

# **Congleton Town Council**

Historic Market Town

Chief Officer: David McGifford CiLCA

27th November 2025

Dear Councillor,

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Environment Committee to be held at Congleton Town Hall on **Thursday 4**<sup>th</sup> **December 2025 at 7.00 pm.** 

Please note the Personnel Committee will follow this meeting at 8.00 pm.

- The Public and Press are welcome to attend the meeting, please note There will be 15 minutes at each meeting to receive any questions from Members of the Public, either verbally or at the meeting, including those which have been received in writing 7 days prior to the meeting.
- There may be confidential items towards the end of the meeting which the law requires the Council to make a resolution to exclude the public and press in accordance with Section 100 (B) (2) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Please note this committee meeting is a Paperless Council unless otherwise requested.

Yours sincerely,

David McGifford

**CHIEF OFFICER** 





#### **AGENDA**

#### 1. Apologies for Absence

Members are reminded of the necessity to give apologies in advance of the meeting and to give reasons for absence.

#### 2. Minutes of Previous Meetings (Enclosed)

To approve and sign the minutes of the Environment Committee held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025 as a correct record.

#### 3. <u>Declarations of Interest</u>

Members are requested to declare both "pecuniary" and "non-pecuniary" interests as early in the meeting as they become known.

#### 4. Outstanding Actions

To review any outstanding actions from previous meetings.

#### 5. Questions from Members of the Public

There will be 15 minutes at each meeting to receive any questions from Members of the Public, either verbally at the meeting, including those which have been received in writing 7 days prior to the meeting.

#### 6. Urgent Items

Members may raise urgent items related to this Committee, but no discussion or decisions may be taken at the meeting.

#### 7. Congleton In Bloom Working Group (Enclosed)

To receive the Floral In Bloom Management Accounts.

**7.1** To receive an update on the In Bloom awards at the National, Regional and local levels. (Verbal)

#### 8. Streetscape Management Accounts (Enclosed)

To receive the Streetscape Management account report.

#### 9. Streetscape Update (Enclosed)

To receive the report relating to the Streetscape Services.

#### 10. <u>Carbon Footprint Summary</u> (Enclosed)

To receive updates and comments regarding the Town Council's Carbon Footprint.

#### 11. Town Hall Environmental Project (Enclosed)

To receive an update on the Town Hall double/ secondary glazing project.

#### 12. Mobile Waste Service (Verbal Update)

To receive a verbal update from the Ward Councillor regarding the status of a mobile waste service in Congleton and other items of interest from the Cheshire East Communities and Environment Committee.

#### 13. Resolution to Exclude the Public and Press from Item 14

To consider passing a resolution in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that public and press be excluded from the meeting due to Commercial sensitivities.

#### 14. Streetscape Staffing Budget (To follow)

To approve the proposed increases in the Streetscape Staffing Budget.

#### To members of the Environment Committee

Cllrs: Suzy Firkin (Chair & Deputy Mayor), Heather Pearce (Vice Chair)

Suzie Akers Smith, Dawn Allen, Charles Booth, Dave Brown, Sally Ann

Holland, Susan Mead, Heather Seddon, Glen Williams.

**Ex Officio**: Cllr Robert Brittain (Mayor)

Other members of the Council for Information, Police, Honorary Burgess (5),

Press (3), Congleton Library, Congleton Information Centre.



Title	Environment Committee
Date of Meeting Time	2 October 2025 7 pm
Status	Draft Minutes – to be ratified at the next Committee meeting
Reference Documents	Agenda Papers for Environment - 2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2025

#### **Attendance**

Committee Members	Cllr Suzy Firkin (Chair and Deputy Mayor) Cllr Heather Pearce (Vice Chair) Cllr Dawn Allen Cllr Charles Booth Cllr Sally Ann Holland Cllr Susan Mead Cllr Heather Seddon Cllr Glen Williams
Ex Officio	Cllr Robert Brittain (Mayor)
Non-Committee Members	Cllrs Robert Douglas, Arabella Holland & Kay Wesley
Officers	David McGifford (Chief Officer) and Doug Christie (Streetscape Development Manager).
Members of the Press	0
Members of the Public	2

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for the absence were received from Cllrs Suzie Akers Smith and David Brown.

### 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

**ENV/09/2526 Resolved** to approve and sign the minutes of the Environment Committee held on 3rd July 2025 as a correct record.

# 3. <u>Declarations of Interest</u>

Declarations of non-pecuniary interest were received from Cllrs Sally Ann Holland, re Cheshire East Council and agenda items 8 &11, Cllr Heather Seddon, Cheshire East Council and Cllr Glen Williams on items 9 & 14.

#### 4. Outstanding Actions

None

#### 5. Questions from Members of the Public

Two residents from Henshall Hall wished to advise the council that they were not responsible for comments in the Chronicle that stated that Cheshire East Council had supported the clearance of grass and verge debris through work undertaken by residents. They wanted it noted that it was not correct and that it was Congleton Town Council that had assisted the residents in the clearance, and wanted to express their gratitude.

**Action** – Comms team to contact Congleton Chronicle to request that a correction/apology be made, and advise relevant social media channels.

#### 6. Urgent Items

No urgent items

#### 7. Congleton In Bloom Working Group

**7.1 ENV/10/2526 Resolved to** receive Floral In Bloom Management Accounts.

Noted that there was a query on a bulb planting project – Cllr Williams to check with Patti Pinto.

#### 8. Streetscape Management Account

ENV/11/2526 Resolved to receive the Streetscape Management account.

#### 9. Streetscape Update

**ENV/12/2526 Resolved to** receive the Streetscape update.

**Action** to arrange a meeting with Plus Dane to discuss joint working on the flytipping issue.

#### **10.** Carbon Footprint Summary

**ENV/13/2425 Resolved to receive** updates and comments regarding the Town Council Carbon Footprint.

#### 11. Town Hall Environmental Project

**ENV/14/2425 Resolved to receive** the update on the Town Hall double/secondary glazing project.

#### 12. Mobile Waste Service

**ENV/15/2425 Resolved to receive** the verbal update, which advised that there were no dates for the commencement of this project.

#### 13. Resolution to Exclude the Public and Press from Items 15 & 16

**ENV/16/2425** Resolved to pass a resolution in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that public and press be excluded from the meeting due to commercial sensitivities.

#### 14. Brunswick Wharfe

ENV/17/2425 Resolved to receive the report from the Chief Officer.

#### 15. Streetscape Private Works Update

ENV/18/2425 Resolved to receive the report from the Chief Officer.

Meeting ended 8:10pm

Cllr Suzy Firkin (Chair)

# **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

COMMITTEE:	Environment				
MEETING DATE	4 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	LOCATION		Congleton Town Hall	
AND TIME	7.00 pm				
REPORT FROM	Serena Van Schepdael –	Responsible Fin	ancial Of	ficer (RFO)	
AGENDA ITEM	7				
REPORT TITLE	Congleton In Bloom Wo	rking Group - Flo	oral/In Blo	oom Management Accounts	
Background	Variance analysis of the month ending 30 <sup>th</sup> Septe	_		r the year 2025-2026 for the Appendix 1.	
Updates	equates to 50% of the but the main expenditure are year, with only a few cost.	udget. Please ref nd income for pla sts yet to arrive. he at month 6, th n does not have a	er to the s ants and b is is due t	for month 6 of 2025-2026, which summary for notes/comments. baskets are now complete for the o sponsorship income being ed budget allocated, see	
	176% spend at month 6, Floral spends mainly take place at the start of the financial year due to the timings of the events, so it shows as an overspend early on in the year. Based on the full budget, the expenditure sits at 88%.  The budget for 25-26 was increased by £2,000, which is to accommodate possible extra costs for the extra competition, Britain in Bloom. The annual expenditure for In Bloom covers:				
	<ul> <li>Hanging basket plants and consumables.</li> <li>In Bloom displays.</li> <li>Sundries for local projects.</li> <li>Travel expenses to the Competition Award ceremonies</li> </ul>				
	Ticket costs to attend the Award Ceremonies.				
	Portfolio design and printing				
	Judging day expenses				
	Expenditure to month (		£14,22	2	
	Expenditure is still due	•	£2,602		
	purchase orders; this m				
	Expected total known e	expenditure	£16,82	4	
Decision Requested	To receive the Floral In B	Bloom Managem	ent Accou	unt to 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2025.	

#### **Congleton Town Council** Management Accounts 2025-26 Floral/In Bloom Sep-25

6 Month Percentage 50.0%

#### Floral Income

1180 Donations Received 1195 Sponsorship Income 1199 Misc Income: Hanging Baskets

Total

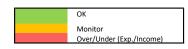
Expenditure

4011 Rates

4162 General Expenditure

Total

Net Expenditure over income



ANNUAL BUDGET	BUDGET TO M6	ACTUAL TO M6	£ VARIANCE OF M6 BUDGETS	% AGAINST M6 BUDGETS	% OF ANNUAL BUDGET	% VARIANCE AGAINST M6 EXPECTED
0	-	- 237	237			
0	-	- 2,540	2,540			
-4,000	- 2,000	- 4,363	2,363	218.15%	109.1%	59.08%
-4,000	- 2,000	- 7,140	5,140	357.00%	178.5%	128.50%
172	86	162	- 76	188.37%	94.2%	44.19%
16,000	8,000	14,060	- 6,060	175.75%	87.9%	37.88%
16,172	8,086	14,222	- 6,136	175.88%	87.9%	37.94%
12,172	6,086	7,082	- 996	116.37%	58.2%	8.18%

NOTES

Expenditure Variance 0-100% Green 101-115% Amber 115% over Red

Income from hanging basket sales.

Paid in Full for the year, paid for 5 roundabouts See below for exepcted future expenditure

# **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

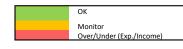
COMMITTEE:	Environment				
MEETING DATE	4 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall		
AND TIME	7.00 pm				
REPORT FROM	Serena Van Schepdael –	<b>Responsible Financial Off</b>	ficer (RFO)		
AGENDA ITEM	8				
REPORT TITLE	Environment (including	Streetscape Services) Mai	nagement Accounts		
Background	Variance analysis of the Management Accounts for the year 2025-2026 for the month ending 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2025, month 6, see Appendix 1.				
Updates	equates to 50% of the burdlesse refer to the summ  Further information:  Income  CEC Income: two month 6.  Expenditure	rspends have been approvid (CTC/28/2526)	for month 6 of 2025-2026, which re based on full annual budgets.  orks showing as 130% as at red by Council the overspend has		
Decision Requested	To receive the Streetscap	oe Management Accounts	to 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2025.		

# Congleton Town Council Management Accounts 2025-26 STREETSCAPE

Sep-25

Month 6 Percentage 50.0%

STREETSCAPE 4000 Staff Costs 4008 Training 4009 Protective Clothing\H & Safety 4013 Office rent 4016 Cleaning Materials 4021 Telephone 4025 Insurance 4041 Property maintenance 4043 Horticultural etc Supplies 4047 Vehicle maintenance/Serv etc 4048 Vehicle fuel and oil 4049 Vehicle rental charges 4050 Street Cleansing 4152 Propogation Unit 4162 General expenditure 4168 Other Expenditure 4951 Tfr from EMR 6000 Central Overheads Reallocated Streetscape Expenditure 3030 Purchases for recharging 1165 CEC - Income 1167 External work income 1199 Miscellaneous Streetscape Income Net Expenditure over Income



ANNUAL BUDGET	BUDGET TO M6	ACTUAL TO M6	£ VARIANCE OF M6 BUDGETS	% AGAINST M6 BUDGETS	% OF ANNUAL BUDGET	% VARIANCE AGAINST M6 EXPECTED
629,524	314,762	306,245	8,517	97.3%	48.6%	-1.359
3,200	1,600	0	1,600	0.0%	0.0%	-50.00%
5,900	2,950	3,650	-700	123.7%	61.9%	11.869
2,000	1,000	1,000	0	100.0%	50.0%	0.009
8,000	4,000	1,788	2,212	44.7%	22,4%	-27.659
1,175	588	293	295	49.9%	24.9%	-25.069
10,369	5,185	10,043	-4,859	193.7%	96.9%	46.869
1,500	750	60	690	8.0%	4.0%	-46.009
14,000	7,000	14,305	-7,305	204.4%	102.2%	52.189
12,800	6,400	3,465	2,935	54.1%	27.1%	-22.93%
16,285	8,143	8,487	-345	104.2%	52.1%	2.129
81,000	40,500	48,054	-7,554	118.7%	59.3%	9.339
8,000	4,000	2,938	1,062	73.5%	36.7%	-13.289
2,500	1,250	602	648	48.2%	24.1%	-25.929
5,300	2,650	1,686	964	63.6%	31.8%	-18.199
0	0	0	0		0.0%	-50.00%
		0				
50,596	25,298	29,749	-4,451	117.6%	58.8%	8.809
852,149	426,075	432,365	-6,291	101.5%	50.7%	0.749
		5.63	F.C.2		0.00/	0.000
	0	563	-563		0.0%	0.009
427.400	-	240.067	F 460	402.50/	F4 20/	452.560
-427,199	-213,600	-219,067	5,468	102.6%	51.3%	152.569
-17,500	-8,750	-11,391	2,641	130.2%	65.1%	180.189
-900 445 500	-450	0	-450 7.650	0.0% 103.4%	0.0% <b>51.7%</b>	50.009
-445,599	-222,800	-230,458	7,659	103.4%	51./%	153.449
406,550	203,275	202,470	805	99.6%	49.8%	-49.60%

Expenditure Variance 0-100% Green 101-115% Amber 115% over Red

Replenishment required

Full year for Zurich and Critical Illness paid to date.

Summer planting complete

Mower hire required due to our own being in for repairs: £4022

Start of year annual fees paid

No budget

Income Variance 100% Green, 75% to 99% Amber, 0%-75% Red

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

COMMITTEE:	<b>Environment Committee</b>		
MEETING DATE	4 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	LOCATION	Town Hall
AND TIME	7.00 pm		
REPORT FROM	Chief Officer		
AGENDA ITEM	9		
REPORT TITLE	Streetscape Services		

#### Update <u>Streetscape Contract</u>

The current Streetscape Contract runs through to April 2027. We are looking to enter into negotiations for an extension to that contract. With devolution being a subject Cheshire East is exploring, the reality is that more services will be passed down to Town and Parish Councils. For efficiency and environmental benefits, investment into new vehicles and equipment is key. When investing, there will be either finance agreements, leases or capital investment required. To enable this to happen, we need to seek a significantly longer contract than we currently have. This is to advise committee members that we are entering into dialogue with Cheshire East Council on this matter.

#### **Fly Tipping**

As well as noting the quantity of fly tips per month and annually, we are now calculating the cost for each specific fly tip over the course of a year. Below you will note the number of fly tips we have dealt with over the last year (2024), in comparison to previous years:

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Jan	4	4	4	16	30	20	17
Feb	10	2	10	11	25	7	5
Mar	4	0	32	24	14	8	7
Apr	10	12	19	10	19	24	14
May	5	40	22	11	11	24	20
June	4	22	2	8	26	20	21
July	8	21	0	13	9	19	23
Aug	5	18	10	26	19	18	22
Sept	6	6	14	23	13	9	14
Oct	5	3	10	8	21	17- 166	13- 156
Nov	4	4	17	25	4	6	
Dec	5	4	10	30	15	22	
Total	70	136	150	205	206	194	156
Total Cost	£2324.16	£5380.52	£2481.45	£12,300.87	£ 15,360.76	£ 13,077.18	£11,834.74

	Highway weed spraying
	Following the demonstration of a full EV quad bike and spray system, further research is taking place with other authorities that use the same equipment to establish its effectiveness and running. The total cost of the quad bike and spray system is circa £7,000. The cost of the weed spray for the whole of Congleton three times a year is being investigated, but it is hoped that this proposal will be brought to the council for the meeting on the 11th December 2025.
	If approved, please note that the weed spraying will commence in spring 2026.
	Grit Boxes.
	The ambition for the council is to maintain the levels of grit held in boxes over the winter period. An agreement needs to be in place with Cheshire East Highways for one of our vans to be allowed to collect adequate grit from Lyme Green Highways Depot and enable the Streetscape team to fill bins where necessary
	<u>Vehicle Graphics</u> should start to appear on the Streetscape Vans to help promote the work of the Council. The graphics will show the Town Crest, the name of the Town Council and Historic Market Town.
	Congleton Park Bowling Green's full renovations have been completed, so it should be in good condition for the start of the bowling season next spring.
	Members of the Streetscape team in work
	All staff are currently working – no long-term sick, one awaiting knee operation.
	External works – Please see agenda item 14
Financial Considerations	Concerns over the financial impact of fly-tipping, as well as a probable increase in highway weed control on the streetscape budget lines. Ensuring that external contracts are cost-beneficial to the council.
Environmental	Consideration to be given to areas to be weed-sprayed and the specific type of
Considerations	chemicals used.
Equality	Where we undertake new, existing projects or activities, we will need to engage all
Considerations	sectors of the community, and we will look to ensure full inclusivity.
Decision	To receive the report.
Requested	

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

COMMITTEE:	<b>Environment Comm</b>	ittee	
MEETING DATE	4 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
AND TIME	7.00 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Han
REPORT FROM	Doug Christie- Street	tscape Development Manager/Seren	a Van Schepdael- RFO
AGENDA ITEM	10		
REPORT TITLE	Carbon Footprint Up	date	
Update		nd figures on the Town Council's Carb wing areas of operation:	on Footprint. Our data is
	quarter 2, Septembe  Utilities  See Appendix B  Our carbon emission total Emissions. We is tariff; for information highlight our savings	e shown as a graph in Appendix A. The r 2025. See below for the latest summed at the summer and the state of the latest summer and the state of the	lier. Absolute Emissions are ing into the Green Energy cluded in the summary to e were not opted into the
	total Emissions. We in tariff; for information highlight our savings Green Tariff, hence t	reduce our absolute emissions by opt n purposes, absolute emissions are in . For the financial year 2024-2025, w	ing into the Green Energy cluded in the summary to e were not opted into the

#### **LATEST SUMMARY**

Up to Month 6

Area	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Town Hall	109,419	103,077	66,460	69,417	61,629	62,639	86,662	8,113
Streetscape	47,490	45,512	34,269	38,811	51,898	42,551	44,183	32,824
Paddling								
Pool	9,560	8,055	0	3,695	5,945	5,832	7,738	9,752
Public Realm	8,096	6,922	6,459	14,112	8,592	9,739	16,376	11,940
TOTAL	174,565	163,566	107,188	126,035	128,064	120,761	154,959	62,629

# Methodology

Fuel: Calculated on litres used, the equation is based on 2.31kg of CO2 per litre for Petrol and 2.54 kg for Diesel.

Utilities: Gas & Electric data taken directly from the Energy Supplier based on usage. Water per 0.298 of CO2 per  $\rm M^3$ 

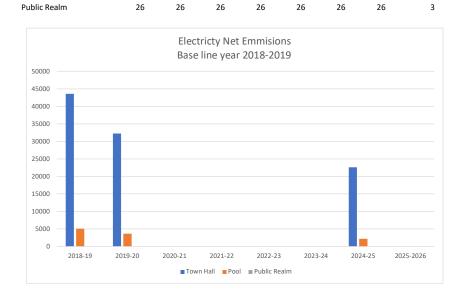
	Plants/Compost/Chemicals: Currently using the original method of calculations based on £, for Plants, we are currently looking at other methods, including using the Plant Passport.
Environmental	Reducing carbon is key to the Council's response to the Climate Emergency and its responsible Environmental Management approach.
Equality	The impact of Climate Change is predicted to affect the most vulnerable in society and those already living in poverty. The town council must show leadership in addressing climate change and decarbonising our assets and services where possible.
Financial	Driving down our carbon footprint will also have the benefit of reducing fuel and energy consumption, which will, in turn, save the council money in the long term. However, in some cases, investment in equipment and infrastructure may increase short-term costs, and the balance of these two opposing trends must be carefully assessed.
Decision Requested	To receive updated carbon footprint figures to the end of Quarter 2, September 2025.

#### **Congleton Town Council**

#### **Carbon Footprint Summary: Utilities**

#### Appendix B

ELECTRICITY								Green Tarriff	
Net Carboon Emissions	<mark>5.</mark>							Up to Month 6	
Area	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-2026	
Town Hall	43607	32263	0	0	0	0	22613	0	
Pool	5064	3655	0	0	0	0	2208	0	
Public Realm	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	0	
								0	
ELECTRICITY									
Absolute Carboon Emissions for infromation: To show savings Up to Month 6									
Area	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-2026	
Town Hall	43607	32263	26409	19755	21559	22179	22613	10850	
Pool	5064	3655	14	1125	1697	2251	2208	811	

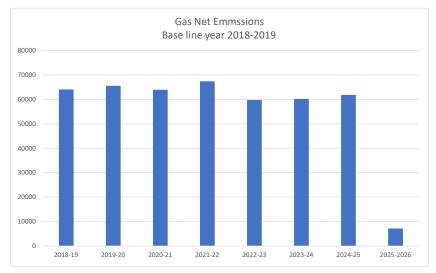


#### GAS

 Net Carboon Emissions
 Up to Month 3

 Area
 2018-19
 2019-20
 2020-21
 2021-22
 2022-23
 2023-24
 2024-25
 2025-2026

 64023
 65568
 63911
 67400
 59764
 60209
 61841
 7,165



### **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

COMMITTEE:	Town Hall, Assets & Services Committee Meeting						
MEETING DATE	6 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall				
AND TIME	7 pm						
REPORT FROM	Town Hall Manager – Mark Worthington						
AGENDA ITEM	11						
REPORT TITLE	Town Hall Environmental Project						
Background	CTC Officers successfully secured grant funding of £15,000 from the						
	Improved, Greener, Community Facilities Fund Grant scheme to be						
	used for decarbonisation improvements to the Town Hall. Works will						
	involve the installation of double glazing to the Information Centre and						
	brasserie windows, as well as internal secondary glazing to the arches						
	above these windows, as well as internal secondary glazing to the						
	arched windows on the second floor.						
Update	A deposit of £5,209 + VAT has been paid to Beech Joinery, who will be						
	carrying out the above works. Beech Joinery have been on site during						
	October (8th, 9th & 21st) to install double glazing to the windows in the						
	Information Centre and Brasserie, as well as installing internal						
	secondary glazing to the arched windows on the landing area of the						
	secondary grazing to the arched windows on the landing area of the second floor.						
	Second noor.						
	Work still to be completed is the installation of secondary glazing to						
	the arches above the windows in the Information Centre, the frames						
	have been completed. The Brasserie will be completed in the New						
	Year due to Santa's Grotto installation.						
	Information Centre staff have already noticed a reduction in outside						
	noise since the installation of the double glazing.						
Financial	To be in accordance with allocated budgets and financial regulations.						
1 manetar	To be in accordance	with anotated bac	agets and infancial regulations.				
Environmental	Works will go toward	ds the overall deca	rbonisation of the Town Hall				
	while using local businesses to carry out the work.						
Equality	Where applicable in the procurement of services, this is taken into						
	consideration.						
D	T	Landarita de la Companya de la Comp					
Decision	To receive the report relating to the Improved, Greener, Community Facilities Fund Grant.						
Request	raciliues rund Grant	•					