

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**Tuesday, 13th June 2023**

REPORT TITLE:	2023/24 BUDGET AND BUDGET MONITORING PROCESSES
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

REPORT SUMMARY

This report sets out how the 2023/24 budget will be monitored through the Committee system, which will facilitate the Policy and Services Committees (the Committees) to take ownership of their specific budgets and present appropriate challenge and scrutiny of Officers on the management and performance of those budgets.

This matter relates to all Wards within the Borough and is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Tourism, Community, Culture and Leisure Committee:

1. Note the process for in-year monitoring of the 2023/24 budget
2. Agree to establish and appoint a Budget Monitoring Panel to comprise of the Committee Chair and Spokespersons, with sessions to be led by the relevant Director/Assistant Director.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 The 2023/24 Council budget was agreed at Full Council on 27 February 2023. This budget was made up of savings proposals, pressures/growth items and funding that were based on actual known figures or best estimates available at the time. At any point during the year, these estimated figures could change and need to be monitored closely to ensure, if adverse, mitigating actions can be taken immediately to ensure a balanced budget can be reported to the end of the year.
- 1.2 The Council has a legal responsibility to set an annual balanced budget, which sets out how financial resources are to be allocated and utilised. In order to successfully do so, engagement with members, staff and residents is undertaken. The recommendations in this report inform that approach.
- 1.3 Managing and setting a budget will require difficult decisions to ensure that a balanced position can be presented. Regular Member engagement, which this report forms part of, is considered essential in delivering effective governance and financial oversight.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The proposals set out in this report are presented to allow for efficient and effective budget monitoring activity that can be conducted in a timely manner. As such, it is considered that to meet the business needs and address the challenges that the Council faces that no alternative options are viable or appropriate at this time.
- 2.2 Not engaging with the Committee at this time, on the matters set out, was an option that was available, however it is considered that involvement of Committees as soon as practical after the agreement of the 2023/24 budget will best assist in delivering the benefits detailed in paragraph 2.1.
- 2.3 In the event of the Section 151 Officer determining that a balanced financial position could not be presented, the Section 151 Officer would be required to issue a section 114 notice and report this to all Members of Full Council. The outcome of which could result in intervention by the Government.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Budget Monitoring Process

- 3.1 On 27 February 2023 Full Council approved the 2023/24 budget, which included significant budget savings/efficiencies (details provided at Appendix A) in order to present a balanced position for the year.
- 3.2 The calculation of the 2023/24 budget was prepared using known figures or best estimates available at the time. At any point during the year, internal or external factors may influence a change in these estimates which could either have a

favourable or adverse impact on the ability to deliver a balanced position at financial year-end.

- 3.3 In order to ensure that a balanced position can be achieved, it is imperative that a robust process for monitoring and managing the budget is in place.
- 3.4 An internal officer governance process is in place, in line with past activity, to scrutinise and challenge budget performance in advance of financial forecasts being presented to the Committees. This process includes:
 - Budget holders routinely reviewing budget reports and transactions for accuracy and completeness
 - Regular meetings between budget holders and finance business partners (FBP) to review income and expenditure positions to date and to determine future commitments in order to present reliable forecasts
 - Directorate Management Team (DMT) review of the outcomes of the budget holder/FBP meetings
 - Scrutiny and challenge by DMTs as to the robustness of the figures and forecast presented in the context of Directorate-wide activity
 - DMT agreement on appropriate remedial action where necessary
 - Corporate Management Team review and challenge of the forecast position via the Operational Performance Group (OPG)
 - Referral and/or escalation to Investment and Change Board for organisational oversight in conjunction with other corporate initiatives (Strategic Leadership and Corporate Management Team members)
 - Progress on savings items monitored through ICB
 - Referral to quarterly Strategic Leadership Team performance meeting for Senior Officer scrutiny and agreement
 - Presentation to Committees
- 3.5 For the first meetings in the new municipal year, the Committees will receive confirmation of their budget position, detailed by function, to facilitate an understanding of income and expenditure monitoring against activity (see Appendix B).
- 3.6 The Committees will be responsible for ensuring that the budget is utilised effectively and responsibly and remains within the relevant budget envelope, identifying savings where appropriate to mitigate any adverse positions that may transpire in-year. Once the Annual Budget and related policy framework is approved it becomes the Council's decision and is effective immediately in respect of the relevant financial year in scope. The Council's Constitution provides that Policy and Service Committees and Officers are required to implement the Council's budget and policy framework as set out at Budget Council. In normal operating conditions, Policy and Service Committee may only take decisions which are fully consistent with the Council approved budget and policy framework. It is expected that Committee budgets will be effectively managed in-year within the agreed cash limited budget and value for money will be secured. Chief Officers must ensure that no commitments are made that would result in an approved budget being exceeded.
- 3.7 Policy and Resources Committee will be responsible for ensuring that the entire budget will be in balance, including providing mitigating actions to bring the budget back in line from any adverse variance position that may be forecast, which may take

the form of providing direction to other Service Committees. Policy and Resources Committee will be responsible for advising Full Council on organisation-wide financial activity.

- 3.8 To enable the Committees to manage and monitor budgets effectively in-year, a suite of detailed information will be provided on a quarterly basis, comprising:
- A revenue budget monitoring report for the preceding quarter that will include a full-year forecast
 - Full list of budget savings proposals and the progress for their achievement
 - Full list of reserves allocated to the Committee for future one-off commitments
 - A capital budget monitoring report for the preceding quarter that will include a full-year forecast
 - Other specific financial information relevant to the individual committee's decision-making process
- 3.9 This information will be made available at the earliest committee meeting, following the quarter end and completion of the internal governance process, detailed in paragraph 3.4. The anticipated timetable for reporting quarterly financial information to committee is:
- Quarter 1 (1 Apr – 30 Jun): July 23
 - Quarter 2 (1 Jul – 30 Sep): November 23
 - Quarter 3 (1 Oct – 31 Dec): February 24
 - Quarter 4 (1 Jan – 31 Mar): June 24
- 3.10 Each Committee is requested to establish a Budget monitoring panel to facilitate regular space to review the budget position in between scheduled committee meetings during stages of the financial year.
- 3.11 The Budget Monitoring Panel will comprise of the Committee Chair and Spokespersons, the relevant Director and Assistant Directors (as required), a Finance and Democratic Service representative.
- 3.12 The purpose of this group is to:-
- Ensure that Members are receiving the most current financial data and are monitoring the budget throughout the year.
 - Question the Director on the financial data before they are available to the wider committee membership and ahead of the scheduled Committee meeting.
 - Seek further explanatory information from the Director/Assistant Director where necessary.
 - Request that certain additional information is provided to the group.
 - Make suggestions as to how the information is presented.
 - Make links between financial performance and activity, to inform decision making of the Committee.
 - Inform the process of efficiency target setting and monitor performance against delivery of efficiency targets agreed.
- 3.13 The Committees have the autonomy (subject to delegation levels) to enact budget virements (transfers) from one function to another within their overall committee

budget envelope. Virements will also need to be agreed by the Section 151 Officer as there are certain conditions where budgets are not allowed to be transferred for the purposes of gaining a specific benefit e.g. where budgets from supplies budget headings are transferred to employee budget headings to take advantage of an uplift for pay inflation.

- 3.14 The Committees will be responsible for containing net expenditure within their overall budget envelope and not overspending. Where an adverse variance is forecast, each committee will be required to take remedial action, with detailed plans and timeframes, to bring the budget back in line and ensure that overspends are mitigated.
- 3.15 Where a committee has taken all possible steps for remedial action and is unable to fully mitigate an overspend, this must be reported to the Policy and Resources Committee who will then take an organisational-wide view of how this adverse variance will be managed. There must be immediate action agreed to ensure a deliverable, balanced forecast position can be reported, and this will be monitored on a monthly basis by the Policy and Resources Committee.
- 3.16 Whilst each committee is required to remain within its annual budget envelope, situations may transpire that demonstrate an in-year favourable forecast variance being reported to a Committee. Committees wishing to use any forecast underspend, must have approval from the P&R Committee.
- 3.17 The Council must not be in a situation where one Committee is forecasting an overspend, unable to mitigate it, and another Committee is forecasting an underspend and takes a decision to utilise this for unplanned growth purposes. The Policy and Resources Committee will be responsible for ensuring that operating in silos does not occur and that resources are aligned to Council objectives at all times.
- 3.18 The Policy and Resources Committee has ultimate responsibility for taking any necessary steps required to ensure a whole Council budget can report a balanced position throughout the year. The Section 151 Officer will be responsible for ensuring that any budget actions, proposals and mitigations are achievable and legal.
- 3.19 In addition to the standard budget monitoring process, as outlined above, which will include reviews of savings related activity, in 2023/24 additional scrutiny will be provided to ensure that agreed savings are delivered in a timely manner, in line with the original proposal. Two specific review routes will exist to support financial oversight and the delivery of savings:
 - Finance Sub-Committee,
 - Chief Executive led savings delivery board (Star Chamber) and
- 3.20 The Finance Sub-Committee will meet to support the Policy and Resources Committee in its aims of providing strategic direction to the operation of the Council, to maintain a strategic overview of budgets and to provide a coordinating role across all other service committees through a 'whole council view' of budget monitoring.
- 3.21 A savings delivery board (Star Chamber) will be convened with the aim of facilitating regular, in-depth senior officer and member engagement on savings progress in

order to review and challenge activity to date, as well as plans to be subsequently actioned, in order to deliver on the savings proposals agreed by Full Council.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This report sets out the 2023/24 budget monitoring process and has no direct financial implications. The outcome of the process will, if not adhered to or a suitable alternative process agreed, will have significant financial implications. However, the proposals set out control environments and a timeline of activity deemed necessary as part of sound financial management regime.
- 4.2 If the 2023/24 budget cannot be balanced, this may result in a Section 114 report being issued by the Section 151 Officer - once issued there are immediate constraints on spending whereby no new expenditure is permitted, with the exception of that funding statutory services, including safeguarding vulnerable people, however existing commitments and contracts can continue to be honoured.
- 4.3 The Council delivers both statutory and non-statutory services at present – the requirement to eliminate subsidies provided to non-statutory services is considered to be a key requirement in delivering value for money and ensuring that finite resources are targeted on beneficial outcomes.
- 4.4 The FM Code requires the Council to demonstrate that the processes they have in place satisfy the principles of good financial management, based on the following six principles:
- Organisational Leadership – demonstrating a clear strategic direction based on a vision in which financial management is embedded into organisation culture.
 - Accountability – based on Medium-Term Financial Planning, that derives the annual budget process supported by effective risk management, quality supporting data and whole life costs.
 - Financial management - undertaken with transparency at its core using consistent, meaningful and understandable data, reported frequently with evidence of periodic officer actions and elected member decision making.
 - Professional standards - Adherence to professional standards is promoted by the leadership team and is evidenced.
 - Assurance - sources of assurance are recognised as an effective tool mainstreamed into financial management, including political scrutiny and the results of external audit, internal audit and inspection.
 - Sustainability - The long-term sustainability of local services is at the heart of all financial management processes and is evidenced by prudent use of public resources.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Policy and Resources Committee, in consultation with the respective Policy and Service Committees, has been charged by Council to formulate a draft Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and budget to recommend to the Council.

- 5.2 The Council must set the budget in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and approval of a balanced budget each year is a statutory responsibility of the Council. Sections 25 to 29 of the Local Government Act 2003 impose duties on the Council in relation to how it sets and monitors its budget. These provisions require the Council to make prudent allowance for the risk and uncertainties in its budget and regularly monitor its finances during the year. The legislation leaves discretion to the Council about the allowances to be made and action to be taken.
- 5.3 Once a budget is in place, Council has delegated responsibility to the Policy and Services Committees to implement it. The Committees **may not within, normal business operating conditions**, act contrary to the Budget without consent of Council other than in accordance with the Procedure Rules set out at Part 4(3) of the Constitution.
- 5.4 It is essential, as a matter of prudence that the financial position continues to be closely monitored. In particular, Members must satisfy themselves that sufficient mechanisms are in place to ensure both that agreed savings are delivered and that new expenditure is contained within the available resources. Accordingly, any proposals put forward must identify the realistic measures and mechanisms to produce those savings.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 At this time, there are no additional resource implications. There may be resource requirements of any action resulting in remedial or mitigating tasks if an adverse forecast is reported with regards the 2023/24 budget in year, however these will be reported at the appropriate time.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 The Council's ability to maintain a balanced budget is dependent on a proactive approach due to estimated figures being provided in the calculation for the budget, albeit the best estimates available at the time, plus any amount of internal and external factors that could impact on the budget position in year. Examples of which are new legislation, increased demand, loss of income, increased funding, decreased funding, inability to recruit to posts, etc.
- 7.2 A robust monitoring and management process for the budget is in place. If at any time during the year an adverse position is forecast, remedial action must be agreed and implemented immediately to ensure the budget can be brought back to balanced position.
- 7.3 The risk of this not being able to be achieved could mean that the Council does not have enough funding to offset its expenditure commitments for the year and therefore not be able report a balanced budget at the end of the year. This could result in the Section 151 Officer issuing a Section 114 notice.

- 7.4 A key risk to the Council's financial plans is that funding and demand assumptions in particular can change as more information becomes available. As such, the MTFP is regularly reviewed and updated as part of routine financial management.
- 7.5 Under the system of retained Business Rates, Authorities benefit from a share of any increased revenues but are liable for at least a share of any falls in income (subject to safety net triggers) and any non-collection. This includes reductions arising from appeals relating to past years which partially fall on the Authority. These risks are mitigated through a combination of the operation of the Collection Fund, General Fund Balances and a Business Rates Equalisation Reserve.
- 7.6 Assumptions have been made in the current budget outlook for income and funding from business rates and council tax and social care grants as the main sources of funding. If there is an adverse change to these assumptions as a result of government announcements, additional savings proposals or reduced expenditure would need to be identified as soon as possible to ensure a balanced five-year MTFP can be achieved. Committees will be kept updated with any announcements regarding the local government finance settlement through the year.
- 7.7 Sections 25 to 29 of the Local Government Act 2003 impose duties on the Council in relation to how it sets and monitors its budget. These provisions require the Council to make prudent allowance for the risk and uncertainties in its budget and regularly monitor its finances during the year. The legislation leaves discretion to the Council about the allowances to be made and action to be taken.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Consultation has been carried out with the Senior Leadership Team in arriving at the governance process for the 2023/24 budget monitoring process.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity.
- 9.2 There are no specific equality implications of this report regarding processes, however, it is recognised that some of the developing proposals for 2023/24 budget and beyond could have equality implications. Any implications will be considered and any negative impacts will be mitigated where possible.
- 9.3 Equality implications will be assessed during planning, decision and implementation stages and will be recognised as an ongoing responsibility. Any equality implications will be reported to the Committees. Equality issues will be a conscious consideration and an integral part of the process.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 At this time, there are no additional environmental and climate implications as these have already been identified for the proposals agreed and submitted. However, where the budget is unbalanced and further proposals are required, then there may be environment and climate implications associated with these that will be addressed within the relevant business cases presented to the Committee.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 This report has no direct community wealth implications however any budget proposals to be developed should take account of related matters across headings such as the following:

- **Progressive Procurement and Social Value**
How we commission and procure goods and services. Encouraging contractors to deliver more benefits for the local area, such as good jobs, apprenticeship, training & skills opportunities, real living wage, minimising their environmental impact, and greater wellbeing.
- **More local & community ownership of the economy**
Supporting more cooperatives and community businesses.
Enabling greater opportunities for local businesses.
Building on the experience of partnership working with voluntary, community and faith groups during the pandemic to further develop this sector.
- **Decent and Fair Employment**
Paying all employees a fair and reasonable wage.
- **Making wealth work for local places**

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APPENDICES

Appendix A Savings agreed at full Council for 2023/24
Appendix B Committee Budget Book details

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Pressure and Growth Proposals
Savings and Income Proposals
CIPFA's Financial Management Code

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee	14 March 2023
Tourism, Communities, Culture & Leisure Committee	9 March 2023
Children, Young People & Education Committee	8 March 2023
Economy Regeneration & Development Committee	7 March 2023
Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee	6 March 2023
Full Council	27 February 2023
Policy and Resources Committee	14 February 2023
Policy and Resources Committee	18 January 2023
Policy and Resources Committee	9 November 2022
Policy and Resources Committee	5 October 2022
Policy and Resources Committee	7 September 2022
Policy and Resources Committee	13 July 2022

Appendix A – Savings agreed at full Council for 2023/24

Committee	23/24 Budget Saving (£m)
Adult Social Care and Public Health	
<u>Adult Care & Health</u>	
Review of all-age disability transition planning	-1.000
Review of services to support Independent Living	-4.935
Adult Social Care and Public Health Total	-5.935
Children, Young People & Education	
<u>Children, Families & Education</u>	
Increase the number of children looked after placed in family settings as opposed to higher cost residential settings	-1.100
Redesign and restructure of the Assessment and Intervention Service	-0.655
Reduction in contributions to the Regional Adoption Agency in line with the average number of referrals	-0.100
Reduction in financial support to Kingsway High School	-0.134
Reduction in Teacher's pension liabilities to the council	-0.190
Reduction in Wirral's Looked After Children numbers	-0.410
Review of contracts within Children's Services	-0.250
Review of council's contribution towards European Funded Send Inclusion Programme	-0.220
Review of Supporting Families funding and Early Help budgets	-1.121
Children, Young People & Education TOTAL	-4.180
Economy Regeneration & Housing	
<u>Regeneration & Place</u>	
Capitalisation of salaries (Re-direction of qualifying salaries away from the council's central budget	-0.085
Decommissioning of the Solar Campus site and relocation of teams currently working from the facility.	-0.005
Increase eligible rechargeable costs for Building Control services	-0.080
Lease income from rental of floors 4 & 5 at Marris House	-0.136
One off rental income for partial leasing of Cheshire Lines office space	-0.146
Recharging of costs where eligible grant and fee income is rechargeable within Supported Housing services	-0.060
Recharging of staff costs where eligible grant funding is in place for Economic Growth projects	-0.072
Recharging of staff costs where eligible grant funding is in place for Homes for Ukraine Resettlement Programme	-0.593
Redesign and review of contract commissioning for Economic Growth	-0.065
Re-provision of homeless accommodation and review of community alarm grant	-0.137
Review of Housing Support service and Fuel Poverty contract	-0.088
Review of Merseytravel levy budget	-0.122
Stand down and disposal of a number of council owned buildings	-0.672
Standing down of Wallasey Town Hall for a 12-month period	-0.400
Economy Regeneration & Housing TOTAL	-2.660

Appendix A – Savings agreed at full Council for 2023/24

Committee	23/24 Budget Saving (£m)
Environment, Climate Emergency & Transport	
<u>Neighbourhood Services</u>	
Capitalise Staff costs on infrastructure projects	-0.060
Expansion of the camping offer at Wirral Country Park	-0.010
Introduction of an environmental enforcement scheme	-0.150
Introduction of catering facilities at football playing fields	-0.020
Introduction of Electric Vehicle charging pilot scheme tariffs	-0.010
Introduction of large format digital screen advertising opportunities	-0.020
Introduction of Pet Memorial Garden	-0.010
Reintroduction of Christmas Markets at Birkenhead Park	-0.010
Restructure of the transport fleet	-0.030
Review of Cemeteries and Crematoria service income	-0.100
Review of Pest Control service income	-0.010
Review of Tree Management service	-0.050
Review of vehicle crossing provision	-0.015
Environment, Climate Emergency & Transport TOTAL	-0.495
Policy & Resources	
<u>Chief Executive Office</u>	
Corporate Office Restructure	-0.070
<u>Corporate</u>	
Apply vacancy factor to pay budgets	-2.300
Council wide budget adjustment	-0.340
Reprice pay budgets at Mid-point	-2.800
Review of enabling (back office) services across the council	-2.300
Review of senior management structure	-0.800
<u>Finance/ Resources</u>	
DSG Contribution to statutory functions	-1.200
Insurance reserve - one off	-1.000
Review of current payroll functions	-0.060
Review of digital systems within the Revenue and Benefits service	-0.100
Use of NNDR reserve - one off	-3.000
Policy & Resources TOTAL	-13.970
Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure	
<u>Neighbourhood Services</u>	
Development of the events programme at Williamson Art Gallery	-0.070
Leisure Centre service review	-0.500
Review of current Neighbourhood Directorate assets/ buildings	-0.050
Review of Neighbourhoods Staffing Structure	-0.425
Various underspends across Neighbourhoods	-0.060
Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure TOTAL	-1.105
GRAND TOTAL	-28.345

Appendix B Committee Budget Details

REVENUE BUDGETS

Revenue Budgets are the monies the Council allocates for its day-to-day expenditure. It is the amount of money the Council requires to provide its services during the year.

Table 1 below, highlights how the revenue budgets are allocated across the various Service Areas of the Adult Care and Health Directorate.

TABLE 1: 2023/24 Adult Social Care and Public Health – Service Budget

Service Area	Budget £000
Adult Social Care Central Functions	7,097
Older People Services	63,333
Mental Health & Disability Services	54,374
Other Care Commissions	116
Public Health	-262
Wirral Intelligence Service	509
Delivery Services	5,411
Committee Budget	130,579

A. SERVICE AREA SUMMARY NARRATIVES

ASC Central Functions: This service area contains the central teams and support service functions which help adult social care to operate efficiently. Teams such as the Directorate Management Team, the Safeguarding Team and the Contract and Commissioning Team are included within this service area.

Older People Services: This service area relates to the services for adult social care that range from 18+ and includes the vast majority of individuals that link in with Adult Social Care and primary services/community services. This support is largely for residents who require support in the short to medium term and mostly affects people coming out of hospital or illnesses occurring in later years of residents' lives. The delivery of these services had previously transferred to an external provider, NHS Wirral Community Health and Care Trust (WCHCT) however this will transfer back to the Local Authority during 2023-24. Services included in this area are Hospital Discharge, MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) as well as support for older people to live independently at home, or with varying degrees of support, as per their assessment and support plan.

Mental Health & Disability Services: This service area relates to the individuals with complex needs/ diagnoses and usually have access to Secondary Services, such as Learning Disability Nursing and/or Mental Health services. This support is person-centred specialist support for someone, usually, with a chronic or long-term health condition, who requires extra assistance to manage their symptoms and day-to-day activities. There are three main types of services, Learning Disability (LD), Mental

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Health (MH) and Children with Disabilities (CwD). The delivery of these services is transferred to an external provider, the Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (CWP). CWP have the contractual responsibility to manage the day-to-day operation of the services and are tasked with working collaboratively with the Council and partners to seek future efficiencies to mitigate against anticipated future service growth pressures.

Other Care Commissions: This service area contains services and commissions which are generic to the work of Adult Social Care and/or do not fit easily within the service areas of Complex or Non-Complex care. Services such as Assistive Technology and the equipment service contract, as well as the commissions with voluntary organisations.

Public Health: Public Health responsibilities include, improving the health and wellbeing of residents, reducing differences between the health of different groups by promoting healthier lifestyles, providing Public Health advice to the NHS and the public, protecting residents from public health threats and hazards and preparing for and responding to public health emergencies.

Wirral Intelligence Service: This service area relates to the Wirral Intelligence Service who work across the Council and with partners, groups, and communities to help improve understanding of Wirral and its people; providing analysis which can be used to support services and campaigns for improving outcomes for residents. The service provides business intelligence and carries out a range of statutory work for Adult Social Care.

Delivery Services: This service area relates to Wirral Evolutions day centres and Shared Lives in-house function.

Better Care Fund and the Section 75 pooled fund agreement

Elements of the Adult Social Care budgets, shown above, are funded via the Better Care Fund.

The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a programme, spanning both the NHS and local government, which seeks to join up health and social care services so that people can manage their own health and wellbeing and remain as independent as possible.

The Council has entered a pooled budget arrangement in partnership with Wirral Place Integrated Care Board, under Section 75 of the Health Act 2006, for the commissioning and delivery of various integrated Care & Health functions. This pooled budget is hosted by the Council and includes, but is not limited to, services funded by the Better Care Fund.

The pool incentivises the NHS and local government to work more closely together around people, placing their well-being as the focus of care and health services. The pooled fund arrangements are well established in Wirral and enable a range of responsive services to vulnerable Wirral residents, as well as a significant component of BCF funding to protect frontline social care delivery.

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The Wirral Health and Care System has begun to make a shift in the delivery of care from in hospital to home and reablement. This Home First reablement approach enables assessment in the right place at the right time. The new discharge fund has provided additional funding to support this.

B. 2023-24 SUBJECTIVE AND OBJECTIVE BUDGETS

Table 2, below, highlights how the revenue budget is allocated across the various subjectives or types of expenditure.

TABLE 2: 2023/24 Adult Social Care and Public Health – Subjective Budget

Subjective	Budget £000
Income	-90,346
Expenditure:	
Employee	14,232
Non-Pay	62,490
Cost of Care	144,203
Total Expenditure	220,925
Committee Budget	130,579

Table 3 below, provides a further detailed breakdown of the service budgets.

TABLE 3: 2023/24 Adult Social Care and Public Health – Service budgets

Service Areas	Income (£000)	Employee (£000)	Non- Pay (£000)	Cost of Care (£000)	Committee Total (£000)
Central Functions	-655	3,255	4,592	-95	7,097
Older People Services					
WCHCT Commissioning Contract	-4,147	0	10,433	-1,378	4,908
Neighbourhoods	-24,341	0	0.6	77,964	53,623
Integrated Neighbourhood Services	-2,069	0	0	6,871	4,802

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Mental Health & Disability Services					
CWP Commissioning Contract	-475	0	6,582	-2,007	4,100
All Age Disability Service	-8,037	0	0	43,722	35,686
Mental Health Services	-4,549	0	2	15,023	10,475
Children with Disabilities Service	-80	0	96	1,102	1,119
Integrated Disability Services	0	0	0	2,995	2,995
Other Care Commissions					
Care Commissions	-6,611	159	6,568	0	116.3
Delivery Services					
Delivery Services	-194	4,921	679	6	5,411
Adult Social Care Total	-51,158	8,335	28,952	144,203	130,332

Service Areas	Income (£000)	Employee (£000)	Non-Pay (£000)	Cost of Care (£000)	Service Sub Total
Public Health					
Wider determinants of health	-32,179	2,961	8,933	0	-20,285
Collaborative Service CHAMPS	-2,775	1,615	1,159	0	0
Children Non-Core Healthy Child Prog.	0	0	426	0	425.7
Children Core Healthy Child Prog.	0	0	5,512	0	5,512
Adults Health Improvement	0	0	367	0	367
Children Health Improvement	0	0	920	0	920
Drugs and Alcohol Abuse Adults	-3,270	317	8,847	0	5,895
Stop Smoking Services	0	0	737	0	737
Sexual Health Services	0	0	2,938	0	2,938
Health Protection- Infection Control	0	0	573	0	573
Public Mental Health	-452	0	1,635	0	1,183
Miscellaneous Public Health	0	0	1,473	0	1,473
Suicide Prevention	0	0	0	0	0
Public Health Total	-38,675	3,090	32,288	0	-262
Wirral Intelligence Service	-514	1,003	20	0	509
COMMITTEE BUDGET TOTAL	-90,346	12,428	61,259	144,203	130,579

C. APPROVED SAVINGS

Appendix B Committee Budget Details

Saving Title	Agreed Value (£m)	Forecast Value (£m)	RAG Rating	Comments
Review of services to support Independent Living	£4.935	£4.935	Green	On target to be achieved
Review of all-age disability transition planning	£1.000	£1.000	Green	On target to be achieved
TOTAL	£5.935	£5.935		

D. CAPITAL BUDGETS

Capital budgets are the monies allocated for spend on providing or improving non-current assets, which include land, buildings and equipment, which will be of use or benefit in providing services for more than one financial year.

TABLE 4: 2023/24 Adult Social Care and Public Health – Capital Budget

Capital Programme	2023/24			
	Budget £000	Borrowing £000	Grants £000	Total £000
Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)	433		433	433
Citizen and Provider Portal/Integrated I.T.	63	52	11	63
Extra Care Housing	1,585		1,585	1,585
Liquid Logic – Early Intervention & Prevention	214	214	0	214
Telecare & Telehealth Ecosystem	1,529	0	1,529	1,529
Total	3,824	266	3,558	3,824

E. RESERVES

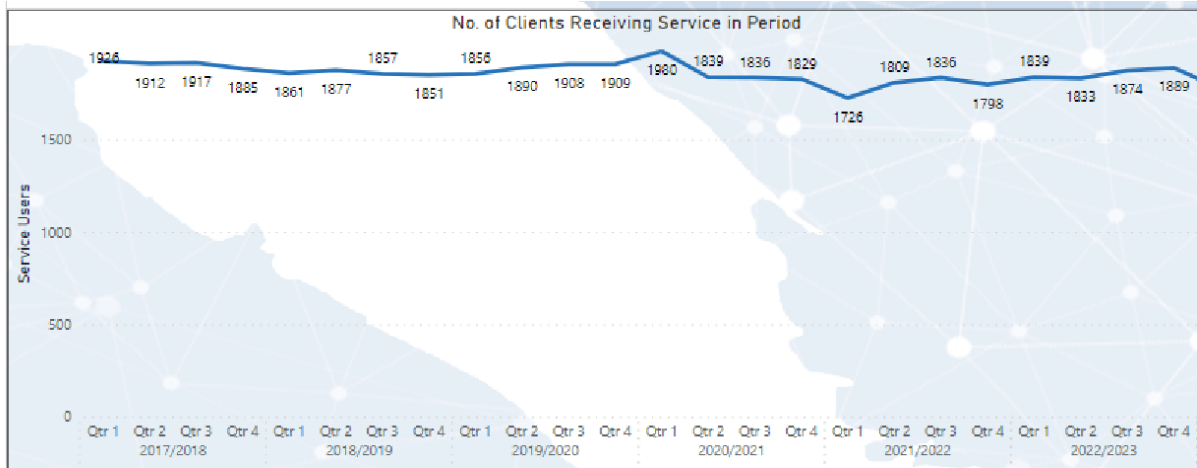
TABLE 5: 2023/24 Adult Social Care and Public Health – Reserves

Reserve Name	Value £000	Total £000
Public Health Ringfenced Grant	6,912	
Champs Innovation Fund	69	
Champs Covid-19 Contact Tracing Hub	204	
Implementation of Charging Reform	97	
Safeguarding Adults Board	46	
Adult Social Care & Public Health Total		7,328

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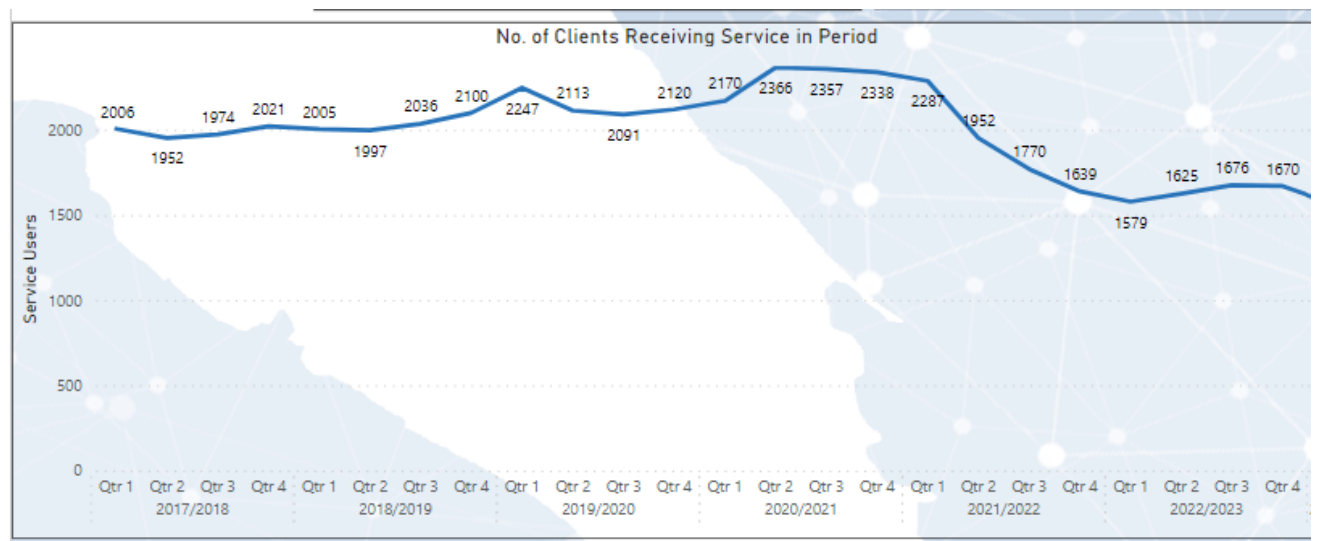
F. PERFORMANCE DATA

Residential/ Nursing Services



The table above identifies the number of clients accessing residential and nursing services between 2017 and 2023. The data shows client numbers reducing by 2% over this period, although there was a 5% increase during the financial year 2022/23. The impact of Covid-19 will be reflected within the activity shown, particularly against respite services which are still significantly lower than 2020.

Domiciliary Care Services



The table above identifies the number of clients accessing domiciliary care between 2017 and 2023. The data shows client numbers reducing by 16% (336 clients) over this period. The increase in extra care provision will account for some of this movement.

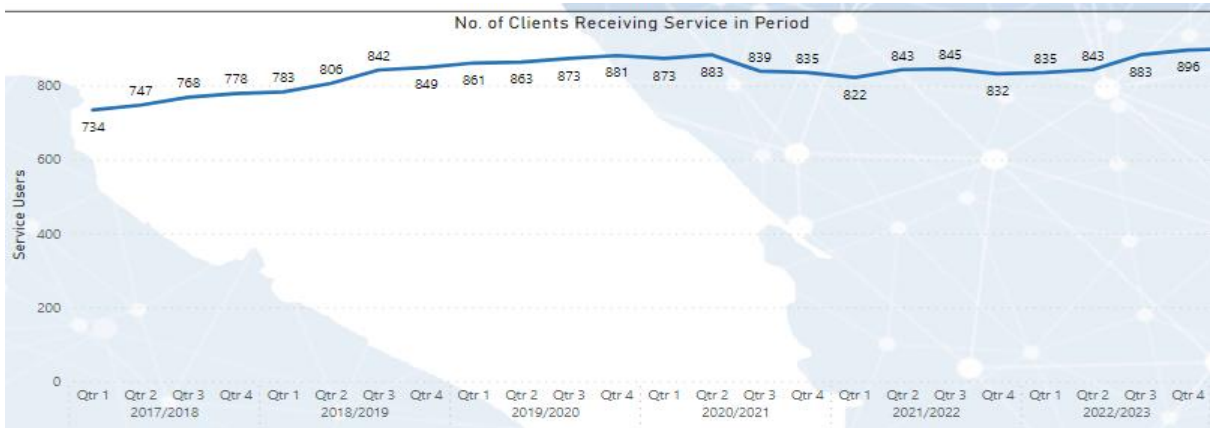
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Extra Care Services



The table above identifies the number of clients accessing Extra care services between 2017 and 2023. Investment in extra care services is reflected in the data with numbers increasing by 169% (227 clients) over this period.

Supported Living Services

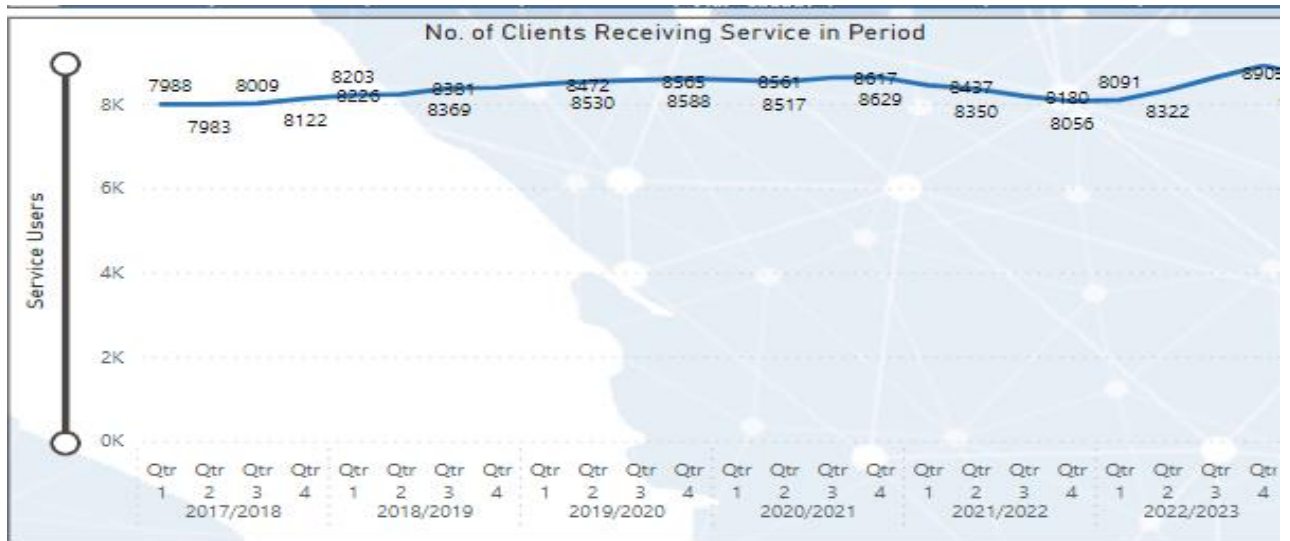


The table above identifies the number of clients accessing supported living services between 2017 and 2023. The data shows client numbers increasing by 25% over this period.

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All Current Services

(All service types)



The table above identifies the overall number of clients accessing services between 2017 and 2023. Overall client numbers have seen an increase of 11% over this period.

Market Position Statement

The Council has produced both a market position statement

<https://www.merseysidemarketpositionstatement.co.uk/> and a market sustainability plan following the recent Market Sustainability and Fair cost for Care Exercise

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/fair-cost-care/market-sustainability-plan>

The Commissioning and Contracts team will produce a community care market commissioning strategy for 2023 to 2026 which will include the following priorities:

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Sector	Key Message
Care and Support at Home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Our first offer will always be to take people “home first” from acute settings where possible •We will always aim to keep people at home and not admit to residential or nursing settings including hospitals •We will have a robust domiciliary care market offer, which is flexible, responsive and will grow to meet demand •People will be enabled and supported to help themselves •We will work with Health and Care system partners to develop a full rehabilitation reablement offer •Invest in and embed existing and new technologies to support care and support initiatives in both community and complex placement settings, which improve outcomes and reduce dependency on services. •Promote technology solutions which compliment workforce strategy challenges.
Day Services and Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will continue to develop a range of day opportunities across all ages and client groups •Develop employment services to support people with disabilities into employment •Promote independence and support people to access universal and community services •Develop innovative technology to support people to access services more independently
Supported Living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Review the supported living model to ensure that it meets the needs of the individuals, working with colleagues in Cheshire and Merseyside, introducing new models of care and accommodation •Decommission supported living services that are not fit for purpose in the new model •Develop and utilise a whole range of technologies both to support care and as an alternative to care •Review the model of night-time support
Extra Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Continue to develop Extra Care accommodation to meet the growing demand for Older People and Specialist learning Disability •Ensure that this accommodation is the first option for people with disabilities •Review technology to ensure that we keep up to date with new equipment
Short Breaks Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Continue to promote Direct Payments as an option for purchasing respite services and short breaks, increasing choice and personal preference •Review the current commissioned short breaks service and ensure that future respite the services meet the changing needs of the people who access this who will use the service •Residential and community Short Breaks for older people will remain under review to ensure value for money and good quality care is available
Residential and Nursing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Reduce numbers of long-term beds •Increased choice and control for people

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Residential and Nursing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Reduce numbers of long-term beds •Increased choice and control for people •Improve the quality of care in care home settings •Support the care market and deploy innovative technologies, equipment and Electronic Support Planning Tools •Introduce and embed falls pick up equipment to support reductions in admission to hospital
Specialist Residential and Nursing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Further move towards supporting people in their own home •We will not place young people into residential and nursing care, other than where other models will not meet need •We will only place people with the highest needs in a residential and nursing care setting
Wirral Independence Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will recommission the community equipment , telecare and falls service in 2023 •Progress with a view to complete analogue to digital technologies telecare transfer, using innovation to support people •Support the community care market to reduce demand by developing the supply of innovative technologies and equipment for supported Living •Increase confidence and wellbeing enabling people to live longer in their own homes. •Reduce hospital admissions •Support carers in the community •Enable the domiciliary care market to order equipment
Mental Health Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Continue to review opportunities for innovation and collaboration promoting best practice •We will improve the quality of the services delivered •We will introduce remote monitoring and technology offer working with Cheshire and Merseyside •Continue to review opportunities for innovation and collaboration promoting best practice •We will improve the quality of the services delivered •We will introduce remote monitoring and technology offer working with Cheshire and Merseyside
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Advocacy is NOT advice and information, or assisting with the completion of forms •We will continue to commission services that meet our statutory responsibilities for targeted advocacy •We will continue to develop self-advocacy and peer advocacy
Support for Carers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •We will coproduce and launch a new carers strategy in 2023 •We will embed and monitor our new carers service commission to ensure it meets demand •We will implement a direct payment for carers offer for carers •We will increase the number of Carers receiving an assessment

The financial impact of the charging reform is as yet, unknown. Work has already commenced to prepare the council for this major change in the way people who use services will be assessed and charged for their care and to determine the year on year financial impact. The charging reform includes the introduction of care accounts with a

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cap on the amount people pay towards their care, after which they may be entitled to Council funding, and a significant re-setting of the financial threshold below which people may be entitled to Council funding for their care. The financial impact of this reform will be significant for Councils.