



CHILDREN AND LIFELONG LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL

4th September 2025 at 4.30pm

Present:

Councillor Silvester (in the Chair)

Councillors Augusta (substitute for Clough), Boyd, Cairns, Crofts (substitute for K. Swinburn), Farren, Lindley, Patrick and Wheatley

Co-opted Members: Canon Ian Robinson (Church of England)

Officers in attendance:

- Paul Cowling (Service Director – Regulated Services)
- Drew Hughes (Head of Strategy Policy and Performance)
- Guy Lonsdale (Interim Section 151 Officer)
- Bev O'Brien (Scrutiny and Committee Advisor)
- Julie Poole (Head of Service, Practice, Performance, Quality and Assurance)
- Rachel Revell (Deputy Service Director – SEND)
- Jennifer Steel (Service Director – Education, Inclusion and Integration)
- Charlene Sykes (Service Director – Safeguarding and Early Help)

Others in attendance:

- Councillor Cracknell (Portfolio Hold for Children and Education)
- Chief Superintendent Paul French (Humberside Police)

There was a member of the press in attendance for this meeting.

SPCLL.18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K. Swinburn and Clough.

SPCLL.19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received in respect of any item on the agenda for this meeting.

SPCLL.20 MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel meeting held 31st July 2025 be agreed as a correct record.

SPCLL.21 QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public for this meeting.

SPCLL.22 FORWARD PLAN

The panel received the current forward plan with a view to identifying any items for examination by this panel via the pre-decision call-in procedure.

Mrs O'Brien mentioned the Youth Justice Plan that was to be received by Cabinet on 16th September 2025. She informed Members that this was to be considered at a joint meeting with the Communities Scrutiny Panel on 8th September 2025.

RESOLVED – That the forward plan be noted.

SPCLL.23 TRACKING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF SCRUTINY

The panel considered a report from the Statutory Scrutiny Officer tracking the recommendations of the Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel.

RESOLVED - That the tracking report be noted.

SPCLL.24 2025/26 QUARTER ONE COUNCIL PLAN RESOURCES AND FINANCE PERFORMANCE REPORT

The panel received a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets providing key information and analysis of the council's financial performance during the first quarter of 2025/26.

There was a question about the dedicated school's grant. Mr Lonsdale explained that we were not alone and were in the same position as our statistical neighbours. There were two brand new schools, which meant, twelve places with a RSP (Resource Specialist Provision) setting within them. She added that a raft of RSP was being developed so our children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) could be taught locally.

A panel member queried the number of referrals made to the 'Front Door'. Ms Sykes explained that early part referrals had gone up because they were now identifying the right children for the service. The panel wondered if they could be informed of the number of these referrals that actually go on to use our services. Ms Sykes confirmed that she would inform the panel after this meeting.

Another panel member asked about the eight vacancies in the Social Workers Team that was mentioned at the last panel meeting. They wondered if they had been successful in appointing to these vacancies. Mr Cowling confirmed that it had been very successful, and they were not far off being fully permanently staffed. Ms Sykes confirmed that six positions were filled.

The panel asked for clarification on the following:

- Key Stage 2 pupil levels.
- Amount of care leavers noted on the performance report.
- Attainment gap.
- Key Stage 4
- 19-21s being in suitable education

Officers present were able to clarify Members queries.

One Member asked whether Early Years Foundation Stage profile had been put into Family Hubs. The Member believed that it was an ideal place to make sure it was targeted early. Ms Sykes confirmed that this work was already taking place in Family Hubs.

The panel congratulated the Team on getting finances from red to amber, however, a panel member asked whether Officers thought that it would ever get to green. Mr Lonsdale asked Members to note where the Council was last year with the Children Services finances. He stated that the team had done very well. They were working hard but would still have challenges to face. They would make sure that the budget setting process was done accurately to make sure the services had required provisions available.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the Service Director for Safeguarding and Early Help inform members of this panel how many of the Front Door referrals received, actually went on to use our services.

SPCLL.25 SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25

The panel considered a report from the Director of Children's Services presenting the Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report.

The Chair noted how the changes had been quite incredible, and this report showed that a lot of work had taken place. He asked about Section 47 and how the enquiries had increased. Ms Poole stated that they had increased because people were now more aware and there were now better resources in place.

One Member asked how violence against women and girls fed into the strategy. Ms Poole explained that it was more about the aspect of giving them a voice. It was more to make sure that it was being disclosed appropriately and then being fed into the governance correctly. Chief Superintendent French confirmed that this workstream sat within the community safety partnership.

A panel Member asked whether there was any potential for rejoining the youth parliament. Ms Poole stated that it was something they were keen to do, but the priority had been the voice of the young people. She said that in the future they would look at it as part of the voice and influence partnership.

RESOLVED – That the Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report for 2025/25 be noted.

SPCLL.26 CHILDREN’S SERVICES OFSTED REPORT

The panel considered the recent Ofsted Report detailing the outcome of the most recent Ofsted Inspection.

The panel congratulated the team on the result of this visit and enquired how further improvements would be made. Mr Cowling explained that they didn’t do what they did for Ofsted, they did it for the children. They were dedicated to continuing with further developments and the transformation plan. He also added that they had received three recommendations, which would help them to build the service further.

Members stated that the team needed to carry on doing what they had been doing but, moving forward, this panel needed to make sure that they asked more for assurance not reassurance.

The Chair asked whether the Children’s Homes were due for an Ofsted inspection. Mr Cowling confirmed that they had recently had an inspection, and they were very pleased with the outcome.

RESOLVED – That the Children’s Services Ofsted Report be noted.

SPCLL.27 CALLING IN OF DECISIONS

There were no formal requests from Members of this panel to call in decisions of recent Cabinet and Portfolio Holder meetings.

SPCLL.28 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED - That the public and press be excluded for the following item on the grounds that discussion of the following business was likely to disclose confidential information within paragraphs 1 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 172 (as amended).

SPCLL.29 CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE IMPROVEMENT

The panel were provided with an opportunity to discuss any confidential matters of concern with the Director of Children's Services. There were no matters discussed.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 5.30 p.m.



SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF CHILDREN AND LIFELONG LEARNING AND COMMUNITIES' SCRUTINY PANEL

8th September 2025 at 2.00pm

Present: Councillors Aisthorpe, Bonner, Boyd, Cairns, Crofts (substitute for K. Swinburn), Downes, Farren, Hasthorpe (substitute for Brookes), Parkinson (substitute for Lindley), Patrick, Shutt and Silvester.

Officers in attendance:

- Zoe Grindle (Service Lead, Youth Justice)
- Harriet Malkin (Deputy Service Director, Safeguarding and Disability)
- Charlene Sykes (Service Director Safeguarding Youth Justice and Family Help)
- Joanne Paterson (Scrutiny and Committee Advisor)

Also in attendance:

- Councillor Cracknell Portfolio Holder for Children and Education

There were no members of the public present.

JSPCT.5 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED – That Councillor Silvester be appointed Chair for this joint scrutiny panel meeting.

COUNCILLOR SILVESTER IN THE CHAIR

JSPCT.6 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brookes, Lindley, K. Swinburn and Wheatley.

JSPCT.7 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made with regard to any items on the agenda for this meeting.

JSPCT.8 YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN

The panel considered the Youth Justice Plan ahead of its submission to Cabinet on 16th September 2025.

Members raised the following queries on the Youth Justice Plan:

Members asked what work was taking place in schools to reduce the use of knives and weapons. Officers provided assurance that significant work was taking place within the community partnership, and also with the use of virtual reality tools, to ensure numbers remained low. Officers confirmed that a Weapons Policy was in place and explained in detail how the green, amber and red risks worked.

Members were particularly concerned around the transition from children to adults within the Youth Justice Service (YJS), with members taking time to explore the data provided for the different cohorts of children. Officers explained the preventative measures that were in place and assured members that a Transition Protocol was also in place from post-16. Officers noted that the service had seconded a Probation Officer into the Youth Justice Team to assist with these transitions. The officers provided assurance that a robust package was provided on an individual level, and at a more strategic level this was considered through the Youth Justice Board (YJB).

Members were keen to understand more about the service priorities for the coming year, noting that under education, training and employment there was an action to reduce the number of permanent exclusions and suspension rates and how the council would look to improve its relationship with its academies. Officers outlined the work that was taking place within academies to ensure that children were in the right setting and that every child's needs were being met.

A brief discussion ensued with members commenting on the following areas within the report:

- How child exploitation was being addressed and the increase in sexual offences.
- Those children being Elected Home Educated (EHE) and how the council was encouraging children back into school.
- The Prosecutions Scheme and Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).
- Lack of data around males involved in the Youth Justice Service (YJS).
- 'The Childs Voice'.
- Issues with students locally on part-time school timetables.

- How the council was working with local housing organisations and the impact of Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO)s
- Increases in crime due to non-British nationals.

In terms of the increase in sexual offences, officers reassured the panel that they worked closely with social workers, Family Help and local charities to deliver positive interventions and equip children with the required skills and understanding around positive and healthy relationships. Schools and colleges were engaged overall with this and any challenges were addressed on a bespoke basis

In response to queries raised around data and how the council were targeting males involved in substance misuse. Ms Sykes did not have the data to hand but could take this way and provide some information back to the panel via Democratic Services.

In terms of prosecutions, it was explained that the CPS had changed their guidance to only recognise Youth Conditional Cautions (YCC) and Youth Cautions when matters arrived in court. The YJS were promoting greater use of 'Outcome 22s' where no admissions were made, preventing the need for children to go to court. This being a much more child first approach with the evidence behind the impact of this for children being much stronger.

In terms of the Child's Voice, this was integral to all intervention. The service had recently launched a feedback app to further enhance this as an additional measure, which children could now give feedback through and this had been positively received.

Ms Sykes shared the ambition for all children to be engaged in education and explained the reasoning behind students being on part time timetables, which included some children having bespoke needs, requiring a part time approach which is part of a wider multi agency plan, and an aim to integrate them into education full time.

RESOLVED – That the Youth Justice Plan be noted and forwarded onto Cabinet.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 2.53p.m.



SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF CHILDREN AND LIFELONG LEARNING AND ECONOMY, CULTURE AND TOURISM SCRUTINY PANEL

11th September 2025 at 2.00pm

Present: Councillors Boyd, Cairns, Crofts, Clough, Farren, Holland, Mickleburgh, Morland and Patrick

Co-opted Members: Canon Ian Robinson (Church of England)

Officers in attendance:

- Damien Jaines-White (Assistant Director Regeneration)
- Amy Rogers (Strategic Lead - Skills and Employability)
- Beverly O'Brien (Scrutiny and Committee Advisor)
- Karen Linton (Deputy Service Director – Skills and Employability and Education Transport)

JSPCT.9 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED – That Councillor Holland be appointed Chair for this joint scrutiny panel meeting.

COUNCILLOR HOLLAND IN THE CHAIR

JSPCT.10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lindley, K. Swinburn, Parkinson, Silvester and Wheatley.

JSPCT.11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Holland declared a non-registrable interest in JSPCT.12 as he did ad hoc consultancy to Model Tech Partnership, which was mentioned in the report.

JSPCT.12 SKILLS ACTION PLAN – PROGRESS UPDATE

The joint panel considered a report from the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure on the progress made in the last six months on the delivery of the skills action plan.

The Chair asked for more detail on the impact that devolution would have on the Skills Strategy. Ms Rogers explained that they led on three workstreams which were handed over to the combined authority (as referred to in section 1.5 of the report). Mr Jaines-White mentioned the devolution budget and explained that, subject to tests being passed, they would work closely with the Department for Education (DfE) which would ultimately lead to academic influence from 2027/28. The Combined Authority had responsibility for the funding and had the ability to feed into other solutions.

Councillor Morland asked if we had contingency plans in place if the combined authority didn't take place. Councillor Patrick moved for the meeting to go into closed session so Officers could give a more informative answer. Councillor Morland seconded this.

RESOLVED - That the public and press be excluded for the following business on the grounds that its discussion was likely to disclose confidential information within paragraphs 1 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

Mr Jaines-White went into detail about what contingency plans would be put in place. Councillors showed some concerns on how the Skills Strategy agenda would progress, particularly if certain situations that had been published recently panned out. Mr Jaines-White confirmed that we were an organisation in our own right, so we would still have controls over certain policies in place.

The joint panel asked more questions around the adult skills funding, localism and devolution. Officers present clarified Members queries.

The joint panel then went back into open session, where the public and press were invited back in, if present.

Members asked for some clarifications around qualification and employment data. One Member asked about the high volume of people not knowing where to go for advice. Ms Rogers explained that the people who were targeted were those who came into contact with services. These were particularly people who needed the resources, so that's why the numbers were high. She explained that all this information would help refresh the next Skills Strategy.

One Member raised concerns that they were not identifying people who were carers and being excluded from the service. Another Member asked how had the Council looked at how we were going to liaise with them going forward. Ms Rogers explained that a lot of work had already been done,

based out in the community, particularly working with them and how we can help promote that. When they applied through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, they mapped out where the different interventions were. They were now using Family Hubs to help. Ms Linton added that support services delivered services out in community venues. Not in Education Employment Training (NEET) Practitioners that work directly with individuals also signposted to different venues to suit that individual's needs. A panel member thought it would be helpful if there was a one stop shop, where all queries could be directed, and the public would then know first-hand where to go.

Another panel member asked whether there were action plans in place to inform adults/young adults to get them on track to certain careers ladders. Ms Rogers stated that there was a skills newsletter and Invest webpage which included a guide around apprenticeships. She stated that it was more around businesses not understanding what they were able to do.

Members raised concerns around the language used to get people to the centre. They wondered whether certain things needed re-wording. Ms Rogers stated that there were constraints, the national career service was a contract, and they were restricted on how they were able to market it. She said that where they could change the language they would look into it, but Ms Rogers added that their language on advertising was very different to the report.

The Chair asked when the next refresh of the Skills Strategy was due. Ms Rogers explained that the Skills Strategy was designed around a three-year delivery, so they would be looking at a refresh of the whole strategy. However, she noted that all data included in this report was updated and figures included were the most recent ones.

The Chair asked if there was an Action Tracker newer than 2024. If there was, he asked that it be sent to the joint panel for information. He then went on to ask about schools playing a key part in this agenda. He wondered how well Officers liaised with them, particularly local schools and whether their careers advice was any good. Ms Rogers stated that they worked well with the careers hub and were all on board. Ms Linton added that the Education Act specified that all schools had to procure impartial career guidance to their students. She explained that secondary schools were fully academised, so each school would do it differently.

One Member asked where we were with NEETS. They wondered if numbers were currently high and they wondered what that was down to. Ms Linton explained that it was a real mix of issues. but that all young people who were NEET were supported by a NEET practitioner.

RESOLVED – That the report on the Skills Action Plan delivery be noted.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 3.40 p.m.

CHILDREN AND LIFELONG LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE	4 th September 2025
REPORT OF	Joanne Robinson (Statutory Scrutiny Officer)
SUBJECT	Tracking the recommendations of the Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel
STATUS	Open

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS

The scrutiny panels act as a reviewing mechanism for decisions made relating to the strategic policy, performance and resources required to deliver the ambitions of the council and the strategic partnership. The aim of the scrutiny process is to make sure decision making is robust by providing constructive challenge. This contributes to the Council being effective and efficient, and therefore it is integral to the delivery of the Council Plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Each scrutiny panel monitors the progress made on their recommendations through a tracking table, which is included as an appendix of this report.

MATTER(S) FOR CONSIDERATION

Members are asked to look at the progress against the recommendations and agree to sign off any recommendations that have been completed or are no longer considered to be an efficient use of resources or where priorities have changed.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

- 1.1 Each scrutiny panel has a standard agenda item to check progress against the recommendations they have previously made.
- 1.2 Members are asked to look at the progress against the recommendations and agree to sign off any recommendations that have been completed, so that they can be removed from the table. It would also be effective to sign off any recommendations that have not been completed but which are no longer considered to be an efficient use of resources, or where priorities have changed.
- 1.3 Appendix 1 of this report lists the recommendations previously made by and which fall within the terms of reference of this panel (and its predecessor).

2. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- 2.1 Risk assessments will already have been carried out on the reports that these recommendations have come from.

- 2.2 Any actions which the council may undertake as a result of recommendations made by scrutiny will be the subject of further reports, which will include risk assessment(s) by the author(s) concerned.

3. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The panel's tracking report demonstrates that the panel monitors progress on its recommendations and required actions. This report further demonstrates the breadth of matters considered by scrutiny.

4. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial considerations included within this report, beyond scrutiny's enhanced future role in monitoring delivery of the council's budget and medium-term financial plan.

5. IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- 5.1 There are no impacts on children and young people as a direct result of this report. The reports that these tracked items have come from will have been assessed for any such impact.
- 5.2 Any actions which the council may undertake as a result of recommendations made by scrutiny will be the subject of further reports, which will include children and young people implications by the author(s) concerned.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no impacts on climate change and the environment as a direct result of this report. The reports that these tracked items have come from will have been assessed for impact.
- 6.2 Any actions which the council may undertake as a result of recommendations made by scrutiny will be the subject of further reports, which will include climate change and environmental implications by the author(s) concerned.

7. MONITORING COMMENTS

- 7.1 In the opinion of the author, this report does not contain recommended changes to policy or resources (people, finance or physical assets). As a result no monitoring comments have been sought from the Council's Monitoring Officer (Chief Legal Officer), Section 151 Officer (Director of Finance) or Strategic Workforce Lead.

8. WARD IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Potentially impacts on all wards.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 None

10. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

10.1 Beverly O'Brien – Scrutiny and Committee Advisor
01472 326132

Joanne Robinson
(Statutory Scrutiny Officer)

TRACKING OF RECOMMENDATIONS – CHILDREN AND LIFELONG LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE	PROGRESS/COMMENTS
5 th February 2025	RECOMMENDED TO THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR CHILDREN AND EDUCATION - <i>That a letter be sent to the Secretary of State to:</i> - Ask them to compensate local authorities for children who are not full-time pupils at any school and provide more resources to enable local authorities to support the families of home educated children. - Ask for the proposed local authority powers of consent to electively home educate, be extended to children who are Child In Need, and to stipulate a responsibility on statutory and non-statutory partner agencies to report cases of electively home educated children to the local authority for the purposes of the central register of children not in receipt of education.	Portfolio Holder for Children and Education	The Portfolio Holder accepted these recommendations and sent them on to the Secretary of State. A response was received back on 25th April 2025, which was sent out to all panel members.
4 th September 2025	SPCLL.24 2025/26 QUARTER ONE COUNCIL PLAN RESOURCES AND FINANCE PERFORMANCE REPORT RESOLVED – That the Service Director for Safeguarding and Early Help inform members of this panel how many of the Front Door referrals received, actually went on to use our services.	Director for Safeguarding and Early Help	An email was sent to all panel members on the 22nd October 2025.

CABINET

DATE	12 th November 2025
REPORT OF	Councillor Stephen Harness, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Sharon Wroot, Interim Chief Executive
SUBJECT	Quarter 2 2025/26 Council Plan Performance & Finance Report
STATUS	Open
FORWARD PLAN REF NO.	CB 11/25/01

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS

The Council Plan 2025-28 was adopted by Council in December 2024, with the Budget, Finance and Business Plan adopted in February 2025. The Council Plan sets out the key actions for North East Lincolnshire Council that contribute to the priorities of 'Stronger Economy, Stronger Communities'. The finance and business plans underpin delivery and focus on long-term financial sustainability.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides information and analysis of the Council's performance and financial position at the end of quarter 2 2025-26 (July to September 2025). Appendix 1 to this report provides further detailed information in respect of the Council's finance and performance information. Appendix 2 to the report provides information regarding the status of our major capital projects.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Notes the content of the reports and refers them to all Scrutiny Panels for further consideration and oversight appropriate to the scope of the panel.
2. Approves the 2025/26 revenue budget movement overview as detailed in Appendix 1 (Page 10)
3. Approves re-profiling requests in respect of the 2025/26 capital programme as detailed in Appendix 1 (Pages 11-12)
4. Approves the revised Capital Programme for 2026/29 included in Appendix 1 (Pages 114-117)
5. Approves the acceptance of funding as detailed included in Appendix 1 (Page 102)

REASONS FOR DECISION

This report provides Cabinet important information relating to the Council's performance and financial position at the end of quarter 1, and highlights risks and opportunities in relation to both performance and finance.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

Council Plan Performance

- 1.1 This is the quarter 2 report relating to performance against the Council Plan 2025-2028 in line with finance reporting arrangements.
- 1.2 The Council has an ambitious programme of transformation and improvement which impacts on every area of the organisation. This report informs elected members and residents about the last quarter's progress against the priorities that were set out in the Council Plan 2025-28.
- 1.3 Appendix 1 is structured in line with the four main Council Plan Priorities (Stronger Economy, Stronger Communities, Greener Future and Engaging and Effective Council) detailing financial performance, performance against the 'vital signs', service achievements this quarter and the challenges and risks we are managing.
- 1.4 Appendix 1 also includes a section detailing transformation work being delivered to build overall financial resilience under each of the six key pillars of the medium-term financial plan. The key pillars are Commercial Council, Productivity, Housing, Transport, Strategic Asset Management and Digital and Technology
- 1.5 Performance information is shown in the report by way of a summary snapshot taken from the live performance dashboard. The live dashboard provides additional context for each vital sign. The link to the dashboard is on our Council Plan website here: [Council Plan - performance and progress | NELC](#).
- 1.6 Feedback from Scrutiny panels is leading an increased drive to increase the number of targets against each vital sign indicator. There are now approximately 40% of indicators (an increase of 20%) with targets and this number is expected to increase for the quarter 3 report.
- 1.7 In cases where it is not appropriate to set a target, services are being asked to assess service delivery as red, amber or green, based on historic performance and/or comparator data, so that it is clear whether performance is at expected levels.
- 1.8 However, data on its' own does not present a complete picture. Equally important is the narrative within the attached report that provides context on the delivery of priorities for each service area. It is expected that this commentary will present the full picture of performance and where there are challenges to delivery that these are outlined here.
- 1.9 One new vital sign indicator has been added this quarter following a request from the Communities Scrutiny Panel. This relates to Bulky Waste Collections Completed on the specified day (%) and falls within the Greener Future – Our Waste and Recycling priority.
- 1.10 Delivering the priorities within the Council Plan is challenging. This report

shows how the Council is balancing the demands of major regeneration projects, high-profile service transformation programmes, and demand-led pressures on our day-to-day services to remain focussed and proactive to ensure the right resources are in place.

Major Projects

- 1.11 The Council continues to deliver a range of high-profile major capital projects focussing on regeneration, transport and highways, housing and education services.
- 1.12 Appendix 2 provides the quarter 2 2025-26 update on the delivery of these major capital projects, including current issues and challenges, and outlines any required mitigation.

Financial Position

- 1.13 At the end of the second quarter of the 2025/26 financial year the Council is forecasting a £1.3M overspend against budget, this reflects the ongoing complex social environment in which we operate.
- 1.14 Social care cost pressures continue to significantly affect the overall financial forecast. In Children's Services, despite the continued positive transformation, key challenges persist around education transport and high-cost out-of-area placements. Furthermore, Adult Social Care is experiencing rising demand for long-term support placements, as well as short-stay and respite care.
- 1.15 The Council continues to face financial pressures due to limitations in reclaiming full housing benefit subsidies from accommodation providers that do not meet DWP criteria for full cost recovery, primarily driven by a rise in unregistered providers operating within the local area. A review of the housing provision, including its impact on subsidy recovery is ongoing, with the aim of identifying actions to mitigate the projected full-year financial impact.
- 1.16 Offsetting these adverse forecasts are favourable cost movements being generated from the new Border Target Operating Model (BTOM) within Environmental Regulation, as work continues to develop and optimise this service.
- 1.17 The socio-economic environment remains challenging, with additional demand for Council services and more general pay and inflationary pressures impacting on financial performance. Service areas continue to proactively monitor budgets to ensure both effective service delivery and financial sustainability.
- 1.18 To help further alleviate ongoing financial pressures, the Council continued to take a more commercial approach through its capital programme and investments, supporting the Council's strategic objective of enabling the growth of a strong and sustainable economy. Major investments continue to progress and will support the growth of the Borough.

- 1.19 The capital programme remains under ongoing review, to ensure it reflects current priorities and projects remain viable. This approach helps to ensure any borrowing the Council undertakes remains affordable, sustainable and prudent.
- 1.20 Moreover, the Council continues to operate within its approved Treasury Management Strategy, with all treasury management decisions being taken with reference to agreed prudential indicators. Taking into account ongoing volatile interest rates, we will continue to utilise short-term borrowing where possible during 2025/26 to meet our borrowing requirement until longer term rates stabilise.
- 1.21 The Council does not operate in isolation from the communities and businesses it serves, and we are continuing to carefully monitor the collection of local taxation given the challenges and wider impacts across the area. In Q2 2025/26 53.7% of Council Tax had been collected, this is in line with the collection rate of for the same period in 2024/25. For Non Domestic Rates, the % collection for Q2 2025/26 (54.0%) was slightly lower when compared to the same quarter last year (56.3%)
- 1.22 Focus remains on delivering long term financial sustainability, via efficient and affordable public services and addressing identified funding gaps in future years of the medium-term financial plan. Priorities identified within the Council's 2025/26 business plans continue to be developed and implemented focusing on transformation, the use of technology and barriers to change.
- 1.23 The review of the Local Government Funding model will be critical in shaping the Council's future financial plans and regular updates will be provided as part of the refresh of the Medium Term Financial Plan.

2. RISKS, OPPORTUNITIES AND EQUALITY ISSUES

- 2.1 Key risks and opportunities are detailed with the appendix to this report.
- 2.2 The Council Plan provides an overview of activity across the Council, where applicable individual service work will have considered equalities issues as part of the design and delivery.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not applicable to monitoring report.

4. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

The environment in which the Council is operating is challenging in terms of capacity to deliver our priorities within financial resources. It is important that the Council is transparent about the delivery of planned activities and any issues that affect delivery of the plans

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1. The activities detailed within the plan were developed in conjunction with the agreed budget proposals for delivery within the approved budget envelope.
- 5.2. The financial environment in which the Council is operating remains challenging and this can impact on our capacity to deliver the change we need to achieve our aspirations and support the residents of the Borough.

6. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. The Council Plan is focussed on aspiration, innovation and ambition that will create better opportunities and outcomes for our children and young people to thrive and achieve their potential within North East Lincolnshire. The report provides details of the resources allocated towards children and young people across a wide range of services.
- 6.2. Impact assessments are undertaken for individual programmes and projects where required, including consideration of impact on Children Looked After and Care Leavers in accordance with the Corporate Parenting Pledge

7. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Ultimately all resourcing decisions taken by the Council impact upon the environment. For this reason, the Council must take climate change and environmental issues into account in the establishment of its plans. The Council's financial strategy looks towards consuming resources more efficiently, eliminating waste and supporting and developing the green economy and infrastructure. This includes recognising and realising the economic and social benefits of a high-quality environment.

8. CONSULTATION WITH SCRUTINY

The report is to be forwarded to all scrutiny panels.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As set out in the report.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct legal implications arising from the above report. The referral to all scrutiny panels is prudent.

11. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct HR implications arising from the contents of this report.

12. WARD IMPLICATIONS

All wards

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Council Plan [Council Plan – Our vision and aims | NELC \(nelincs.gov.uk\)](#)
Budget, Finance and Business Plans [4.-Budget-and-Medium-Term-Financial-](#)

Plan-Feb-25-1.pdf

14. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

Guy Lonsdale, Section 151 Officer

Joanne Robinson, Assistant Director Policy Strategy & Resources

COUNCILLOR STEPHEN HARNESS

PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND ASSETS

Appendix 1

North East Lincolnshire Council - Council Plan Resources & Finance Report

Quarter 2 -
2025/26



Introduction

The Council Plan states the ambitions of the Council and the priority programmes that underpin our strategic priorities of 'stronger economy and stronger communities'.

This report is a combined performance and budget report designed to inform elected members, residents and partner organisations about our progress in the delivery of the plan and the budget.

For each area of the business the report includes:

- The vision that describes our aspiration.
- Performance against our 'vital signs' indicators.
- Current budget position (revenue and capital where appropriate).
- Council Plan priority performance overview.
- A red, amber or green rating for performance and finance.
- Highlights, exceptions and risk relating to delivery of our aims.

The report also includes corporate budget information that impacts across the organisation including an update on the Key Pillars of the Medium-Term Financial Plan approved in February 2025.

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Performance & Delivery Summary

This is the second progress update on our [Council Plan for 2025–2028](#), which was approved in December 2024. This plan sets out our ambitious vision for transformation and improvement across all areas of the Council, and we're committed to keeping you informed every step of the way.

This report highlights the progress we're making in delivering the priorities that matter most to our residents and communities. It's designed to provide a clear and transparent view of how each part of the organisation is contributing to our shared goals.

You'll find updates on:

- Financial performance
- Key performance indicators (our 'vital signs')
- Service achievements this quarter
- Challenges and risks we're managing
- How each service is supporting the Council Plan priorities

To make this information as accessible and useful as possible, we've included a snapshot from our [live dashboard](#). This is continuously updated and includes links to more detailed data, including historical trends, comparisons, and targets.

We're also actively improving the dashboard based on feedback from Elected Members through Scrutiny, ensuring it meets your needs and expectations.

You can explore the latest performance data and dive deeper into the details by visiting our [Council Plan – Performance and Progress](#) web page.

Financial performance is a key part of this report, helping to provide a clear picture of how each service area is delivering on the [2025–26 Business Plans](#), which were agreed at Budget Council. This financial context is essential to understanding how we're progressing with the priorities set out in our Council Plan.

Delivering these priorities is no small task. We're balancing the demands of major regeneration projects, high-profile service transformation programmes, preparing our proposal in response to the government's Local Government Reorganisation reforms, and increasing pressures on our day-to-day services. Despite these challenges, we remain focused and proactive in ensuring we have the right resources in place.

To support this, we have our Key Pillars of the Medium-Term Financial Plan: Commercial Council, Productivity, Housing, Transport, Strategic Asset Management and Digital & Technology

We recognise that recruiting for specialist roles—such as social workers, project managers, surveyors, legal professionals, and procurement experts — can be particularly challenging. That's why we're committed to growing our own talent through graduate schemes and apprenticeships. While this is a long-term investment, it's already showing promise.

We're also working hard to position North East Lincolnshire as a fantastic place to live and work. Our enhanced recruitment marketing is helping to attract and retain skilled professionals, and we're proud that this work is already making a real difference.

Performance & Delivery Overview

Service Area	Performance RAG	Finance RAG
Resources	Green	Red
Environment & Regulatory Services	Green	Green
Economy (Regeneration)	Amber	Green
Economy (Infrastructure)	Amber	Amber
Economy (Safer Towns & Communities)	Green	Green
Children's Services (Safeguarding & Early Help)	Amber	Red
Children's Services (Regulated Provision)	Amber	Red
Children's Services (Education & Inclusion)	Amber	Red
Adult Services and Housing	Amber	Red
Public Health	Amber 37	Green

Key:
Green As planned.
Amber Under target with plans in place to mitigate risk of non-delivery within this financial year or on-going programmes in delivery stage.
Red Under target, longer term plans are in place to mitigate within the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) period.

Financial Overview

At the end of the second quarter of the 2025/26 financial year the Council is forecasting a £1.3M overspend against budget, this reflects the ongoing complex social environment in which we operate.

Social care cost pressures continue to significantly affect the overall financial forecast. In Children's Services, despite the continued positive transformation, key challenges persist around education transport and high-cost out-of-area placements. Furthermore, Adult Social Care is experiencing rising demand for long-term support placements, as well as short-stay and respite care.

The Council continues to face financial pressures due to limitations in reclaiming full housing benefit subsidies from accommodation providers that do not meet DWP criteria for full cost recovery, primarily driven by a rise in unregistered providers operating within the local area. A review of the housing provision, including its impact on subsidy recovery is ongoing, with the aim of identifying actions to mitigate the projected full-year financial impact.

Offsetting these adverse forecasts are favourable cost movements being generated from the new Border Target Operating Model (BTOM) within Environmental Regulation, as work continues to develop and optimise this service.

The socio-economic environment remains challenging, with additional demand for Council services and more general pay and inflationary pressures impacting on financial performance. Service areas continue to proactively monitor budgets to ensure both effective service delivery and financial sustainability.

To help further alleviate ongoing financial pressures, the Council continued to take a more commercial approach through its capital programme and investments, supporting the Council's strategic objective of enabling the growth of a strong and sustainable economy. Major investments continue to progress and will support the growth of the Borough.

The capital programme remains under ongoing review, to ensure it reflects current priorities and projects remain viable. This approach helps to ensure any borrowing the Council undertakes remains affordable, sustainable and prudent.

Moreover, the Council continues to operate within its approved Treasury Management Strategy, with all treasury management decisions being taken with reference to agreed prudential indicators. Taking into account ongoing volatile interest rates, we will continue to utilise short-term borrowing where possible during 2025/26 to meet our borrowing requirement until longer term rates stabilise.

The Council does not operate in isolation from the communities and businesses it serves, and we are continuing to carefully monitor the collection of local taxation given the challenges and wider impacts across the area. In Q2 2025/26 53.7% of Council Tax had been collected, this is in line with the collection rate of for the same period in 2024/25. For Non Domestic Rates, the % collection for Q2 2025/26 (54.0%) was slightly lower when compared to the same quarter last year (56.3%)

Focus remains on delivering long term financial sustainability, via efficient and affordable public services and addressing identified funding gaps in future years of the medium-term financial plan. Priorities identified within the Council's 2025/26 business plans continue to be developed and implemented focusing on transformation, the use of technology and barriers to change.

The review of the Local Government Funding model will be critical in shaping the Council's future financial plans and regular updates will be provided as part of the refresh of the Medium Term Financial Plan.

Guy Lonsdale – Section 151 Officer

Financial Overview Qtr 2

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW - QTR2

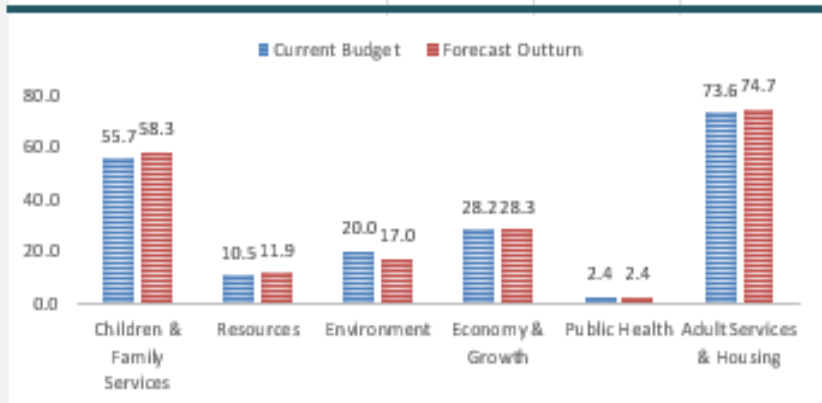
Quarterly Revenue Spend Forecast Position £'M



Service Revenue Position

Variance

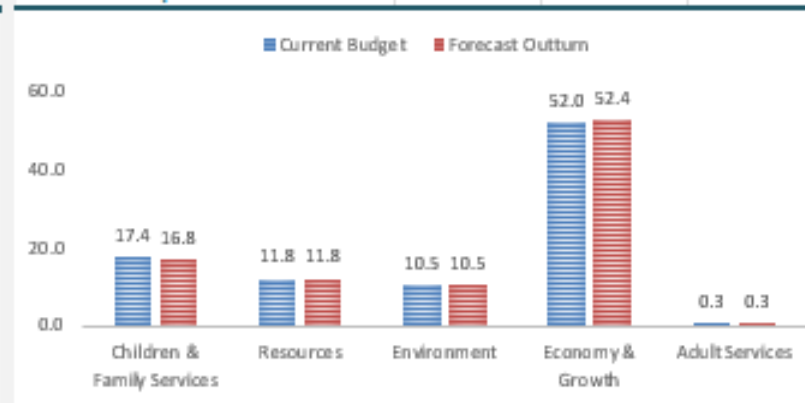
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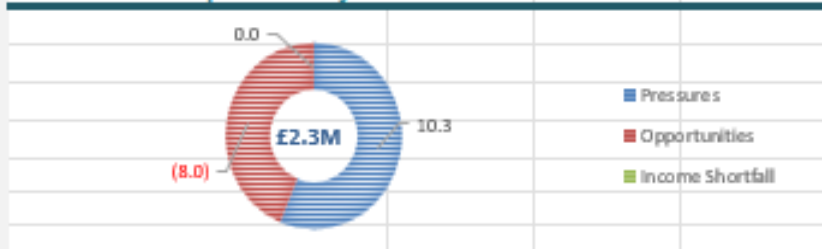
Service Capital Position

Variance

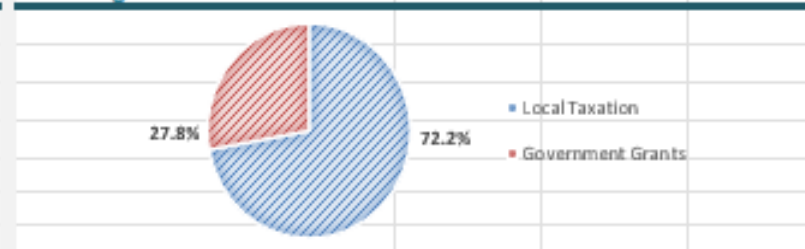
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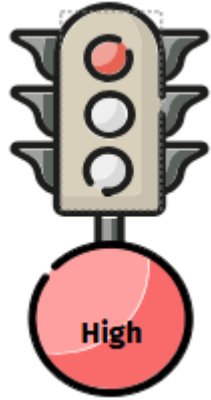
Service Over Spend Analysis £'M



Funding



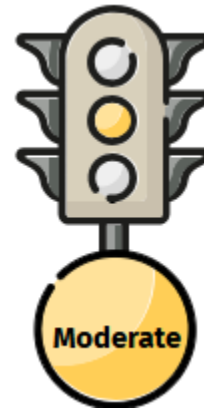
Financial Outlook



The current Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) showed an opening gap in future years when it was approved in February 2025. The opening MTFP gaps were £4.4M (2026/27) and £6.4M (2027/28).

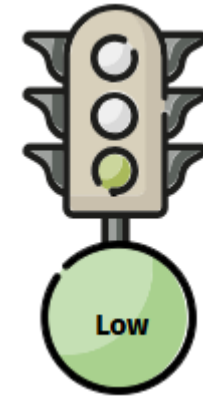
Pay represents a significant element of the Council's cost base and future years pay awards remain a significant risk for the Council over the MTFP.

Children's Services continue to pose a financial risk due to high service demands, despite ongoing transformation. Additionally, increased demand for Adult Social Care is also impacting the forecasted spend. The rise in unregistered housing providers and the overall demand on the housing provision presents another significant financial risk.



Inflation continues to affect Council finances, particularly inflation linked contracts. Although the wave of high inflation seen over previous financial years has declined and inflationary contract uplifts are included within service budgets, inflationary levels continue to be volatile and are monitored to assess future impacts on finances.

Whilst we have seen a reduction in Interest rates over the last year, volatility in rates driven by the wider economic climate still remains. This volatility has the ability to create pressure for the Council in future years in terms of anticipated borrowing costs. The Council's capital programme continues to be reviewed and reprioritised in light of these issues.



The 2025/26 Local Government financial settlement again covered a single year. Longer term changes to the local government financial model, including fair funding and business rate retention are now being consulted on, with the first multi year settlement expected for the 2026/27 financial year

The impact of the fair funding reform and business rate reset will be modelled during the upcoming revision of the Medium Term Financial Plan

The continuing development of the Greater Lincolnshire Combined Authority ensures local leaders have access to sustainable funding and greater freedom to take decisions on how to provide vital services in the area.

Revenue Budget Overview

£1.3M Total Revenue
Forecast Overspend

£2.3M Service Budgets
Forecast Variance

1.22%

% Representation of Service
Budget Overspend to Net Budget

Revenue Overview Comments:

The net forecast position at the end of Quarter 2 is an overspend of £1.3M, this reflects a service area pressure of £2.3M which demonstrates the ongoing complexity and financial implications of service demands.

Social care demand presents a significant financial challenge. While notable improvements within Children’s Services have led to a real-terms reduction in expenditure compared to 2023/24, in year cost pressures remain. Furthermore, rising demand in Adult Social Care now presents an increased pressure within the financial forecast.

The Council continues to evaluate options to mitigate financial pressures arising from the increase in non-registered housing providers, which do not meet DWP criteria for full housing benefit subsidy recovery.

Optimisation of the Border Target Operating Model (BTOM) within Environment Services is resulting in a forecast favourable year end position, however the impact of any changes by central government in relation to streamlining of the ports will need to be evaluated once known.

REVENUE	Original Approved Budget £'M	Revised Budget £'M	Forecast £'M	Variance £'M
Resources	9.0	10.5	11.9	1.4
Environment	18.9	20.0	17.0	(3.0)
Economy & Growth	28.9	28.2	28.3	0.1
Children & Family Services	63.9	55.7	58.3	2.6
Public Health	2.1	2.4	2.4	0.0
Adult Services & Housing	72.9	73.6	74.7	1.1
	195.8	190.4	192.7	2.3
Corporate Budgets	6.6	16.4	15.4	(1.0)
	202.4	206.8	208.1	1.3
Earmarked reserves	5.1	2.2	2.2	0.0
School Balances	0.0	(1.5)	(1.5)	0.0
Total	207.4	207.4	208.7	1.3
Funding	(207.4)	(207.4)	(207.4)	0.0
Net	0.0	0.0	1.3	1.3

Revenue Budget Movement Overview

Revenue Overview Comments:

During the financial year, budgets continue to move to reflect service and structural changes.

The following table highlights the budget virements over £0.35M requiring approval within service areas during the current financial year.

(This list does not include year end technical adjustments)

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT DESCRIPTION	Resources £'M	Economy & Growth £'M	Childrens & Family Services £'M	Environment £'M	Public Health £'M	Adult Services £'M
Budget Transfer between services						
Schools Budget Setting			(10.4)			
Create Equans salary budget	0.5	(1.2)		0.7		
Pay Award	0.7	0.1	0.9	0.4		
Earmarked Reserve (EMR) Adjustment / Utilisations						
Delivering Better Values grant allocation			0.4			
Various Early Years Education grant allocations			0.5			
Economic Development & Enterprise Zone Relief EMR Allocation		0.5				
Social Demographic Demand EMR allocation						0.7
Total Service Budget Movement	1.2	(0.6)	(8.6)	1.1	0.0	0.7

Capital Budget Overview

(£0.9M)

Capital Forecast
Underspend

(1.02%)

% Representation of Service
Capital Underspend to Approved
Programme

CAPITAL	Original Approved Programme £'M	Approved Programme £'M	Forecast £'M	Variance £'M
Resources	19.6	11.8	11.8	0.1
Environment	6.8	10.5	10.5	0.0
Economy & Growth	67.5	52.0	51.5	(0.5)
Children & Family Services	14.1	17.4	16.8	(0.5)
Public Health	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Adult Services & Housing	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.0
Total Capital Budgets	108.4	91.9	91.0	(0.9)
Funding	(108.4)	(91.9)	(91.0)	0.9
Net	0.0	0.0	0.0	(0.0)

Capital Overview Comments:

The approved programme incorporates the latest reprofiling of the capital programme, reflecting revised timelines in several of the more complex and multi-faceted projects where factors including contractual issues, re-procurement or redesign have been encountered.

Full details of the prior capital reprofiling and programme adjustment requests (including those >£350k requiring approval) are shown on the following page.

Capital Movement Overview

SCHEME	Changes to the Programme 2025/26 £000	Changes to the Programme 2026/27 £000	Changes to the Programme 2027/28 £000	Comments
ECONOMY AND GROWTH				
Regeneration				
Clee HLF Townscape Heritage	0.137	-	-	Alignment with available grant funding
SHIIP Scheme	- 0.120	0.120	-	Reprofile budget into 26/27 to reflect latest spending plans
Town Deal Investment	0.209	-	-	Approval of additional budget
Freshney Place Leisure Development	- 3.505	3.505	-	Reprofile budget into 26/27 to reflect latest spending plans
Cleethorpes Masterplan - Market Place LUF Scheme	- 0.463	0.413	-	Reprofile budget into 26/27 to reflect latest spending plans
Cleethorpes Masterplan - Sea Road LUF Scheme	- 1.968	1.918	-	Reprofile budget into 26/27 to reflect latest spending plans
Cleethorpes Masterplan - Pier Gardens LUF Scheme	- 3.168	3.118	-	Reprofile budget into 26/27 to reflect latest spending plans
Tennis Court Refurbishment	0.020	-	-	Alignment with additional funding
House of Fraser	0.200	2.600	1.000	New project approval
Cleethorpes Masterplan - LUF Wayfinding	- 0.269	0.269	-	Reprofile budget into 26/27 to reflect latest spending plans
Cleethorpes Masterplan - LUF Logistics	0.027	0.123	-	Reprofile budget into 26/27 to reflect latest spending plans
Freshney Place RAAC	0.200	1.950	3.910	New project approval
Infrastructure				
Car Park Schemes	0.750	-	-	Approval of additional budget
RESOURCES				
Deputy S151				
Capital Investment	-	11.000	4.900	Reduction in capacity to reflect new projects approved
Policy, Strategy and Resources				
Childrens Services Platform	- 0.804	-	0.804	Reprofile budget into 27/28 to reflect latest spending plans
ENVIRONMENT				
Fleet Replacement Programme	0.050	6.123	-	New project approval for food waste collection
Depot Rationalisation	0.328	-	-	Release of previously approved budget
Regulatory Services Management System	- 0.003	-	-	
Urban Tree Challenge Fund	- 0.072	0.107	-	
Warm Home Grants	0.125	0.380	0.375	New project approval
Schools - Backlog Maintenance	0.034	-	-	Alignment with available grant funding
TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME	- 8.292	9.412	1.189	
Funding				
External Grants	- 8.607	10.977	0.375	
Corporate Borrowing	0.315	1.565	0.814	
TOTAL FUNDING	- 8.292	9.412	1.189	

Denotes a Major Project

Denotes a Major Education Project

Key Pillars of the Medium- Term Financial Plan



Key Pillars of the Medium-Term Financial Plan

Focus on cross cutting transformational priorities, aiming to build overall financial resilience

People & Place

Commercial Council

Deliver a more commercial focus inc. Fees & Charges, Rental Income, Investment Properties

Housing

Priorities centred around housing inc. housing strategies; residential homes; extra care facilities; housing subsidies

Digital & Technology

Provision of the latest technology to drive efficiency and improve delivery

Strategic Asset Management

Drive effective utilisation of current estate inc. property rationalisation; fleet management; utilisation of empty spaces.

Transport

Optimise the transport provisions inc. educational transport; adult transport; bus services; devolution

Productivity & Cost Effectiveness

Drive optimisation of our resources, to deliver best value inc. invest to save; restructuring; facilities management

Tackling the wider determinants of health

Commercial Council

Priority Projects Update (including impacts on financials / performance / outcomes)

Port Health Transformation (Border Target Operating Model - BTOM)

The implementation of the BTOM for EU and non-EU imports has contributed to a net positive position within the Environment area. This investment supports regulatory compliance and operational readiness at the border, with a focus on streamlining inspection processes and enhancing digital infrastructure. However, this area is subject to further government streamlining which may impact future forecasts.

Fishing Heritage Centre Income Uplift

A modest but strategic uplift is planned for the Fishing Heritage Centre. This is part of a broader initiative to grow visitor numbers and school engagement through the Humber Museum Partnership, supported by marketing campaigns and event programming funded via the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The uplift aligns with regeneration priorities and aims to enhance the Centre's financial sustainability while contributing to cultural and educational outcomes.

Commercial Estate Rent and Service Charge Reviews

A saving of £50k is expected from rent and service charge reviews across the Council's commercial estate. However, challenges remain with ongoing pressures in this area, driven by shortfalls in expected rental income and rate charges. The commercial estate remains a key area of financial scrutiny, with service leads tasked with identifying mitigation strategies and improving forecasts. The insourcing of EQUANS contract has provided more transparency over aspects of the commercial estate.

Productivity

Priority Projects Update (including impacts on financials / performance / outcomes)

A cross-cutting transformation programme is expected to deliver £0.56M in savings. This includes service redesign, digital enablement, and process automation across multiple directorates.

Adult Social Care

A review of Continuing Health Care and Adult social care packages is underway to ensure appropriate funding contributions from health partners and to align care packages with assessed needs. This is part of a broader effort to manage demand and cost pressures in adult social care. This review is critical given the increased demand the Council has experienced in Q2.

Key commissioning activity is planned across shared lives, support at home, extra care, and bed-based services. These initiatives aim to reshape the local care market, improve value for money, and ensure sufficiency of provision in line with demographic trends (£0.97M). Engagement with providers is underway.

Additional efficiency savings of £0.54M are being pursued across adult services areas. These include rationalisation of contracts, improved procurement, and better use of technology.

Optimisation of Borrowing Costs Aligned with Capital Programme

Given ongoing interest rate uncertainty, the capital programme is being actively reviewed to ensure that borrowing is optimised. This includes rephasing projects, exploring alternative funding sources, and ensuring that capital investment aligns with strategic priorities.

Housing

Priority Projects Update (including impacts on financials / performance / outcomes)

Ongoing Delivery

- Reduction in temporary accommodation numbers (baseline 67)
- Homelessness and rough sleeping strategy completion (Jan 2026)
- Rough sleeping numbers continue to be low, outcomes are good managed by an MDT
- Develop Affordable Housing Strategy (Feb 2026) with support provided by Council House Building Fund grant
- Development of longer-term strategic partnerships for the delivery of social and affordable housing is underway
- Review of the housing register to ensure that all data is accurate
- Review of Housing Subsidy pressures development of different delivery models to mitigate
- Improved case management and decision making
- Re-procurement of housing related support

Planned Delivery

- Continue to Influence and increasing supply
- Review NELC's approach to S106
- Building a fit for purpose front door – housing team to start to be based in community settings from Jan 26
- Extra Care Housing procurement (November 25 onwards)
- Children's residential social care

Transport

Priority Projects Update (including impacts on financials / performance / outcomes)

Ongoing Delivery

- Re-procurement of the hire care framework
- Report to leadership and decision on the number and use of pool cars
- Adult Social Care – review of older people's and working age adults' day services

Planned Delivery

- Alignment of application of organisational transport related policies - In place for April 2026
- Review of transport related benefits as part of the job evaluation long term project
- Day service – implementation of new delivery models – April 2026

Strategic Asset Management

Priority Projects Update (including impacts on financials / performance / outcomes)

Ongoing Delivery

- Vehicle review undertaken as part of Equans in-sourcing exercise. Vehicles which were leased by Equans have been replaced with vehicles purchased through the capital programme and will be managed through the rolling fleet management programme that is refreshed annually, thus avoiding on-going revenue costs.
- Land & Property Strategic Asset Management Plan 2025 to 2028 approved by Cabinet in June 2025, and delivery action plan subsequently approved & implemented.
- Strategic Asset Review multi-disciplinary project team established, currently in 'discovery' stage, collating relevant data and information required. Additional Estates resource prioritised to provide focused support to project team to enable progress.

Planned Delivery

- Review of commercial estate performance and opportunities.
- Strategic review of the operational and non-operational estate now underway.
- Disposal Programme – delivery of capital receipts against target. At Q2 we are on target to exceed this financial years minimum target of £2.15m.
- Bring forward the revised business case for the development of Holme Hill former school as part of the operational estate.
- Develop the business case for the refurbishment of Grimsby library on receipt of all structural survey information.

Digital & Technology

Priority Projects Update (including impacts on financials / performance / outcomes)

Ongoing Delivery

- Delivery of our Artificial Intelligence Prototypes & governance development continues – AI Minute pilot is complete and Magic Notes continues to be piloted.
- Further training and development secured to ensure that our Microsoft Copilot deployment is supported through training which builds organisation capabilities and empowers staff to work more efficiently and harness the full potential of AI.
- The Council are engaged in an AI Policy Agent prototype led by North Yorkshire Council. The pilot runs for 12 weeks with the Proof of Concept report due in January. The policy area for the pilot is Housing and Adult Social Care and focuses on six policies.
- The roadmap to move the Council's documents to a centralised cloud hosted document store is being progressing well with 64% completion to date. Additional tools are being implemented to support the migrations and ongoing usage.
- October is Cyber Awareness month and we have put a great focus on pushing out key messages to all users to promote good practice and understanding of individual roles and responsibilities in relation to Cyber Security. We have reviewed and revised our approach around access policies to improve security.
- The Children's Platform project continues to be delivered with a focus on the discovery phase in Early Years.

Planned Delivery

- New technology is being progressed in highways to enable improved capturing of road conditions across the Council's road network. Benefits such as ability to capture road condition data more promptly and across larger percentage of the network will be achieved.
- AI Policy Agent trial to take place during quarter 3 within the parameters set by the project team.
- AI use cases with Microsoft 365 copilot (200 licence deployment), the new licences will be deployed during quarter 3 alongside training and development.
- Work has been undertaken to migrate the Safer & Stronger content to the Council website, with the service area currently undertaking a final review/update of the material and work has also been completed on moving the Livewell content to the Council website as well.
- We are continuing work to embed the customer and service management platform with an ongoing review and development of contact forms and communication. Recent focus has been on enforcement services.
- Testing on the Children's Platform will take place in Quarter 4 with the planning taking place during quarter 3. Detailed planning is taking place for planned downtime in quarter 4 to allow for a system upgrade.

Finance and Performance Review against Council Plan Priorities and Service Areas



STRONGER ECONOMY

- Supporting Industry, Business & Housing
- Growing Skills
- Attractive & Vibrant Town Centres
- Improving our Journeys
- Happy Visitors & Great Leisure
- Preserving our Heritage



STRONGER COMMUNITIES

- Nurturing our Children and Building their Future
- Supporting our Adults
- Living a Healthy Life
- Good & Sustainable Homes
- Telling our story of Culture and Heritage
- Clean & Safe Streets & Open Spaces



GREENER FUTURE

- Our Waste and Recycling
- Looking After and Protecting our Parks and Public Spaces
- Our Coastline
- Our Green Ambition



ENGAGING AND EFFECTIVE COUNCIL

- A Great Place to Work and Develop
- Financially Stable
- Effective Management of Assets
- Accessible and Engaging
- Digitally Smart

Stronger economy and stronger communities



Resources

Engaging and Effective Council

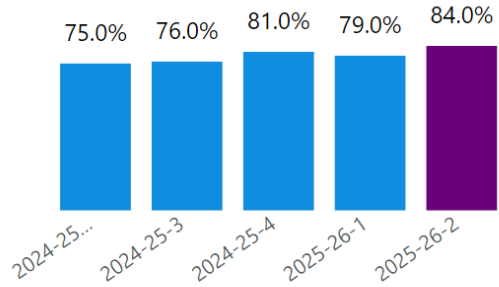
As we work with our partners, our people and our colleagues, we must ensure that we provide services that are effective, value for money and deliver what our residents want, and what is best for our borough. We can only do this if we get the very best from our employees and use all that is available to us to take North East Lincolnshire forward.



Proportion of permanent social work qualified staff (%)

A

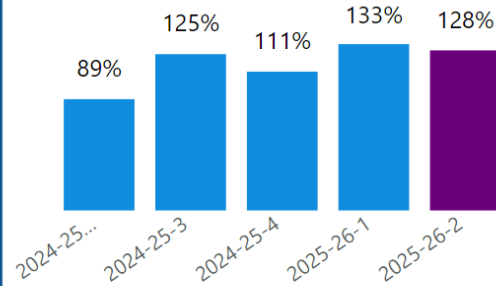
High is good



Apprentice Levy Year To Date Spend

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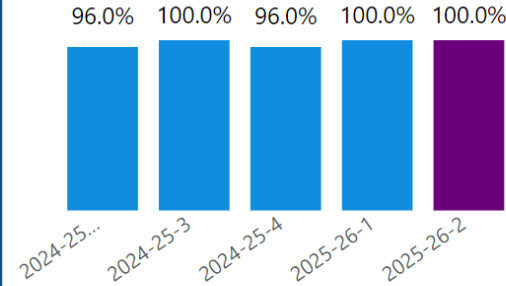
High is good



Placement retention and progression to a substantive post - Graduate and apprentices (%)

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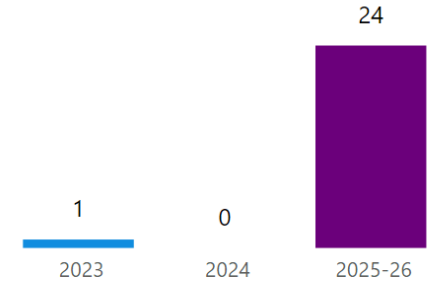
High is good



NPS Score (Employee Voice and Pulse Survey)

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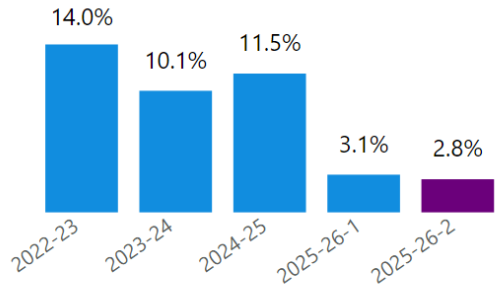
High is good



Employee Turnover Rate

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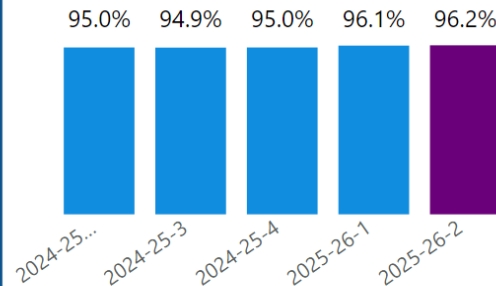
Low is good



The average attendance per full time employee (%)

G

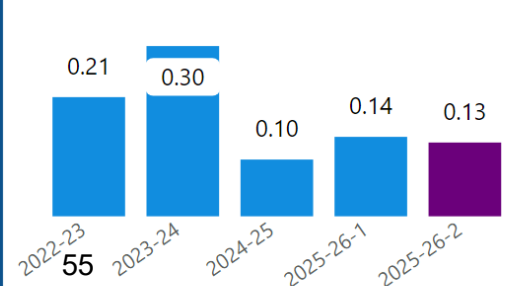
High is good



Total RIDDOR incident rate

G

Low is good



Performance Overview

Resources (1)

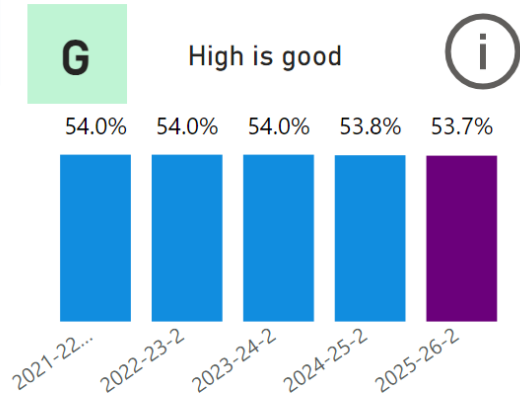
Council Plan Priority	Commentary
Engaging and Effective Council - A Great Place to Work and Develop	In Q2 2025–26, North East Lincolnshire Council continues to make positive strides towards its ambition of being an engaging and effective council. The “Great Place to Work” indicators on slide 23 show sustained improvement in workforce development, including strong apprentice levy spend, high staff attendance, and robust retention rates for graduates and apprentices moving into substantive roles. The Business Support redesign remains a key driver of transformation, contributing to cross-cutting savings and service improvements through digital enablement and process automation. This work underpins the Council’s focus on productivity and financial resilience. AcademyNEL continues to strengthen internal talent pipelines, supporting recruitment and long-term workforce sustainability in specialist roles. The Council’s recent recruitment campaigns have demonstrated clear success, particularly in securing high-calibre candidates for key leadership roles such as the Assistant Director for Housing and Communities. The campaign attracted a strong field of applicants, reflecting the Council’s growing reputation as an employer of choice and the effectiveness of its enhanced recruitment marketing. This achievement is part of a broader strategy to address recruitment challenges in specialist roles and underlines the Council’s commitment to investing in talent and building a resilient, future-ready workforce. A key element of the Children’s Transformation Plan is the proportion of permanent qualified social work staff. The target is 85%, performance is currently 84% and we continue to actively recruit to permanent roles. AcademyNEL continues to play a vital role in addressing recruitment challenges by developing internal talent pipelines. It supports the Council’s ambition to be a “Great Place to Work and Develop” by offering structured pathways for apprentices and graduates. This is reflected in improved placement retention and progression rates. The Resources service area is rated green for performance, though red for finance, reflecting challenges that are being actively managed.

Engaging and Effective Council

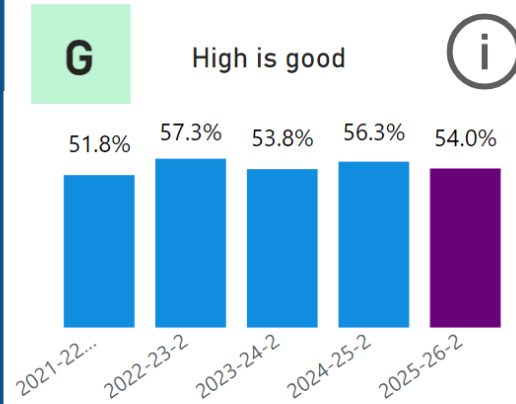
Financially Stable



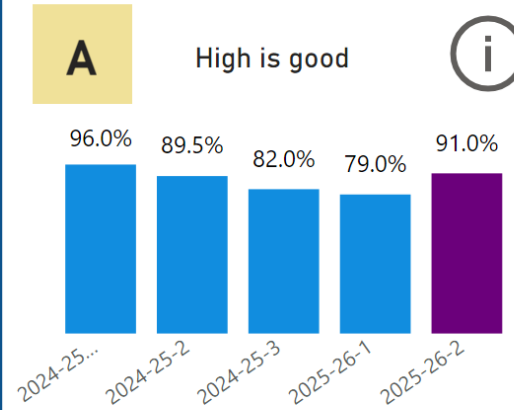
Council tax collection achieved (%)



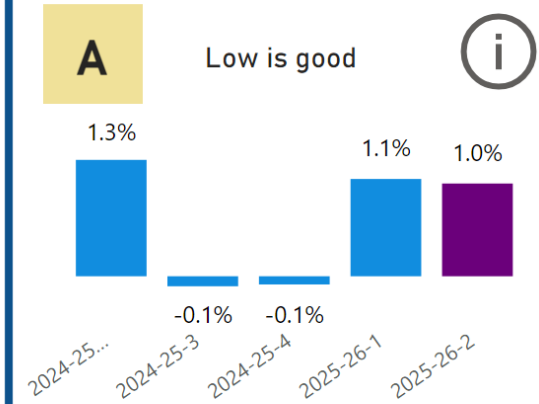
National non-domestic rates collection achieved (%)



Capital programmes forecast to be delivered (%)



Variance against revenue service budget - Revised (%)



Performance Overview

Resources (2)

Council Plan Priority	Commentary
Engaging and Effective Council - Financially Stable	Council Tax collection data is shown in comparison to collection levels at the same point since 2021/22. Collection has dipped slightly and there are challenges with collection from residents who are in receipt of Council Tax Support. We continue to assess the use of the Council Tax Hardship Fund and signpost residents to other support and guidance when they are struggling to pay. National Non-Domestic rates (NNDR) overall liability has increased this year to £65.3m from £61.7m in 2024/25. Collection had started well, with the percentage collection performance being higher at the end of quarter 1 in comparison to last year. However, this has fallen behind during quarter 2 and investigations are ongoing to determine any obvious reason for the downturn, other than the additional liability. The Financial Overview (page 6) provides further context in terms of both capital and revenue challenges and mitigation actions.

Engaging and Effective Council

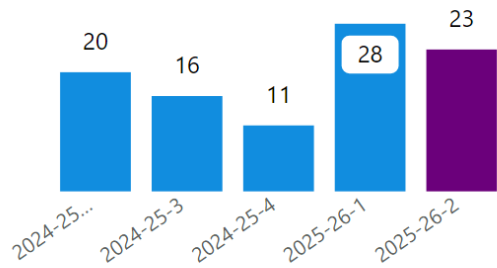
Accessible and Engaging / Digitally Smart



Housing Benefits average days to process

G

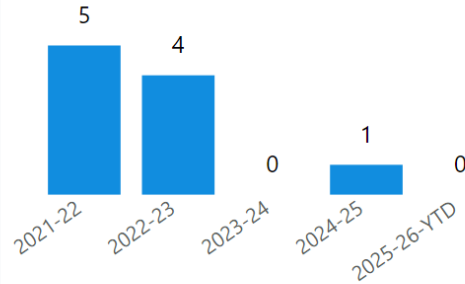
Low is good



Freedom of Information cases referred to the Information Commissioner which are upheld

G

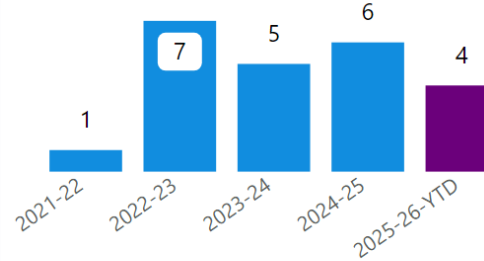
Low is good



Complaints referred to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman which are upheld (Year to Date)

A

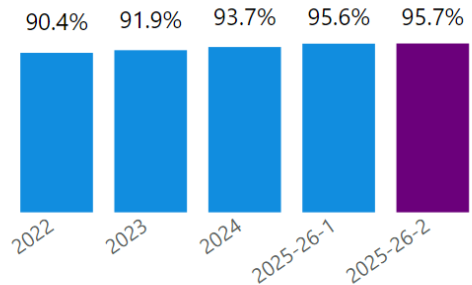
Low is good



Households and businesses connected to gigabit-capable broadband (%)

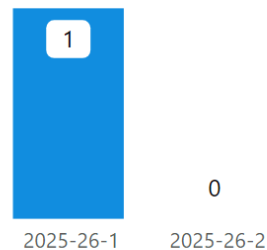
G

High is good



New technologies delivered from our ICT Roadmap in 25/26

G



59



Performance Overview

Resources (3)

Council Plan Priority	Commentary
Engaging and Effective Council - Accessible and Engaging	Freedom of Information (FoI) requests and complaints data is a useful source of intelligence that helps us to understand issues that are important to our community and where performance improvement may be needed. When someone feels that their request has not been resolved to their satisfaction, they can escalate their request to the Information Commissioners Officer (ICO) for FOI or the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) for complaints. The numbers that are upheld by these bodies indicate how well the Council dealt with the original request. During quarter 2 there were no referrals to the ICO. In quarter 2, the LGSCO made nine decisions about complaints involving North East Lincolnshire Council. Of these, only one was upheld, relating to planning and legal services. This brings the total number of upheld complaints for the year so far to four—matching the same point last year. Given the volume of complaints received—73 in Quarter 1 and 104 in Quarter 2—this low number of upheld cases reflects positively on the Council’s complaint handling and resolution processes. Our performance also compares well with other councils. In 2024–25, we had six complaints upheld by the LGSCO, with an upheld rate of 67%, below the national average of 74%. This suggests we are performing better than many councils across England, including some of our regional neighbours. If current trends continue, we remain on track to meet our annual target. Three complaints that were referred to the LGSCO have been upheld, these were in relation to different elements of Children’s Services. The LGSCO has since confirmed that they are satisfied with the remedies that have been completed by the Council, and the cases have been closed. Housing Benefit performance has improved during Q2 for new claims and changes in circumstances and is on track to meet the expected target of 24 days over the course of the year. Other DWP work is achieving top quartile achievement nationally.
Engaging and Effective Council - Digitally Smart	We are continuing to develop our key platforms, working with services to ensure technology meets business needs. Key areas of focus have included Children's Services, Resources and Environmental services platforms. The Council's ICT and Digital Strategy has been refreshed and will be launched in November bringing an external as well as internal focus. Our AI programme of work is progressing well. Work has commenced on developing our data warehouse approach to support the Council's Insights development. Timescales for work to commence on the Gigabit programme are still awaited, this is dependent on work in other areas to bring the infrastructure to our area. We are engaging with the government’s Building Digital UK programme on this.

Revenue

Resources Budget

5.52%

Of Total Revenue
Service Budgets

£1.4M

Forecast Revenue
Overspend

13.37%

Variance as % Of Total
Budget Envelope

REVENUE	Revenue Budget £'M	Revenue Forecast £'M	Variance £'M
Deputy s151	2.1	4.0	1.9
Law and Governance	2.8	2.4	(0.3)
Policy, Strategy and Resources	2.1	2.0	(0.1)
Assistant Director People & Organisation	3.5	3.4	(0.1)
	10.5	11.9	1.4

Service Comments:-
A pressure remains within the Deputy s151 service area, owing to the council’s limited ability to recover full housing benefit subsidies. This is driven by payments made for accommodation that doesn’t meet DWP criteria for full cost recovery —particularly non-registered providers and temporary housing. Since this is a demand-led service, costs can vary throughout the year. A review of the housing provision and its impact on subsidy recovery is underway to minimise the projected financial impact.

The service continues to review opportunities to manage the overall budget envelope and mitigate pressures where possible. Savings have been realised from across the services including election cost savings, a reduction in childcare legal costs and ICT costs being charged to capital schemes where appropriate.

Capital

12.82%

Of Total Capital
Programme

£0.1M

Forecast Capital
Overspend

CAPITAL	Original Programme £'M	Approved Programme £'M	Capital Forecast £'M	Variance £'M
Deputy S151	15.3	9.3	9.3	0.0
Policy Strategy and Resources	4.3	2.5	2.5	0.1
Law Governance and Assets	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	19.6	11.8	11.8	0.1

Service Comments:-

Deputy S151 (£0.0M) – Covers flexible use of capital receipts (£2.15M) and Investment Capacity (£7.2M), full expenditure expected for the year.

Policy, Strategy & Resources (£0.0M) – Spend remains on track.

Resources

Achievements, Challenges & Risks

Performance RAG

Green

Finance RAG

Red

Achievements:

Recruitment campaigns have been particularly successful, with the appointment of high-calibre candidates to key leadership roles, such as the new Assistant Director for Housing and Communities, reflecting the Council's growing reputation as an employer of choice.

Our graduate recruitment campaign for 2025 graduates was successful with 3 graduates recruited and inducted in September, with the Council providing opportunities within Health & Safety, AI and Service Design. We continue to recruit to the last graduate role in Housing.

AcademyNEL won Best Workforce Initiative at the first Health & Care Excellence Awards, acknowledging the passion and commitment of the Learning and Development Team and the council in actively working to strengthen our internal talent pipelines and supporting long term workforce sustainability.

Along with Children's Services, our ICT & Digital team were finalists in the Technology Enabled Lives and Innovation Practice Award at the Social Work Awards 2025.

Key challenges:

The key financial challenges for Resources relate to Housing Benefit Subsidy recovery. Whilst the budget impact is shown in Resources, the root cause relates to placements made by the housing team for people who require temporary and supported accommodation, as detailed on page 29, and a review of housing provision and its' impact on subsidy is underway aimed at mitigating this budget pressure.

Capacity to support multiple projects and programmes always remains a challenge however, this is regularly monitored and additional capacity brought in for specific projects as required.

Risk to non-delivery:

None identified at present.

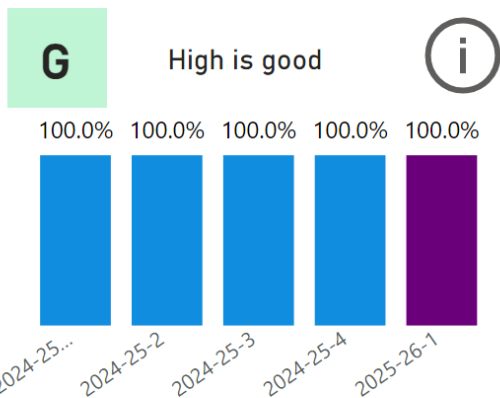
Environment & Regulatory Services

Greener Future

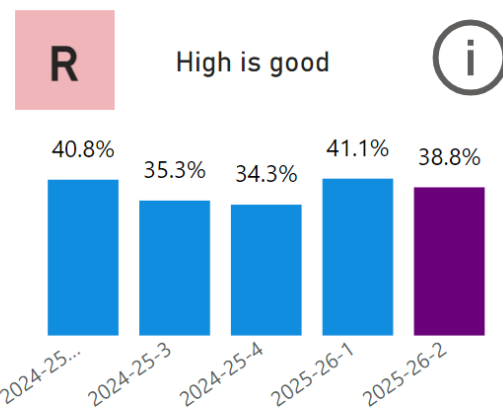
Never has there been a more important time to look at our plans for a greener future for all. North East Lincolnshire is benefitting from the renewable energy sector which is positive. But we must also consider how we develop greener hearts and minds across our borough.



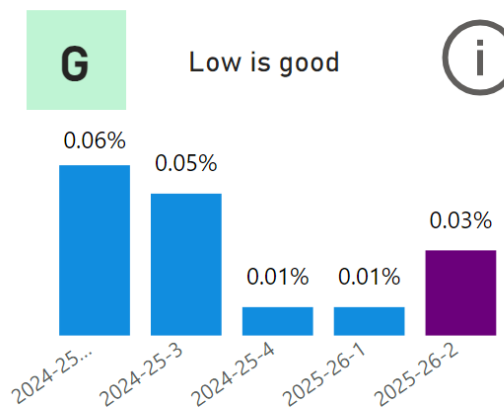
Fly tipping reports collected within 5 working days (%)



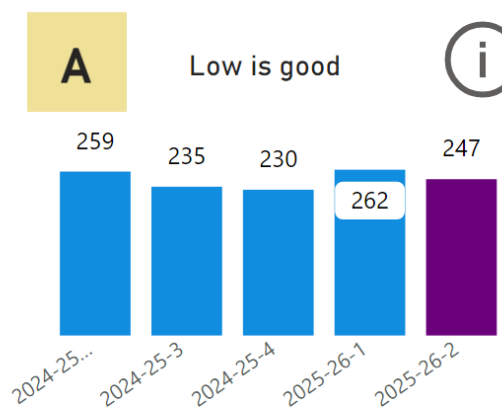
Household Waste sent for Reuse, Recycling and Composting (National targ...



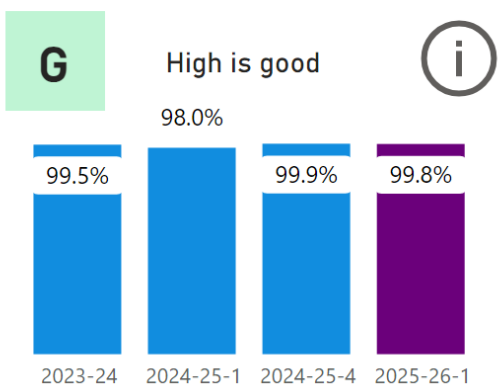
Municipal waste landfilled (Target 10%)



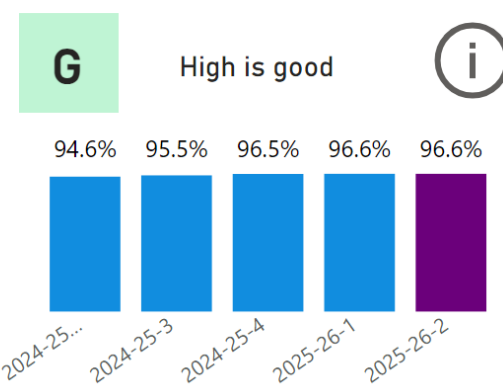
Total Household Waste per 1000 Households (tonnes)



Waste collections completed on time (%)



Bulky Waste Collections Completed on the specified day (%)



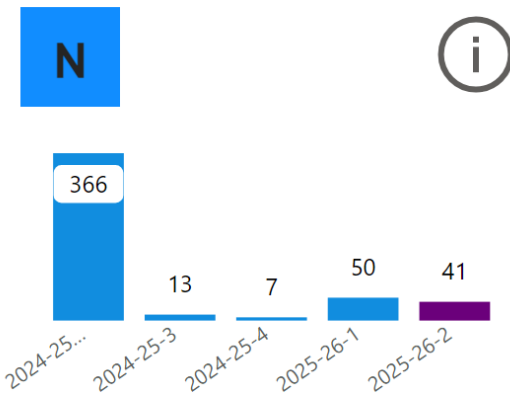
Performance Overview

Environment and Regulatory Services (1)

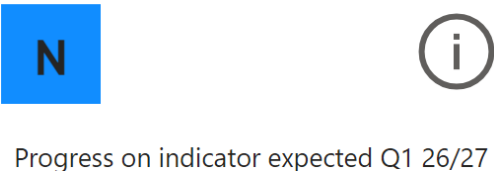
Council Plan Priority	Commentary
Greener Future - Our Waste and Recycling	The Q2 recycling rate (38%) remains relatively static in NELC mirroring the national picture. For comparison in 23/24 the yearly mean for NEL Cipfa family group was 38.94% and NELC ranked 8th out of 16 councils (NELC 37.7%). Waste strategy nationally is changing significantly to increase recycling rates and reduce avoidable waste. The Council is making arrangements to implement weekly food waste collections by 31 March 2026 following a Cabinet decision on the preferred option. We are high performing sending close to zero waste to landfill during Q2. For comparison in 23/24 the mean for NEL Cipfa family group was 5.35% and NELC ranked 6th out of 16 at 0.34%. Waste collections continue to deliver at close to 100% with some challenges associated with blocked access, road closures and the condition of private or unadopted roads. The total amount of waste per 1000 households is 247 tonnes in Q2, which is comparable to the previous year. For comparison in 23/24 the annual mean for NEL Cipfa family group was 954 tonnes and NELC ranked 11th out of 16 at producing 989 (lower is better). Assuming an even spread of waste for each quarter the Q2 target is 238.5 tonnes. Due to technical difficulties with the data we are unable to report the Q2 data for flytipping collected within 5 working days although we are not aware of any service issues that would impact on our operational performance. In Q2 2025/26, North East Lincolnshire Council achieved a bulky waste collection completion rate of 96.6%, exceeding the target of 95%. This performance reflects our continued commitment to delivering reliable and responsive waste services that support cleaner neighbourhoods and resident satisfaction. There were a total of 1149 planned collections, 1109 of which were completed on the booked day. This result places us above the national average, with benchmarking data from WasteDataFlow indicating that many councils report completion rates between 92% and 95% for bulky waste services. Our performance demonstrates effective operational planning and a proactive approach to service recovery when issues arise. Depot Rationalisation, work is ongoing to deliver a single modern operational depot.



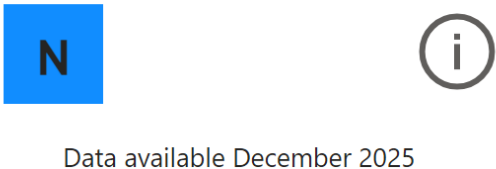
Fixed Penalty Notices Issued for Public Space Protection Orders



Electric vehicle points that the council has funded via government grants.



Total CO2 emissions across Council Assets (tonnes)



Performance Overview

Environment and Regulatory Services (2)

Council Plan Priority	Commentary
Greener Future - Looking After and Protecting our Parks and Open Spaces	We continue to strive to ensure our parks and open spaces are looked after and protected. There are eight main destination parks across the borough, which receive regular visitors, various events and community groups who use the space. Play Areas are inspected on a regular basis, to ensure the spaces and equipment are safe for children and families to enjoy and learn. Work aligns to the approved tree strategy which supports the maintenance of the borough's trees. A number of trees have been planted within parks and open spaces, watering and maintenance regimes take place so that they can thrive, a few have failed due to vandalism. This has all been possible through external funding. A task force has been established to focus on our resort which focusses on safety, maintenance and cleanliness. Fixed penalty notices for Public Space Protection Orders are included in the data as a proxy measure for pride in the community. Targets are not set for enforcement work as this is unlawful.

Performance Overview

Environment and Regulatory Services (3)

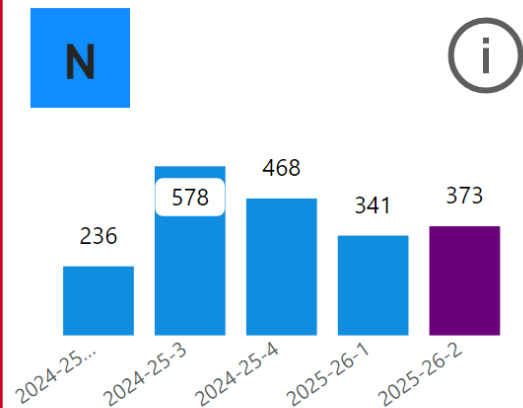
Council Plan Priority	Commentary
Greener Future - Our Coastline	The research and Engagement Officer and Coastal Ranger continue to work on the coastline, this includes walks and talks along the coastline raising the profile of the unique heritage asset. More than 100 people have attended the engagement events held by the Coastal Ranger so far and we have engaged nearly 700 people across the project at events. A survey asking people how we can better protect our coasts natural heritage and what we could do to engage more people with our coasts natural heritage has just closed with more than 600 respondents. Officers will be working to analyse the results of the survey over the coming months to help inform the next stage of the DUNE project. The team are working with the Insights team to develop a dashboard to collect and report on data and a full engagement plan has been created. In addition, and as part of the DUNE Project, the group held two engagement sessions with environmental professionals across the region partnering the DUNE Project, with quarterly meetings now established. This group will feed into the project alongside the public engagement to help drive future phases of the project. Successful delivery of the Council's award-winning mitigation sites continues with more than 110 species of bird having been recorded using Cress Marsh and Novartis since they've been created.
Greener Future - Our Green Ambition	Successful funding previously obtained through two separate applications to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme enables the replacement of old heating systems and improvements in energy efficiency in some of our buildings. RIBA stage 3 assessments are complete, and these projects are continuing and will contribute to improved energy efficiency and long-term financial sustainability. Work continues to review the Council's emissions and explore ways to reduce emissions and increase energy security for the Council. We are continuing to engage with MCCA and Lincolnshire Local Authorities to deliver the mayoral grant and explore all deliverable options for solar panels at Doughty Road garages.

Stronger Communities

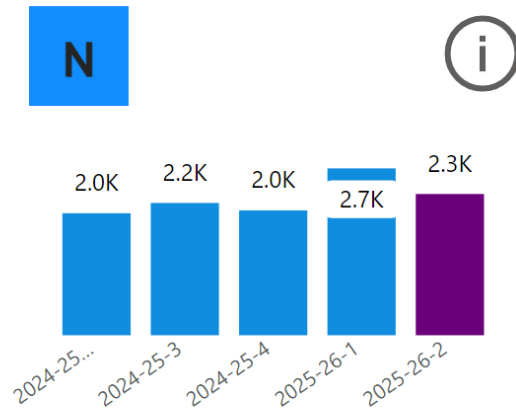
Clean and Safe Streets and Open Spaces



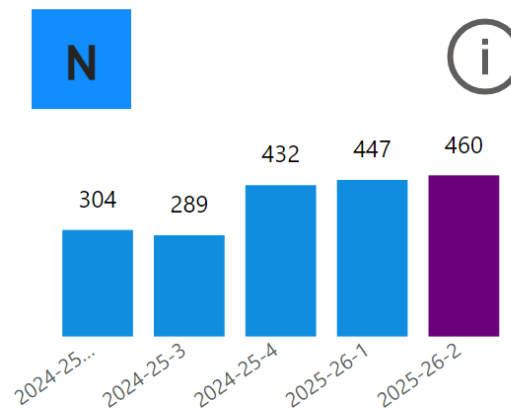
Penalty Charge Notices Issued (Camera Enforcement at Schools)



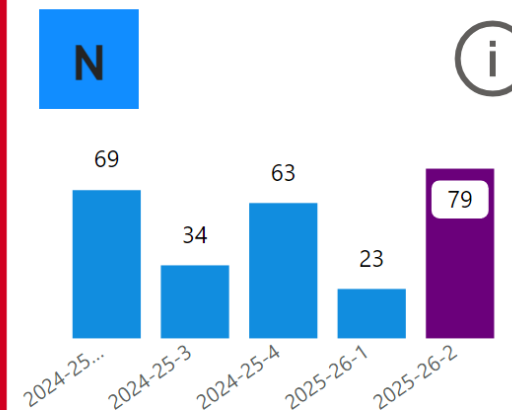
Penalty Charge Notices Issued (Total)



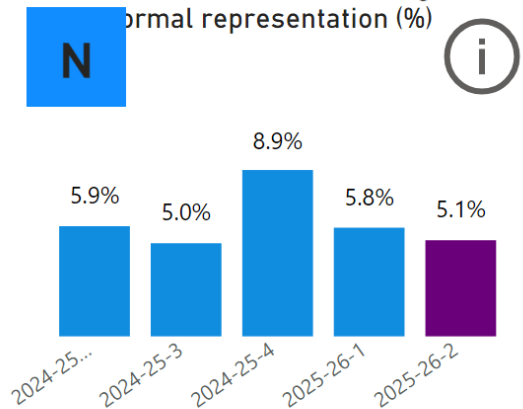
Fixed Penalty Notices Issued for littering



Number of Fixed Penalty Notices which progress to formal prosecution.



Penalty Charge Notices (PCN) appeals upheld (original decision upheld)
Includes both informal challenge and formal representation (%)



Performance Overview

Environment and Regulatory Services (4)

Council Plan Priority	Commentary
Stronger Communities - Clean and Safe Streets and Open Spaces	The number of Penalty Charge Notices(PCN) arising from approved devices (cameras) has increased by 98% compared to Q2 last year. The number of PCNs issued can fluctuate during the year due to school holiday periods when cameras do not operate. There is also a variation due to changes in compliance across the various school sites and new sites being introduced. The total number of PCNs issued in Q2 has also increased by 16% on the same period last year. 12% (281) of PCNs issued were subject to challenge at the date of analysis. 5.1% (118) of appeals were upheld (of the total issued). There are no targets set for the number of PCNs issued as civil parking enforcement authorities are not legally permitted to set targets for issuing Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs). The purpose of parking enforcement is to ensure traffic management and compliance with regulations. Six wards in the borough received £200K additional street cleaning resources following a one year budget increase and we have recruited 4 additional barrow operatives and 2 Deep Clean operatives on a 12- and 6-month contract, respectively. Deep cleaning has taken place in East Marsh, Heneage and Park wards in Q2. The percentage of PCN appeals upheld is an indication of the fairness of the initial notice. During Q2, 2300 PCNs were issued with 118 appeals upheld.

Revenue

Environment Budget

10.52%

Of Total Revenue
Service Budgets

(£3.0M)

Forecast Revenue
Underspend

(15.1%)

Variance as % Of Total
Budget Envelope

REVENUE	Revenue Budget £'M	Revenue Forecast £'M	Variance £'M
Environment	20.0	17.0	(3.0)

Service Comments:-
There is a range of pressures and opportunities across the service, including income in the Commercial Regulatory Team from the port following EU exit. There is uncertainty about when the Government will review the current port arrangements, and this is likely to impact on future budget sustainability. The waste disposal contractor confirmed there will be no change to the threshold banding rate however there will be increased costs associated with comingled waste for remainder of current year and thereafter due to instability in recycling commodity prices. Work continues to understand the key drivers behind parking and Civil Enforcement Officer (CEO) budgets to support effective optimisation.

Capital

11.37%

Of Total Capital
Programme

(£0.1M)

Forecast Capital
Underspend

CAPITAL	Original Programme £'M	Approved Programme £'M	Capital Forecast £'M	Variance £'M
Environment	6.8	10.5	10.5	0.0

Service Comments:-
Capital spend remains on track, costs for all capital schemes continue to be carefully monitored.

Environment & Regulatory services

Achievements, Challenges & Risks

Performance RAG		Green	Finance RAG	Green
Achievements:	Parking Services, Civil Enforcement and Housing Enforcement now delivered in house and integrated into other enforcement teams. In September we gained Leadership approval to create seven new roles in our Housing Enforcement team to increase enforcement capacity, and a recruitment exercise is now underway. Funding secured for office waste recycling scheme.			
Key challenges:	Managing expectations about delivery of existing priority services alongside the desire for new and enhanced services. Challenges include finite resources, availability of competent workforce, recruitment and retention, and managing demand. Delivery of grant funded projects for decarbonisation plans through Salix Funding. Delays to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). Delivering inland food interventions following port expansion and oversight by the Food Standards Agency. Awaiting confirmation of government funding for food waste collections. Work continues to adapt the port health service to respond to the increased demands generated by the new Border Target Operating Model. Further challenges due to recent government announcement to revise current arrangements again.			
Risk to non-delivery:	Capacity available to deliver inland food interventions affected by demands of port health function resulting in less inspections taking place. Recruitment underway with action plan being developed. Delays to LNRS may impact on Planning decisions. Recruitment and capacity issues in Regulatory Services following in sourcing and in advance of service transformation.			

Economy & Growth, Leisure & Tourism



Regeneration

Stronger Economy

Our ambition is to create a place where we attract and sustain businesses of all kinds, you will see how this vision runs alongside a determination to work within our communities and with all our partners. We aim to ensure that the residents of North East Lincolnshire have the skills and inspiration to support, work and enjoy all that we have here.

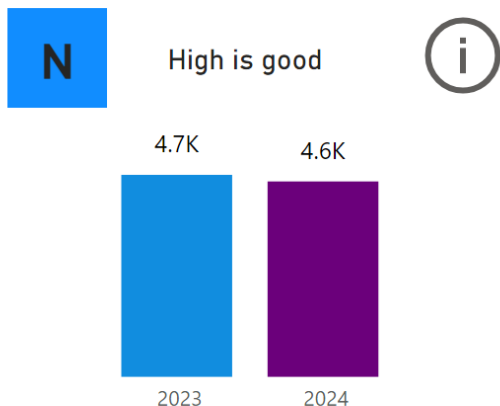


Stronger Economy

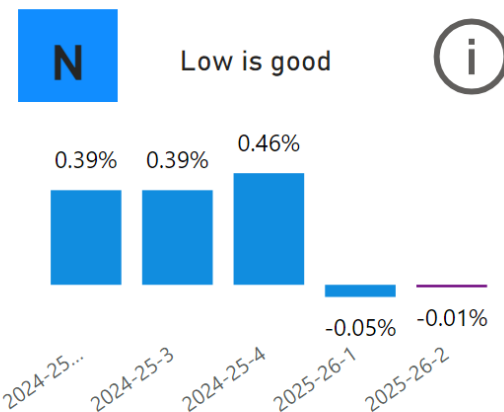
Supporting Industry & Business



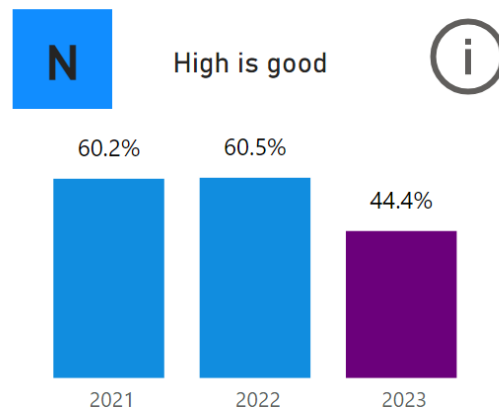
Net change of registered enterprises in North East Lincolnshire



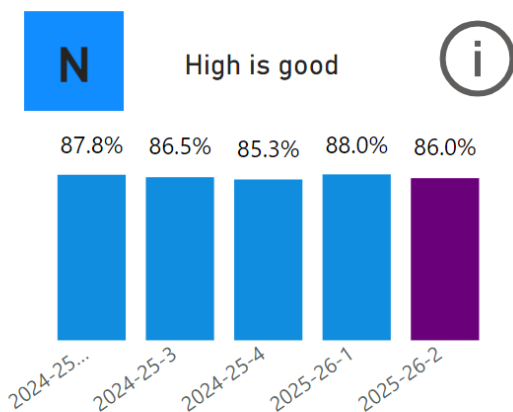
Change of the total number of registered businesses operating from rated premises (%)



New businesses surviving 3 years (%)



Rated business premises occupied (%)



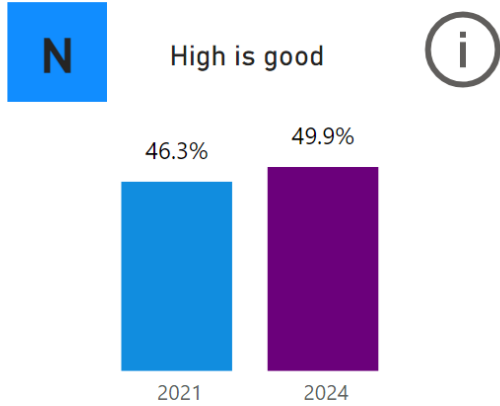
Performance Overview

Regeneration (1)

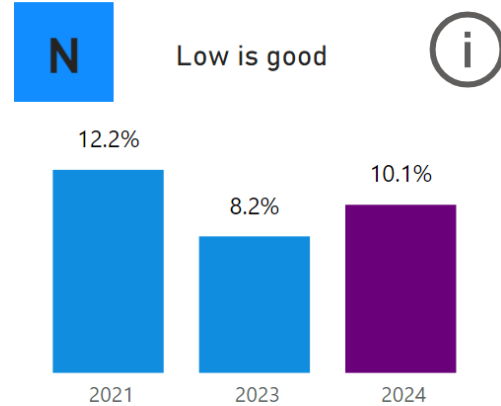
Council Plan Priority	Commentary
Stronger Economy - Supporting Industry, Business and Housing (Industry and Business focus)	• Energy technology interest in the region for large scale investment projects are facing particular challenges due to uncertainty around policy, together with water availability and grid connection timeframes. • UK Shared Prosperity Fund continues to support a range of business support measures for organisations in NEL, including small revenue grants to assist growth plans, specialist advisor programmes and dedicated business support. • DFDS secured planning permission for development on Pioneer Park this quarter, and Exclusivity Agreements on the remaining two plots in NELC ownership finalised. • CATCH completed next milestone and claim of the Freeport Seed Capital project with steels erected on the extension to the existing building to create R&D/Innovation space, increase learner capacity, and create exhibition space. • Local business events organised by the team this quarter include a manufacturing day held at Blackrow Engineering. • The number of business premises occupied remains at a relatively stable level of 86%, with 5534 businesses registered from business rates, a 1% drop from the previous quarter which is in line with the natural churn of business. • Much of the data is annual in nature but those which are collected quarterly shows a relatively stable position.



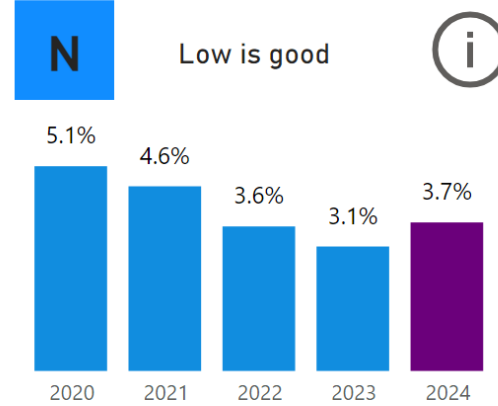
Adults qualified to level 3 and above (%)



Adults with no qualifications (%)



Unemployment Rate (Office of National Statistics)



Performance Overview

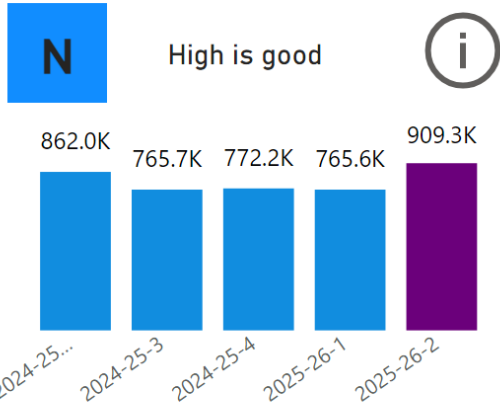
Regeneration (2)

Council Plan Priority	Commentary
Stronger Economy - Growing Skills	• The data shown for 'growing skills' is derived from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) who provide % figures only. • Data shows improvement at lower qualification levels. The gap with the national average for those with no qualifications has decreased from 5.6% to 3.3% between 2021 and 2024 and at level 2 the gap has decreased from a 10.7% gap in 2021 to a 5.8% gap in 2024 demonstrating that skills initiatives are working. • The rate of adults in North East Lincolnshire with level 3 and 4 qualifications has increased, however the gap with the national averages has continued to widen. At level 3 the gap is 17.7% and at level 4 the gap is 22.9%. • 11 UK Shared Prosperity People & Skills Projects continue delivery for 25-26 supporting adults into work or training. • Continued engagement with the MCCA and colleagues across Greater Lincolnshire to ensure regional and national initiatives support people in North East Lincolnshire. This includes work on the Get Lincolnshire Working Plan and the Connect to Work programme. • The Skills Survey received 1,259 responses and the results will be used to help shape initiatives going forward.

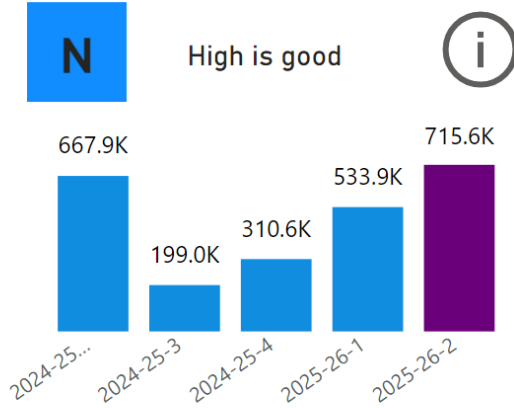
Stronger Economy Attractive and Vibrant Town Centres



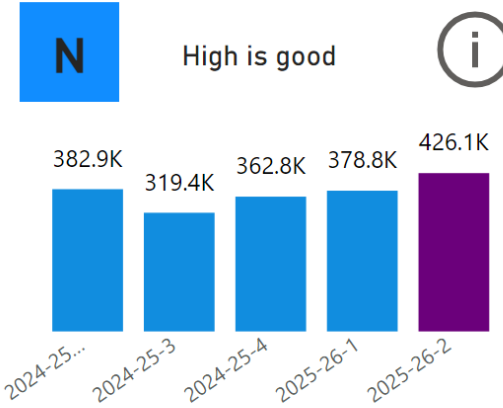
Footfall on Victoria Street, Grimsby



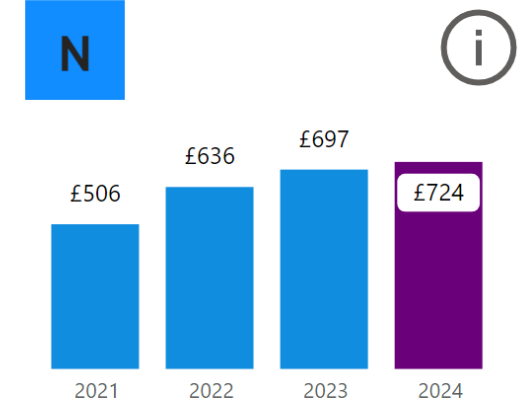
Footfall on the Promenade, Cleethorpes



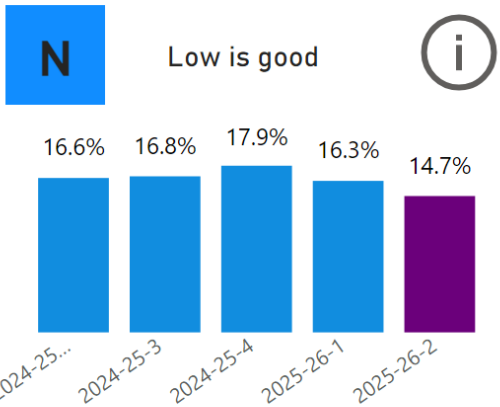
Footfall on St Peter's Avenue, Cleethorpes



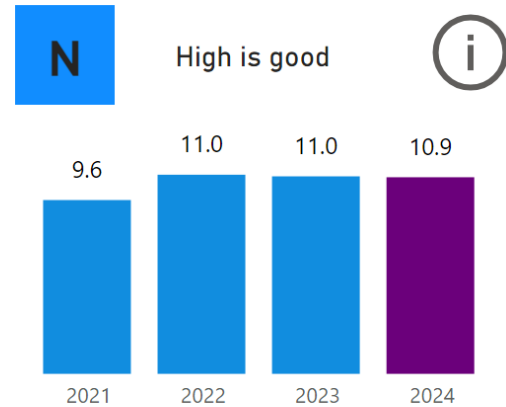
Visitor Economic Impact in North East Lincolnshire (Annual from the Steam Re...



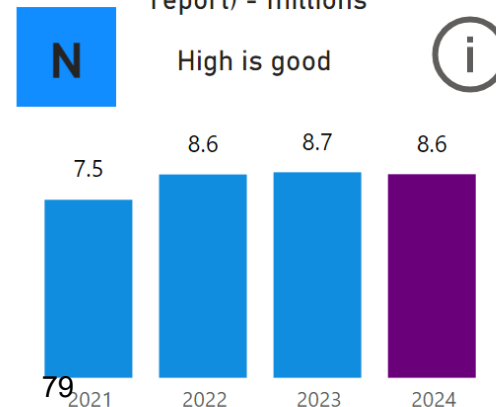
Town centre units vacant for 6 months or longer for Grimsby, Cleethorpes and I...



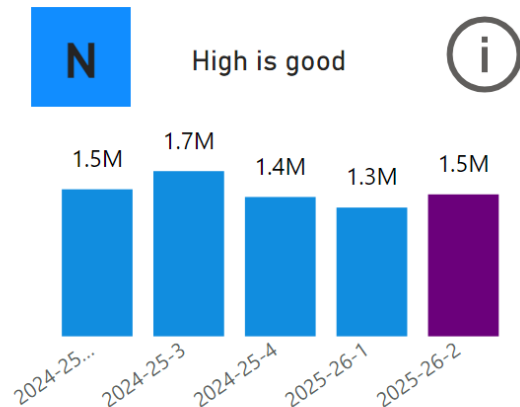
Number of visitor days and nights in North East Lincolnshire (Annual from th...



Number of visitors to North East Lincolnshire (annual from the STEAM report) - millions



Number of visits to Freshney Place



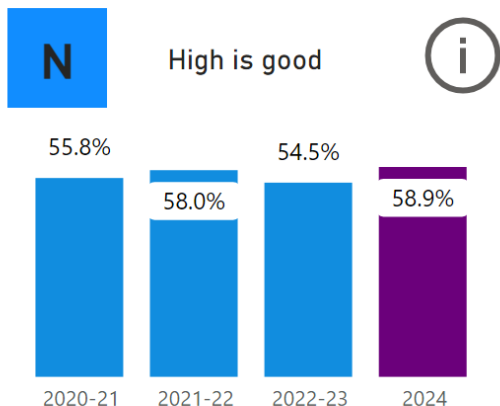
Performance Overview

Regeneration (3)

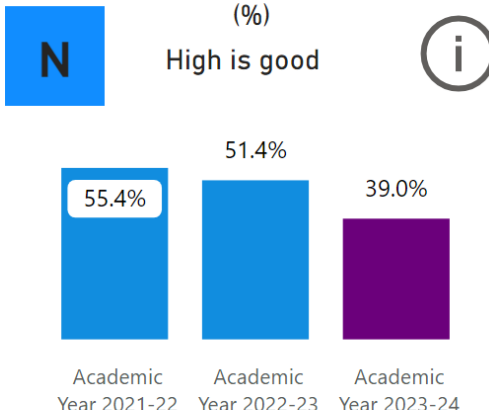
Council Plan Priority	Commentary
Stronger Economy - Attractive and Vibrant Town Centres	Footfall data is important as it allows an assessment of any underlying causal challenges or opportunities such as weather, large events or other matters. Grimsby • Victoria Street planting scheme completed, pocket park construction commenced on site, final stages of lighting consultations with property owners underway. • Demolition works for the Freshney Place leisure scheme are largely complete and foundation removal is advancing together with the reduced level dig. • The refresh of the Grimsby Masterplan and Movement Strategy is proceeding with consultants now appointed. • Freshney Place footfall has reduced as expected given the major development works on the leisure scheme. Longer term this development is expected to drive a more varied footfall into the centre and the wider town centre. Nationally, retail footfall across the UK in September continued a downward trend compared to the same period in 2024. There were anecdotal signs of lower consumer confidence ahead of the Autumn Budget which may have counted as a major factor to reduced visitor numbers. • Footfall for Victoria Street has increased for the quarter compared to the same period in 2024. Cleethorpes • Pier Gardens principal contractor procurement ongoing, and procurement of wider support has also commenced. • The Council are working with a contractor on the technical design process for the Sea Road development which is expected to result in the appointment of principal contractor in Q3. • Early engagement for the procurement of a principal contractor for the Market Place has commenced as has informal consultation on Traffic Regulation Orders. • Footfall in Cleethorpes has increased for the quarter compared to the same period in 2024 in both the retail area of St Peters Avenue and on the Promenade.



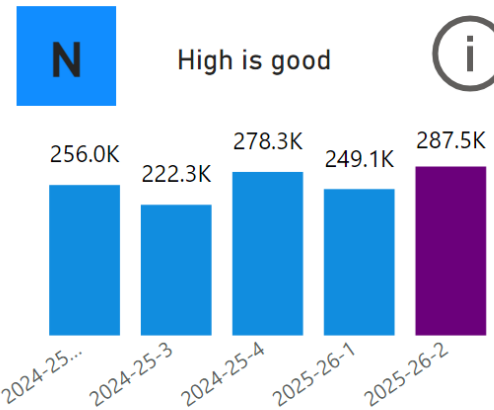
Adults that are identified as physically active - active at least 150 minutes per week (%)



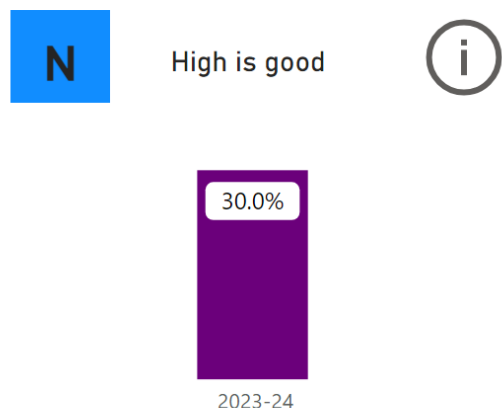
Children and young people that are identified as physically active - active at an average of 60+ minutes a day (%)



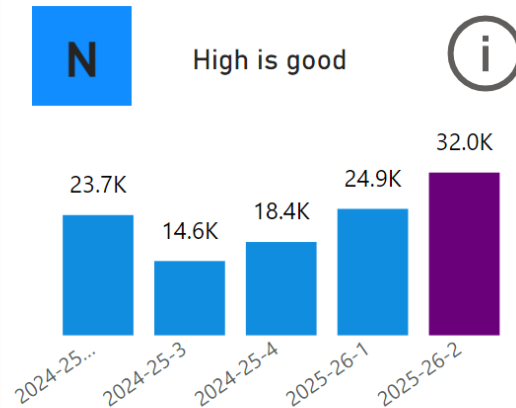
Number of usages at Council leisure facilities



People visiting a museum or gallery in person in the last 12 months (%)



Number of visits to the Grimsby Fishing Heritage Centre



Performance Overview

Regeneration (4)

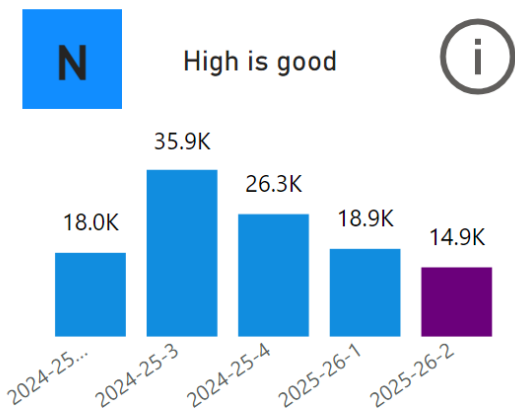
Council Plan Priority	Commentary
Stronger Economy - Happy Visitors and Great Leisure	• Ormiston Maritime Academy Hockey Pitch refurbishment complete and opening event held on 6th September in partnership with Grimsby Hockey Club, the Academy and the Council, supported by funding secured through Sport England. • Two PlayZones developed at Kent Street in East Marsh through the refurbishment of old astro turf pitches. The development opened on 12th September and was achieved through partnership work with YMCA Humber supported by funding secured from the Football Foundation. • Announcement of grant funding secured from the Football Foundation for the development of a new PlayZone at Roval Drive in Immingham. • Lincs Inspire delivery of Bikeability in 2024-25 supported NEL to place as on of the Top 10 best-performing Local Highway Authorities nationally. In 2024 - 2025 through Bikeability grant funding Lincs Inspire delivered courses to 82% of year 6 pupils which was a 1% increase on the previous year. • Created seasonal content for DiscoverNEL website and social media channels to promote the area. • Meridian Showground progressing work to raise the capacity of the venue. • Meridian Showground held seven events including Docks Fest.
Stronger Economy - Preserving Our Heritage	• Visitor numbers up year on year at Fishing Heritage Centre (GFHC), with an increase of 13%. GFHC has benefited from concentrated work on expanding its schools offer, education programme and community activities. • GFHC hosted the Fishermen's annual reunion, continuing its support for our heritage. • Cleethorpes Townscape Heritage Programme works ongoing at both 42-45 Alexandra Road and the Dolphin Hotel. • Programme of Heritage Open Days delivered across NEL. • Cleethorpes Charter Day promoted through DiscoverNEL. • A map celebrating Tracy Baines' Seaside Girls has launched. • Stuart Wood's Postcard from Cleethorpes, a musical celebrating Cleethorpes heritage premiered.

Stronger Communities

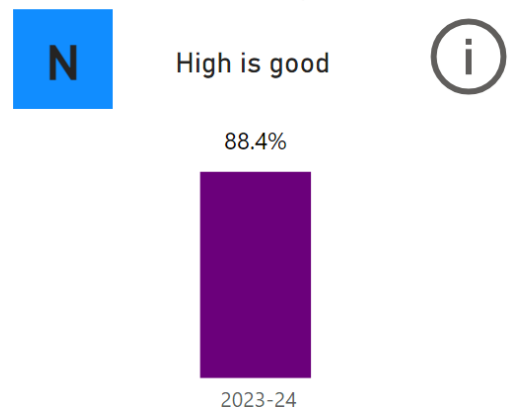
Telling our Story of Culture and Heritage



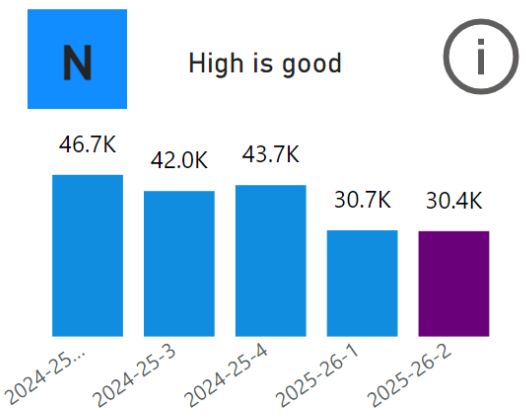
Attendance at performances at the
Grimsby Auditorium



People engaged with the arts in NEL in
person in the last 12 months - from
annual survey (%)



Number of visits at Council libraries
(borrowing, renewals, footfall)



Performance Overview

Regeneration (5)

Council Plan Priority	Commentary
Stronger Communities - Telling our Story of Culture and Heritage	When comparing Q2 2025 vs Q2 2024 attendance at the Auditorium has decreased year on year by approximately 18% for the quarter. However, when looking at Q1 & Q2 performance combined the performance is more positive with a smaller 2% reduction between this period year-on-year. The reduction in Q2 has been reflective of the timing on touring product, where a couple of shows may sell out and these can land in one quarter which boosts attendance. Therefore, attendance should be viewed over a longer period to establish trends. The data for % of people engaging with the arts is taken from Department of Culture, Media & Sport surveys. There is no previous comparable dataset, the next update is due 2026/27. Create NEL: Through Create NEL supported programmes, numerous projects have been delivered to increase engagement and participation in the arts. This includes: • Unseen Arts secured £437k from the Government/Historic England's Heritage At Risk programme. • East Marsh United, Foresight and Opera North collaborated to host a performance in the East Marsh, bringing together world class opera singers and community choirs. • An interactive digital trail celebrating the work of industrialist Edward Watkin launched in Cleethorpes, led by Heritage Lincolnshire and funded by Heritage Fund. • In collaboration with the Culture House, Freedom Festival on Tour visited Cleethorpes bringing four international outdoor arts performances to local audiences. • What if We Create opened their new venue in Freshney Place, supported by Heritage Fund, it celebrates Grimsby's print industry . Library and Archives Service: • Library visits have dropped due to the ongoing closure of the Central Library although there has been an increase in visitors to Cleethorpes and Waltham libraries as customers utilise alternative service locations. • Temporary library for Grimsby Town centre preparing to open within 31 Baxtergate, Freshney Place. • Phase-2 library and archives review ongoing, with reporting of phase-2 consultation results, findings and recommendations in Q3.

3.06%

Of Total Revenue
Service Budgets

(£0.2M)

Forecast Revenue
Underspend

(3.4%)

Variance as % Of Total
Budget Envelope

REVENUE	Revenue Budget £'M	Revenue Forecast £'M	Variance £'M
Regeneration	5.8	5.6	(0.2)
	5.8	5.6	(0.2)

Service Comments:-
At the halfway point in the year we are currently forecasting a £197K underspend. The key area for oversight is planning income and Freshney Place, which is largely outside of the authority's control but reviewed on a regular basis. Beyond this there are robust monitoring controls across all revenue areas.

Capital

21.67%

Of Total Capital
Programme

(£0.05M)

Forecast
Capital Underspend

CAPITAL	Original Programme £'M	Approved Programme £'M	Capital Forecast £'M	Variance £'M
Regeneration	44.3	19.9	19.4	(0.5)
	44.3	19.9	19.4	(0.5)

Service Comments:-
The capital position as reporting against the current approved programme is largely on target. The availability of project management resource, whether internal or external, continues to be a challenge and it is essential the right calibre of project management is in place to oversee what are in many instances complex and multi-faceted schemes. Project managers have again been challenged on what is anticipated to be prudent spend over the year and this has led to reprofiling of budgets (full details shown on slide 12). Overall spend on Freshney Place for 2025/26 is forecast to be £10.2 million which includes the funding contribution from the Towns Fund.

Regeneration

Achievements, Challenges & Risks

Performance RAG	Amber	Finance RAG	Green
Achievements:	• Completion of the Skills Survey with 1,259 results, which will inform future activity and communication. • Annual Skills Fair held with 2,000 year 10 students in attendance. • Ormiston Maritime Academy Hockey Pitch refurbishment complete in partnership with Grimsby Hockey Club, the Academy and Sport England • Two PlayZones developed at Kent Street in East Marsh through partnership work with YMCA Humber supported by funding secured from the Football Foundation. • Grant funding secured from the Football Foundation for the development of a new PlayZone at Roval Drive in Immingham. • Lincs Inspire delivery of Bikeability in 2024-25 supported NEL to place as on of the Top 10 best-performing Local Highway Authorities nationally. • Visitor numbers up year on year at Fishing Heritage Centre (GFHC), with an increase of 13%. • Unseen Arts secured £437k from the Government/Historic England's Heritage At Risk programme.		
Key challenges:	• Wider inflationary pressures are a cost risk. Greater cost certainty is achieved when tender processes move to contracting stage. • Maintaining appropriate levels of project management and supporting resource. • The wider financial climate represents a potential challenge to the overall ambition of projects. • Engagement and commitment from a wide range of employers in skills projects. • Water scarcity is now an impediment to industrial development. • Reliance on external grant funding in several areas, notably Culture, Heritage, Leisure and Tourism.		
Risk to non-delivery:	• The previous high inflationary environment has resulted in significantly more expensive construction materials and labour shortages have materially increased costs also. This presents a risk to the scope of any project wherever it may be. The primary mitigation measure is to include enhanced inflation contingency and explore value engineering opportunities. • The availability of specialist resource across a variety of disciplines remains a challenge. • General capacity to deliver projects and services is an ongoing challenge. • Strategy, programme and project delivery across the service, notably Culture Heritage, Leisure, Tourism and Skills, including marketing and events, are heavily reliant on securing and maintaining external grant funding and therefore where this does not materialise this presents a risk to delivery. • Working relationship continues with Anglian Water in relation to industrial water scarcity.		

Infrastructure

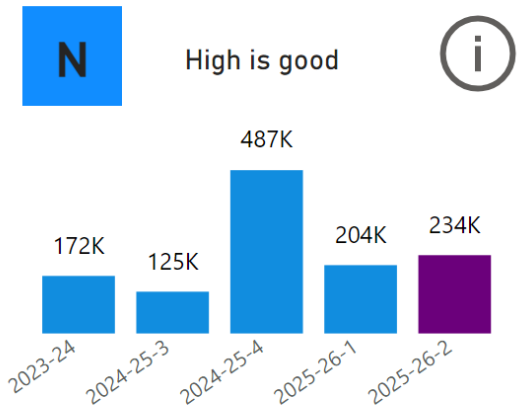
Stronger Economy - Improving Our Journeys

We all need to move around our borough with safe and easy routes across North East Lincolnshire.

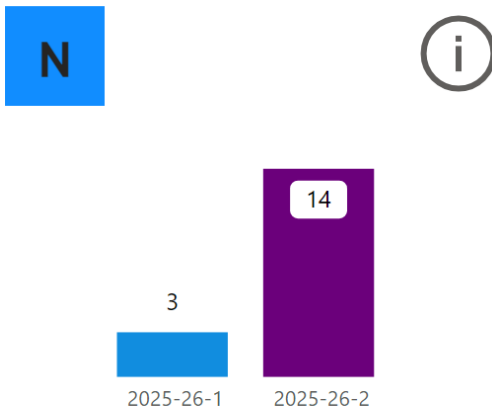




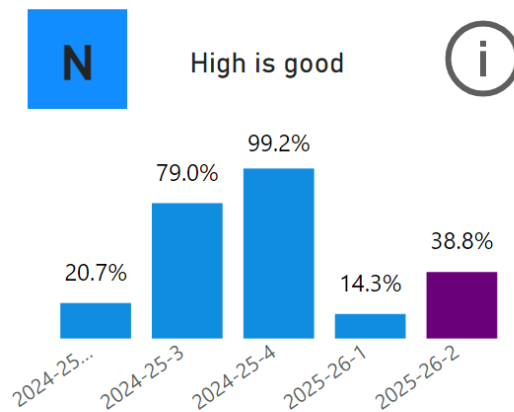
Capital Spend on Road Safety (£)
(Cummulative values)



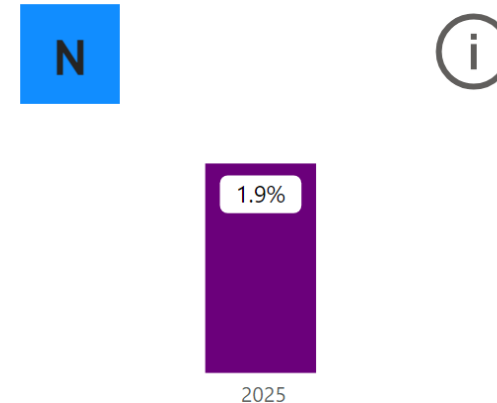
Number of LTP schemes delivered



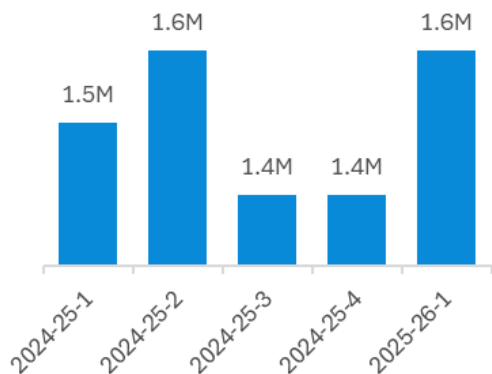
Spend of LTP allocation (%)



Road Condition Survey to be
undertaken to establish a baseline



Public bus usage



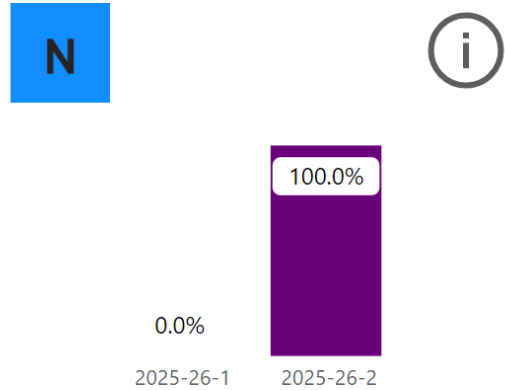
Performance Overview

Infrastructure (1)

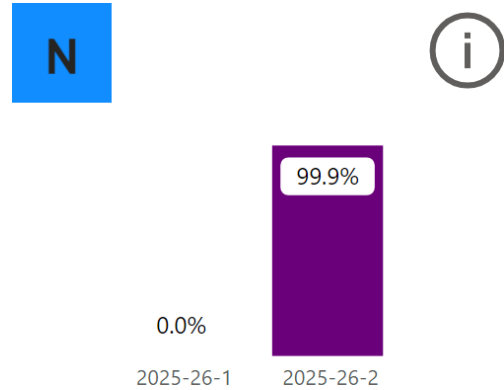
Council Plan Priority	Commentary
Stronger Economy - Improving Our Journeys	- The Highways and Transportation Service maintains the integrity of our roads and coordinates maintenance and utility activities, ensuring the expeditious movement of traffic throughout the borough to improve journey times and the overall reliability of the highway network. - The Local Transport Plan (LTP) provides the framework for highways and transportation delivery across the network. 2025-26 will see 44 schemes proposed with an overall value of £6.1M, currently the service has delivered 14 which equates to 32% of this year's programme. There has been an additional scheme added to the programme. An additional scheme proposed since the last quarterly update is a Public Right of Way project with a value of £2,250. - Every year a road conditions survey is carried out to provide the evidence-based approach that sets the services forward plan for highway maintenance and repairs. The latest survey demonstrates our network is improving on condition which means our investment in planned maintenance is having a positive impact. - Public transport usage reduces traffic congestion and lowers carbon emissions all while providing accessible and affordable travel options to connect people to jobs, education and essential services. We have had a rise in usage over the last quarter, supported by a series of service enhancements introduced on 1 June 2025 as part of BSIP delivery. These included new and extended services such as the 45 route between Immingham and Cleethorpes Pier, enhanced evening and Sunday timetables on the 9, and improved Sunday services on a series of routes. Free pre-9:30am travel for Concessionary Pass holders and better weather also contributed to increased bus use. - Active travel helps to build stronger, healthier communities by encouraging people to connect with their local area, reduce car dependency and improve physical and mental wellbeing (such as cycling, walking and wheeling). In 2025-26 so far we have designed 4 active travel schemes with a total value of £1.4M - Road safety is a key priority within the Highways and Transportation service, working with colleagues in Public Health we aim to target the root causes, addressing road safety education to our schools and colleges, managing risk and implementing mitigation measures across the network. Our current road safety based spend for 2025-26 is £350,000. - Through our Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) the team aims to improve reliability, rural transport, accessibility and community usage providing all residents of North East Lincolnshire with options in regard to travel. In 2025-26 we have 25 schemes within our BSIP to the value £7M (capital and revenue), currently the service has delivered 15 which equates to 60% of this year's programme.



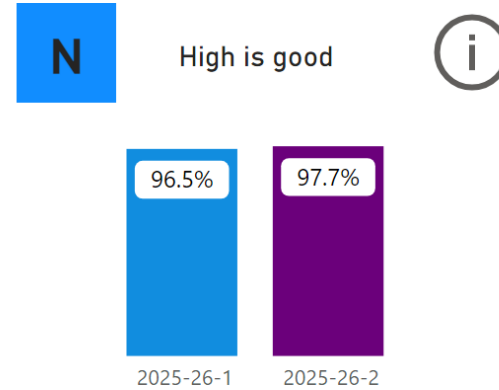
Capital backlog maintenance projects delivered on time (%)



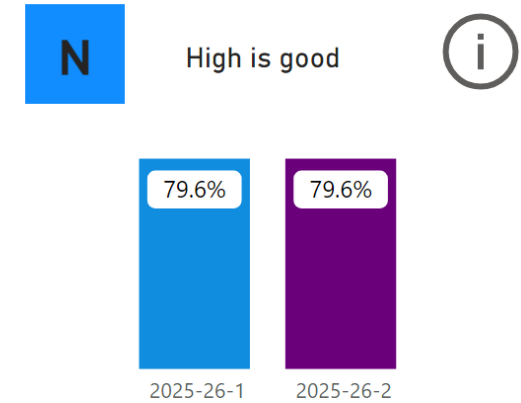
Capital backlog maintenance projects delivered within budget (%)



Occupation of the total commercial estate (%)



Occupation of Business Centres and managed workspaces (%)



Performance Overview

Infrastructure (2)

Council Plan Priority	Commentary
Engaging and Effective Council - Effective Management of Assets	The data being used to demonstrate the effective management of assets is new and has been developed following the in-sourcing of Equans services to the Council. <u>% of capital backlog maintenance projects delivered on time - 100%</u> The programme is flexible and therefore allows adjustment for projects which may result in delivery not being achieved against projects that are emerging (new) or are brought forward from future years. Due to the complexity of some projects and the variables within each project, delivery may be delayed which results in the project completion being carried forward to the next financial year. <u>% of backlog capital maintenance projects delivered within budget - 99.9%</u> The programme is flexible and therefore allows adjustment for projects which may result in an overspend against projects that may result in an underspend. Due to the complexity of some projects and the variables within each project, delivery may be delayed which results in project spend being carried forward to the next financial year.

11.09%

Of Total Revenue Service Budgets

(£0.3M)

Forecast Revenue Underspend

(1.6%)

Variance as % Of Total Budget Envelope

REVENUE	Revenue Budget £'M	Revenue Forecast £'M	Variance £'M
Infrastructure	21.1	21.4	0.3
	21.1	21.4	0.3

Service Comments:-
The forecast overspend is driven by pressures on recently transferred areas of Facilities Management and Commercial Estate. The service continues to work to mitigate these pressures and included is this latest forecast is an overachievement of income on Section 38 & 278 fees for adoption of new roads from housing developments and an underspend against the Concessionary Fares Transport Budget based on the current contract value.

Capital

34.46%

Of Total Capital Programme

£0.0M

Forecast Capital Overspend

CAPITAL	Original Programme £'M	Approved Programme £'M	Capital Forecast £'M	Variance £'M
Infrastructure	23.0	31.7	31.7	0.0
	23.0	31.7	31.7	0.0

Service Comments:-
At present capital spend is forecast to be on track for the financial year. Reprofiting reviews will continue to take place as the year progresses.

Infrastructure

Achievements, Challenges & Risks

Performance RAG	Amber	Finance RAG	Amber
Achievements:	Sustainable drainage scheme funded via the EA's Innovation fund is nearing completion EQUANS staff now transferred and operating under the Infrastructure area within Facilities Management, Highways and Transportation and Professional Services Project Management: Completion of the demolition of Osborne St building in preparation for the Transport Hub Professional Services: A busy Summer - handed over two new schools and a large extension to form Cambridge Park SEND facility. Estates and Asset Strategy: Capital Programme for Disposals on track to achieve above the 25-26 target of sales. Facilities Management: The team facilitated and supported 1,562 help calls. Highways and Transportation: The Grimsby and Immingham SuDS Innovation Project has delivered £1.5M of construction and monitoring/educational work.		
Key challenges:	Cultural changes between EQUANS way of working and NELC staff being fully supported and encouraged to focus on innovation, ongoing task delivered through support and training packages. Staffing resources and structures will require review in the coming months following the successful transfer of staff from EQUANS. Local Transport Grant funding £6.1M coordinating works over this financial year, alongside 2025-26 LTP commitments. Coordinating the highway network.		
Risk to non-delivery:	Contract issues around Corporation Bridge. Highway design resource to meet demands of LTP and LTG – mitigation is in place to provide external resource if required. Legacy pressures around staffing levels within the EQUANS contract – mitigation is in place to review structures and build a modern local authority delivery arm.		

Safer Towns & Communities

Stronger Communities - Clean and Safe Streets and Open Spaces

Let's be proud of where we live and work and let's see 'our place' looking clean and feeling safe. We are doing lots of work and supporting others to take pride in their local areas. We value those people, community groups, partners and businesses who help us achieve this – and we must keep going.

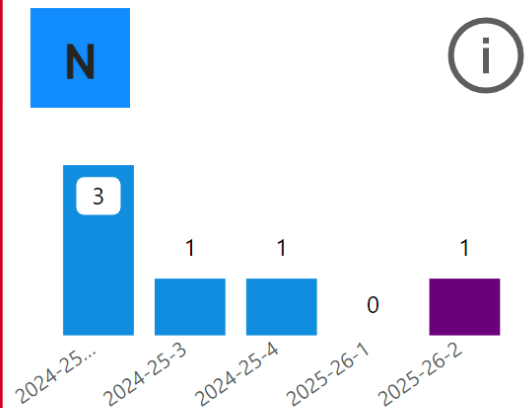


Stronger Communities

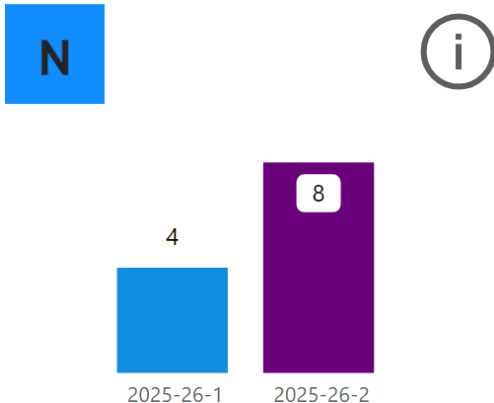
Clean and Safe Streets and Open Spaces



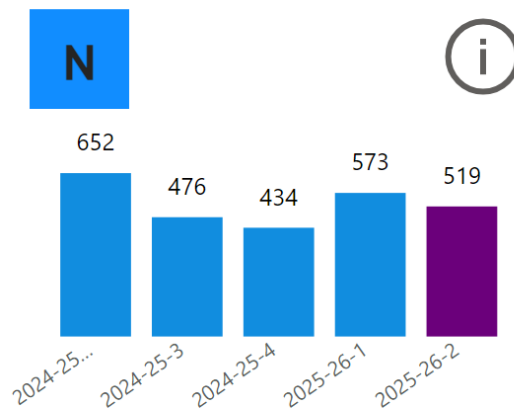
ASB Case reviews received and acted upon



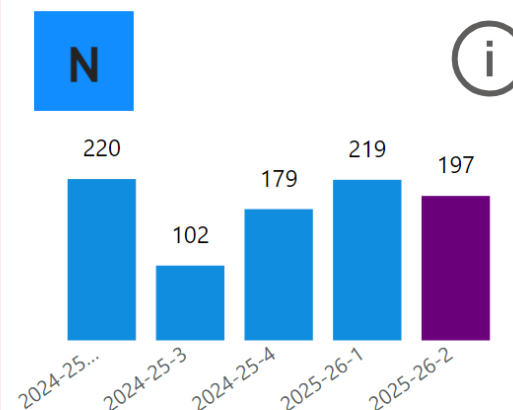
Number of environmental crime FPNs issued or prosecutions supported by CCTV RDC evidence



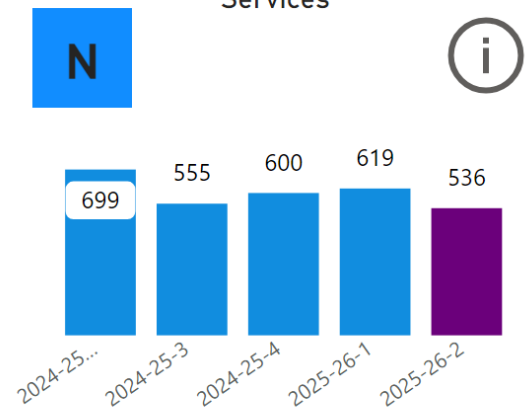
Number of reported anti-social behaviour incidents



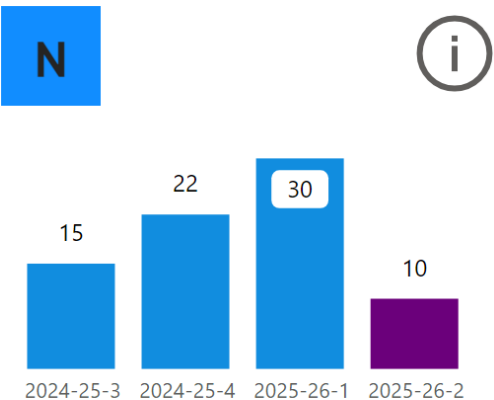
Number of reported youth related anti-social behaviour incidents



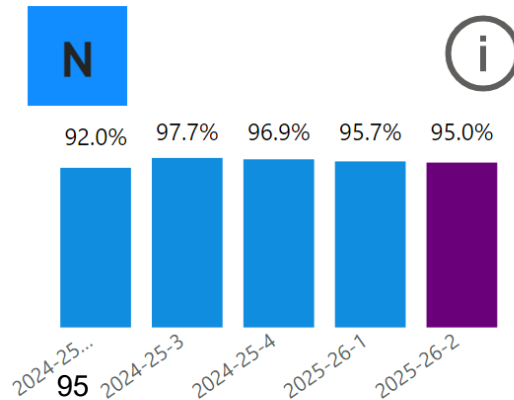
Number of times CCTV has supported an incident attended by Emergency Services



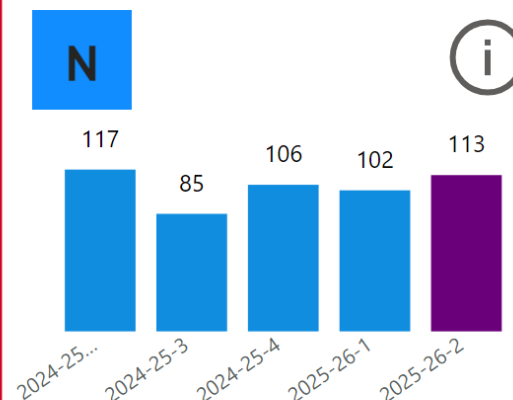
Number of FPNs issued for cycling in GY Town Centre



Public Space CCTV fixed cameras operational (%)



Number of incidents captured on CCTV and supplied to Humberside Police

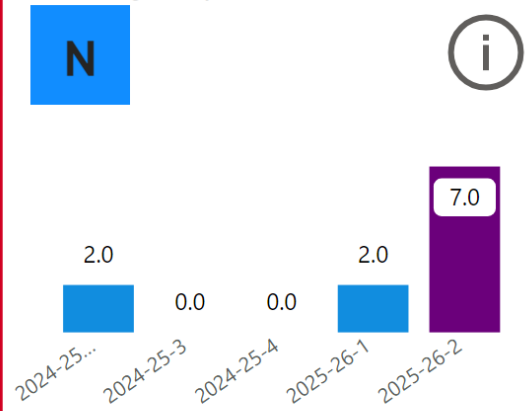


Stronger Communities

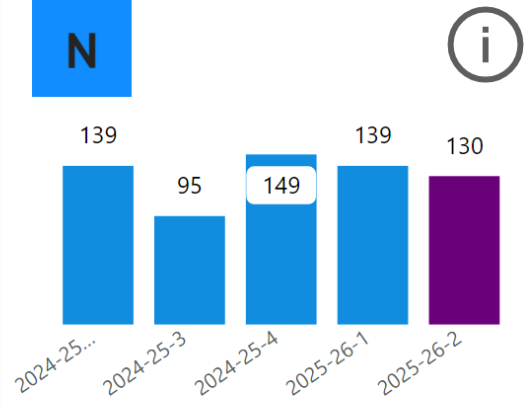
Clean and Safe Streets and Open Spaces



Number of incidents captured on CCTV and Supplied to Humberside Police resulting in a positive outcome at court



Number of incidents caught in progress and reported to Humberside Police



Performance Overview

Safer Towns & Communities

Council Plan Priority	Commentary
Stronger Communities - Clean and Safe Streets and Open Spaces	Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) - in Q2 compared to the same period last year ASB has reduced by 20% from 652 - 519 incidents, with Youth related ASB also showing a reduction of 10% from 219 - 197 incidents. Youth related ASB equates to 37.9 % of all reported ASB. ASB Case reviews - There has been one ASB case review received within this reporting period. This was reviewed and chaired by the NELC independent chair. It was found that all agencies acted in an appropriate and proportionate manner with no recommendations being recorded. The ASB team have a dedicated Victims Champion and a monthly proactive risk process that identifies ASB victims early reducing the likelihood of triggering an ASB Case Review. This has been accredited through the Home Office recommended ASB Help process. Fixed Penalty Notices - There has been a decrease in fixed penalty tickets issued for cycling in the town centre contravening the Public Space Protection Order which is in place to deter cycling, from 30 in quarter 1 to 10 in quarter 2. This is enforced through a contract with WISE. There is far more respect for the PSPO with large numbers of people walking with their bikes through the town centre. There is a dedicated approach now to electric scooters and police days of action are being planned. CCTV – North East Lincolnshire has a range of Fixed Public Facing Cameras and Rapid Deployment Cameras (RDC) as part of its capability. At the last reporting point 95 % of all Fixed Public Facing Cameras were deployed and operational and 96% of all RDC's deployed and operational. The Fixed Public Facing Cameras have supported 536 incidents attended by emergency services. Of these incidents 21% (113) have been supplied to Humberside Police by the CCTV operators and 62% (70/113) of these have been used in the development of an investigation. 100% of all ASB cameras continue to support a live Police/Partnership problem solving initiative. Prosecutions at Court - This quarter has seen seven successful prosecutions at court supported by CCTV evidence. Positive outcomes at court utilising CCTV will often be protracted due to the length of time investigations take to get to Court. Longitudinal analysis will enable a better understanding of outcomes over time and will continue to be tracked.

0.66%

Of Total Revenue
Service Budgets

£0.0M

Forecast Revenue
Underspend

1.0%

Variance as % Of Total
Budget Envelope

REVENUE	Revenue Budget £'M	Revenue Forecast £'M	Variance £'M
Safer Towns & Communities	1.3	1.3	0.0
	1.3	1.3	0.0

Service Comments:-
Spend is currently forecast to be materially in line with budget expectations for the financial year.

Capital

0.45%

Of Total Capital
Programme

(£0.1M)

Forecast Capital
Underspend

CAPITAL	Original Programme £'M	Approved Programme £'M	Capital Forecast £'M	Variance £'M
Safer Towns & Communities	0.2	0.4	0.4	(0.1)
	0.2	0.4	0.4	(0.1)

Service Comments:
HSA (High St Accelerator) and Green Spaces capital spending has occurred this financial year with the grant provider agreeing that spend can continue occurring after June 2025 provided plans are in place to fully spend the grant.
The service are currently estimating that they will have an underspend on this project of £59k in this fiscal year.

Safer & Stronger Towns

Achievements, Challenges & Risks

Performance RAG	Green	Finance RAG	Green
Achievements:	Operation Mastery - also known as Safer Streets 5 continues to achieve excellent crime and ASB reductions within Grimsby town centre when compared to 23-24 to 24-25, these include:- •All ASB reduced by 14% •All Alcohol related ASB reduced by 51% •All crime reduced by 5% (compared to 2% for the whole borough) •Violent crime with injury reduced by 23% •Bicycle theft reduced by 47% •All theft by 9%. Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) - All current PSPO's have been successfully reviewed and refreshed for a further 3 years to help reduce ASB in some of our parks and open spaces. Fair Play Football - The service has been successful in securing £240k of funding from the National Lottery which will ensure the fair play football programme will continue for a further 3 years ensuring our Young People continue to be engaged in this positive activity. Green Spaces- funding has been successfully utilised to bring colour and vibrance back into Victoria Street. This has included hanging baskets, floor planters and living walls. A pop-up garden has also been installed, and planning permission is being sought for festoon lights which will be installed following the completion of the leisure scheme. Plan for Neighbourhoods – The Council has recently launched an engagement process to develop a 10-year Regeneration Plan and initial 4-year investment plan which will see £20m of investment into Grimsby based on community priorities, work continues and is progressing well with a number of engagement events taking place this quarter. A final Community Event will be held in November ahead of final submission.		
Key challenges:	Safer and Stronger Place is currently undertaking a thorough review to determine its scope and capability moving forward. This will ensure that the present and future demands and requirements of the Council in this important area of work are considered to ensure the Council has the resources and capabilities to work across a range of important issues that affect the public . The review will focus on a number of key areas including CCTV & Security, the Resort function and requirements, Community Safety & Anti-Social Behaviour and Placed Based Approaches that consider management of our town centres and public spaces. The service continues to oversee a range of community safety and regeneration agendas with limited resources.		
Risk to non-delivery:	As above, it is acknowledged that the resourcing requirements within the Safer & Stronger area requires reviewing to ensure it has the capability to deliver across a range of areas that are important to the Council and wider public. A formal review is currently taking place to identify what the resource requirement will need to look like moving forward.		

Children and Family Services

Stronger Communities - Nurturing our Children and Building their Future

In the spirit of 'Our Children Our Future', children, young people and families are at the centre of all we do.

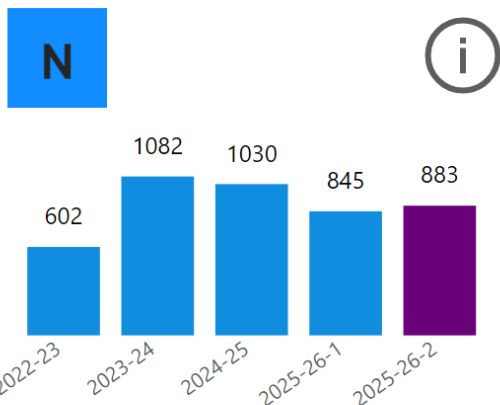


Stronger Communities

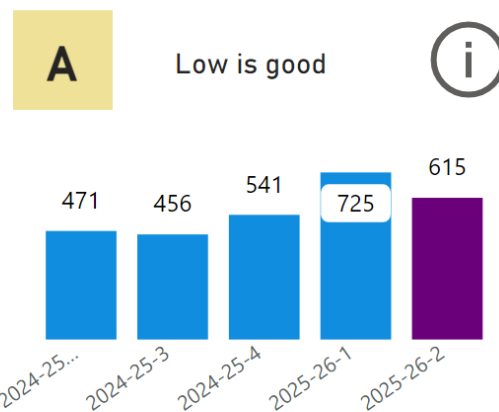
Nurturing our Children and Building their Future



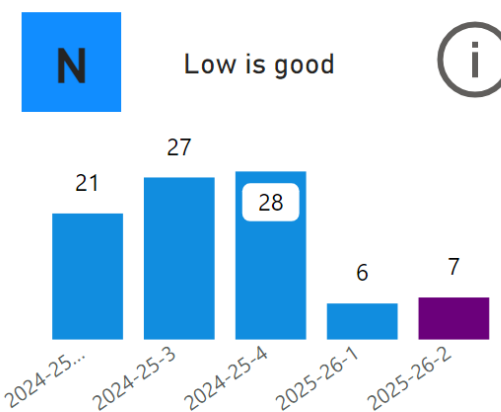
Number of Family Help cases across the partnership



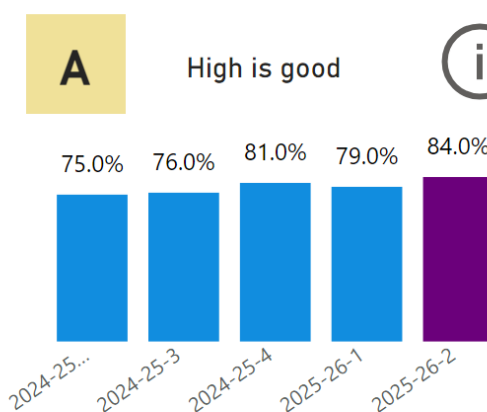
Number of referrals at the front door



Number of first time entrants to youth justice



Proportion of permanent social work qualified staff (%)



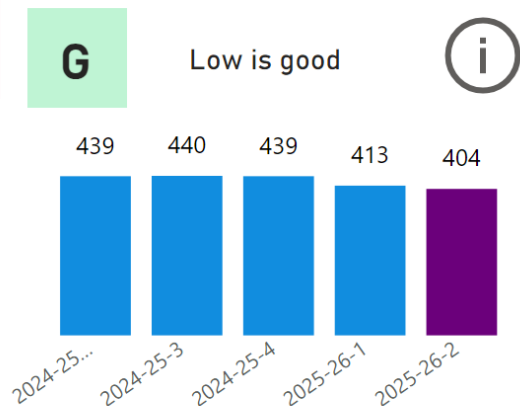
Performance Overview

Children and Family Services (Safeguarding and Early Help)

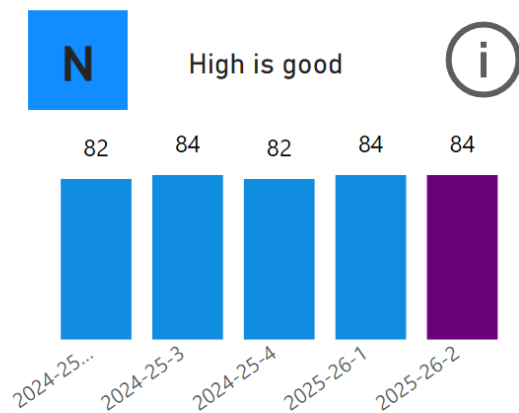
Council Plan Priority	Commentary
Stronger Communities - Nurturing our Children and Building their Future	Family help: The partnership approach to family help at the earliest point means more families receive the help and support they need by the person who knows them best. This has been further strengthened to enable intervention to take place at the times that families most need this. We are continuing to build on this as we develop in line with the Social care reforms Referrals: The number of referrals to the Integrated Front Door has seen an overall decrease. There has been an increase in referrals aligned to the strengthened work across the partnership and launch of key strategies (Neglect, sexual harm and harm outside the home). Over the last quarter, referral numbers have been in line with expected targets and assurance work highlights that referrals are appropriate and proportionate to need. We continue to work with partners to strengthen the preventative approach so need and risk do not escalate Re-referrals remain low, and children and families are now more likely to receive appropriate support and intervention to meet need and prevent escalation and reducing the need for repeat referrals to children's social care First time entrants to Youth Justice Children benefit from a child first approach which has enabled first time entrants to youth justice to reduce significantly through robust prevention and diversion work across the partnership work. Recruitment: Staff recruitment continues to be a priority and as a result, there has been significant progress in recruitment activity, which has resulted in 53 social workers being recruited (and a reduction of agency social workers from 90 to 6,). As at end Sept 2025, we have 10.5 social worker vacancies. The turnover rate is 5.74%, which is very low compared with 13.8% from a national perspective.



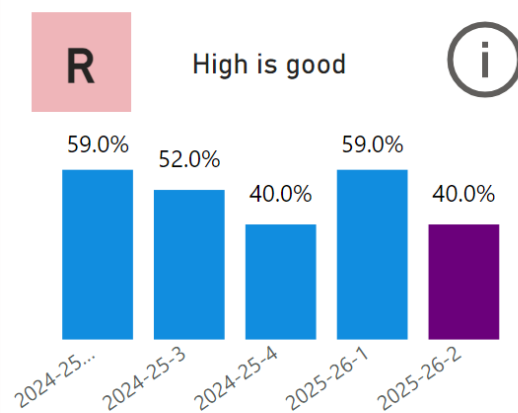
Number of children in our care



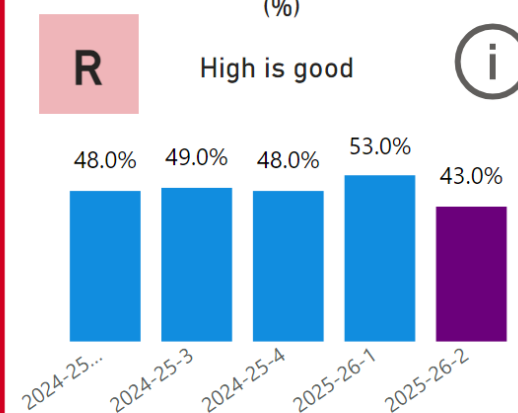
Number of mainstream foster carers



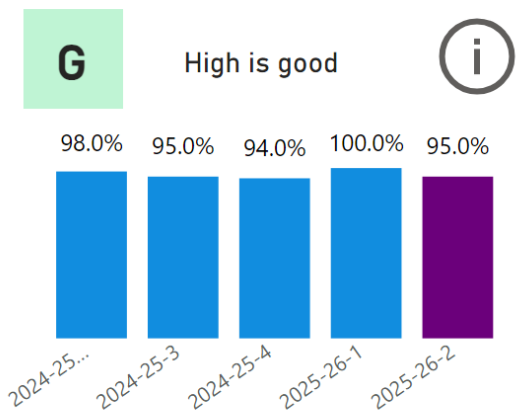
Care Leavers aged 17-18 accessing Education, Training and Employment (%)



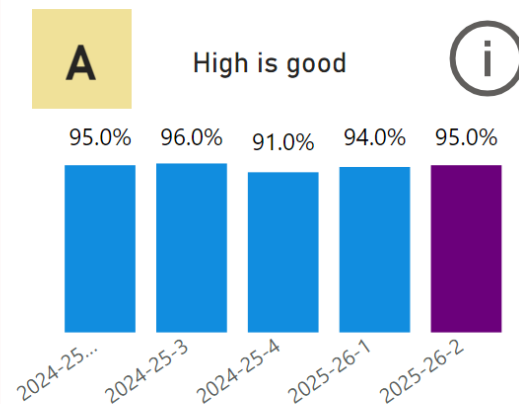
Care Leavers aged 19-21 accessing Education, Training and Employment (%)



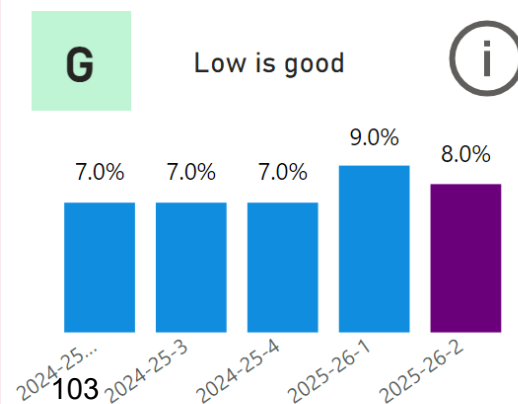
Care Leavers aged 17-18 in suitable accommodation (%)



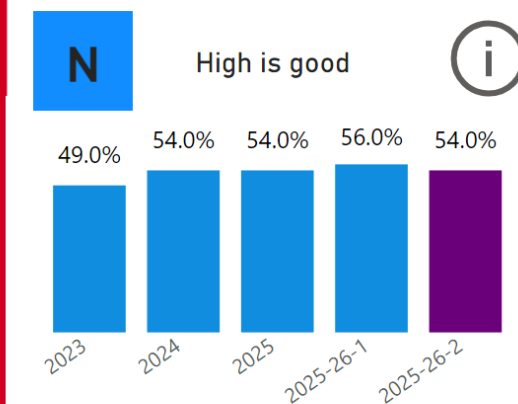
Care Leavers aged 19-21 in suitable accommodation (%)



Children with 3 or more placement moves in a 12 month period (%)



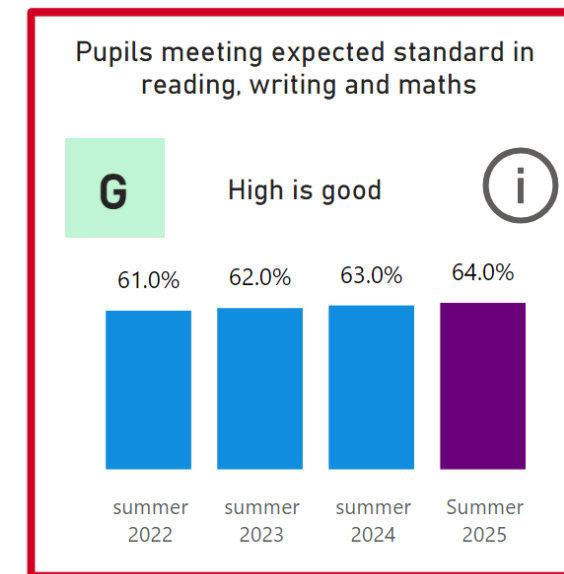
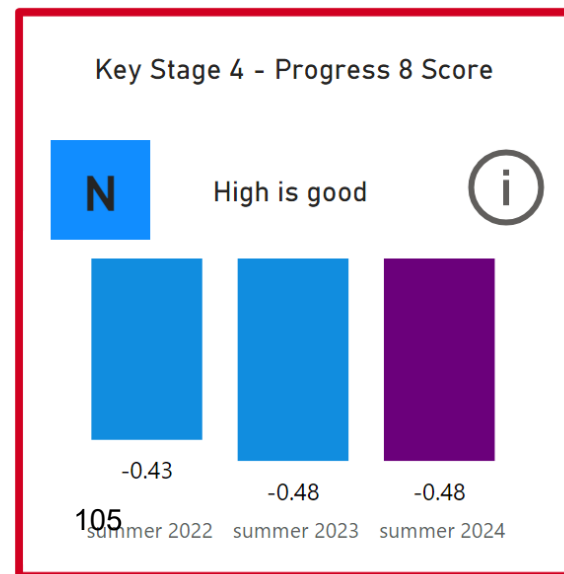
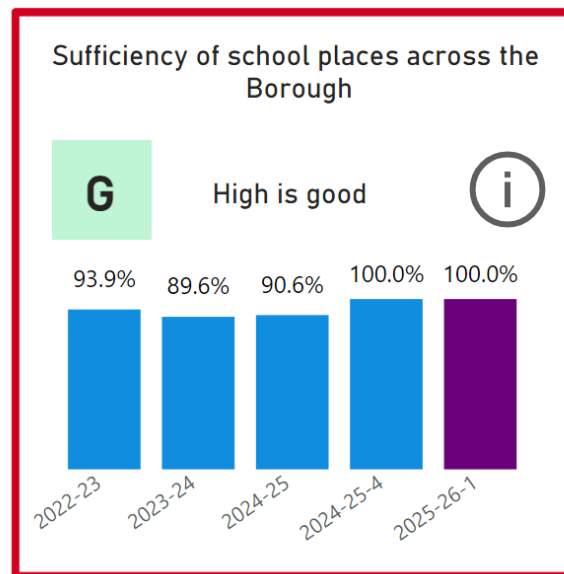
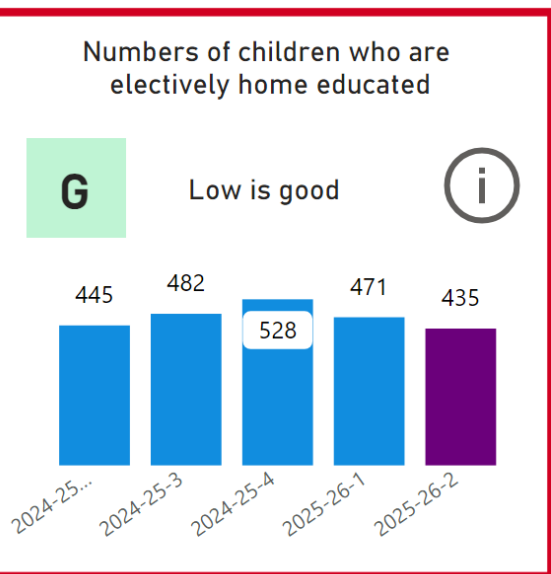
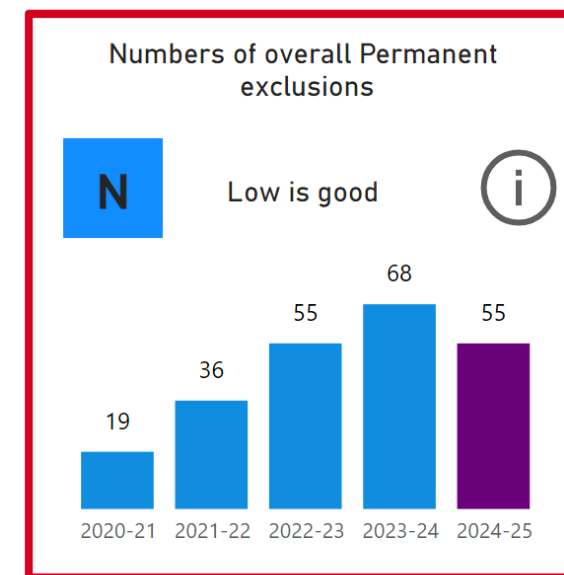
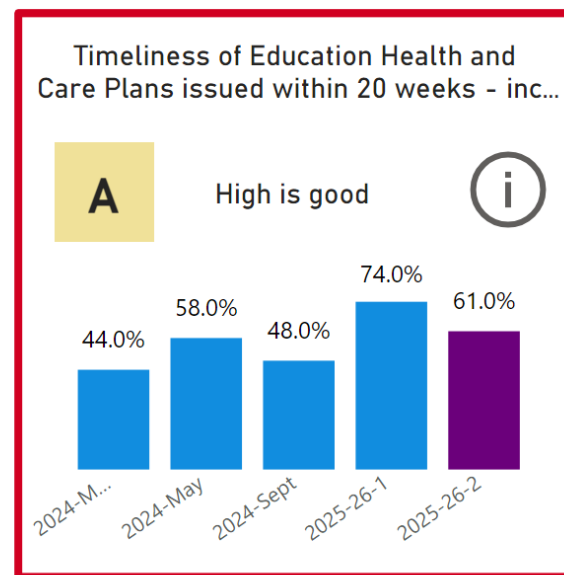
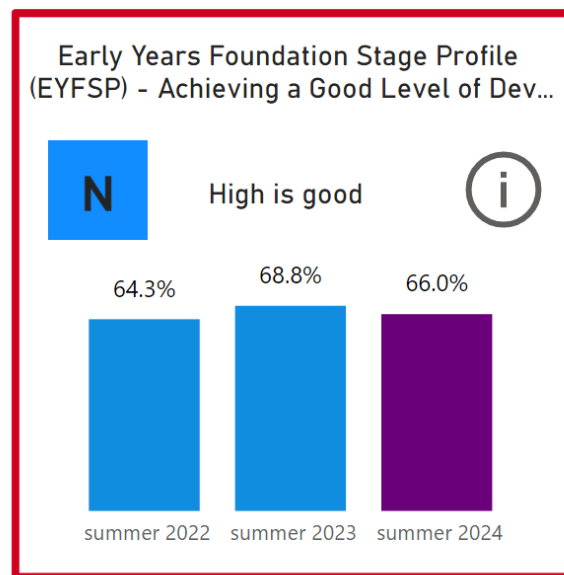
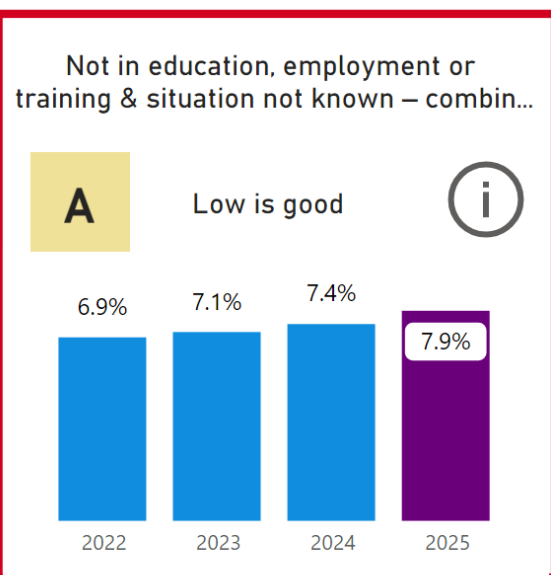
Children in our care placed in own provision (%)



Performance Overview

Children and Family Services (Regulated Provision)

Council Plan Priority	Commentary
Stronger Communities - Nurturing our Children and Building their Future	Children in Care: The children in care population continues to be stable and is safely reducing with very low numbers subsequently re-entering care. Stability: The indicator in relation to long-term stability has been negatively affected by increasing numbers of children leaving stable care placements by achieving permanence through being reunited with their family networks and / or legal permanence through adoption / SGO / CAO. Whilst these have a negative impact on the indicator, they are very positive outcomes for the children themselves. Children in our own provision: Internal provision continues to be developed with the purchase now completed of 2 further children's homes. Foster carers: The success of approaches to fostering recruitment mean that it is now anticipated that there will be at least 20 carers approved this year - a substantial improvement on previous years and a further increase on the previous quarter. Care Leavers 19-21 Accessing Education Employment and Training: Enabling care experienced people to access education, employment and training continues to be a significant challenge and the implementation to the Council's Family Enterprise scheme will be an important step towards helping young people and adults to engage with opportunities and achieve their potential. Care Leavers in suitable accommodation: Identifying and providing suitable accommodation for care leavers continues to be a significant area of development to meet their needs. There is an ongoing need to single accommodation to enable care experienced to develop their life skills and achieve stability. This is a core component of a renewed focus on housing and accommodation.



Performance Overview

Children and Family Services (Education and Inclusion)

Council Plan Priority	Commentary
Stronger Communities - Nurturing our Children and Building their Future	NEET: Whilst our NEET % is higher than national comparators, the combined NEET and Not Known % brings us in line with our neighbouring LAs. EHCP timeliness: EHCP completion within 20 weeks has improved financial year following improvements in this area largely as a result of investment in Education Psychology capacity through locums. The slight reduction is a result of leave and capacity during the summer period which is expected; however the overall trend continues to improve. Permanent Exclusions: the total number of Permanent Exclusions reduced in the 24/25 Academic Year in comparison to the 23/24 Academic Year. The new Ofsted inspection framework for schools will use information such as this to more rigorously provide judgments on school effectiveness under the 'inclusion' category. Electively Home Educated: Following extensive transformation work, the new EHE Strategy is scheduled for Scrutiny and Cabinet by the end of 2025. Resulting capacity increase and ways of working have led to a large number of children returning to education at the start of the academic year. Reducing the attainment gap: Pupil Premium Policy has been updated to reflect the need for schools to successfully evidence the impact of interventions of children in our care, linked to PEP outcomes and academic progress.

29.24%

Of Total Revenue
Service Budgets

£2.6M

Forecast Revenue
Overspend

4.7%

Variance as % Of Total
Budget Envelope

REVENUE	Revenue Budget £'M	Revenue Forecast £'M	Variance £'M
Education and Inclusion	2.9	3.6	0.6
Safeguarding, Youth Justice and Family Help	17.8	18.2	0.4
Director Childrens Services	(0.8)	0.1	0.9
Women, Childrens and Families	0.3	0.3	0.0
AD Regulated Provision	35.5	36.2	0.7
Total Children's & Family Services	55.7	58.3	2.6

Service Comments:-

Restorative actions are significantly impacting the numbers of Children Looked After and associated activity.

- Education** : The overspend relates to Transport costs reflecting the ongoing trajectory for the demand for SEN transport, this is not only an NELC pressure, but a national issue. The overspend forecast for Education Psychology is as a result of the reliance of agency staff to fulfil statutory requirements due to the level of EHCP requests and recruitment issues.
- Women** : The figures reported at Period 6 monitoring present an estimate of 25/26 costs, recognising high cost placements. Work to improve the accuracy of the 25/26 cost forecast is currently on-going , we are hoping that this will be completed by Period 7/8 . Following on from this, discussions around the 25/26 Children's Trust Agreement (health funding for the service) can then progress.
- Safeguarding**: Children's Disability Service is reporting an overspend of £0.2M, this service is being reviewed as part of the Short break offer. Youth Justice Service has a forecast pressure of £0.2M due the cost of a remand placement. Reliance on Agency staff had reduced significantly last year and recruitment has been successful.
- Regulatory**: External Placements overspend is now forecast at £1.3M, this is due to high cost, complex care placements and annual market increases however is decreasing as care planning activity is progressed. Negotiations with the ICB have progressed and contributions to placements costs have been built into monitoring . Children's residential care is undergoing a redesign and a new model is being developed, currently there is a pressure forecast as £0.1m.

Service Comments:-

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) - The P6 forecast cumulative deficit at 31st March 2026 is £25.8M, an increase of £13.8M on the previous year. The forecast increased deficit is due to demand within the high needs block for out of area independent special places, top up funding to mainstream schools and Education other than at School (EOTAS) arrangements. The increase to DSG, in particular the High Needs Block is attributed to increased need for specialist out of area school placements and parents increasingly requesting EOTAS for their children. There are plans to recruit to an additional service manager to support children remaining in mainstream settings and a focus on increasing parental confidence in mainstream, in addition to the local RSP developments. It should be noted that despite the HNB increase, this is far lower than was predicted before the DBV activity had taken place, thereby lowering the predicted DSG rise. There has been a need to source placements for 4 children, with those placements in excess of one million this quarter.

18.88%

Of Total Capital Programme

(£0.5M)

Forecast Capital Underspend

CAPITAL	Approved Programme £'M	Approved Programme £'M	Capital Forecast £'M	Variance £'M
Childrens & Family Services	14.1	17.4	16.8	(0.5)

Service Comments:-

The underspend relates to Education and Inclusion, where some reprofiling is required for the Humberston Park project. Other projects are forecast to be materially aligned with budget expectations for the financial year.

Safeguarding & Early Help (1)

Achievements, Challenges & Risks

Performance RAG

Amber

Finance RAG

Red

Achievements:

The Inspection of Local Authority Children's services was completed in July 2025 and graded Services to Children as Good with Outstanding Leadership.

Referrals: More children are having their needs met earlier. There has been a sharpened focus across the workforce and the partnership in identifying and appropriately responding to neglect and sexual harm (both intra familial abuse and harm outside the home). Through audit activity, referrals are more appropriate and in line with the threshold document.

Children in Need: Populations overall remain consistent, there is an ongoing focus on children in need and ensuring timely intervention and progress of the plan. This has been enhanced by a stable permanent workforce and practice across the partnership being aligned to the threshold document. There has been a positive impact on partner decision making and children's needs are being appropriately identified and intervention aligned to need.

Child Exploitation: There has been an amplified focus on our strategic and operational responses to child exploitation across the workforce and wider partnership, informed by learning from the Casey review. This includes developing a more nuanced understanding of our local profile of victims, offenders, and locations enabling earlier identification of themes and trends and facilitating proactive, intelligence-led responses.

Youth Justice The focus on the holistic needs of the family and strong partnership approach to prevention means that First Time Entrants to youth justice remain low

Family Help: We have redesigned our offer of family help to ensure families receive the help they need at the times this is most required. This has enabled a strengthened targeted offer to meet need early and provide immediate help at crisis points to prevent breakdown. Our family hubs have been redesigned alongside children and families to align the offer to local need, with multi-disciplinary support and group work in place during evenings and weekends, including all children aged 0-18.

Safeguarding & Early Help (2)

Achievements, Challenges & Risks

Key challenges:	Delivering the national reforms: Taking account of our transformation activity to date, we continue to build the children's system to respond to the national reforms, and to ensure we are in a strong position to help, support and protect our children, young people, families and communities. From a children's social care perspective, the initial focus is around co-designing and further developing our multi disciplinary family help offer, our family network decision making approach, and exploring our future arrangements relating to multi agency child protection teams. The number of children sentenced to custody remains low and below national and regional comparator groups. This has increased from last year by 1 and there are a small number of children on the edge of custody, and we have developed a strategic partnership meeting to proactively respond to this. There are additional budgetary pressures associated with remand placements
Risk to non-delivery:	Continued engagement by the Council and partners to build on and deliver the support to children, young people and families including in their housing, health, communities, schools and setting is essential to enable the ongoing delivery of the support families need

Regulated Provision

Achievements, Challenges & Risks

Performance RAG

Amber

Finance RAG

Red

Achievements:

Children in Care: The sharpened partnership focus on intervention to prevent children entering care and the strengthened decision-making systems have enabled more children to remain within their family and fewer children needing to enter our care resulting in the care population being significantly reduced and stable.

Foster carers: Through our fostering friendly campaign with schools and businesses, and raising awareness, we have significantly increased the numbers of foster carer enquiries leading to assessment, with projections to increase further over 2025/26, this will contribute to enabling children to live in their local families and improve outcomes for children.

Care Leavers: A comprehensive programme of work has been completed in relation to the support older young people receive in their accommodation. This includes the quality and availability of the accommodation so that each young person has a suitable place to live that meets their needs.

Following the Council adopting Protected Characteristics for Care leavers there has been an increased focus on providing employability options for care experienced people. This includes the development of the North East Lincolnshire Family Enterprise scheme that will be formally launched during Corporate and Community Parenting fortnight in October.

This will build on the success of the Summer Employability scheme that enabled 12 care experienced people to have further opportunities to access employment and led to a number of ongoing employment opportunities for young people attending the scheme.

Key challenges:

There is a continuing challenge in having sufficient local accommodation to meet the needs of children in our care with complex needs both within foster carer and children's home provision.

Having sufficient suitable accommodation for care leavers continues to be an ongoing challenge, particularly in relation to single flats. This includes developing sufficient appropriate accommodation for those young people transitioning to their own accommodation as they reach adulthood as well as those with complex needs and vulnerabilities post 21.

The agreed development of the project on Freeman street will provide a further 5 flats and further work continues alongside housing colleagues to identify and develop further accommodation options

Risk to non-delivery:

Suitable housing for care leavers continues to be a significant challenge with the shortage of suitable single properties that meet their needs.

Being able to provide sufficient timely local children's homes to meet the needs of the care population continues to be a challenge to reduce the need to use external children's home provision.

Education & Inclusion

Achievements, Challenges & Risks

Performance RAG	Amber	Finance RAG	Red
Achievements:	Reducing the attainment gap: Training for designated teachers and virtual school inclusion officers linked to SMART targets, ambitious expectations for academic outcomes and clear transition plans, with a significant investment in the educational psychology team to enhance training around Emotion Coaching and MELSA. Electively Home Educated: Partnership-wide strategy is going through Council governance over the next 8 weeks following consultation and transformation work. Enhanced capacity and new ways of working have had a positive impact on the numbers of children who are home educated, and robust oversight of children with a social worker or those with an EHCP. Developing an Inclusion and Belonging pledge: We have worked with place-based leaders, chief executives, and regional directors to explore how all partners can contribute to 'inclusion and belonging' across the borough, including key players in industry, local businesses, sports and youth organisations, and education representatives Systems Leaders: Developed a Systems Leaders Group, consisting of MAT CEOs, Regional Directors, the DfE and DCS and Service Director for Education, with a focus on area priorities alongside the revamp of the headteachers meetings. Significant improvements in EHCP Statutory Assessment timeliness.		
Key challenges:	The Education White Paper and SEND Reforms have been delayed until the New Year, which will have an impact on certain projects such as Alternative Provision recommissioning. Whilst there have been indications of content, the requirements of the local authority are not yet known.		
Risk to non-delivery:	Need to ensure continued engagement with schools and settings to reduce exclusions and continue to support improved attendance, leading to improved outcomes for children, and future employability and workforce.		

Adult Services

Stronger Communities - Supporting Our Adults

We have read about our journey to care for, and nurture, our children and young people. Remember, those young people will grow, and we need to prepare them for their young adult life – ensuring that adults of all ages live independent, healthy and fulfilling lives in North East Lincolnshire.

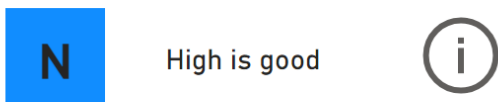


Stronger Communities

Supporting our Adults

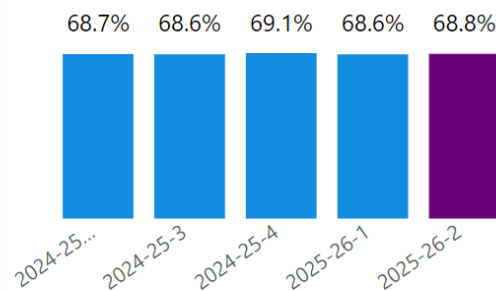
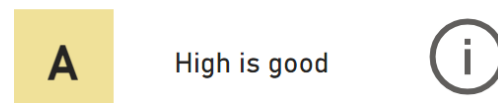


Disabled Facilities Grant referrals complete/in progress (%)

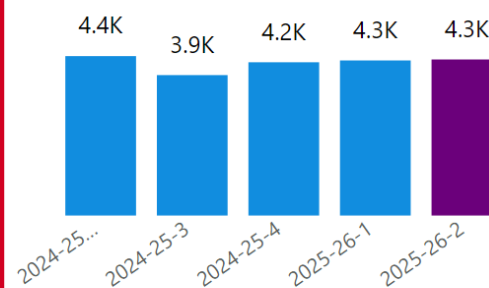
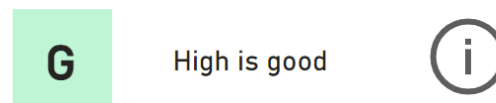


Measure under development post Equans

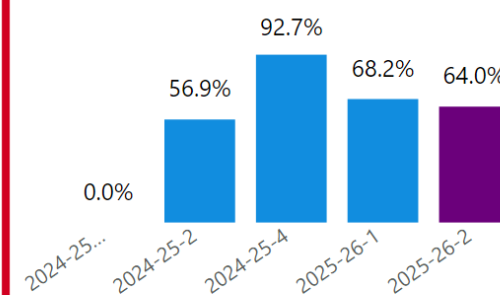
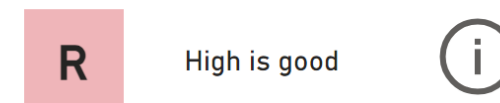
Proportion of people in receipt of long term support who have Support at Home



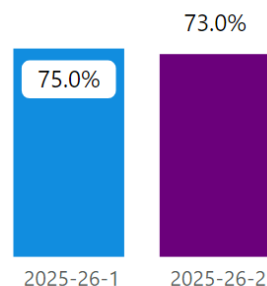
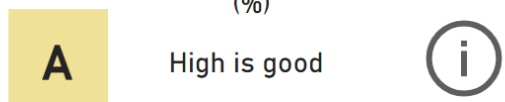
The number of carer prevention interventions per quarter



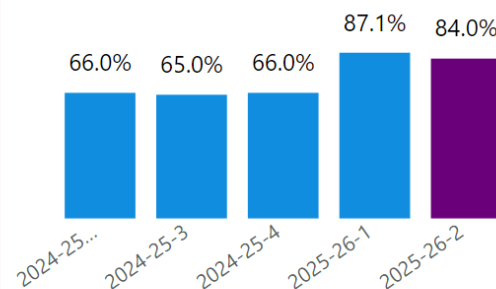
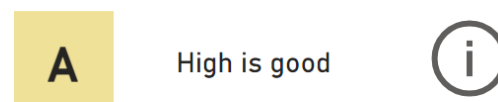
People offered a direct payment that are eligible for care and support (%)



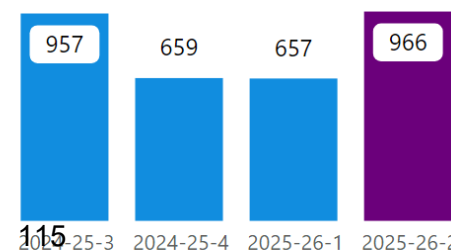
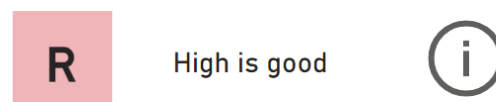
People who have no further support following intermediate care at home (%)



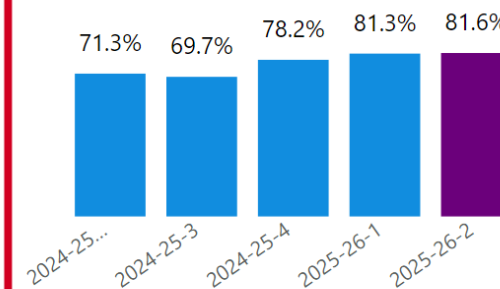
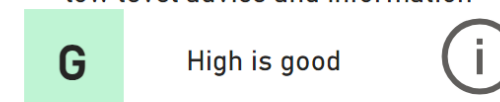
People whose outcomes were met following a safeguarding notification (%)



Annual reviews completed



The proportion of people accessing the Single point of Access signposted to low level advice and information



Performance Overview

Adult Services

Council Plan Priority	Commentary
Stronger Communities – Supporting Our Adults	We continue to see improvements across the performance of adult social care but recognise that improvements in particular areas need to take place. We continue to see high numbers of people who are signposted to low level advice and information. This allows people to make preventative decisions based on information made available to them. This figure for Q2 is slightly higher than Q1 and the average for all of last year. The number of people who meet outcomes of their safeguarding intervention has decreased slightly this quarter – down on Q1. The figures continue to be monitored by council officers to ensure practice in this area remains consistent. The number of reviews undertaken has increased by over 300 compared to Q1, but remains below our target. Measures taken by Focus have had a positive impact. These measures will continue to be monitored by council officers at monthly performance meetings. Compared with Q1, a small drop has been recorded in the numbers of eligible people being offered a Direct Payment. Focus continue a programme of improvement including developing DP champions amongst the Focus workforce. Council officers continue to work closely with Focus on this matter. The number of people who need no further assistance after a period of rehabilitation/reablement remains high although has dipped slightly this quarter and remains under the target of 80%. Evidence suggests that a more complex cohort is being referred to rehabilitation/reablement and that better outcomes for these people are being achieved. The proportion of people with care who have a support package at home remains stable and has only varied by 1% over the past 6 quarters. The number of carer prevention interventions remains high and has increased since Q4. This number can fluctuate depending on the number of carers and their need for support. Extra Care Commissioning is underway and the new support at home framework is now operational. Reablement review (phase two – bed based reablement) continues and expected to deliver improved outcomes and efficiencies similar to those delivered through phase one. A new DFG measure is being developed post EQUANS.

36.78%Of Total Revenue
Service Budgets

£1.2M

Forecast Revenue
Overspend

1.69%

Variance as % Of Total
Budget Envelope

REVENUE	Revenue Budget £'M	Revenue Forecast £'M	Variance £'M
Community (ICB)	48.2	47.9	(0.3)
Long & Short Term Residential (ICB)	25.8	27.3	1.5
ASC Operational Costs (ICB)	1.3	1.3	0.0
Better Care Fund (ICB)	(5.9)	(5.9)	(0.0)
Adult Services (NELC)	0.6	0.6	0.0
Total Adults Social Care	70.0	71.2	1.2

Service Comments:-

The forecasted pressure is primarily driven by increased demand across several areas, including support-at-home care packages, with 50 more individuals receiving support than originally budgeted. Additionally, 28 more older people are being supported in residential care than anticipated and variations in the number of short break packages have also been observed. Work is underway to better understand these trends. As of month 6, Adult Social Care is supporting over 130 more commissioned care packages than planned. There remains a risk to the year-end forecast due to potential further increases in demand during the remainder of the financial year.

A photograph of a row of terraced houses in a residential area. The houses have red brick chimneys and tiled roofs. The houses are white with red brick accents. The roofs are dark grey or black. The houses are arranged in a row, and the chimneys are visible on the roofline. The sky is overcast.

Housing

Stronger Communities - Good and Sustainable Homes

Living a healthy life is what we want for our residents and ensuring access to good quality and affordable homes in the borough will contribute hugely towards that ambition.

Stronger Communities

Good and Sustainable Homes



Approving the Local Plan for submission
by December 2026 to Secretary of State

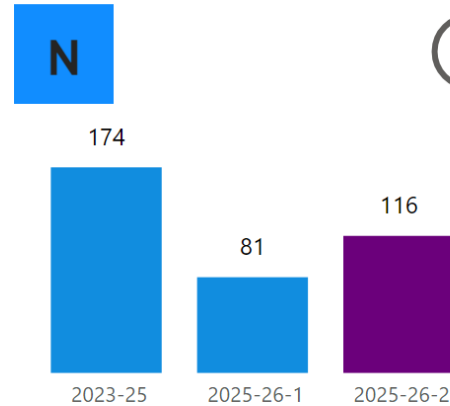
G



On Target

Interventions in homes where hazards
have been removed (Cat 1 and 2)

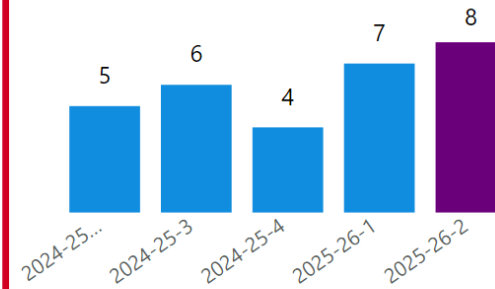
N



Rough sleepers identified in the latest
rough sleeper count

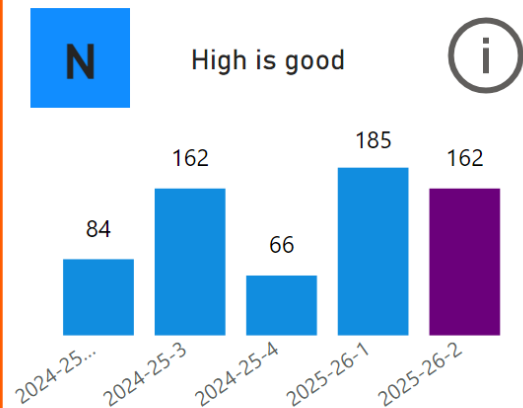
G

Low is good

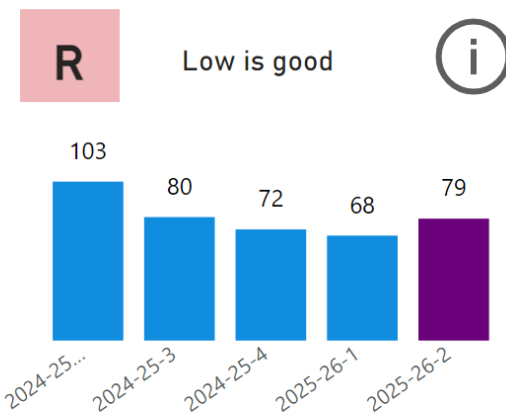




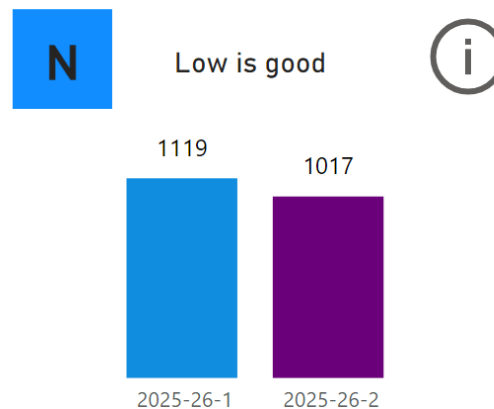
Net new homes in the year



Temp accommodation placements as at the end of the period



Number of properties empty for over 1 years as at the end of the period



Performance Overview

Housing

Council Plan Priority	Commentary
Stronger Economy – Supporting Industry, Business and Housing (Housing focus)	Work is well under way on the old Western school site being carried out by Keepmoat. These properties will boost the number of new homes being built in the borough, along with other developments such as Garth Lane, coming online later in the year. Work within the Housing Options team to reduce the number of people in temporary accommodation is ongoing and has stabilised, as the longer-term pathways to sustainable housing are established. The number of empty homes across the borough continues to be a challenge. The Housing service supported by other teams across the Council are committed to challenging the owners of these empty properties to bring them back into full use. NELC has been successful in obtaining a government grant for support with strategic partnerships for building affordable homes. This will underpin the development of new strategic partnerships which is underway.
Stronger Communities - Good and Sustainable Homes	Home Choice Lincs is NELC and NLC's social housing register and process for residents wishing to take up social housing opportunities. A review is in progress to ensure access to social housing is fair, efficient and fit for purpose. NELC has been successful in obtaining a government grant for support with strategic partnerships for building affordable homes. This will underpin our approach to new strategic partnerships which are in development as well as influence the Affordable Housing Strategy. Additionally, work continues with developing stronger ties with private sector landlords to increase the options available to residents through establishing a private sector landlord forum. Both of these initiatives are targeting a key priority of influencing and increasing supply of social and affordable housing across the borough. Several housing policies are currently being reviewed, these include the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy. The supported housing needs assessment is due to be completed in November.

1.88%

Of Total Revenue
Service Budgets

(£0.1M)

Forecast Revenue
Underspend

(1.8%)

Variance as % Of Total
Budget Envelope

REVENUE	Revenue Budget £'M	Revenue Forecast £'M	Variance £'M
Housing	3.6	3.5	(0.1)
	3.6	3.5	(0.1)

Service Comments:-
Overall underspend is driven by housing related support contract costs being forecast lower than expected, this is partially offset by a lower Housing Benefit collection rates pressure.

Capital

0.34%

Of Total Capital
Programme

£0.0M

Forecast Capital
Underspend

CAPITAL	Original Programme £'M	Approved Programme £'M	Capital Forecast £'M	Variance £'M
Housing	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.0
	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.0

Service Comments:
Capital spend remains on track, with costs continuing to be carefully monitored.

Adult Services and Housing

Achievements, Challenges & Risks

Performance RAG	Amber	Finance RAG	Red
Achievements:	Improvement in reablement at home outcomes Improvements in the adult social care front door in relation to signposting, advice and guidance Delivery of the new support at home framework and implementation Continued good performance in hospital discharge Implementation of the community living framework Maintained low waiting lists, short assessment times and waits for care packages. Establishment of the system social work quality assurance board		
Key challenges:	Demand and complexity of people requiring care and support remains unpredictable and is creating financial pressure. Changes to the ICB are unclear and this continues to present risks in terms of NHS resources at place. Review numbers have improved, and the action plan continues to be in place with oversight from NELC. Direct payment numbers remain lower than expected and Focus have an action plan to try to improve this position.		
Risk to non-delivery:	Inability to recruit to key roles in commissioning and contract monitoring. Significant increase in demand during Q2 Changes to the ICB place based teams is likely to result in less resource at place CIC's not being in a position to contribute to savings delivery programme.		

Public Health

Stronger Communities - Living a Healthy Life

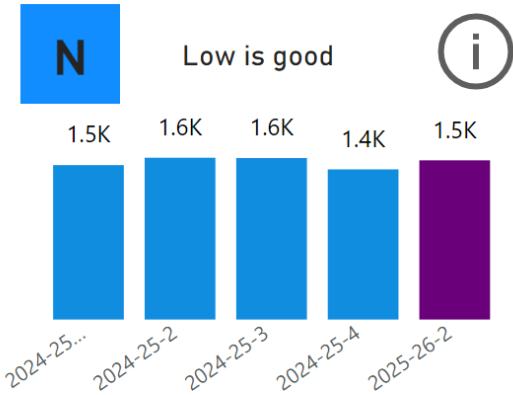
In North East Lincolnshire we are all working together to understand how we can have a positive impact on health and wellbeing in our community, and to make a difference to the lives and living standards of all our residents, particularly those suffering from inequality and deprivation.



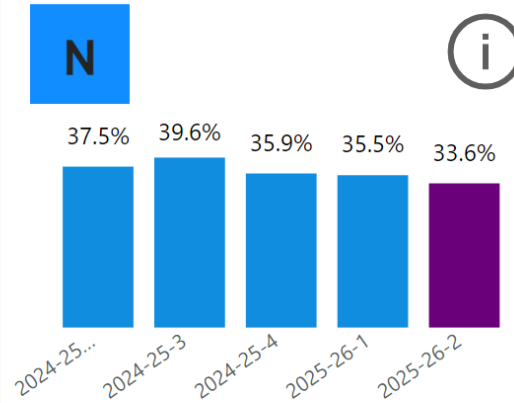
Stronger Communities Living a Healthy Life



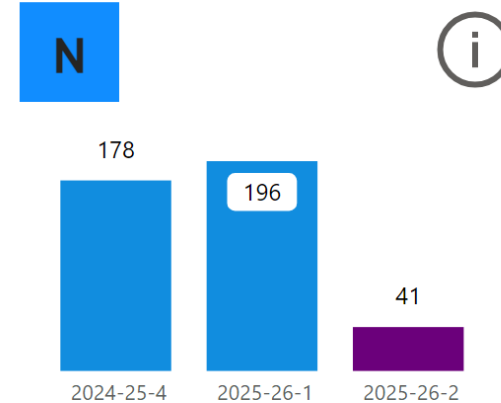
Number of domestic abuse incidents reported to Humberside Police



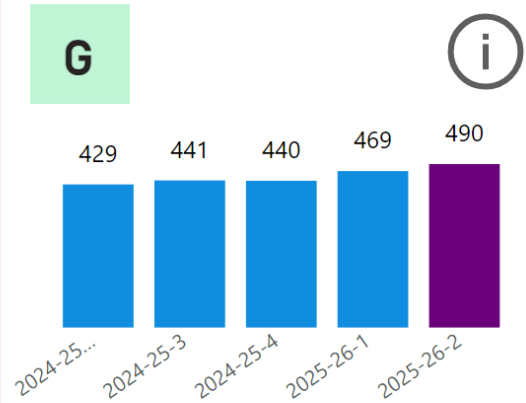
Breast fed babies at 6-8 weeks (%)



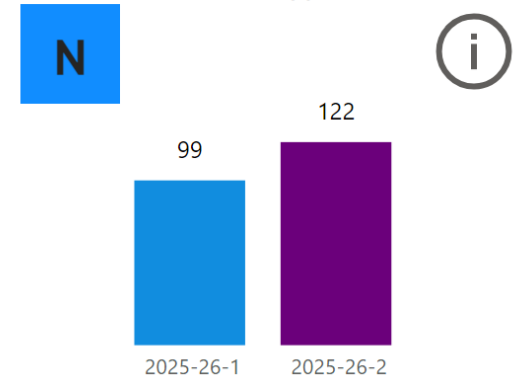
Number of children who have received sexual health support/intervention from a School Nurse



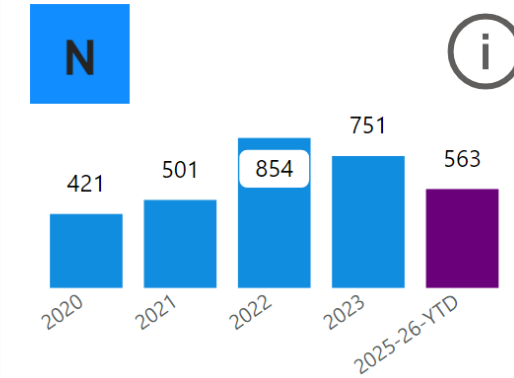
Clients referred to the wellbeing service (rolling 12-month average)



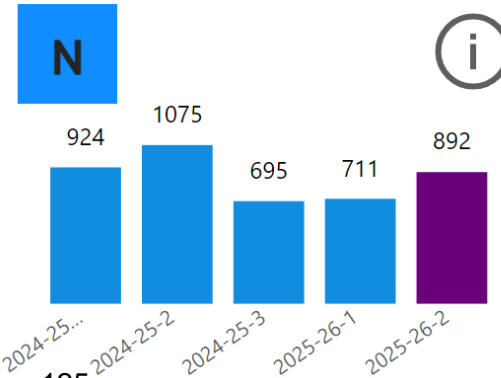
Number of mothers identified as requiring additional Perinatal mental health support



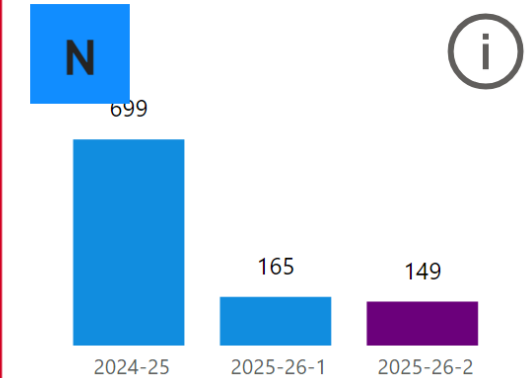
Number of new sexually transmitted infection diagnosis



Number of online STI kits and condoms ordered



Referrals received into the School Nursing service

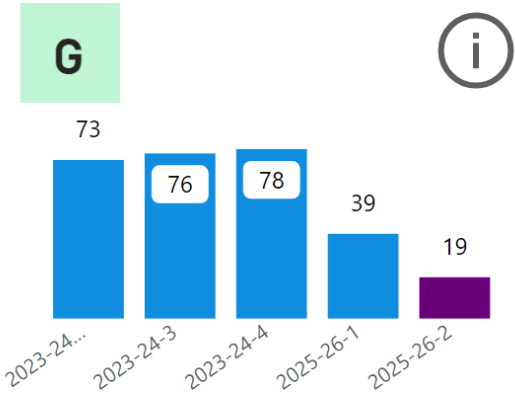


Stronger Communities

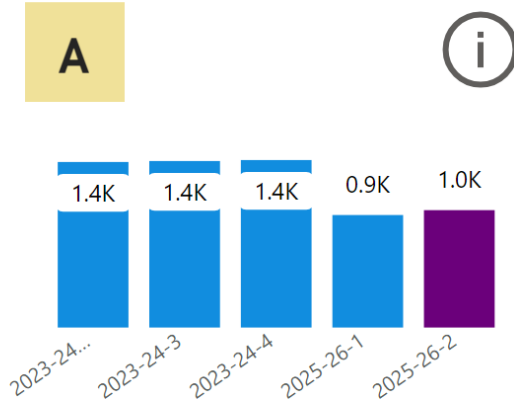
Living a Healthy Life



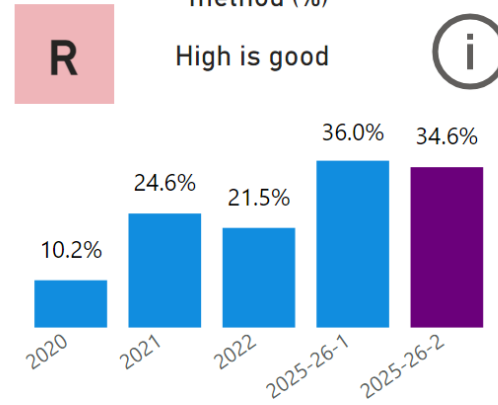
Number of young people in substance use treatment



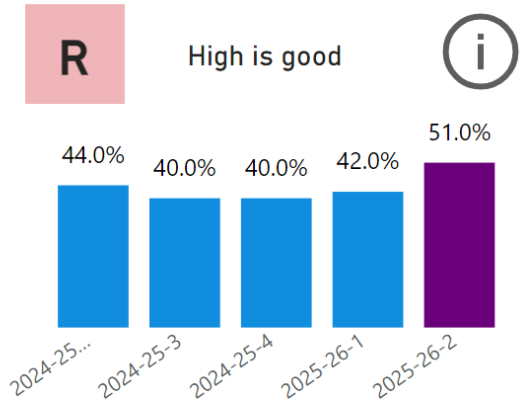
Numbers in treatment for substance misuse - Adult



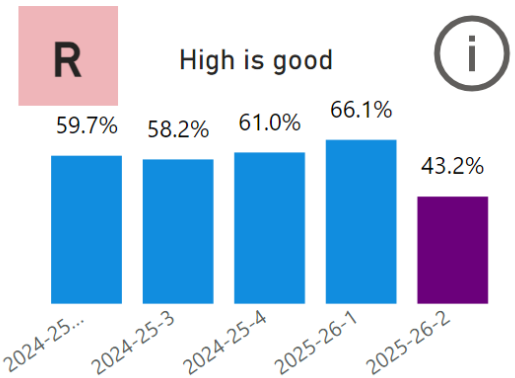
Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) prescribed as a contraceptive method (%)



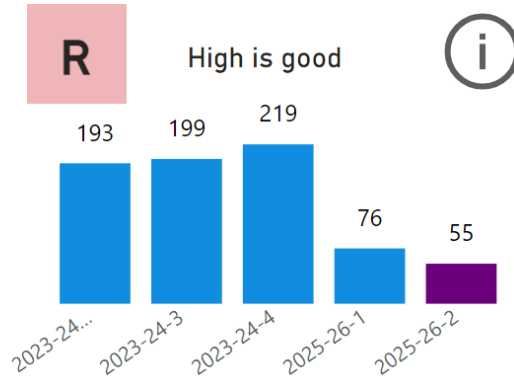
Referrals for the wellbeing service from our priority wards (%)



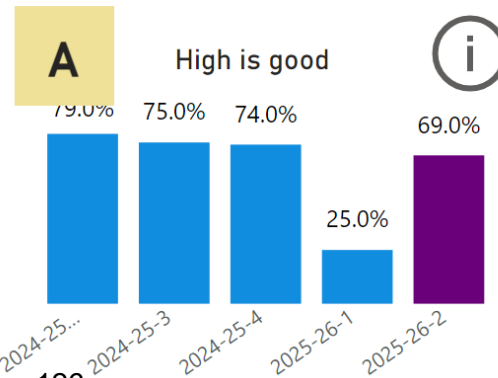
Wellbeing service clients that have achieved a 12-week smoking quit (%)



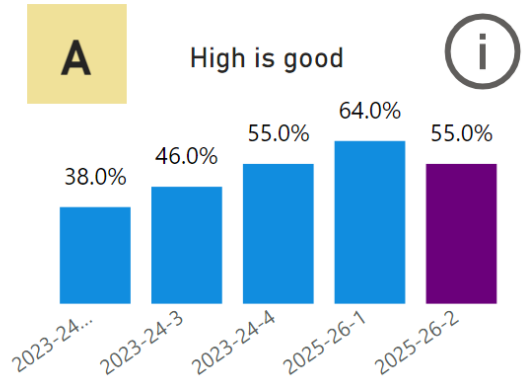
Successful Completions (substance use treatment)



Wellbeing service clients that have achieved their wellbeing goal (%)



Eligible people engaging with a community treatment provider on relea...



Performance Overview

Public Health (1)

Council Plan Priority	Commentary
Stronger Communities - Living a Healthy Life	Significant progress has been made in Quarter 2 towards North East Lincolnshire's ambition to become a Marmot Place. Cabinet has approved the proposal, and procurement is underway for collaboration with Sir Professor Michael Marmot and the University College London's Institute of Health Equity, expected to commence in the autumn. This initiative supports our commitment to focus on the social determinants of health, such as education, housing, and employment to reduce health inequalities across our borough. Following Full Council's decision to become a 'public health council' in 2024, a cross-party working group recommended formal recognition as a Marmot Place by March 2027. The Marmot principles that will become embedded through all of services and programmes of work include: giving every child the best start in life; creating fair employment and good work for all; creating and developing healthy and sustainable places and communities; ensuring a healthy standard of living for all and strengthening the role and impact of ill health prevention. In parallel, the new Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy for North East Lincolnshire has been finalised and is anticipated to be formally adopted in quarter 3. We continue to work closely with healthcare partners to deliver on four key Health Inequality priorities. Within Public Health, the Let's Go Grimsby initiative (promoting healthy lifestyles for families) and the maternal wellbeing programme for new and expectant mothers are both progressing strongly. Evaluation work is now underway to assess their impact on families across North East Lincolnshire. Notably, Let's Go Grimsby was recently commended at the Health and Care Excellence Awards, recognising its contribution to improving local health outcomes. Notable achievements this quarter for Public Health Nursing include the successful award of the Health Visitor Pathfinder Programme contract by NHS England. This initiative integrates routine childhood immunisations into Health Visitor contacts, improving access and uptake among pre-school children and helping to reduce inequalities in early years health. Alongside this, the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) has had a strong start, with school nurses working closely with schools and families to support healthy growth and development. These efforts reflect the team's commitment to high-quality, evidence-based care tailored to local needs.

Performance Overview

Public Health (2)

Council Plan Priority	Commentary
Stronger Communities - Living a Healthy Life	The Northern Lincolnshire Integrated Sexual Health Service continues to promote positive sexual health across the area, with a focus on supporting those at higher risk of STIs, including young people. Recent outreach has targeted young people in colleges and further education, including engagement at local freshers' events to encourage informed choices and reduce unplanned pregnancies. To better understand young people's needs, the service conducted a survey on access to contraception and sexual health services. Insights from this will inform future improvements. Additionally, new walk-in clinics offering same-day support for urgent sexual health concerns have been introduced and are already seeing strong community uptake. Launched in August 2025, Recovery Town Grimsby is a bold initiative aimed at raising awareness of recovery, reducing stigma, and improving access to support for those affected by substance use. More than a campaign, it promotes recovery as a source of pride and community strength, challenging perceptions around addiction. The next phase will include workshops, partnerships with local education providers, and the development of recovery-friendly businesses to embed support and visibility throughout the town. For Health Protection, current projects include research into flu vaccination rates among 2- and 3-year-olds and identifying barriers to breast screening in areas with low uptake. Work is also underway to develop a regional outbreak management plan, ensuring clear roles, efficient response, and minimal duplication. The team have also been supporting a major national planning event, Exercise Pegasus, which is aiming to ensure the nation is better prepared for the next pandemic, The Wellbeing Service has focused strongly on promoting smoking cessation, including a targeted marketing campaign to support Stoptober in high-footfall and priority wards across North East Lincolnshire. Partnerships with Thrive, Navigo, and With You have been strengthened, and the Swap to Stop programme has been expanded. A new supplier has been procured, and the vape offer within the core 12-week cessation programme has been enhanced.

1.24%

Of Total Revenue
Service Budgets

(£0.0M)

Forecast Revenue
Underspend

(0.0%)

Variance as % Of Total
Budget Envelope

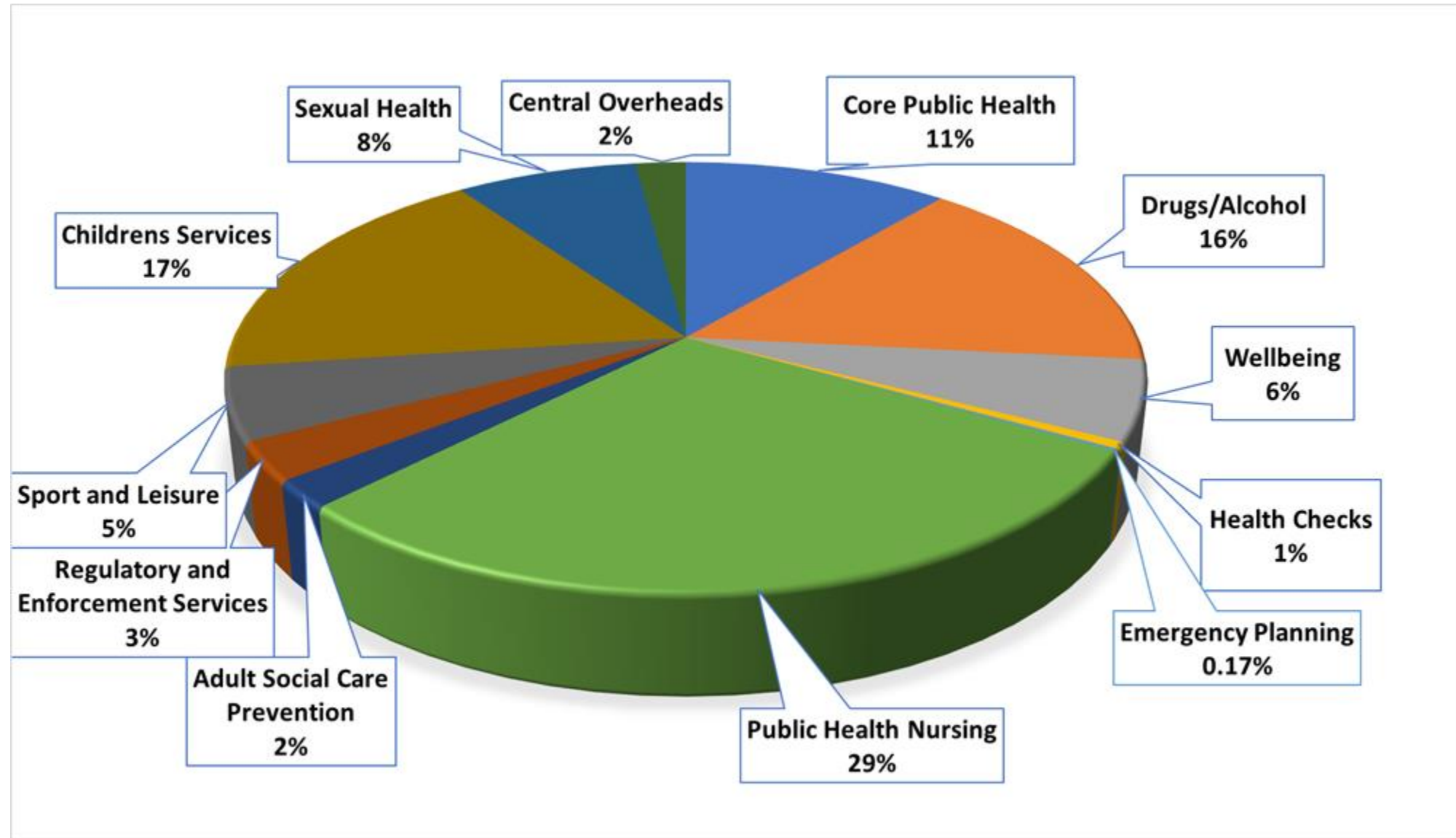
REVENUE	Revenue Budget £'M	Revenue Forecast £'M	Variance £'M
Public Health	2.4	2.4	0.0
	2.4	2.3	0.0

Service Comments:-

Core -Public Health is not in receipt of any council funding for its core services and meets the costs of salary inflation and any increases in mandatory and demand led services through the public health grant. NELC received an uplift in its Public Health Grant allocation for 25/26 which is being appropriately applied across the various mandated public health functions to ensure that they remain viable and within a balanced budget. The substance use contract is currently in the process of being re-commissioned. An independent review of the smoking cessation element of the service has recently taken place and a transformation project is now underway. As part of this, the service will be required to produce a finance plan to ensure that it is financially sustainable for the future. The Adult Wellbeing budgets receive an element of corporate funding, a small underspend is expected due to new contracts starting mid way through the year, the budget was prepared assuming a full year at the new rate. New contracts for Healthwatch and Patient Advocacy are in place. New contracts for Healthwatch and Patient Advocacy are in place. Despite the recent announcement about the future of Healthwatch, it has been confirmed that the requirement to commission a Healthwatch will remain in place until future legislation is enacted (end of 2026). Asylum & Resettlement has now moved under PH. This service is fully grant funded and no issues are expected.

Children's ,DA & Oral Health - All budgets are expected to balance this financial year. There are significant capacity issues across the public health nursing service and future pay awards are likely to create budget pressures in future years. The service is consequently in the process of developing a service strategy to ensure future sustainability, including a Public Health Nursing Service Strategy.

Domestic Abuse is now classed as core funded due to the main Domestic Abuse Grant (formerly DLUHC grant) now forming part of the local authority's overall settlement. Funding is also received from OPCC, ICB, Public Health & Disabled Facilities Grant. The majority of the commissioning is in now in place with no anticipated issues and plans are in progress to close other gaps around CYP IDVA, perpetrator programme and target hardening. The budget is expected to be on target with no variances currently expected.



Achievements:

•Let's Go Grimsby was recently commended at the Health and Care Excellence Awards, recognising its contribution to improving local health outcomes.

The Maternal Wellbeing Service continues to develop positively, with service users providing highly encouraging feedback. These insights are contributing to the ongoing evaluation of the service

•Health Visiting continues to deliver the Healthy Child Programme, with over 90% coverage of the 5 key checks. Breastfeeding rates continue to rise

•The sexual health service C-Card scheme continues, providing free condoms to young people, following a brief consultation. Attendance at walk-in sexual health clinics increased.

•The NEL Recovery Community has been shortlisted for an Investors in People Award in the category of 'Excellence in Building Purpose-Driven Impact'. The submission received positive and constructive feedback from the judging panel, and we now eagerly await the announcement of the winners in November.

•Public Health was a key partner in this year's World Mental Health Day activities, contributing to a well-attended stakeholder event that highlighted the vital importance of prevention and early intervention in mental health

•Research into vaccine hesitancy has now been completed, with findings indicating that families require clearer, more accessible information. The study also highlighted the crucial role of primary care in supporting informed decision-making. These insights are now informing follow-up actions

•The work of our refugee support service continues to be widely promoted with internal teams and key external partners.

The Stoptober campaign was widely promoted throughout October, with visibility across supermarkets, bus stops, Grimsby Live, social media, and local news coverage. We are now undertaking a detailed review of its impact by analysing referral rates into the Wellbeing Service's smoking cessation offer

Know Your Numbers Week was successfully delivered as a partnership initiative, chaired by the Healthcare Partnership and led by The Wellbeing Service and Centre4's social prescribers. Twenty-one community blood pressure screening stations were set up across North East

Lincolnshire including food banks, community hubs, and DWP events. A total of 400 residents were screened. Of those, 38% had raised blood pressure, with a small number urgently referred to their GP for severe hypertension - an intervention estimated to have prevented approximately five heart attacks or strokes over the next five years. Learning from this event is now being used to improve tracking and evaluation for future initiatives.

Public Health

Achievements, Challenges & Risks (1)

Public Health

Achievements, Challenges & Risks (2)

Key challenges:	The main challenges continue to be the social and economic difficulties in some of our urban communities. Almost all health indicators are worse in more deprived communities and although considerable health improvement has occurred, this is mainly in more affluent communities which widens health inequalities. We are working with colleagues in central Government to highlight these risks. Smoking and obesity levels in North East Lincolnshire remain higher than the national average. These continues to be key priorities. For Public Health Nursing, recruitment challenges and high levels of safeguarding activity continues to place significant pressure on services. For the refugee integration service, we continue to face challenges due to limited infrastructure, particularly the lack of voluntary organisations offering tailored support for asylum seekers. This remains an area of focus. The Health Protection team continue to work with partner agencies to address local uptake in key vaccination and screening priorities. Following the Government's announcement that both national and local Healthwatch services will end in 2026, we have adjusted the contract length for our local provision to 30 months. The new contract is now in place.
Risk to non-delivery:	Several initiatives are funded through fixed-term grants (eg Start for Life and Health Inequalities Grant). As a result, sustainability and exit strategies are being prioritised to ensure that the benefits are maintained in the event of reduced or withdrawn funding.

Corporate Budget Performance

The main corporate budgets are in relation to the borrowing costs that the Council incurs to fund its capital investment programme, with the aim to manage within prudential borrowing limits and in accordance with the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.

Funding - Summary

(£0.0M)

Forecast Revenue
Underspend

72.2%

Local Taxation
Funding

27.8%

Government Grant
Funding

FUNDING	Revenue Budget £'M	Revenue Forecast £'M	Variance £'M
Collection Fund	(149.7)	(149.7)	0.0
Funding	(57.7)	(57.7)	0.0
Total	(207.4)	(207.4)	0.0

Comments:

Funding expectations remain inline with budget.
The funding forecast includes a drawdown of £800k from the Business Rates Reserve to cover the true up of the 2024/25 NNDR 3 which is reflected in the funding received in 2025/26

Specific Grant Funding accepted in Q2 2025/26:

- Pride of Place Impact Fund - £0.75M

8.63%

Of Total Revenue
Service Budgets

(£1.0M)

Forecast Revenue
Underspend

(6.15%)

Variance as % Of Total
Budget Envelope

REVENUE	Revenue Budget £'M	Revenue Forecast £'M	Variance £'M
Other Corporate Budgets	16.4	15.4	(1.0)
	16.4	15.4	(1.0)

Service Comments:-

The forecast underspend is driven by increased interest income due to rates remaining at a higher level than budgeted, plus a reduction in borrowing costs due to reprofiling of capital spend. Uncertainty around interest rates remains for borrowing requirements in year.

Reserves

£8.3M

General Fund

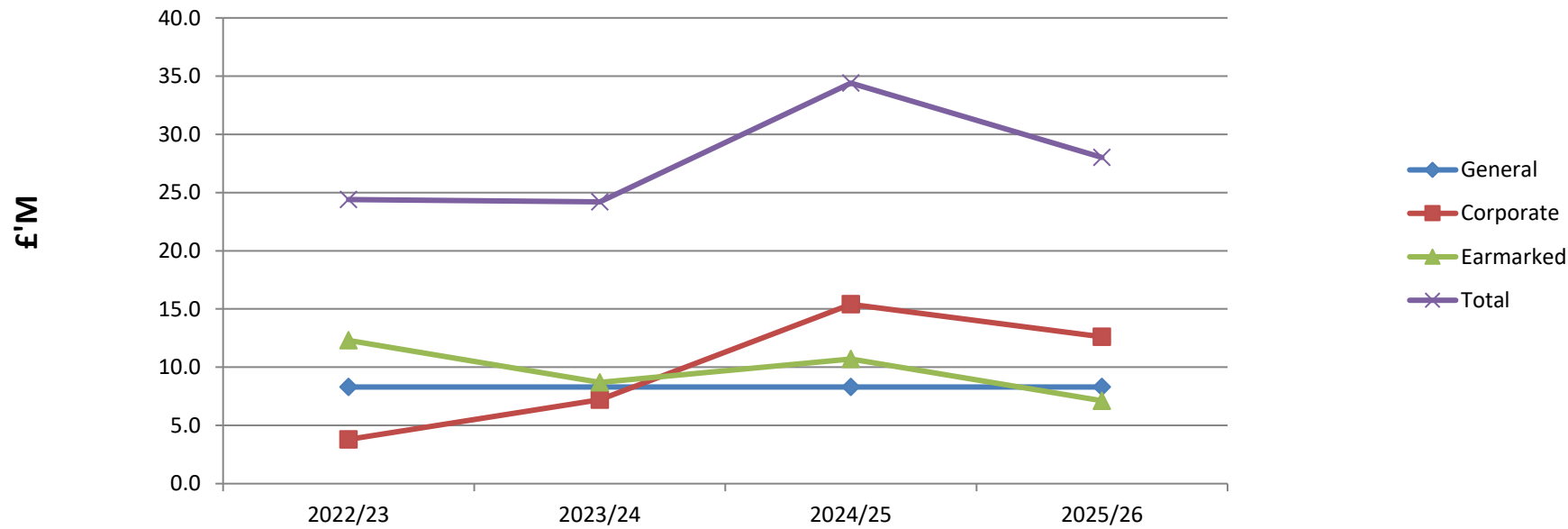
4.36%

General Fund as % Of
Net Service Spend

£27.9M

25/26 Total Reserve
Closing Balance

Council Reserves - Forecast Closing Balance



Comments

General fund reserves, set aside to deal with any unforeseen events, remain at £8.3M. This is in line with the medium-term financial plan and are considered a prudent level taking into account the level of risk to which the Council is currently exposed.

It is important to ensure that our reserves remain robust to be able to respond to unforeseen calls on expenditure, whilst minimising the impact on planned service delivery. The adequacy of reserves are reviewed regularly with consideration to future key risk areas.

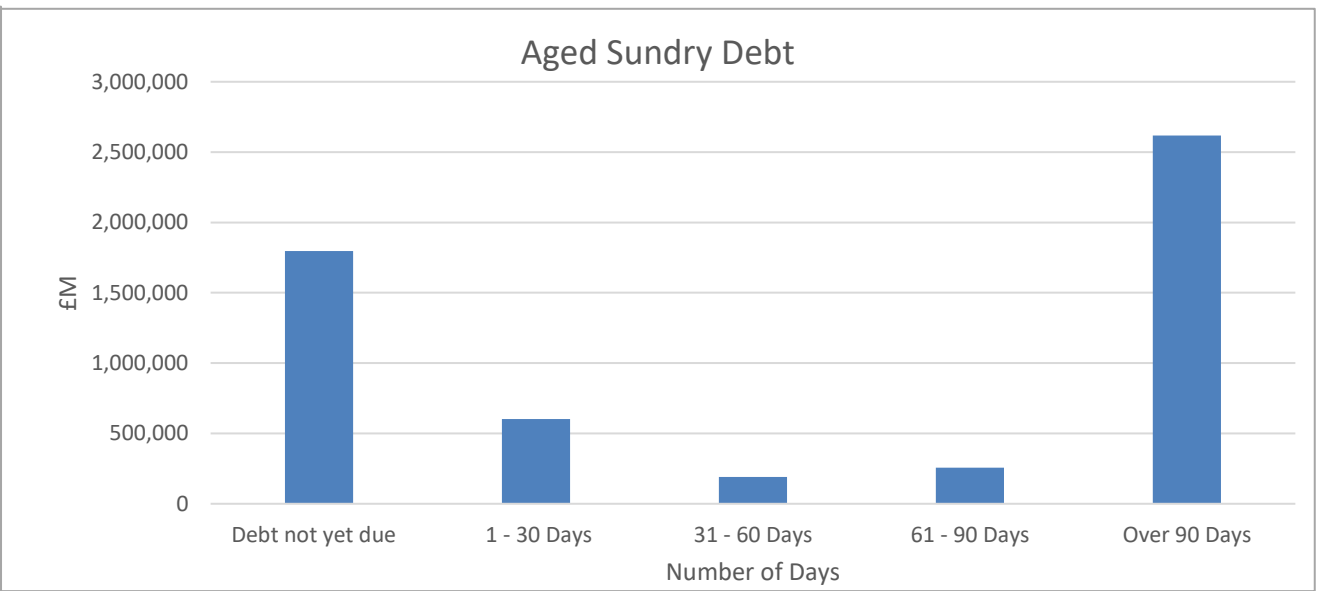
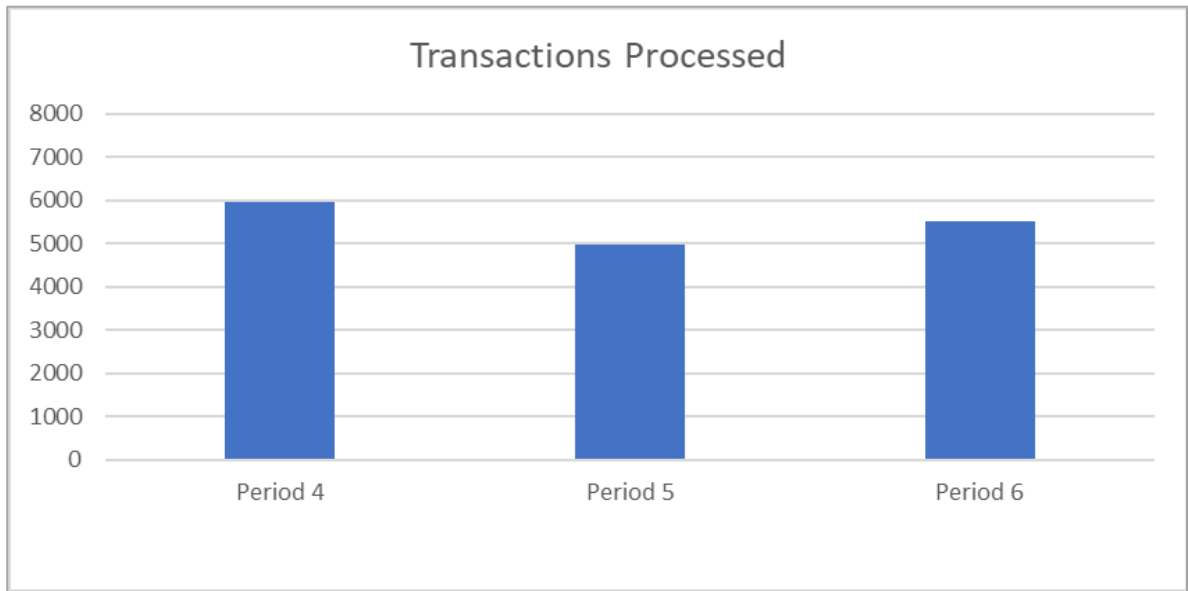
Working Capital Management

93.0%

Creditor Invoices Paid within 30 days during Qtr. 2

£2.62M

Value of debt over 90 days at Qtr. 2



The processing of creditor invoices within NELC terms remains constant. Quarter 1 2025-26 invoices paid within terms was 94%, Quarter 2 2025-26 is 93%. The volume of invoices processed in Quarter 2 2025-26 was c16,500, the same as Quarter 1 2025-26. Areas for improvement continue to be explored as knowledge of the financial system capabilities continue to develop and new staff are brought up to speed in NELC processes.

Overall debt at the end of Q2 has remained stable compared to Q1, with an increase of £0.5m in invoices not yet due. The debt for 90+ days includes a large invoice for £0.6m for which repayment are being made, in addition to other invoices where debt is being collected on agreed payment plans. There are a number of factors influencing outstanding debt including delays in the debt recovery process when the new finance system was implemented and the economic challenges faced by the local community. Debt management arrangements are in place and collection remains a key focus with the level of outstanding debt being regularly monitored.

Treasury Indicators & Cashflow 2025-26

£31.7M (–£3.8m)

Investments as at 30 Sept 25

£166.8M (–£3.2m)

Borrowing as at 30 Sept 25

3.98% (+ 0.01%)

Average return on investments

3.76% (Unch)

Average cost of borrowing

The following slides provide an interim update on Treasury performance during the latest quarter against its Prudential Indicators.

Higher rates since 2022 have benefited short-term income but have created significantly more interest rate risk on our future borrowing requirement. Against this background we continue to defer borrowing (as far as possible) to see us past the peak of the current cycle.

Current borrowing and investments are consistent with the Treasury Management Strategy.

Market expectations of Bank Rate cuts have been tempered during the period, primarily due to concerns around fiscal pressures and sticky inflation data resulting in higher forward expectations. To avoid committing to new long-term borrowing during a period of still elevated rates, we are securing funding via short-term loans from other Local Authorities where possible. Future corporately funded capital expenditure lifts our Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) to just under our Authorised Borrowing Limit in future years. Actual borrowing levels run much lower through the use of 'internal borrowing'.

Key Activity During The Period

Borrowing Repaid	New Borrowing	Aggregate Investments Made	Income Delivered
£18.2m	£15.0m	£143.2m	£0.357m

Peak Balance	Minimum Balance	Avg. Counterparty Rating	Avg Investment Period
£64.0m	£33.3m	AA-	12 days

Treasury Indicators & Cashflow 2025-26

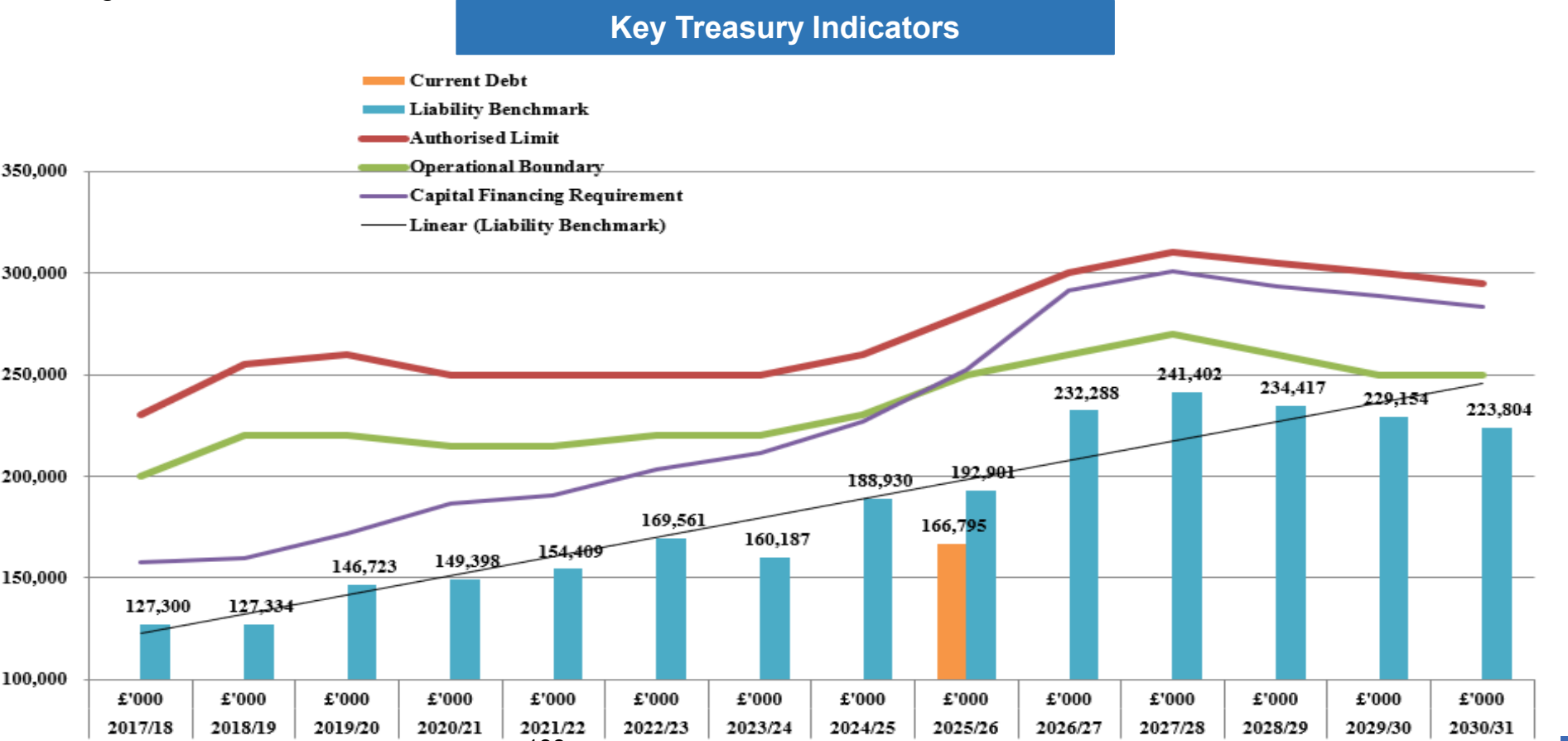
The chart opposite shows the projection for various limits, determined to ensure that all borrowing is affordable and linked to the Capital Programme over time.

The Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) is the underlying need to borrow for capital plans. The Authorised and Operational Boundaries are limits of borrowing that are deemed affordable, they are not targets.

The Council is forecast to maximise use of what it determines as 'sensible' leverage to deliver meaningful place change. Actual borrowing, shown by the columns in the chart, whilst increasing, remains well below the outright limits.

We update Members on all our Prudential Indicators each quarter. The Chart below covers the Key Indicators. The columns show our expected year end levels assuming full, on-time, delivery of the agreed capital programme. The various limits are determined to ensure that all borrowing is affordable and linked to the Capital Programme over time.

Whilst the CFR (purple line) is predicted to increase sharply to a level just below the Authorised Limit – ostensibly the ceiling on affordable, sustainable and prudent debt levels – this can be interpreted as an Authority determined to use maximum 'sensible' leverage to deliver meaningful place change. Actual borrowing, shown by the columns below, whilst increasing remains well below the outright limits. The Chart should also be read in conjunction with the other Prudential Indictors on the following slides to fully understand the reasonableness of forecast borrowing.



Treasury Outlook – Cost of Debt

Pressures resulting from higher rates have now been built into budgets, with a prudent weighting toward rates remaining higher for longer than currently predicted by market forecasters.

The table across shows current interest rate projections against budgets.

These projections move in relation to both additions/slippage in the approved Capital Programme and changes in interest rate forecasts.

Budgets reflect live forecasts on rates and capital spend across the 3 year period but costs are weighted toward later years as major schemes such as Freshney Place and Cleethorpes Masterplan move toward completion.

As borrowing arrangements typically form very long-term commitments the ability, once drawn, to generate revenue savings from this portion of our spend is very limited. This is an important consideration in budget setting and in all borrowing decisions.

The impact of higher rates on future budgets is shown below. These forecasts are a function of both capital spend funded by borrowing and the market forecast path for interest rates.

At period end there was a prevailing view that interest rate levels would reduce gradually through 2025-26, although changes in growth and inflation data could impact rate paths in either direction.

Net Financing Costs	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Forecast outturn	£13.891m	£18.718m	£21.796m
Current Budget	£15.003m	£18.980m	£20.334m
Potential Savings	£1.112m	£0.262m	-£1.462m

Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream: This is an important 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 financing costs, net of investment income. As borrowing arrangements typically form very long-term commitments, once drawn the ability to generate savings from this portion of Council spend is very limited.

Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Estimate	2026/27 Estimate	2027/28 Estimate
General Fund	6.44%	6.22%	8.64%	9.72%

Prudential Indicators (The Liability Benchmark)

Although net indebtedness is forecast to increase over the next 3 years. Total drawn debt is expected to remain well below the CFR, the Liability Benchmark and both the Operational and Authorised Borrowing Boundaries during the forecast period.

The table shows a peak change in debt levels of £52m over the MTFP forecast period during which we also have £67m of debt maturities. Total new borrowing required will therefore be around £119m (subject to spend being in line with forecast).

Borrowing remains below control levels as a result of continued internal borrowing support for the Capital Programme.

Changes to accounting rules for Operating leases (IFRS16) for the 2024/25 financial year required additional lease obligations of around £7m to be reflected in our prudential Indicators. This is merely an accounting change and the Authority’s debt obligations and cash flows are unchanged.

Limit levels do not commit the Authority to any increase in actual borrowing.

Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement: To ensure that, over the medium term, debt will only be for a capital purposes the Authority should ensure that debt does not, except in the short term, exceed the total capital financing requirement in the current and next two financial years as updated for the Treasury Strategy 2025-26

£m	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Estimate	2026/27 Estimate	2027/28 Estimate	2028/29 Estimate
External Debt					
Debt at 1 April	160.2	188.9	192.9	232.3	241.4
Expected change in Debt	28.7	4.0	39.4	9.1	(7.0)
Other long-term liabilities (OLTL)	4.0	6.6	7.2	7.2	7.2
Expected change in OLTL	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
The Capital Financing Requirement	227.0	252.1	291.5	300.6	293.6
Under / (over) borrowing	38.1	59.2	59.2	59.2	59.2

Authorised Limit for External Debt: This is a key prudential indicator represents a control on the maximum level of borrowing. This is a legal limit beyond which external debt is prohibited and can only be set or revised by the full Council. It reflects the level of external debt which, while not desired, could be afforded in the short term, but is not sustainable in the longer term.

Operational Boundary for External Debt: This is the limit beyond which external debt is not normally expected to exceed. (i.e. prudent but not worst case). It links directly to the Authority’s estimates of capital expenditure, the capital financing requirement and cash flow requirements, and is a key management tool for in-year monitoring. Other long-term liabilities comprise finance leases and other liabilities that are not traditional loans but still form part of the Authority’s debt.

Authorised Limit	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m
Authorised Limit (Borrowing)	260	280	300	310
Operational Boundary (Borrowing)	230	250	260	270
Max Debt in Period	189	190	233(est)	243 (est)

Prudential Indicators (The Liability Benchmark)

Key Messages:

A minimum cash balance of £10m will be maintained to ensure forecast liquidity needs are met.

The gap between the red and black lines in the Liability Benchmark chart shown here depicts the additional borrowing need the Authority currently projects – a peak requirement of £119m new loans by the end of 2027-28 – including replacement of maturing debt.

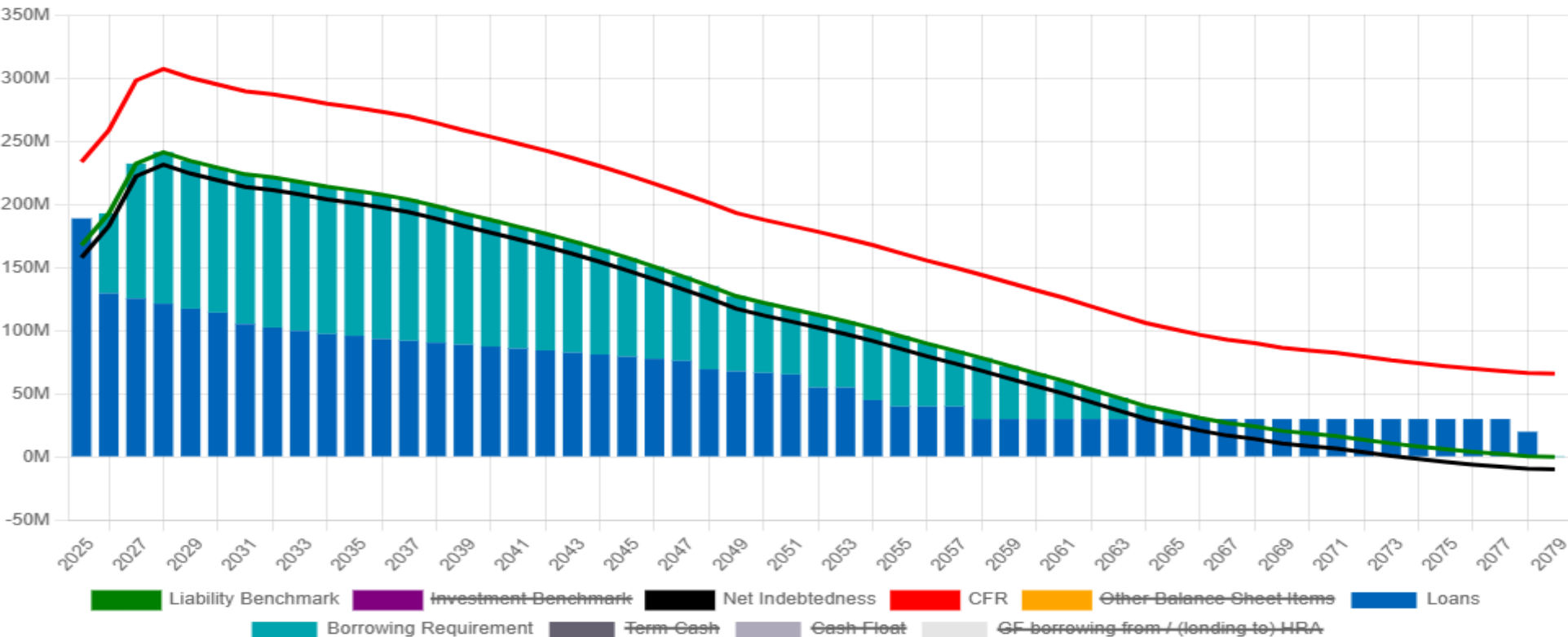
Before new long-term borrowing is entered into the Authority will have regard to the Liability Benchmark and its underlying assumptions will be assessed for their continuing prudence, with revisions made where necessary.

The **Liability Benchmark** tool is now a formal Prudential Indicator.

The Benchmark forecasts our need to borrow over a 50-year period. This aids decision making when it comes to the quantum and term to be chosen, the aim being to avoid cost of carry revenue implications and avoid the trap of defaulting to ultra-long tenors just because the yield curve tail slopes downward. It represents the level of our anticipated borrowing and in the ordinary course of business would not be expected to be exceeded. It therefore should closely mirror the Operational Boundary.

The benchmark assumes:

- future capital expenditure beyond the current programme funded by borrowing of c£8m a year on average
- minimum revenue provision on new capital expenditure based on an annuity profile of c30 years average
- No changes to Reserves beyond the current MTFP period (3 years)



Treasury Management Indicators

Key Messages:

A series of targets (both voluntary and centrally required) are used to measure performance.

These targets can be more restrictive than levels set in the Treasury Strategy but by being more restrictive, can provide a potential ‘early warning’ of any potential issues.

Given the elevated rates seen since 2022 we anticipate continuing to utilise short-term borrowing wherever possible to meet our need until longer-term rates begin to factor in a looser rate environment. At period end markets were watching competing influences of weakening labour data and sticky inflation to inform the pace and scale of future rate cuts, meaning longer term rates remained elevated.

Close monitoring with the support of our Advisors will be maintained

The Authority measures and manages its exposures to treasury management risks using the following indicators.

Security: The Authority has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to credit risk by monitoring the value-weighted average credit rating of its investment portfolio. This is calculated by applying a score to each investment (AAA=1, AA+=2, etc.) and taking the arithmetic average, weighted by the size of each investment. Unrated investments are assigned a score based on their perceived risk.

	Target	Actual
Portfolio average Credit Rating	A	AA

Liquidity: The Authority has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to liquidity risk by monitoring the amount of cash available to meet unexpected payments within a rolling 1 week period.

	Target	Actual
Total cash available within 1 week.	£10m	£33m

Upper limits on variable interest rate exposure. This identifies a maximum limit for variable interest rates based upon the debt position net of investments. All borrowing due to mature within 12 months is classed as variable as renewal will be subject to any short term movement in rates.

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Upper limit on variable interest rate exposure	£90m	£80m	£80m	£80m

Given the elevated rates seen since 2022 we anticipate continuing to utilise short-term borrowing wherever possible to meet our need until longer-term rates begin to factor in a looser rate environment. At period end markets believed both the pace and scale of future rate cuts had declined, meaning longer term rates remained elevated. This was exacerbated post period end by concerns over UK Government debt plans resulting in rates not seen since the Global Financial Crisis. Close monitoring with the support of our Advisors will be maintained.

Treasury Management Indicators

Key Messages:
Maintaining a spread of maturities across our borrowing portfolio can assist with managing cash flow and re-finance risk (the risk that replacement loans are not available or that interest rate costs differ significantly from the maturing loans).

Our active investment portfolio does not lend itself to longer term investments and in the ordinary course of business deposits over 366 days wouldn't be entertained. However, one option for redressing our LOBO loan risk requires a long-term matching deposit (funded by new borrowing) and so a limit is included here to cover that transaction should it be deemed of positive benefit.

Recent higher rates have meant that one of our LOBOs has now been repaid (see future year reduction in Limit across). If the prevailing market continues it is likely that another £10m LOBO during 2025-26.

Upper limits on fixed interest rate exposure. This is similar to the previous indicator and covers a maximum limit on fixed interest rates;

£'m	2025/26	Actual	2026/27	2027/28
Upper Limit on fixed interest rate exposure	310	147	330	340

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

	Upper	Lower	Actual
Under 12 months	70%	10%	32%
12 months and within 24 months	30%	0%	2%
24 months and within 5 years	30%	0%	7%
5 years and within 10 years	30%	0%	10%
10 years and within 20 years	30%	0%	9%
20 years and within 30 years	50%	0%	23%
30 years and more	75%	10%	18%

Time periods start on the first day of each financial year. The maturity date of borrowing is the earliest date on which the lender can demand repayment. Note: LOBO option dates are included as potential repayment dates, but variable rate borrowing is excluded.

Principal Sums Invested for Periods Longer than 366 days: The purpose of this indicator is to control the Authority's exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of its investments. The limits on the long-term principal sum invested to final maturities beyond the period end will be:

An architectural rendering of a modern, multi-story building at night. The building features large glass windows and balconies with outdoor seating and greenery. The ground floor has a large outdoor patio area with tables and chairs. The building is illuminated by warm lights, and the sky is dark with some clouds. In the background, there are other buildings and a street with a crosswalk.

Capital Programme

Capital Programme

SCHEME	2025/26 Revised Capital Programme	2026/27 Revised Capital Programme	2027/28 Revised Capital Programme
	£000	£000	£000
ECONOMY AND GROWTH			
Regeneration			
Clee HLF Townscape Heritage	1,009	-	-
SHIIP Scheme	464	527	-
Playing Pitch Reprovision	165	529	-
Cleethorpes Public Art	24	-	-
Heritage Action Zone	363	250	-
Town Deal Investment	840	-	-
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	319	-	-
Freshney Place Leisure Development	7,680	30,794	-
Cleethorpes Masterplan - Market Place LUF Scheme	317	3,710	-
Towns Fund - St James House	329	-	-
Towns Fund - Activation Fund	210	100	-
Towns Fund - Riverhead Square	561	-	-
Towns Fund - Public Realm Connectivity	2,526	-	-
Cleethorpes Masterplan - Sea Road LUF Scheme	682	6,789	-
Cleethorpes Masterplan - Pier Gardens LUF Scheme	482	7,028	-
Tennis Court Refurbishment	25	-	-
Play Zone	334	-	-
House of Fraser	200	2,600	1,000
Freshney Place Fit Outs	293	300	350
Cleethorpes Masterplan - LUF Wayfinding	90	269	-
Cleethorpes Masterplan - LUF Logistics	155	123	-
Freshney Place Decking	2,643	-	-
Freshney Place RAAC	200	1,950	3,910

Capital Programme

SCHEME	2025/26 Revised Capital Programme	2026/27 Revised Capital Programme	2027/28 Revised Capital Programme
	£000	£000	£000
ECONOMY AND GROWTH			
Infrastructure			
Disabled Facilities Grants	5,130	-	-
Local Transport Plan Schemes	7,605	605	523
Immingham Lock Flood Def Gates	3	-	-
Corporation Rd Bridge Refurb	-	-	-
Gy and Imm Flood Innov Funding	849	-	-
A180 Structures	2,000	1,873	-
Grimsby Surface Water Flood Alleviation	48	-	-
Bus Service Improvement Plan	1,043	2,011	-
Towns Fund - Garth Lane	5,866	500	-
Toll Bar Drop Off	198	-	-
Greater Lincs Groundwater Project	-	2,000	-
Car Park Schemes	1,099	-	-
Transport Hub	1,050	488	-
North Prom Footwash	18	-	-
Backlog Maintenance	3,063	930	-
Property Rationalisation Programme	123	-	-
Cartergate Office Development	68	-	-
Business Centre Improvement	197	-	-
Heritage Assets at Risk	3,298	-	-
Motor Caravan Parking Scheme	17	-	-
SAFER TOWNS & COMMUNITIES			
HAS & Green Spaces	417	-	-

Capital Programme

SCHEME	2025/26 Revised Capital Programme	2026/27 Revised Capital Programme	2027/28 Revised Capital Programme
	£000	£000	£000
RESOURCES			
Deputy S151			
Capital Investment	7,184	6,767	13,407
Capital Rec't Flexibility	2,150	2,150	-
Policy, Strategy and Resources			
ICT Refresh	928	734	1,808
M365 Transformation Programme	196	258	199
Childrens Services Platform	837	1,000	804
Digital Platform	425	-	-
Cleethorpes Town Hall Audio Visual	66	-	-
ENVIRONMENT			
Fleet Replacement Programme	2,327	7,126	1,693
Enhancement of Bereavement Services	12	-	-
Depot Rationalisation	2,328	-	-
Regulatory Services Management System	-	-	-
Urban Tree Challenge Fund	-	-	-
Salix - Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme	4,835	-	-
Mayoral Renewable Fund	226	-	-
Housing Assistance Grants and Loans	601	-	-
Warm Home Grants	125	380	375
ADULTS & HOUSING			
Rough Sleeper Accom Grant	40	-	-
Local Authority Housing Fund 3 (LAHF3)	270	90	-

Capital Programme

SCHEME	2025/26 Revised Capital Programme	2026/27 Revised Capital Programme	2027/28 Revised Capital Programme
	£000	£000	£000
CHILDRENS SERVICES			
AD Regulated			
Childrens Residential Transformation	1,530	70	-
Education and Inclusion			
Schools - Devolved Formula Cap Grant	106	-	-
Schools - Backlog Maintenance	241	-	-
Schools - Basic Need Sufficiency of Places	10,611	5,250	-
SEND Special Prov Fund	4,790	314	-
SEMH Free School	10	10	-
Wraparound Childcare Programme	65	-	-
TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME	91,906	87,525	24,069

Funding			
External Grants	55,202	34,544	898
Corporate Borrowing	34,476	50,831	23,171
Capital Receipts	2,150	2,150	-
Revenue Contributions	-	-	-
Other Private inc S106	78	-	-
TOTAL FUNDING	91,906	87,525	24,069

Denotes a Major Project

Denotes a Major Education Project



Major Projects

Quarter 2 - 2025/26 Monitoring Report



A180 STRUCTURES REMEDIAL WORK

Transport Infrastructure and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Panel

Cllr Swinburn, Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport

Project description	A180 is a key route to the strategic motorway network supporting both Grimsby/Immingham docks and the Cleethorpes resort. In addition, it provides key access to the Lincolnshire coastal area. The structures all require maintenance to extend their operational usefulness.
Approved budget	Project budget - £11.2m (DHLUC+NELC+LTP)
Cumulative spend	£8.1m - Includes Bridges 1 and 3 final account figures
Programme	Remaining works - Bridge 2 (Alexandra Dock) 2 x phases – Above Deck Works (2a) & Below Deck Works (2b) Procurement: August to October 2025 NPG cable diversion on A180: November 2025 Anticipated start date phase 2a – Above Deck Works: January 2026 Anticipated start date phase 2b – Below Deck Works: TBC pending approved funding Completion: Summer 2026
Indicative timeline	January 2026 to Summer 2026 – Bridge 2
Top 3 risks	• Weather • Contract mobilisation • NPG diversionary works delivery
Capacity / Resourcing / Expertise needed	Site supervision being sourced for works Advisory Structural Engineer being sourced for onsite works NEC QS support being sourced

Current status and programme timeline

- Original timeline amended to better align with other major projects on the network
- Procurement concluding in October where a suitable contractor will be appointed
- NPG diversionary works in progress in surrounding area – no indication of delay. Progress is being monitored

Key progress since last report

- Final account for bridges 1 and 3 completed
- Procurement is at the stage of finalising the tender evaluation
- NPG diversionary works in progress

Outline of current issues/challenges

- Minimising highway disruption during the above deck works
- Coordination with NPG required while they undertake their cable diversion works
- Cleethorpes footbridge remedial works feasibility, funding and programme currently being appraised

Outline of potential mitigation/decisions needed

- Contraflow traffic management system to mitigate delays
- Monitoring of weather and network coordination to keep ahead of external risks

CORPORATION BRIDGE

Transport Infrastructure and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Panel

Cllr Swinburn, Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport

Project description	Major restoration work to Corporation Road Bridge includes key structural works, waterproofing and resurfacing alongside improvements to the aesthetic appearance of the bridge through repainting and heritage restoration. These works will help in protecting the landmark for many years to come, preserving its heritage status.
Approved budget	Project costs: the final budget will be established once a principal contractor is re-procured
Cumulative spend	Previous contractor payment applications – £7.3m
Programme	Termination of contract – May 2025 Anticipated new contract start – October 2025
Indicative timeline	Award of tender for PSSC and service - August - Oct 2025 Submission of stage 2 contractor proposal - October 2025 Award of main contract – October 2025 Completion date - TBC
Top 3 risks	• Cost to complete the scheme • Programme timeline within expectations • Existing condition of structure following termination
Capacity / Resourcing / Expertise needed	Pell Frischmann continue to provide project/commercial management and design support to end of the project. Procurement of additional professional services, to build on the project team continue as we head towards the work stage of the project.

Current status and programme timeline

- Professional Services Short Contract (PSSC) awarded to Taziker 01 September 2025
- Anticipated award of main contract is October 2025
- Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and Environment Agency (EA) permits currently being transferred

Key progress since last report

- Security arrangements for the site continue
- Investigation and survey works commenced to understand current position with completed CSL works. Includes independent paint inspector conducted surveys – reports expected end of October 2025
- Procurement completed for first stage tender of PSSC and Taziker appointed
- Contractor submission expected early October
- Procurement of control room contractor close to completion

Outline of current issues/challenges

- Site security remains a challenge – mitigations in place
- Existing scaffolding to be removed from site in preparation for new contract
- Works to predict tide times and levels within the dock being appraised by the contractor with support from ABP
- Evaluation of outstanding works in progress, the outputs of this evaluation will influence the scope, programme and overall scheme costs
- Matters arising from the previous contractor are being considered by the Council

Outline of potential mitigation/decisions needed

- Procurement of works, services and contracts and other various construction related tenders are ongoing

ALEXANDRA DOCK GARTH LANE

Transport Infrastructure and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Panel

Cllr Swinburn, Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport

Project description	Homes England and the Alexandra Dock brown field land housing project. Utilising £7.8m of Towns Fund money, Keepmoat is working closely with council officers to transform derelict land in the town centre to a modern, low carbon town centre community, to act as the cornerstone for the wider regeneration of Alexandra Dock.
Approved budget	£7.8m Towns Fund money to be spent by March 2026
Cumulative spend	£1.6 m
Programme	Start on site Autumn 2025 First homes delivered Spring 2026 All homes completed Autumn 2027
Indicative timeline	Completion Autumn 2027
Top 3 risks	• Timing of planning approval • Grant funding timescales • Unexpected ground conditions
Capacity / Resourcing / Expertise needed	Additional external support will be procured as appropriate if further matters arise.

Current status and programme timeline

- Contract completion now agreed to be occur post planning permission decision
- Planning application awaiting determination – Keepmoat have been required to submit a variety of further information / clarifications which have now been largely completed. It is anticipated that a planning determination can now be made in the next few weeks.

Key progress since last report

- NELC monitoring developer planning application

Outline of current issues/challenges

- There have been a variety of challenges in the planning process and the team have worked hard to guide Keepmoat through these. Otherwise, normal development planning risks apply which are being managed.

Outline of potential mitigation/decisions needed

- Close liaison with MHCLG
- Maintain market awareness and regular update discussions with developer

FRESHNEY PLACE LEISURE SCHEME

Economy, Culture, and Tourism Scrutiny Panel
Cllr Jackson, Leader & Portfolio Holder for Economy, Regeneration, Devolution and Skills

Project description	The project is a key element of delivering on the Grimsby Town Centre Masterplan. The aim is to transform the western end of Freshney Place, Victoria Street and the Bull Ring through the creation of a Family Entertainment Centre comprising a cinema, food hall and modern market, together with new food, drink, and leisure facilities. Pre-construction, the scheme has secured pre-let agreements with Parkway and Starbucks.
Approved budget	£49.96m following 12 December 2024 Full Council decision
Cumulative spend	£11.8m inc. design, planning, PCSA (asbestos, soft strip, design), site acquisition, vacant possession, surveys and fees
Programme	• Planning Approval – completed Feb 23 • Appoint PCSA Contractor (phase 1) - completed Mar 24 • Final Cost Plan – received • GMI formally contracted Feb 25 • Construction Completion – Practical completion due Q1 2027
Indicative timeline	Having commenced February 2025, due to utilities challenges (now largely resolved), Practical Completion is now targeted for Q2 2027 with tenant fit-out largely occurring thereafter.
Top 3 risks	• Utilities • Asbestos • Ground conditions
Capacity / Resourcing / Expertise needed	• Professional team – in place • GMI formally appointed • Monthly client meetings in place

Current status and programme timeline • Cinema pre-let secured • Starbucks pre-let secured • Scheme approved • GMI appointed • Works commenced and demolition almost complete • Practical completion due Q2 2027
Key progress since last report • Demolition largely complete • Terms agreed for x2 further pre-lets • Monthly client meetings progressing • Gas disconnection completed • Majority NPG disconnections completed
Outline of current issues/challenges • An NPG diversion is a risk although the relevant personnel are working well with NPG. Demolition is largely complete, and some spoil has been found to be contaminated with asbestos. The final groundworks and preparation for piling is a key stage in the programme in terms of any final archaeological risks and ground conditions.
Outline of potential mitigation/decisions needed • No immediate mitigation or decisions required.

RIVERHEAD SQUARE PHASE 2 PUBLIC REALM

Economy, Culture, and Tourism Scrutiny Panel
Cllr Jackson, Portfolio Holder for Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economy, Regeneration, Devolution & Skills

Project description	Riverhead Square has been newly regenerated into a spacious and inviting area, providing a welcoming space for year-round events and offering exciting opportunities for the community. A variety of new planters made from natural materials will create a natural habitat, increasing biodiversity in the town centre and providing seating for pedestrians to enjoy the space.
Approved budget	£3.3m
Cumulative spend	£2.6m
Programme	Start March 2023 Planned Contract Completed March 2025 Main Construction Completed September 2024 Planting completed September 2025 NPG re-enforcing work outside of site – Completed March 2025 Final reinstatement and snagging works – Autumn 2025
Indicative timeline	Works to complete Autumn 2025
Top 3 risks	• Transition from Equans management • Completion of snagging and outstanding works • Anti Social Behaviour
Capacity / Resourcing / Expertise needed	N/A Sufficient resource and expertise on the project

Current status and programme timeline

- Project largely complete, NPG connection works completed in April 2025, however, reinstatement works connected with this need addressing and NEL has raised this with NPG to seek completion of these, to the Council's satisfaction.
- Final snagging works and planter commenced

Key progress since last report

- New planting to replace stones completed.
- Installation of new and replacement bollards for Hostile Vehicle Mitigation commenced.
- Contractor completed snagging works.

Outline of current issues/challenges

- NPG snagging works still ongoing but progressing
- Awaiting delivery and installation of additional bollards to ensure safety measures align with Police and anti-terrorism requirements. These works will allow final paving works to be completed, upon installation.

Outline of potential mitigation/decisions needed

- Continued close communication and management with NPG

MARKET PLACE CLEETHORPES

Economy, Culture, and Tourism Scrutiny Panel

Cllr P Jackson – Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economy, Regeneration, Devolution and Skills / Cllr H Dawkins – Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and the Visitor Economy

Project description	Rejuvenating Cleethorpes' historic Market Place will add space for social interaction, reconnecting our busy seafront and town centre, creating jobs, and boosting the economy. These improvements will re-balance the relationship between traffic and pedestrians, encouraging wider circulation of people through the town.
Approved budget	£4.5m
Cumulative spend	£0.6m
Programme	Contractor on site: New year 2026 Practical Completion: TBC following programme submitted by winning tenderer
Indicative timeline	RIBA 4: Autumn 2025 Tender Live - Principal Contractor: Autumn 2025 Completion – Estimated Autumn 2026
Top 3 risks	• Traffic Regulation Orders • Procurement • Stakeholder engagement
Capacity / Resourcing / Expertise needed	Additional expertise sourced for the project in relation to: • RIBA 4 Technical Design • RIBA 5 and 6 – project oversight role • NEC 4 Project Manager • NEC 4 Supervisor • QS

Current status and programme timeline

- Traffic Regulation Order process to implement new road layouts commenced
- Construction to commence in the winter.
- Project is due for completion Autumn 2026.
- Parking mitigation implemented and operational on 10th Oct 2025.
- Project team continuing stakeholder engagement, particularly with businesses.

Key progress since last report

- Traffic Regulation Orders informal consultation completed
- Stakeholder engagement.
- Finalising technical drawings.
- Early market engagement for procurement of Principal Contractor commenced.
- Traffic island installed outside Victoria (Old Vic) car park.

Outline of current issues/challenges

- Managing stakeholder relations internally and externally to ensure the project stays within the agreed scope so that the project benefits and outcomes can be realised but also stay within the funding programme deadline.
- Completing the project as quickly as possible whilst operating within statutory requirements.
- Stakeholder relations with business stakeholders.
- Public perception on parking.

Outline of potential mitigation/decisions needed

- Continued engagement with businesses and local residents.
- Contractor to provide a plan to minimise disruption.
- Complete: Victoria car park into use and High Street changed to short-stay only.

PIER GARDENS CLEETHORPES

Transport Infrastructure and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Panel
Cllr P Jackson – Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economy, Regeneration, Devolution and Skills / Cllr H Dawkins – Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and the Visitor Economy

Project description	Pier Gardens is a Victorian, traffic free, linear park raised above the Central Promenade which runs along the length of the town centre. Opened in 1885, its location is at the heart of the resort and the scope for re-development is vast. Regeneration of Pier Gardens will boost the tourism offer, ensuring there is something for everyone by providing play, leisure, and biodiversity attractions.
Approved budget	£8.4m
Cumulative spend	£1m
Programme	June 2025 – RIBA 4 completion and Principal Contractor and NEC4 Supervisor Procurement January 2026 to Winter 26/27 – Mobilisation and Construction RIBA5 and 6.
Indicative timeline	Autumn 2025– Principal Contractor and NEC4 Supervisor Procurement January 2026 to Winter 26/27– Mobilisation and Construction RIBA5 and 6.
Top 3 risks	• Procurement • Ground conditions • Planning • Cost certainty
Capacity / Resourcing / Expertise needed	Additional expertise sourced for the project in relation to: • RIBA 5 and 6 – project oversight role • NEC 4 Supervisor • NEC4 Project Manager (appointed) • Quantity Surveyor (appointed) • Ecological input

Current status and programme timeline • Principal Contractor procurement to complete Autumn 2025 • Site mobilisation to commence Winter 2025/26 • Project is due to complete Winter 2026/27
Key progress since last report • Principal Contractor procurement due to close October 2025 (since closed) • NEC4 Supervisor evaluation to complete October 2025
Outline of current issues/challenges • Coordination of Pier Gardens with Sea Road Site • Coordination with resort and activities during development stage
Outline of potential mitigation/decisions needed • Ensuring co-ordination of design and delivery with Sea Road project. • LUF Logistics to ensure co-ordination of resort and its activities during construction.

2 SEA ROAD CLEETHORPES

Transport Infrastructure and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Panel
Cllr P Jackson – Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economy, Regeneration, Devolution and Skills / Cllr H Dawkins – Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and the Visitor Economy

Project description	A three-storey building will be constructed at the former Waves site on the corner of Sea Road and the Promenade, comprising public amenities and a changing places facility, as well as commercially lettable space across all floors of the building, which may include different providers in retail and hospitality.
Approved budget	£8.7m
Cumulative spend	£1.3m
Programme	Pre-construction works: Winter 2024 - complete RIBA 4: Summer 2025 RIBA 5/6 Construction works commencement: Autumn 2025 Completion: Winter 2026 Tenant fit out – Winter 2026
Indicative timeline	RIBA 4: Autumn 2025 RIBA 5/6 Construction works commencement: Autumn/Winter 25/26
Top 3 risks	• Re-procurement of construction contract • Cost certainty • Ground conditions
Capacity / Resourcing / Expertise needed	• Additional expertise sourced for the project in relation to: • Technical Design • Construction Planning • Ecological input

Current status and programme timeline • Design works progressing under PCSA and construction due to commence in Autumn/Winter • Practical completion due late 2026/early 2027. • Fit out estimated winter 2026/27.
Key progress since last report • Working with contractor to complete RIBA 4 and obtain full costings. • Agreement for letting in legals.
Outline of current issues/challenges • Ensure co-ordination of design and delivery with Pier Gardens project. • Working to align project cost with procurement requirements.
Outline of potential mitigation/decisions needed • Design Teams/Contractors for Sea Road and Pier Gardens will have regular liaison to ensure coordination.

ABBEY WALK CAR PARK

Transport Infrastructure and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Panel	
Cllr Swinburn, Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport	
Project description	A study highlighted significant structural issues affecting the beams across the car park floors, particularly on the first and second floors, which support the loads from the upper levels. In May 2024, the car park was closed due to structural safety issues. Demolition of the car park is being progressed.
Approved budget	£1.0M for feasibility and demolition
Cumulative spend	£0.1m for viability, excluding approved demolition budget
Programme	Demolition programme – October 2025 to Spring 2026
Indicative timeline	Demolition mobilisation – October 2025 Demolition commencement – November 2025 Ground floor car park design – December 2025
Top 3 risks	- Demolition around existing buildings including Grimsby Library Rail infrastructure (BAPA) – demolition in close proximity to the rail track - Northern Power Grid (NPG) – demolition with the substation in situ
Capacity / Resourcing / Expertise needed	Project resource for reconstruction of the ground level car park - TBC
Current status and programme timeline	
- Demolition contract award - BAPA mobilisation of contract - Subject to manage risk to other buildings in the vicinity, demolition works to begin Autumn 2025	
Key progress since last report	
- Demolition tender close and evaluation – July 2025 - Business case preparation – July 2025 - Town Centre parking capacity and demand analysis draft study completed - Contractor has been awarded for demolition	
Outline of current issues/challenges	
- Finalisation of BAPA ongoing - Appointed contractor working through methodology for demolition to mitigate risks to other buildings in the vicinity	
Outline of potential mitigation/decisions needed	
No decisions required at this point	

TRANSPORT HUB

Transport Infrastructure and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Panel

Cllr Swinburn, Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport

Project description	The scheme aims to deliver a centralised, compact, highly functional, multi-purpose transport hub located within Grimsby Town Centre. This site has excellent connectivity to the railway station, Freshney Place shopping centre, the wider town core, and significant wider regeneration activities underway, the Hub will provide a single central location for all buses in NEL, in a safe, sheltered environment that is accessible to all.
Approved budget	Approved Project Budget £1.8m <i>Further funding may be assigned once final plans are confirmed</i>
Cumulative spend	£0.5m
Programme	Demolition of Osborne Street buildings to commence August 2025 Planned completion of demolition – October 2025
Indicative timeline	RIBA 1 to 2 Design - February 2025 to November 2025 Expected Cabinet decision on progression of hub – December 2025/January 2026 Submission of planning application – March 2026
Top 3 risks	• Disruption to neighbouring buildings • Funding to complete minimum viable scheme • Short to medium-term land usage while the next stage of construction is decided
Capacity / Resourcing / Expertise needed	External consultant WSP providing transportation and architectural services Internal NEL project management supported by professional services

Current status and programme timeline

- Demolition complete in October 2025
- RIBA 2 report and business case expected November/December 2025

Key progress since last report

- Demolition contractor confirmed and works commenced
- Public survey for facilities of the proposed Transport Hub ran from early August to mid September – analysis has been conducted that will be used within the concept design
- Continued conversations with planning officers in relation to a pre-application of a new hub
- Continued consultation and support with Stagecoach

Outline of current issues/challenges

- Demolition of site while maintaining highway network accessibility to neighbouring buildings and car parking at the rear of Osborne Street
- Short delay to RIBA 2 design deliverables due to consultant resource

Outline of potential mitigation/decisions needed

- Contractor will prepare phasing options following RIBA 2 design
- Public consultation results to be presented with RIBA 2 design November/December

Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel

Cllr Margaret Cracknell, Portfolio Holder for Children and Education

Project description	The Council receives a Government Basic Need grant allocation to assist with its statute responsibility as determined by the Education Act for the provision of sufficient and suitable pupil places within the Borough.
Approved budget	• Sufficiency of School Places Programme - £9.8m • Devolved Formula Capital Grant 25/26 - £0.1m • Backlog Maintenance Schools 25/26 - £0.2m
Cumulative spend	• Sufficiency of School Places – £ 6.2m • Devolved Formula Capital Grant – £0m • Backlog Maintenance Schools - £0m
Programme	• Sufficiency of School Places – This is a 5-year programme 21/22 to 25/26 • Devolved Formula Capital Grant – This is a continuous rolling annual allocation devolved to schools for them to address small capital projects • Backlog Maintenance Schools – Annual allocation for 25/26
Indicative timeline	This remainder of the Sufficiency Programme is planned to be spent during the financial year 25/26
Top 3 risks	• Insufficient school places • Unsuitable classroom provision • Schools fall into disrepair
Capacity / Resourcing / Expertise needed	This current programme has sufficient capacity resourcing and expertise required to deliver the projects and tackle and resolve risk.

Current status and programme timeline

Sufficiency of School Places – active 5-year programme, in its 4th year remains on target and within budget.

Devolved Formula Capital Grant – The LA is the gatekeeper of these monies which are devolved to individual schools for them to undertake minor capital works, it should be noted that this funding stream has the ability to roll for up to 4 years.

Backlog Maintenance Schools – This is currently an annual allocation; the identified 25/26 project is out to tender.

Key progress since last report

- Sufficiency of School Places – Completion of Laceby Stanford Project and is now in snagging,
- Enfield Primary complete and now in snagging, Cleethorpes Academy complete,
- New Waltham Primary 2nd phase on site, nearing completion, Building will be complete for 31st October 25, with bespoke external play installation and playground remedial works completing at the end of November
- Scartho site now open and fully functioning. Work continues on the external areas.
- Waltham site currently on track for proposed date of handover in October., temporary classrooms will be removed in October Half Term, external works will continue to the end of November

Outline of current issues/challenges

- Removal of Portakabins in October half term, completion of the pitches as we are coming into the winter months
- Installation of bespoke external play at Waltham Gateway and New Waltham Primary due to contractor availability

Outline of potential mitigation/decisions needed

No decisions required at this point

Schools – Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Resource Specialist Provision (RSP) & Alternative Provision (AP) Programme

Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel

Cllr Margaret Cracknell, Portfolio Holder for Children and Education

Project description	Deliver quality spaces and sufficient provision in North East Lincolnshire for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) or requiring Alternative Provision (AP)
Approved budget	- SEND Provision High Needs Capital grant 25/26 - £4.8m - SEMH free school - £1m approved overall
Current spend	- SEND Provision £1.5m - SEMH free school £0m
Programme	25-26 RSP/AP programme : various Resource Specialist Provisions (RSP) being developed on mainstream education sites to create 75+ RSP places; SEMH free school – 3-4 year programme
Indicative timeline	- Delivery RSP places by 2027 - Delivery of Free School with DfE confirming revised date
Top 3 risks	- Insufficient local places for children with an EHCP - Increasing education transport costs - Project interest from schools wishing to develop RSPs is could exceed existing capacity in the schools' assets team
Capacity / Resourcing / Expertise needed	Resourcing challenges and expertise to deliver the committed projects however, this is being addressed as part of a wider exploration of service delivery.

Current status and programme timeline

- SEND Provision: On target to exceed delivery of current strategy minimum target of 75 RSP places in mainstream schools
- AP places are currently not requiring any capital allocation. Commissioning of places project in progress
- SEMH free school – revised programme and figures from DfE being reviewed and being reported to November scrutiny/ Dec Cabinet

Key progress since last report

- Tollbar Academy-Gatehouse and Cambridge Park Sixth form build due to be handed over; Yarborough /Riverside phase 2 design; Fairfield Academy build handed over; 2 x primaries both Resource specialist provisions RSPs open with Waltham Gateway operating in Scartho Gateway building until Waltham Gateway build completed October 25; Healing secondary build handed over and opened. Bursar approval to start project. Welholme primary school site - feasibility stage. Other RSPs at visioning stage. Small grant project scheme – delivery stage and phase 2 about to launch
- SEMH specialist free school designs - feasibility costings reviewed and Business Development Group and scrutiny due to be updated; securing of land continues to be progressed.
- Humberston Park Specialist School option surveyed and cabinet approved option; exploring all options. 25-26 Send Provision grant contributing to this project.

Outline of current issues/challenges

- DfE Specialist free school – not yet contracted with DfE and land transfer not yet signed; substation and flooding issue costs known but not yet resolved fully.
- Commissioning of new projects taking longer than anticipated. RSP project interest is exceeding current allocation
- Solutions for Humberston Park School capacity – securing of option

Outline of potential mitigation/decisions needed

- Officer decision records and briefings where required a for each project; Education and Inclusion Board oversee decisions needed.

**Briefing Note for Children's Scrutiny Meeting Thursday 13th November 2025****Reynolds, Day Care, Scartho Nursery School, and Great Coates Village Nursery**

This briefing note provides summary information on the latest position in relation to each of the maintained settings. It is of note that the financial forecast for each setting is based upon the forecast their funding / income projections. For both Great Coates Nursery and Scartho Nursery, the LA's finance team not yet received confirmation that their plans have been approved and that they have reviewed their funding projections for accuracy.

Great Coates Nursery:

The setting continues to work hard to address the budget position; following their recent budget setting meeting, by the end of this financial year they should be in a cumulative surplus position of approximately £101k

Scartho Nursery:

The setting continues to work hard to address the budget position; following their recent budget setting meeting, by the end of this financial year, they should be in an in-year surplus of approximately 97k.

Reynolds Day Care:

The setting continues to recruit to increase its staffing establishment due to increase numbers for each of its sessions for the government's childcare entitlements. Within the latest budget monitoring meeting, the setting was reporting an in year surplus of £115k forecast – to be placed in EMR at year end for on-going sustainability.

LA Support:

Each setting continues to receive support from LA officers including:

- Line management and People and Culture Support for employment matters and wellbeing support
- Constructive financial support as a budget holder, with the option for monthly finance meetings
- Education advice and guidance (safeguarding, signposting, DfE elements)
- Capital advice (buildings and capacity)
- Early Years advice: sufficiency and projection data.

Contact Officers

Jennifer Steel Service Director for Education, Inclusion and Integration

Ann-Marie Matson Director of Children's Services

CHILDREN AND LIFELONG LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE	13/11/2025
REPORT OF	Ann-Marie Matson, Director of Children's Services
SUBJECT	North East Lincolnshire Adoption
STATUS	Open

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS

Adoption Strategic Priorities

North East Lincolnshire, in partnership with One Adoption North and Humber, is committed to ensuring that children in care achieve timely, stable, and supportive permanent placements. The following priorities guide our approach to adoption:

Timely Permanence

We aim to identify and secure permanent families for children without delay, ensuring that every child can thrive in a safe and nurturing environment.

Local Carers to Support Identity

Wherever possible, children are placed within or near their home communities to maintain cultural, familial, and social connections that support their identity and sense of belonging. We focus on recruiting and assessing adopters from within our local area to build a strong, community-based pool of families ready to meet the needs of children requiring adoption.

Support for Adopters

Adopters are provided with comprehensive support throughout their journey, including therapeutic services, training, and peer networks to help them care for children with complex needs. Adoption support extends throughout the adoptee's life, with services tailored to different stages of development, including identity work, counselling, and access to life story materials.

Support for Birth Parents

We offer compassionate support to birth parents whose children have been adopted, recognising the emotional impact and providing access to counselling and information services.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an overview of the adoption service in NELC, including the performance and membership of the Regional adoption agency One Adoption North

and Humber.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

- 1.1. North East Lincolnshire Council works collaboratively through its partnership with One Adoption North and Humber, a regional adoption agency that brings together five local authorities: North East Lincolnshire, Hull, East Riding, North Yorkshire, and York. This joined-up approach enhances the quality, consistency, and timeliness of adoption services across the region.
- 1.2. In 2024/25, North East Lincolnshire saw 24 children adopted, reflecting a steady progression toward permanency.
- 1.3. Notably, several sibling pairs were placed together, supporting continuity and emotional wellbeing, children aged over five were also successfully adopted, demonstrating commitment to securing outcomes for children who typically wait longer.
- 1.4. Performance indicators show improvement: the A10 measure (care entry to adoption) reduced from 571 to 543 days, though still above the national average of 485 days, while the A2 measure (placement order to match) remains strong at 164 days in Q2, outperforming the national average of 196 days.
- 1.5. Additionally, NELC contributed to regional adopter recruitment, approving nine of the 64 families assessed by One Adoption North and Humber.
- 1.6. The Public Law Working Group (PLWG) adoption report (Nov 2025) introduces a more child-centred and flexible approach to post-adoption contact, encouraging direct and meaningful relationships with birth families where appropriate. For social workers, this means a shift away from standardised letterbox contact toward individually tailored plans that support a child's identity and emotional wellbeing.
- 1.7. It increases the need for skilled planning, ongoing support, and monitoring of contact arrangements, as well as a deeper understanding of the legal frameworks and psychological impacts of adoption. Social workers will require enhanced training and resources to implement these changes effectively and may face increased workload and complexity in managing contact, supporting adoptive families, and ensuring that decisions remain in the child's best interests.
- 1.8. The Bridge Project is a partnership initiative between Adoption UK and the John Lewis Partnership Foundation, delivered across the One Adoption North and Humber region. It aims to support adopted young people, particularly those at risk of becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training), by helping them build life skills, confidence, and resilience. Through workshops, mentoring, and engagement activities, the project provides a safe space for young people to develop communication and teamwork skills, improve their self-esteem, and prepare for future education or employment opportunities. The NE Lincs group has developed a game and questions for social workers to use when assessing adopters to ensure that prospective adopters consider some of the things that impact them.

2. RISKS, OPPORTUNITIES AND EQUALITY ISSUES

- 2.1 Delays in securing permanence for children in care can lead to significant risks, including emotional instability, disrupted attachment, and long-term mental health challenges. Children may experience developmental delays, difficulties in forming trusting relationships, and a reduced sense of identity and belonging, especially if placed far from their home. Educational outcomes can also be negatively affected due to placement disruptions, and the likelihood of placement breakdown increases the longer children remain in temporary care. These risks highlight the critical importance of timely, stable, and well-supported adoption planning.
- 2.2 Being an active partner within One Adoption supports the coordination of recruitment, assessment, matching, and post-adoption support across the region. This collaboration allows for shared resources, wider adopter pools, improving outcomes for children needing adoption.
- 2.4 North East Lincolnshire Adoption staff work closely with local children's social care teams to ensure continuity of care and joint planning. This includes joint decision-making, shared case oversight, and coordinated support for children and families throughout the adoption journey.
- 2.5 Shared policies and procedures across councils ensure high standards. We undertake shared learning and learn from best practice.

3. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

None identified in this report

4. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund (ASGSF) is a government initiative that provides financial support for therapeutic services to families after adoption or special guardianship arrangements. The fund aims to improve long-term outcomes by ensuring families can access tailored support without facing prohibitive costs. In March 2025 changes were introduced:
- The Fair Access Limit (FAL) for therapeutic support has been reduced from £5,000 to £3,000 per child per year.
 - The separate £2,500 limit for specialist assessments has been removed; now, assessments must be funded within the overall £3,000 limit.
 - Match-funded support for exceptional cases (where therapy costs exceed the FAL) is no longer available.
- 4.2 The Department for Education has committed to reviewing the fund's delivery and will launch a public engagement process to assess its effectiveness and sustainability. Such changes could have financial implication for the Local Authority.
- 4.3 In 2024–2025, NE Lincs place more children within the region through One Adoption than the number of carers we recruit resulting in a net gain for the authority. Without these arrangements there would have been a potential cost

of securing these placements externally of up to £450,000, depending on the provider.

- 4.6 This demonstrates clear financial efficiency, alongside additional benefits such as shared training, marketing, and best practice, reinforcing the value of collaborative working through One Adoption.

5. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Stability in an adoptive placement has a profound and positive impact on children's wellbeing and development. It provides a secure and nurturing environment where children can begin to heal from past trauma, build trusting relationships, and develop a strong sense of identity and belonging. Consistent care supports emotional regulation, improves mental health outcomes, and enhances educational engagement. Over time, stability enables children to thrive socially and emotionally, building the foundation for healthy adult relationships and resilience.
- 5.2 One Adoption North and Humber alongside One Adoption West Yorkshire and One Adoption South Yorkshire have secured funding from the DofE to employ and voice and influence youth worker. We also have access to 'Adopteens', which is a peer-led support service for adopted young people aged 11–17 across Yorkshire and Humber, including the One Adoption North and Humber region. Developed by adoptees and now run by PAC-UK, it offers online forums, social events, and a Youth Council to help young people connect, share experiences, and influence adoption services. With recent funding from the National Lottery, the project is expanding its reach to support up to 500 young people from across the pan region.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE, NATURE RECOVERY AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

7. MONITORING COMMENTS

In the opinion of the author, this report does not contain recommended changes to policy or resources (people, finance or physical assets). As a result no monitoring comments have been sought from the Council's Monitoring Officer (Chief Legal Officer), Section 151 Officer (Director of Finance) or Strategic Workforce Lead.

8. WARD IMPLICATIONS

All wards impacted

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A

10. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

Paul Cowling, Service Director, Regulated Provision
Queenie Carrie, Deputy Service Director, Regulated Provision
Jane Broderick, Practice Supervisor, Adoption

Ann-Marie Matson
Director of Children Services

CHILDREN AND LIFELONG LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE	03/11/2025
REPORT OF	Ann-Marie Matson, Director of Children’s Services
SUBJECT	Children in our Care performance update
STATUS	Open

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS

Safeguarding children and promoting better outcomes for children in our care is a key element of the Council plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a performance summary relating to the key metrics that NELC is measured on with regards to Children in Our Care. It provides an up-to-date position on the overall population, the trends, and the trajectory of the populations. It highlights the impact that the workforce is having on the experiences of children in our care.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

This report seeks to update scrutiny panel members on the ongoing progress that we continue to make with regards to children in our care.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

Throughout 2025 to date, we have continued to build on the progress made in 2024/25 with regards to performance in relation to children in our care (CIOC). As of 1st November 2025, the population of children in our care is at its lowest level for a number of years, with there being 404 children in our care currently. This also equates to the lowest rate of CIOC per 10,000 children for the last 5 years, with a current rate of 121 children per 10,000. This rates brings NELC much closer to the latest statistical neighbour figures of 113, which demonstrates the progress being made.

NELC have achieved this by strengthening practice within our social work teams, and earlier, to ensure that families are receiving the right support, at the right time, which is preventing children entering our care. When children do need to enter our care, timely assessments are being routinely undertaken of all possible family members, to ensure that children have the opportunity to remain within their family networks. This is demonstrated within the latest available performance information regarding children entering our care, with an annualised rate of 34 per 10,000 children, which is below our statistical neighbour comparators of 40, but still slightly above the England average of 28 per 10,000.

Children continue to leave our care at a healthy rate, despite the overall population of children in our care being much lower. This is being achieved through a rigorous approach to overseeing children’s care plans, and continuing to explore rehabilitation and support to parents, alongside alternative permanence arrangements with family and foster carers. This has lead to 83 children leaving our

care in the last 6 months, which is significantly higher than the number of children that entered our care in the same period (57).

The majority of our children are residing in foster placements, with this currently standing at 72%. The number of children residing in external commissioned placements has also continued to reduce over the last year. There are also active plans in place for a number of these children to return to internal provision (both into our new children's homes due to be opened and existing provision), and potentially into foster placements.

Recruitment of foster carers is also a core priority and this is supported by the Foster Friendly scheme that now has over 180 businesses and organisations and 40 schools signed up to the scheme. This has led to a significant increase in enquiries and assessments with a potential 20 new carers projected to be approved by the end of this financial year .

Progress on the new children's home has been positive, with preparation for the homes to welcome their first children in January 2026. This will increase the available placement options locally, provide greater certainty about the quality of care our children are receiving, alongside ensure that our children can remain within their community.

In relation to stability for our children, we have continued to maintain our performance in relation to the number of children who have experienced 3 or placements in the last 12 months. This equates to performance of approximately 8%, which is in line with last years performance, and national averages.

2. RISKS, OPPORTUNITIES AND EQUALITY ISSUES

Risks and opportunities continue to be identified through the Corporate Parenting Board and Safeguarding Children Partnership governance arrangements, including the various sub groups of both boards. Measures are put in place to manage them, and exceptions reported to both boards as required. Any identified risks are aligned to the NEL Council Risk Register.

3. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

The number of children in our care continues to be reported through the NELC quarterly performance reporting. This includes commentary on the work undertaken to support those children, and to manage the population numbers. Alongside this, the recent OFSTED report publication has demonstrated the positive progress that is being made in relation to children in our care, with regards to both their experiences, and the work undertaken to ensure the right children enter our care and remain in our care.

4. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The continued reduction in population of children in our care will support the overall spend reduction within NELC children services, as less children's placements are required. NELC children services remains on track to reduce the children in our care

population at the rate outlined within the Children's Sufficiency Strategy.

5. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS

The positive progress that continues to be made is ultimately resulting in more children being supported to remain within their family networks, with intervention to support their parents and family networks to meet their needs. When children do need to enter care, they are doing so timely and following robust management oversight provided by an experienced management team.

The opening of new provision, alongside the continued focus on recruiting more local foster carers, is ensuring that we are working towards more children residing locally, in high quality homes. The overall number of children living outside of the NELC boundary has decreased.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE, NATURE RECOVERY AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

No impact

7. MONITORING COMMENTS

In the opinion of the author, this report does not contain recommended changes to policy or resources (people, finance or physical assets). As a result no monitoring comments have been sought from the Council's Monitoring Officer (Chief Legal Officer), Section 151 Officer (Director of Finance) or Strategic Workforce Lead.

8. WARD IMPLICATIONS

All wards impacted

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A

10. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

Paul Cowling, Service Director, Regulated Provision
Ben Dent, Deputy Service Director, Children in Care and Care Leavers
Queenie Carrie, Deputy Service Director, Regulated Provision

ANN MARIE MATSON
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN SERVICES

CHILDREN AND LIFELONG LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE	13 th November 2025
REPORT OF	Assistant Director of Policy Strategy and resources (Statutory Scrutiny Officer)
SUBJECT	Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel - Work Programme Review
STATUS	Open

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS

The scrutiny panels act as a reviewing mechanism for decisions made relating to the strategic policy, performance and resources required to deliver the ambitions of the Council and its key partnerships. The aim of the scrutiny process is to make sure decision making is robust by providing constructive challenge. This contributes to the Council being effective and efficient, and therefore it is integral to the delivery of the Council Priorities.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report reflects on progress with the panel's work programme at the half-year stage and provides a formal opportunity for the panel to update its work programme as it considers appropriate.

MATTER(S) FOR CONSIDERATION

The panel is asked to consider progress made to date with its work programme and update it if it is felt that items need to be re-prioritised, removed or added. There is also the opportunity for an informal workshop if the panel feel that further discussions are required ahead of any formal scrutiny work.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

- 1.1 This report and its appendix summarises the 2025/26 agreed work programme and the panel's timetable of activities to undertake this work.
- 1.2 The panel's work programme remains flexible and the panel has the opportunity to amend it at any point throughout the Municipal Year. It is good practice to keep the work programme under review and the half-year stage seems an appropriate time to do so.
- 1.3 The review of scrutiny arrangements undertaken earlier this year did recommend that an informal scrutiny panel session be held half-way through the Municipal Year to monitor progress against their individual work programmes. This recommendation is acknowledged but, mindful of the pressures on Members' time, this report is brought to a formal meeting to ensure that the necessary review is undertaken but also to allow the panel the option of a further informal workshop session should it be considered appropriate.

2. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Any actions which the council may undertake as a result of recommendations made by scrutiny will be the subject of further reports, which will include risk

assessment(s) by the author(s) concerned.

3. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

The work programme demonstrates the breadth of matters considered by scrutiny.

4. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no financial considerations included within this report.

5. IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

There are no impacts on children and young people as a direct result of this report. The panel will have the opportunity to consider to any implications for children and young people as it considers individual items within its work programme.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no impacts on climate change and the environment as a direct result of this report. Any actions which the council may undertake as a result of recommendations made by scrutiny will be the subject of further reports, which will include climate change and environmental implications by the author(s) concerned.

7. MONITORING COMMENTS

In the opinion of the author, this report does not contain recommended changes to policy or resources (people, finance or physical assets). As a result no monitoring comments have been sought from the Council's Monitoring Officer (Chief Legal Officer), Section 151 Officer (Director of Finance) or Strategic Workforce Lead.

8. WARD IMPLICATIONS

May impact on all wards

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Annual report of scrutiny 2023/24

Panel tracking reports

Work programme report submitted to this panel on 25th July 2024.

10. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

Beverly O'Brien – Scrutiny Advisor

JO ROBINSON
(STATUTORY SCRUTINY OFFICER)

SUMMARY WORK PROGRAMME: Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel 2025/26

Thursday 31 st July 4:30pm	Thursday 4 th September 4:30pm	8 th September 2.00pm	11 th September 2.00pm	Thursday 13 th November 4:30pm	Thursday 15 th January 2026 4.30pm	Thursday 5 th March 2026 4:30pm
• 2024/25 Quarter 4 Council Plan Performance Report • 2024/25 Provisional Financial Outturn Report • Work Programme 2025/26 • Improvement update • Children's Services workforce update • Maintained Nurseries and Daycare Provisions • Children's Homes – progress on new children's homes • SEND Provision • Children's Social Care Statutory Complaints and Compliments Annual Report 2024/25	• Quarter 1 Finance Monitoring 2025/26 and Council Plan Performance Report • Ofsted Report • Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2024/25 (including SCP DSPs)	• Youth Justice Plan	• Skills Action Plan – Progress update	• Quarter 2 Finance Monitoring 2025/26 and Council Plan Performance Report • Work Programme (6 monthly review) • Children in Care and performance update • Adoption • Maintained Nurseries and Day Care Provisions • Elective Home Education Strategy	• 0 to 19 offer (Public Health, including Adolescent Lifestyle Survey and schools' response) • Children's Mental Health and ICB update • Care Leaver Offer • Schools transport (including finances) • Children's Social Care National reforms • Family Hubs	• Quarter 3 Finance Monitoring 2025/26 and Council Plan Performance Report • Scrutiny Panel Work Programme – Review 2025/26 and Work Programme 2026/27 • School exclusions, attendance and attainment (including reference to academies position) • Children and young people who are Electively Home Educated

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

Tracking – Forward Plan – Public Questions – Questions to Portfolio Holder

Maintained Nurseries and Daycare Provisions (update every six months, with a written report if required)

FURTHER TOPICS IDENTIFIED AT THE LAST PANEL MEETING (TO BE SCHEDULED IN)

None currently (all build into work programme)

VISITS

Family Hubs - to be agreed

WORKSHOPS

To be agreed

JOINT WORK

Potential joint work in relation to (TBC)

- Anti-social behaviour with Communities Scrutiny Panel, specifically, use of vapes in young people (aligned to Youth Justice Plan)
- Skills Strategy with Economy, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Panel