Oaks Special School. It is proposed that there is a new build on the existing Vermont School site, to accommodate an additional 150 places for secondary aged pupils with complex learning need.

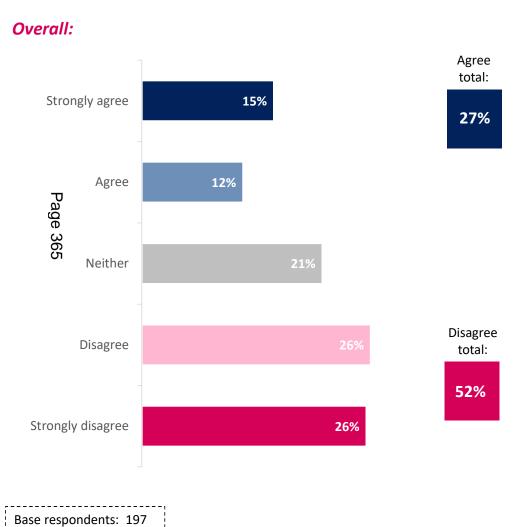


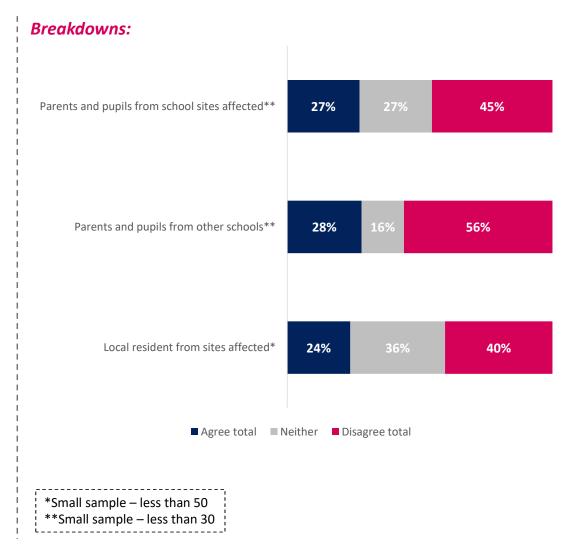


Current Vermont School building



Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the current building is adequate for Vermont School pupils?



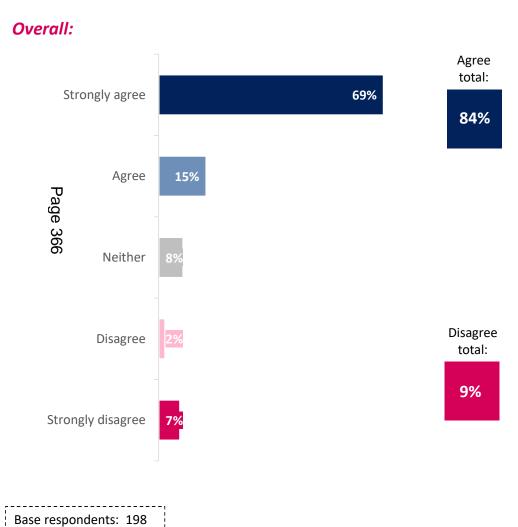


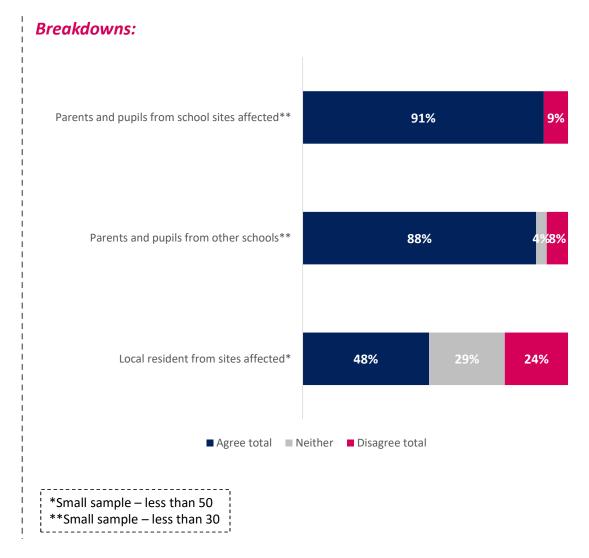


Proposed expansion of Vermont School



Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed expansion of Vermont School?



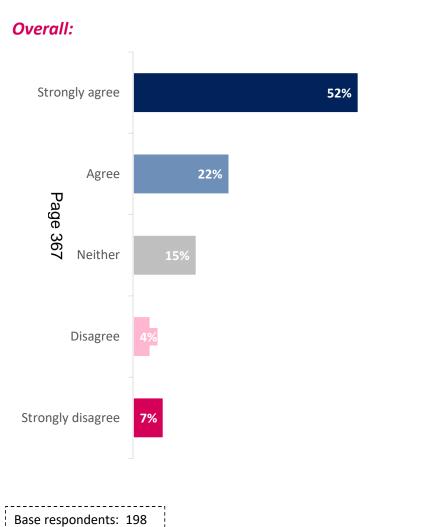




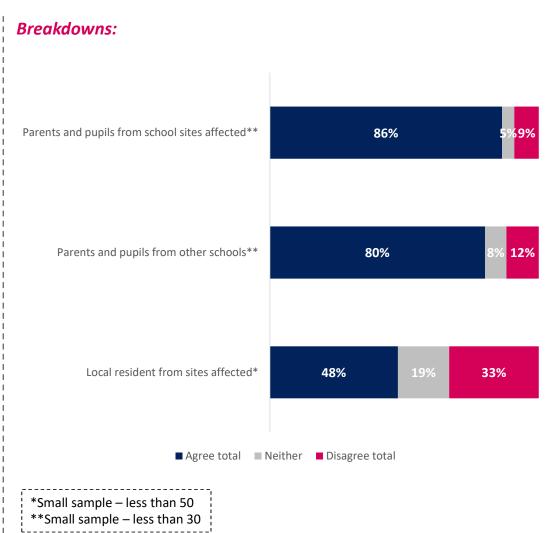
Proposed relocation of Vermont School



Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed relocation of Vermont School?









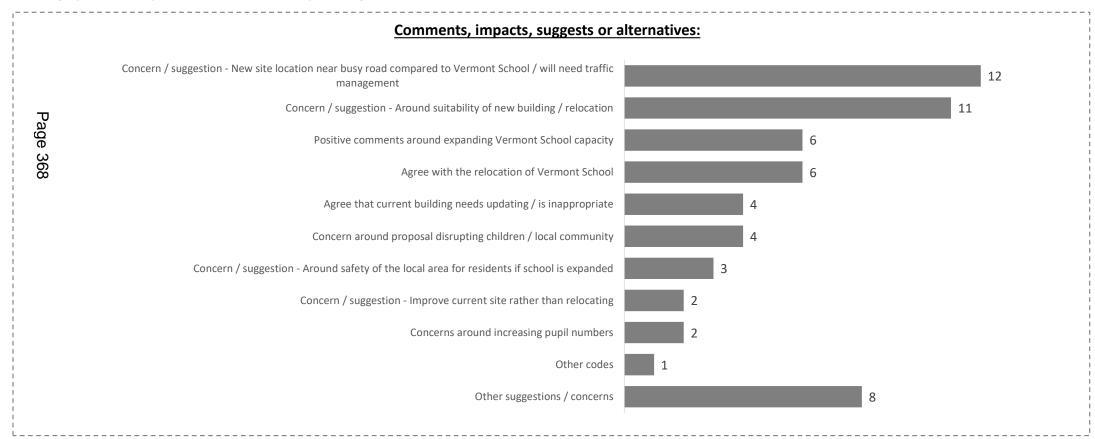
Vermont School Proposals – Free text responses.



Within the questionnaire, respondents were given the opportunity to provide their own free text comments. Any email or letter responses were also analysed alongside free-text responses in the questionnaire.

The following graphs show the total number of respondents by each theme of comment.

These graphs are in respondent count, rather than percentage.





Great Oaks School expansion on Vermont Close Proposals



The questionnaire outlined the following proposals:

Great Oaks School expansion on Vermont Close:

Great Oaks School is currently a 325-place secondary special school for 11-18 year-old pupils with Complex Needs, with 252 pupils at Great Oaks Vermont Close, 68 pupils at Great Oaks Green Lane and 5 pupils at Bugle House. The City Council is proposing to increase the capacity of the school with 150 places additional places through a phased increase over the coming three years onto a neighbouring site, Vermont School, Basett.

The ouncil is also proposing to increase the capacity on their Green Lane site – further information can be found here below in Proposal 3. This will give a proposed final overall capacity of 500 places at Great Oaks School across their school sites.

This will include the demolition of the existing Vermont School building. It is proposed to replace this with a brand new two-storey building. The proposed works will be developed in a phased way that enables Vermont School to continue to use its existing building until its new school is ready, whilst also enabling Great Oaks to occupy parts of its new building from the earliest possible time. It is anticipated that building works would be completed on this site in autumn 2026.

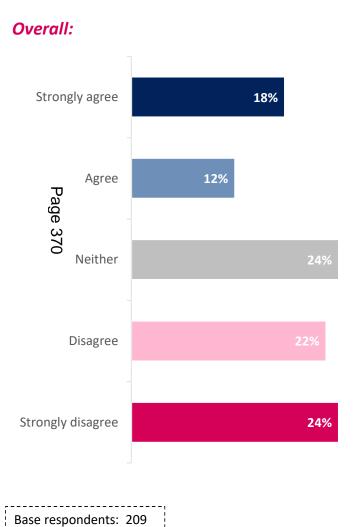




Current Great Oaks building

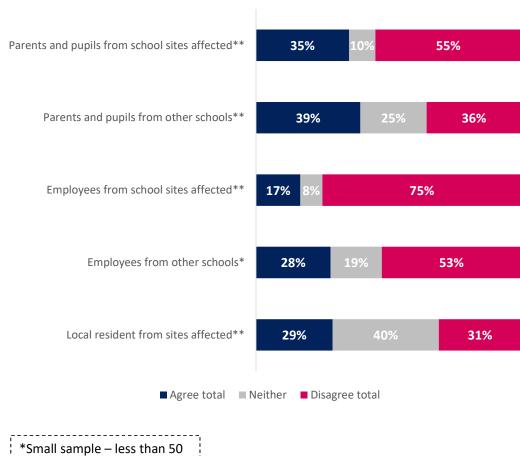


Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the current building is adequate for Great Oaks School pupils?









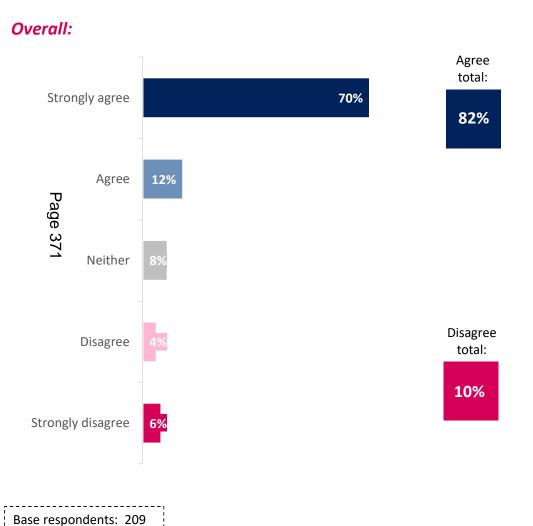
^{**}Small sample – less than 30

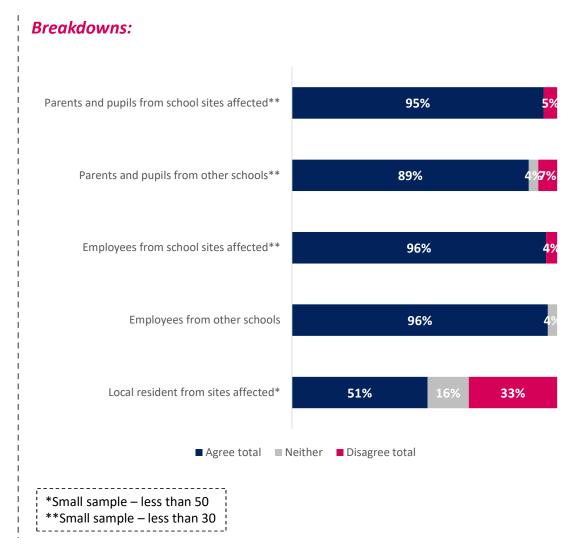


Proposed expansion of Great Oaks School on Vermont Close



Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed expansion of Great Oaks School on Vermont Close?







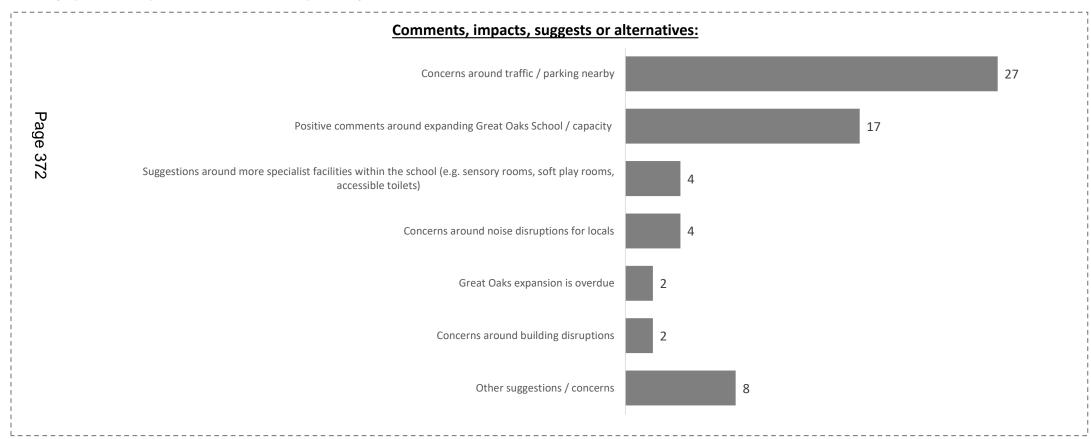
Great Oaks expansion on Vermont Close – Free text responses.



Within the questionnaire, respondents were given the opportunity to provide their own free text comments. Any email or letter responses were also analysed alongside free-text responses in the questionnaire.

The following graphs show the total number of respondents by each theme of comment.

These graphs are in respondent count, rather than percentage.





Great Oaks School expansion on Green Lane Proposals



The questionnaire outlined the following proposals:

Great Oaks School expansion on Green Lane:

Great Oaks School is currently a 325-place secondary special school for 11-18 year-olds pupils with Complex Needs, with 252 pupils at Great Oaks Vermont Close, 68 pupils at Great Oaks Green Lane and five pupils at Bugle House. The council is proposing to increase the capacity of the current Green Lane Great Oaks satellite site at Green Lane, Redbridge, with an add ional 27 places.

The \mathfrak{S} ouncil is also proposing to expand onto a new location at Vermont Close – further information can be found here above in Proposal 2. This will give a proposed final overall capacity of 500 places at Great Oaks School across their school sites.

It is proposed to reduce the space currently occupied by Testlands Hub in order to increase classroom capacity, as well as installing crucial specialist spaces and a food hall and kitchen. This will enrich the pupils experience at this site. The works are predicted to conclude on this site in the summer of 2025. This will give a final overall capacity of 95 places at Great Oaks School.

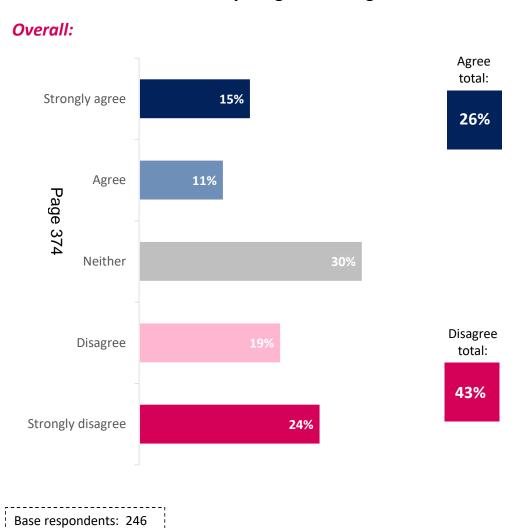




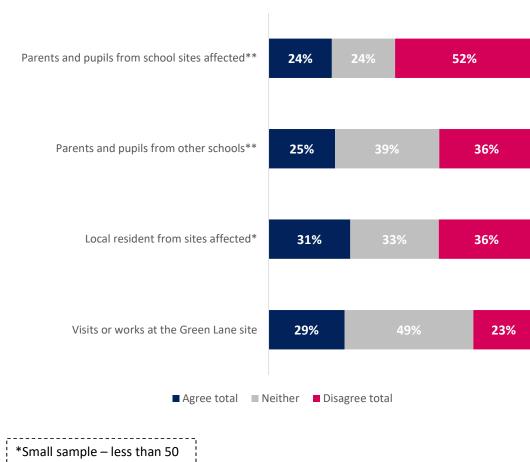
Current Great Oaks building



Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the current building is adequate for Great Oaks School pupils?







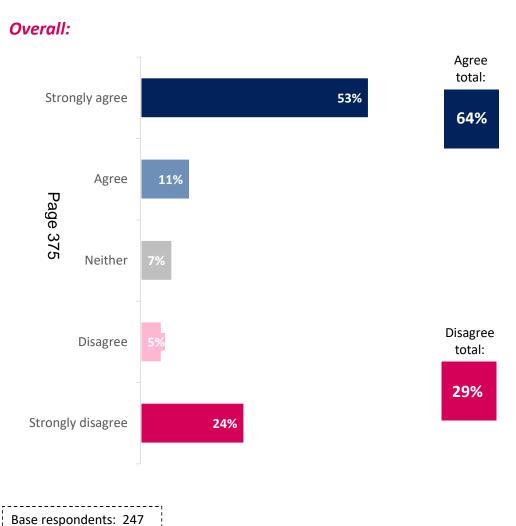
^{**}Small sample – less than 30

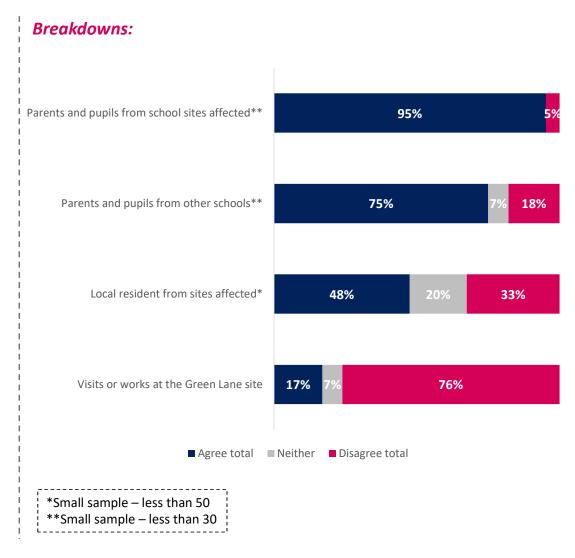


Proposed expansion of Great Oaks School on Green Lane



Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed expansion of Great Oaks School on Green Lane?







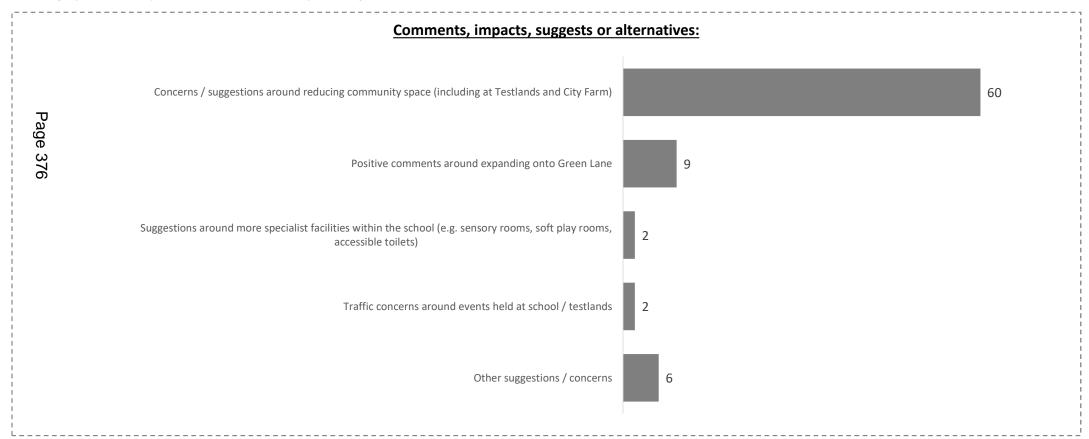
Great Oaks expansion on Green Lane – Free text responses.



Within the questionnaire, respondents were given the opportunity to provide their own free text comments. Any email or letter responses were also analysed alongside free-text responses in the questionnaire.

The following graphs show the total number of respondents by each theme of comment.

These graphs are in respondent count, rather than percentage.





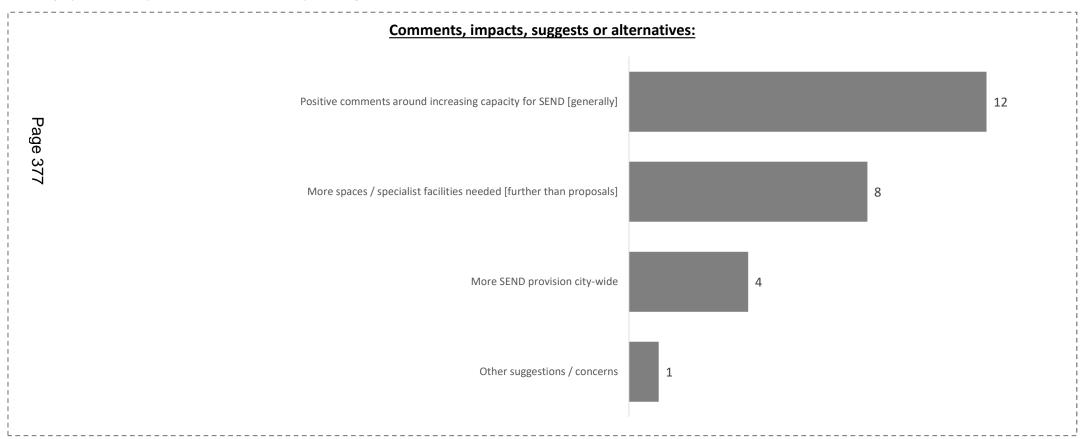
General SEND provisions / overall comments – Free text responses.



Within the questionnaire, respondents were given the opportunity to provide their own free text comments. Any email or letter responses were also analysed alongside free-text responses in the questionnaire.

The following graphs show the total number of respondents by each theme of comment.

These graphs are in respondent count, rather than percentage.



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Considerations of the consultation feedback - Consultation on the proposed expansions of Great Oaks School and Vermont School

Quantitative (tick box) question feedback

Quantitative consultation feedback		Officer records	Actions proposed
Section	Summary	Officer response	Actions proposed
Vermont School Proposals	52% of respondents disagreed that the current building is adequate for Vermont School pupils.	N/A	N/A
·	The majority of respondents (84%) agreed with the proposed expansion of Vermont School, and this goes up to 91% from parents and pupils from school sites affected.		
	Almost 3 quarters of respondents (74%) agreed with the proposed relocation of Vermont School. This goes up to 86% from parents and pupils from school sites affected, and goes down to 48% from local residents from sites affected.		
Great Oaks School expansion on Vermont	46% of respondents disagreed that the current building is adequate for Great Oaks School pupils.	N/A	N/A
Close Proposals	The majority of respondents (82%) agreed with the proposed expansion of Great Oaks School on Vermont Close. This goes up to 96% from employees from both school sites affected and other schools. This goes down to 51% from local residents from sites affected.		
Great Oaks School expansion on Green Lane	43% of respondents disagreed that the current building is adequate for Great Oaks School pupils.	N/A	N/A
Proposals	The majority of respondents (64%) agreed with proposals to expand Great Oaks School on Green Lane, and this went up to 95% from parents and pupils from school sites affected. Over a quarter of respondents (29%) disagreed with proposals to		
Dane.	expand Great Oaks School on Green Lane, and this went up to 76% from respondents who visits or works at the Green Lane site.		

Comment themes – SEND provisions / overall comments

Please note, the number of the respondents that raised each theme and the number of example quotes provided may differ from each other. This will be due to the following:

- Some respondents made multiple different points about one theme and therefore multiple example quotes from that respondent have been supplied.
- Some respondents made the same exact points as other respondents and so the sentiment has already been covered by another example quote.

Consultation Feedback	Officer Response	Actions Proposed
Comment themes and		
overall number of		
respondents who made		
comments		
Comments about the	The statutory consultation was to consult on the pupil place at Great oaks and Vermont School, it was	The consultation responses have been evaluation and report will be appendix will be appended to the
consultation process (3	open for all to comment via SCC web page, SCC's City News, SCC's Your City Your Say e-newsletter,	November Cabinet paper.
respondents)	school newsletter, SCC social medias. Printed paper letters were sent to properties that abut the	
	proposed site, further paper letters were sent to residents on neighbouring streets and the	
	consultation period was extended to the 31 July. This consultation meets the statutory legal	
	requirements.	
1.Positive comments	A requirement for additional SEND pupil places had been identified in historic Cabinet papers,	No further action required.
around increasing	Southampton SEND Strategic Review June 2017 – March 2018 and SEND Strategic Plan 2022/27.	
capacity for SEND	This SEND Capital delivery programme is targeting to increase pupils' places within the city by 278	
[generally] (12	before 2029.	
respondents)		

2.More SEND provision city-wide (4 respondents)	The Council would ideally have SEND provision spread out geographically around the City. However, the SEND programme is limited in scope due to financial and logistical constraints. The increase in numbers is to also enable SEND children currently travelling to out-of-city to attend local city schools.	Southampton Officers will incorporate the consultation feedback into the lessons learnt.
3.More spaces / specialist facilities needed [further than proposals] (8 respondents)	It is proposed with increasing the pupil spaces is to ensure specialist facilities are reviewed/included during the detailed design with the school requirements within the new building. Southampton City Council Education Department had already bid for new free special school; however, it was turned down. These are the maximum pupil places that can be expanded by due to financial and logistical constraints.	There are ongoing Design Team Meeting and Client Engagement Meeting to incorporate end user requirements.
4.Other suggestions / concerns (1 respondent)	The specialist facilities will be reviewed during the detailed design with the school requirements within the new building.	No further action required.

Comment themes – Vermont School expansion and relocation

Please note, the number of the respondents that raised each theme and the number of example quotes provided may differ from each other. This will be due to the following:

- Some respondents made multiple different points about one theme and therefore multiple example quotes from that respondent have been supplied.
- Some respondents made the same exact points as other respondents and so the sentiment has already been covered by another example quote.

comment themes	Officer Response	Actions Proposed
5.Positive comments Fround expanding Vermont School	The specialist facilities will be reviewed during the detailed design with the school requirements within the new building.	
capacity (6 respondents)		There is still a lot of detailed design work to be progressed, the Project Team will continue to work on as
6.Agree that current	It is proposed to demolish the Vermont school building and replace it with a new two storey building for	part of the planning application process. Regular DTMs and CEMS are taking place to capture SEN pupil
building needs updating / is inappropriate (4 respondents)	Great Oaks School, with Vermont relocating to a heavily refurbished Victorian building with a new two storey building providing additional accommodation supporting pupils with complex learning needs.	needs.
7.Agree with the relocation of Vermont School (6 respondents)	The Proposal is to relocate Vermont School to the east side of the site in Sholing ward for pupils with SEMH needs. The proposals will include a developed construction traffic management plan to ensure safe and considerate movement of vehicles around the site during the construction period.	Officer will review future construction management and travel plan to the site.
8.Other comments (1 respondent)	N/A.	N/A.
9.Concern - New site location near busy read compared to Vermont School / will need traffic management (12 respondents)	The proposals will include a developed school travel plan to ensure safe and considerate movement of vehicles around the site during the construction period. Fencing and security of the school will be reviewed against school and SEN requirements as part of the scheme. Southampton City Council education team will be reviewing the School Travel Service. Each Family will have the opportunity to request a review on their transport plan.	Officer will review construction management and travel plan to the site and security around the site.

	The school travel plan will aim maximise efficiency and the flow of traffic.	
	The current school site can hold 270 infant school pupils, the proposal is to reduce that number to 76	
	primary school-aged pupils with SEMH needs.	
10.Concern - Around	The current school site holds c250 infant school pupils, the proposal is to reduce that number to 76	Officer will review construction management and travel plan to the site and security around the site.
safety of the local	primary school aged pupils with SEMH needs. The proposals will be supported through the production of a	
area for residents if	School Travel Plan to aim maximise efficiency and the flow of traffic.	
school is expanded (3 respondents)		
respondents	Fencing and security of the school will be reviewed against school requirements and SEN requirements as part of the scheme.	
11.Concern - Around	The proposal will include looking at the outside space for the pupils against DFE, planning and Sport	The education team have reviewed available educational use land within the city.
suitability of new	England requirements.	, ,
building / relocation		
(11 respondents)	The proposal includes refurbing the existing Victorian building and provide a new 2-store building,	
	including for SEN requirements and provide existing facilities that Vermont school has. Fencing and	
	security of the school will be reviewed against school and SEN requirements as part of the scheme.	
	The Council would ideally have SEND provision spread out geographically around the City. However, the	
	SEND programme is limited in scope due to financial and logistical constraints. The increase in numbers is	
	to also enable SEND children currently travelling to out-of-city to attend local city schools.	
	The second stress of a time of a transfer of the stress of the second st	
	There will be a reduction school traffic to this site. The current school site holds c250 infant school pupils, the proposal is to reduce that number to 76 primary school aged pupils with SEMH needs.	
	the proposal is to reduce that humber to 70 primary school aged pupils with 3EMH fleeds.	
	The current school site holds c250 infant school pupils, the proposal is to reduce that number to 76	
_	primary school aged pupils with SEMH needs.	
Pag		
ত্ৰ বি2.Suggestion -	During the early stages of the reviewing Vermont School current site, it was found that it is in a bad stage	No further action required.
mprove current site	of repair. It was concluded that the building would be best places to be removed. The Council would	
rather than relocating (2 respondents)	ideally have SEND provision spread out geographically around the City and a strategic review was made against the programme regarding school management plan including Great Oaks.	
(2 respondents)	against the programme regarding sensor management plan including Great Guids.	
13.Concern around	The development of this programme is at its early stages and the project team are fully aware the impact	The project team will work with the contractor to ensure set delivery dates.
proposal disrupting children / local	delays to a child's school start date could have on their mental health. The proposed contractors will be aware on this and a notion in the tender information to ensure that the scheme is delivered on time.	
community (4	aware on this and a notion in the tender information to ensure that the seneme is delivered on time.	
respondents)	The Council would ideally have SEND provision spread out geographically around the City and a strategic	
	review was made against the programme regarding school management plan including Great Oaks.	
	Once the schemes are further developed a construction phase plan will be developed to mitigate constraints on the community.	
14.Concerns around	The Council would ideally have SEND provision spread out geographically around the City. However, the	No further action required.
increasing pupil	SEND programme is limited in scope due to financial and logistical constraints. The increase in numbers is	
numbers (2	to also enable SEND children currently travelling to out-of-city to attend local city schools.	
respondents)		
	The council believes that relocation and design elements will be beneficial for the expansion of Vermont	
15 Other suggestions	school and its pupils. The design development is still ongoing with the school's input.	No further action required
15.Other suggestions / concerns comments	It is proposed to refurbish the existing Victorian building. The Council would ideally have SEND provision spread out geographically around the City. However, the SEND programme is limited in scope due to	No further action required.
(8 respondents)	financial and logistical constraints. Engagement will be made with the school on the logistics on the future	
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	of the school.	
	The Councils education team and schools will work together to ensure a smooth transition for the pupils	
	who will be attending the school.	

The Council would ideally have SEND provision spread out geographically around the City. However, the SEND programme is limited in scope due to financial and logistical constraints. The increase in numbers is to also enable SEND children currently travelling to out-of-city to attend local city schools.	
During the early stages of the reviewing Vermont School current site, it was found that it is in a bad stage of repair. It was concluded that the building would be best places to be removed. The Council would ideally have SEND provision spread out geographically around the City. The proposal includes refurbing the existing Victorian building and provide a new 2-store building, including for SEN requirements and provide existing facilities that Vermont school has.	
During the development of the design, a Highways consultant will review what is best fit for the site, against school and planning requirements.	
The current propose plans will continue to be development and the legal consultation responses will be review along with future planning consultation feedback	

<u>Comment themes – Great Oaks School expansion on Vermont Close</u>

Please note, the number of the respondents that raised each theme and the number of example quotes provided may differ from each other. This will be due to the following:

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- Some respondents made the same exact points as other respondents and so the sentiment has already been covered by another example quote.

Gomment themes	Officer Response	Actions Proposed
2.Positive comments /	The expansion seeks more space for the population of the school. More detail will be available at the	No further action required.
cagreement around	next consultation stage.	
rexpanding Great Oaks	The proposal has reviewed the current accommodation against DFE and school requirements, to now	
School / capacity (17	include more space/facilities within the site.	
respondents)		
3.Concerns around traffic	The proposals will include a developed construction traffic management plan to ensure safe and	No further action required.
/ parking nearby (27	considerate movement of vehicles around the site during the construction period. Staggered start and	
respondents)	finish times will be reviewed in the proposals; a requirement from the school's perspective. The	
	design development will review highway concerns to mitigate the disruption and a further	
	consultation at the planning stage of this scheme will be carried out for your input.	
	It is likely that a School Travel Plan will be required to support a planning application. For SEND school	
	developments travel plans typically focus on promoting and enabling the use of non-car modes for	
	staff travel to work. The Travel Plan should build on the initial travel planning work undertaken for	
	the temporary accommodation planning application for the existing Great Oaks site.	
5. Suggestions around	The proposal has reviewed the current accommodation against DFE and school requirements, to now	No further action required.
more specialist facilities	include more space/facilities within the site.	
within the school (e.g.		
sensory rooms, soft play	During the design process, the design team have liaised with Great Oaks School to review the pupil	
rooms, accessible toilets)	needs they intended to support across the proposed sites. This will include separate year groups. The	
(4 respondents)	design team are liaising with the school on each pathway requirements.	
Concerns around noise	Southampton Council wants to ensure that the pupils of the schools which are expanding are affected	No further action required.
disruptions for locals (4	as little as possible and we strive to assure special needs pupils are provide with a safe education. The	
respondents)	project team wants to ensure that during construction it is a safe environment and will have early	
	conversations with contractors to be any delay. Works will be programmed best fit in term holidays	
	where possible.	

	It is proposed to expand Great Oaks who provide education for pupils with Complex needs on to this	
	site and Vermont School who provide education for SEMH pupils will be relocated to St Monica.	
Concerns around	Southampton Council wants to ensure that the pupils of the schools which are expanding are affected	No further action required.
building disruptions (2	as little as possible and we strive to assure special needs pupils are provide with a safe education. The	
respondents)	project team wants to ensure that during construction it is a safe environment and will have early	
	conversations with contractors to be any delay. Works will be programmed best fit in term holidays	
	where possible.	
Other suggestions /	The Council would ideally have SEND provision spread out geographically around the City. However,	No further action required.
concerns (8	the SEND programme is limited in scope due to financial and logistical constraints. The increase in	
respondents)	numbers is to also enable SEND children currently travelling to out-of-city to attend local city schools.	
	Great Oaks currently use the location facilities of Red Lodge Swimming pool located on Vermont	
	Close.	
	It is likely that a School Travel Plan will be required to support a planning application. For SEND school	
	developments travel plans typically focus on promoting and enabling the use of non-car modes for	
	staff travel to work. The Travel Plan should build on the initial travel planning work undertaken for	
	the temporary accommodation planning application for the existing Great Oaks site.	
	Further design development and information will be provided in the planning consultation. The design	
	Further design development and information will be provided in the planning consultation. The design	
	team will be working with landscape and planning consultants on the design and will look to mitigate	
	noise and privacy concerns of the local residents.	

<u>Comment themes – Great Oaks School expansion on Green Lane</u>

Pease note, the number of the respondents that raised each theme and the number of example quotes provided may differ from each other. This will be due to the following:

Some respondents made multiple different points about one theme and therefore multiple example quotes from that respondent have been supplied.

Some respondents made the same exact points as other respondents and so the sentiment has already been covered by another example quote.

- Some respondents made the same exact points as other respondents and so the sentiment has already been covered by another example quote.

Comment themes	Officer Response	Actions Proposed
Positive comments around expanding onto Green Lane (9 respondents)	The SEND Programme to expand Great Oaks on this site will be budgeted. It is proposed to provide the current Great Oaks provision at Green Lane better school facilities including a dining hall and additional classrooms.	No further action required.
Suggestions around more specialist facilities within the school (e.g. sensory rooms, soft play rooms, accessible toilets) (2 respondents)	There will be a further investment on facilitate as a result of this expansion. (JH) During the design process, the design team have liaised with Great Oaks School to review the pupil needs they intended to have across the proposed sites. This will include separate year groups. The design team are liaising with the school on each pathway requirements.	No further action required.
Concerns / suggestions around reducing community space (including at Testlands and City Farm) (60 respondents)	Southampton City Council want to ensure that Testlands continue to provide a safe community space and the City Council are aware of the impact the reduction of space will have on the providers, users and the wider community of Testlands Hub. Testlands Hub and City Council are and will be working together to establish the extension of Testlands lease and to address the concerns over the reduction of space for the use of SEN Pupils. The site lease stakeholders will be included in any design and engagement meetings that impact their footprint. A requirement for additional SEND pupil places had been identified in historic Cabinet papers, Southampton SEND Strategic Review June 2017 – March 2018 and SEND Strategic Plan 2022/27.	Officers will continue to work with Testlands Hub, who are already supportive of the expansion of the school.

	The purpose of this consultation is for the increase in SEND school pupil places. Other site users are considered in any works planned.	
	Access and ingress routes will be optimised during the design development phase. We are following Sports England guidance on outdoor playing areas.	
Traffic concerns around events held at school / testlands (2 respondents)	A school travel plan will be developed for the expansion of Great Oaks school and will aim maximise efficiency and the flow of traffic and other site user traffic implications will be considered in this plan.	No further action required.
Other suggestions / concerns (6 respondents)	A school travel plan will be developed for the expansion of Great Oaks school and will aim maximise efficiency and the flow of traffic and other site user traffic implications will be considered in this plan.	No further action required.
	The Council would ideally have SEND provision spread out geographically around the City. However, the SEND programme is limited in scope due to financial and logistical constraints. The increase in numbers is to also enable SEND children currently travelling to out-of-city to attend local city schools.	

Equality and Safety Impact Assessment

The **public sector Equality Duty** (Section 149 of the Equality Act) requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people carrying out their activities.

The Equality Duty supports good decision making – it encourages public bodies to be more efficient and effective by understanding how different people will be affected by their activities, so that their policies and services are appropriate and accessible to all and meet different people's needs. The Council's Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) includes an assessment of the community safety impact assessment to comply with section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act and will enable the council to better understand the potential impact of the budget proposals and consider mitigating action.

Name or Brief	The Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) Programme.
Description of	
Proposal	
Brief Service	This assessment has been undertaken to support proposals to expand
Profile	and reconfigure specialist educational provision in Southampton. Southampton, in recent years, has seen an increase in the number of
(including	pupils with complex needs both nationally and locally for the last 10 years.
numbers	The age for statutory protection of SEND children has increased and is
affected)	now 0 to 25 years old. The city's current SEND provision is limited and there is limited specialist post-16 provision, with some young people being placed in high cost out of city independent special schools affecting the high needs budget.
	To meet these needs, it is proposed provide additional school places within Southampton through two schemes, the Vermont and St Monica scheme.
Impact on	Age – Positive impact
different groups	The proposal to create new educational provision for SEND pupils will provide high quality provision tailored to the needs of these pupils with an understanding of the specific needs of this age group. This provision will ensure that pupils needs can be met within the city without having to travel or be placed in provision outside of the city.
	Gender – Positive impact
	The facility will be co-educational ensuring that girls and boys are treated equally and have the same opportunities.
	Disability – Positive impact
	This proposal is part of a wider set of reforms which aims to provide a more comprehensive continuum of provision from increased inclusion of children with disabilities in mainstream schools, a specialist offer within a

mainstream setting (Mainstream+ options and Resourced Provisions) and increased specialist provision within special schools. This will provide children and families with a greater range of options and enable many children with disabilities to access the wider provision that a mainstream setting can offer. Ethnicity, religion or belief - Neutral impact It is not anticipated that this proposal will impact differently on any cohorts of children based on ethnicity, religion or belief. **Geography – Positive impact** Meeting the needs of specific cohorts of children, requiring more specialist provision will be attending a school outside of their immediate catchment area. As a result, most children have to travel to school and are not educated alongside their local community. Whilst the resulting geographical spread of specialist provision will as a result be little changed to the current provision the proposals do not provide the opportunity to reduce the negative impact of children having to travel to school and be educated away from their local community. Summary of Summary of issues: Impact and Existing schools are poorly maintained and no longer appropriate. Issues The city's current SEND provision is limited and there is no specialist post-16 provision, with some young people being placed in high cost out of city independent special schools – affecting the high need budget. **Potential** A more flexible, child centred continuum of provision will provide a wider range of options than is currently available to ensure that children's needs **Positive Impacts** can be met and parents' preferences honoured. Additionally, this proposal means children's needs can be met within Southampton, reducing the need for costly out of county independent specialist placements. Responsible Clodagh Freeston – Head of Education Services **Service** Manager 21/06/2024 **Date**

Approved by	Rob Henderson
Senior Manager	
Signature	

	for Hools
Date	21.06.24

Potential Impact

Impact	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions &
Assessment		Mitigating Actions
Age	Increased numbers in SEMH pupils	Primary numbers should decrease over the next 5-10 years due to falling birth rates.
		Inclusion Charter, audit and kite mark to be developed to encourage all mainstream schools to become more inclusive.
		Provide enhanced support to mainstream schools to ensure staff have the confidence and competence to manage an increasing complexity of need.
Disability	Pupils below 25 with high needs don't have access or must travel far to receive an education/support.	Increased awareness, understanding and exposure to children with a wide range of needs within the context of a social model of disability will in time result in greater acceptance of all.
Gender Reassignment	No impact identified.	N/A
Marriage and Civil Partnership	No impact identified.	N/A
Pregnancy and Maternity	No impact identified.	N/A
Race	No impact identified.	N/A
Religion or Belief	No impact identified.	N/A
Sex	No impact identified.	N/A
Sexual	No impact identified.	N/A
Orientation		
Community Safety	No impact identified.	N/A
Poverty	No impact identified.	N/A

Health & Wellbeing	Not all SEMH pupils/children are being provided the facilities they should be entitled to.	Developing; new build/refurbishment will help provide a space in which the pupils can learning.
Other Significant Impacts	No impact identified.	N/A