



Congleton Town Council

Historic Market Town

Chief Officer: **David McGifford CiLCA**

26th March 2026

Dear Councillor,

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Environment Committee to be held at Congleton Town Hall on **Thursday 2nd April 2026 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

Congleton
beartown
where friends are made

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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 5th February 2025 as a correct record.](#)

3. Declarations of Interest

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.

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. Carbon Footprint Summary (Enclosed)

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

11. Decarbonisation update (Enclosed)

To receive an update on the decarbonisation of the Town Hall.

12. Mobile Waste Service (Verbal Update)

1. To receive a verbal update from the Ward Councillor regarding the status of a mobile waste service in Congleton.
2. To advise on where there are operational Mobile Waste Services and how effective they are.

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 Private works (To follow)

To receive an update on private works.

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.



Congleton Town Council

Title	Environment Committee
Date of Meeting Time	5 th February 2026 7.00 pm
Status	Draft Minutes – to be ratified at the next Committee meeting
Reference Documents	Agenda Papers for Environment – 5th February 2026

Attendance

Committee Members	CLr Suzy Firkin (Chair and Deputy Mayor) CLr Heather Pearce (Vice Chair) CLr Dawn Allen CLr Sally Ann Holland CLr Heather Seddon CLr Glen Williams
Ex Officio	CLr Robert Brittain (Mayor)
Non-Committee Members	CLr Kay Wesley, CLr Robert Douglas
Officers	David McGifford (Chief Officer)
Members of the Press	0
Members of the Public	2

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs CLr Suzie Akers Smith, CLr Susan Mead

2. **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

ENV/29/2526 resolved to approve and sign the Environment Committee minutes held on 4th December 2025 as a correct record.

3. Declaration of Interest

Declarations were received by

4. Outstanding Actions

There were no outstanding actions

5. Questions from Members of the Public

Questions were received from residents Barry Speed and Olga Whitmore- See appendix 1

6. Urgent Items

There were no urgent items

7. Congleton In Bloom Working Group Accounts

ENV/30/2526 resolved to receive the In Bloom working group accounts

There were no further updates relating to Congleton in Bloom

8. Streetscape Management Accounts

ENV/31/2526 resolved to receive the Streetscape Management Accounts

9. Streetscape Update

ENV/32/2526 resolved to receive the report relating to the Streetscape Services

10. Carbon Footprint Summary

ENV/33/2526 resolved to receive the update and comments relating to the Town Council's Carbon Footprint

11. Mobile Waste Service

ENV/34/2526 Noted that the Mobile Waste Service will operate from West Street car park one Saturday per month. Start date to be confirmed via Cheshire East Council

It was noted that they were effectively working in other towns and advised that residents would need to bring their waste by car which will need to have booked in advance

Action To generate a press release promoting the service and provide links back to the Cheshire East Council website which will advise on the booking process

12. Peak Cluster Project Responses

12.1 Environmental Impact Assessment

ENV/35/2526 resolved to submit a comment that calls for a specific local consultation opportunity for Timbersbrook by 11th February 2026

12.2 Phase1 Consultation

ENV/36/2526 resolved to submit a response agreed by the Planning Committee and encourage councillors to make individual submissions to the consultation

13. Review of herbicide requirements for highway weed treatment

ENV/37/2526 resolved to receive the update on highway weed treatment

**Cllr Suzy Firkin
(Chair)**

Appendix 1

Questions from Barry Speed to the Environment Committee 5th Feb 2026

The context to these questions is the following:

- Humanity faces existential threats in the form of the climate emergency and the loss of biodiversity.
- The Town Council declared a climate emergency in 2019.
- The Town Council committed to become carbon neutral by 2025 – the target was missed and moved back to 2030.
- Councillors have individual responsibility to promote policies that protect and enhance biodiversity

1	I can see that a new strategy document has appeared – the Corporate Strategic Plan 2025-2029. However, the Business Plan 2020-2023 is still listed on the website. Can the Council confirm whether the strategy document has superseded the Business Plan, and at what meeting this was discussed and approved
A	<i>Yes, the Corporate Strategic Plan has superseded the 2020-23 Business Plan and was approved at the meeting of the Council on the 1st of May 2025. CTC/103/2425 Resolved to approve/amend the proposed Corporate Strategic Plan 2025- 2029</i>
2	S04 of the Strategic Plan says, ‘reduce carbon footprint’. This seems to replace a previous statement of ‘become carbon neutral by 2025’. I believe a new target of 2030 has been approved – if so, shouldn’t this date be explicit in the Strategic Plan?
A	<i>Yes, it should</i>

	<p>26-9-24 ENV/15/2425 resolved update and review the Town Council Carbon Neutral set date under the approval of the following: To hit Carbon Neutrality by 2030 at the latest but strive to achieve at the earliest opportunity. Resolved to agree and endorse by Council.</p> <p>Council approved the minutes on the 12-12-24</p>
3	<p>It is understood that all the responsibilities of the previous Congleton Green working group will have been transferred to the Environment Committee. Can the Council clarify whether the following items from Congleton Green discussions are still being pursued – Air Quality, Water Quality, Allotment provision. It is noted that Air Quality is still included in the Strategic Plan.</p>
A	<p><i>In theory this is true, but it does inevitably mean that there is less air- time for specific issues unless committee members and officers are proactively discussing specific projects outside meetings. On the specific topics you mention:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Air Quality is still a strategic issue for ongoing monitoring despite the removal of all Congleton’s non-compliant AQM’s by CEC.</i> • <i>Concern over Water Quality has seen us endeavour to build a closer relationship with United utilities to better understand the actions being taken locally to improve water quality. Local water monitoring community groups have also been invited to join discussions.</i> • <i>Allotments are still within the remit of this committee and at a recent meeting a potential new site was suggested which the Chair and the Streetscape Manager will visit as soon as possible</i>
4	<p>Weed spraying. Notes to the meeting mention a product called ‘Nomix Enviro Herbicide Spray.’. Given that the Council phased out the use of glyphosate some years ago, can the Council please clarify exactly the chemical composition of the product proposed`.</p>
A	<p><i>Congleton Town Council has historically been responsible for weed control at the playgrounds and green spaces that it manages. In these areas managed by CTC we made the commitment to use glyphosate free herbicide and supplement this with extra manual weeding. This is still our policy. Where children and young people congregate, we will not use glyphosate. The current product in use, if required, is Finalsans whose active ingredient is Pelargonic Acid. A naturally occurring, biodegradable organic material.</i></p> <p><i>Highways and pedestrian pathways have previously been managed by CEC, not CTC. CEC has continued to use Glyphosate (as far as we are aware). Now that CEC has declared that it will no longer undertake weed control activities on our highways CTC has made the decision to take on board this responsibility to ensure that our highway infrastructure does not deteriorate even further resulting in potholes and poor road and path surfaces.</i></p> <p><i>CTC is considering the use of Nomix as a controlled and optimised application of Glyphosate via fine drop dispersal. This will minimise the use of Glyphosate but still</i></p>

	<p><i>have the necessary degree of effectiveness to keep our Highways weed free. Unfortunately, the highly resistant nature of mature weeds means that this highways application would not be suitable for our Glyphosate free herbicide which is much less effective in these circumstances.</i></p> <p><i>It has been notable that numerous councils in the UK who previously committed to a full Glyphosate free policy have had to revert to using Glyphosate for some or all operations. This includes the high profile Green Controlled Brighton City Council decision. We will review the situation annually and look at further methods by which we can reduce Glyphosate use.</i></p>
5	<p>Biodiversity. Can the Council please provide an update on the status of the 30 biodiversity sites.</p>
A	<p><i>The new Streetscape Development Manager will be investing time in understanding the specific requirements for each Biodiversity site and working with community groups to further enhance these sites with different features identified in the site-specific plans.</i></p> <p><i>A budget has been allocated to support the requirement for items such as bird and bat boxes as well as fencing and hedge laying where required.</i></p> <p><i>The next site that we will be spotlighting is the Blackshaw Close site which, led by Cllr Kay Wesley, is being discussed with residents. If you'd like to get involved with one or more of the sites, then do let us know.</i></p>

Questions received from Olga Whitmore received 2nd February 2025

1	<p>Since 2024 CTC was given responsibility by CEC to change Congleton maintenance of green spaces from a biodiversity point of view and reduce mowing taking into account the fact that mowing excessively reduces the amount of pollinators . Can CTC please provide the latest updated maintenance schedules, as I can't find them online. Can you please show which areas are mown twice a year ? Which areas are left alone ?The information on CTC website is out of date .</p>
A	<p>Answer with 21 days</p>
2	<p>Are CTC still planning to rewild the Link road roundabouts?</p>

A	<i>The Link Road roundabouts are not within the Congleton Town Boundary – we would need to work with relative Parish Councils to agree to the proposal and establish a budget with them to deliver and when necessary, maintain them.</i>
3	Does Congleton Partnership still have a role in rewilding?
A	<i>There are currently no rewilding projects involving the Partnership but could become involved if approached.</i>
4	Does CTC have any role in management of Congleton Partnership, given that CTC holds the accounts, and I believe also provides a secretary to produce minutes of meetings and updates of the website (please correct me if this is wrong).
A	<i>Congleton Town Council has 2 councillors and the Chief Officer representing the council on the Oversight Committee (previously named the executive board) Officer time (secretary) is approximately 7 hours per week.</i>
5	Can you please clarify whether in fact CTC has cancelled its commitment to increase biodiversity in the town, since I see no mention of money allocated to biodiversity sites in the CTC budget meeting . On the other hand “ weed spraying “ was mentioned a few times
A	<i>We have not cancelled our commitment to increase biodiversity in the town, we are currently reviewing all the existing sites and ensuring that those are receiving the required maintenance.</i>
6	<p>It appears that CTC continues to spray weeds in the following locations :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Antrobus street Avon drive, Back land Blackshaw Close Bromley Farm Wood, Hutton Drive Bromley Farm Cloud View Burns Road Church yards Playing fields Charlesworth Place Congleton park Daneside ... and 27 more green spaces in Congleton. <p>Can you please clarify which chemical is currently being used for this work, whether residents were consulted about weed spraying in those locations, and why there is any need at all to kill plants in church yards or playing fields.</p>
A	<i>Answer with 21 days</i>

7	<p>Has the Environment Committee discussed any other ways of removing weeds apart from spraying them?</p> <p>RHS new guidance suggest non chemical weeds spraying : https://www.rhs.org.uk/prevention-protection/weeds-non-chemical-control</p> <p>Did CTC take into account CEC information: “ Due to cost and effectiveness, we are not routinely spraying weeds on the highway. We review requests for treatment of weeds in channels, at the top of kerbs, in footways/alleyways (bordering a wall or fence), footpaths and link paths. Where they are clearly impairing visibility, drainage or restricting passage we will remove them by mechanical means.</p>
A	<p><i>Answer within 21 days</i></p>
8	<p>CTC maintains 260 hanging baskets, 30 solid baskets, 30 large planters, and 180 troughs, and the plants there are all changed twice a year . Are there any plans to reduce the amount of annual planting and concentrate on planting bee-friendly perennials?</p>
A	<p><i>Yes, we have already reduced the amount of annual planting and will continue to do so.</i></p>
9	<p>Does CTC have plans for the field between Town Hall and Police station ?</p>
A	<p><i>Cheshire East Council own the land. We have previously and will continue to request permission to improve the whole area for community benefit</i></p>

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	2nd April 2026 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Serena Van Schepdael – Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	7 Congleton In Bloom Working Group - Floral/In Bloom Management Accounts		
Background	Variance analysis of the Management Accounts for the year 2025-2026 for the month ending 28 th February 2026, month 11, see Appendix 1.		
Updates	<p>These accounts in the appendix show information for month 11 of 2025-2026, which equates to 91.6% of the budget. Please refer to the summary for notes/comments. The main expenditure and income for plants and baskets are now complete for the year, outstanding invoice is due for £1,300 for upgrades to planters and baskets.</p> <p>Income 195% of expected income at month 11, this is due to sponsorship income being received this year, which does not have an expected budget allocated, see Appendix for total income; this will balance down over the year.</p> <p>Expenditure 115.8% spend at month 11. Floral spends mainly take place at the start of the financial year due to the timings of the events, excess income covers overspend, leaving an overall breakeven outcome.</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hanging basket plants and consumables.• In Bloom displays.• Sundries for local projects.• Travel expenses to the Competition Award ceremonies• Ticket costs to attend the Award Ceremonies.• Portfolio design and printing• Judging day expenses		
Decision Requested	To receive the Floral In Bloom Management Account to 28 th February 2026.		

Congleton Town Council
Management Accounts 2025-26
Floral/In Bloom
Feb-26

	OK
	Monitor
	Over/Under (Exp./Income)

Month 11
 Percentage 91.6%

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 M11	ACTUAL TO M11	£ VARIANCE OF M11 BUDGETS	% AGAINST M11 BUDGETS	% OF ANNUAL BUDGET	% VARIANCE AGAINST M11 EXPECTED
0	-	- 237	237			
0	-	- 2,540	2,540			
-4,000	- 3,667	- 4,379	712	119.43%	109.5%	17.88%
-4,000	- 3,667	- 7,156	3,489	195.16%	178.9%	87.30%
172	158	162	- 4	102.75%	94.2%	2.59%
16,000	14,667	17,004	- 2,337	115.94%	106.3%	14.68%
16,172	14,824	17,166	- 2,342	115.80%	106.1%	14.55%
12,172	11,158	10,010	1,148	89.71%	82.2%	-9.36%

NOTES

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

Income from hanging basket sales.

Breakdown: TBC

Plants & Compost 11,791
 Judging Days 1,274
 General Competition 1,188
 General 716
 Awards Ceremony 845
 Thank You Evening at CTC 932
 Expenses 258
 17,004

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	2nd April 2026 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Serena Van Schepdael – Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	8 Environment (including Streetscape Services) Management Accounts		
Background	Variance analysis of the Management Accounts for the year 2025-2026 for the month ending 28 th February 2026, month 11, see Appendix 1.		
Updates	<p>These accounts in the appendix show information for month 11 of 2025-2026, which equates to 91.6% of the budget. Please refer to the summary for notes/comments.</p> <p>Further information:</p> <p>Income</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 112.9% of the month 11 budgets.• CEC Income: Paid in full, received £16,405 in excess of the budgeted income amount to annual increase, including salaries. External works show as 109%. <p>Expenditure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 95.9% of Month 11 budgets.		
Decision Requested	To receive the Streetscape Management Accounts to 28 th February 2026.		

Congleton Town Council
Management Accounts 2025-26
STREETSCAPE

Feb-26

Month 11
 Percentage 91.6%

OK
Monitor
Over/Under (Exp./Income)

	ANNUAL BUDGET	BUDGET TO M11	ACTUAL TO M11	£ VARIANCE OF M11 BUDGETS	% AGAINST M11 BUDGETS	% OF ANNUAL BUDGET	% VARIANCE AGAINST M11 EXPECTED
STREETSCAPE							
4000 Staff Costs	651,186	596,921	563,678	33,243	94.4%	86.6%	-5.04%
4008 Training	3,200	2,933	0	2,933	0.0%	0.0%	-91.60%
4009 Protective Clothing\H & Safety	5,900	5,408	5,153	255	95.3%	87.3%	-4.26%
4013 Office rent	2,000	1,833	1,833	0	100.0%	91.7%	0.05%
4016 Cleaning Materials	8,000	7,333	4,946	2,387	67.4%	61.8%	-29.78%
4021 Telephone	1,175	1,077	523	554	48.6%	44.5%	-47.09%
4025 Insurance	10,369	9,505	10,081	-576	106.1%	97.2%	5.62%
4041 Property maintenance	1,500	1,375	545	830	39.6%	36.3%	-55.27%
4043 Horticultural etc Supplies	14,000	12,833	17,171	-4,338	133.8%	122.7%	31.05%
4047 Vehicle maintenance/Serv etc	12,800	11,733	14,504	-2,771	123.6%	113.3%	21.71%
4048 Vehicle fuel and oil	16,285	14,928	14,123	805	94.6%	86.7%	-4.88%
4049 Vehicle rental charges	81,000	74,250	82,602	-8,352	111.2%	102.0%	10.38%
4050 Street Cleansing	8,000	7,333	6,005	1,328	81.9%	75.1%	-16.54%
4152 Propagation Unit	2,500	2,292	805	1,487	35.1%	32.2%	-59.40%
4162 General expenditure	5,300	4,858	4,392	466	90.4%	82.9%	-8.73%
4168 Other Expenditure	0	0	0	0		0.0%	-91.60%
4951 Tfr from EMR			2,420				
6000 Central Overheads Reallocated	50,596	46,380	44,449	1,931	95.8%	87.9%	-3.75%
Streetscape Expenditure	873,811	800,993	768,390	30,183	95.9%	87.9%	-3.66%
3030 Purchases for recharging	0	0	2,137	-2,137		0.0%	0.00%
1165 CEC - Income	-427,199	-391,599	-443,739	52,140	113.3%	103.9%	204.91%
1167 External work income	-17,500	-16,042	-17,559	1,517	109.5%	100.3%	201.06%
1199 Miscellaneous	-900	-825	0	-825	0.0%	0.0%	91.60%
Streetscape Income	-445,599	-408,466	-461,298	52,832	112.9%	103.5%	204.53%
Net Expenditure over Income	428,212	392,528	309,229	80,879	78.8%	72.2%	12.82%

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

Replenishment required

Full year for Zurich and Critical Illness paid to date.

Overspend approved by Council CTC/25/2526
 Less £2,420 used from EMR: Actual revenue spend £12,084 103%

Overspend approved at Council CTC/28/2526

No budget

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

Full payment plus increase to cover pay award increase for SLA

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	2 nd April 2026 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Doug Christie, Streetscape Development Manager		
Agenda item & Report Title	9 Streetscape update		
UPDATE	<p><u>Streetscape Contract</u></p> <p>The current Streetscape Contract runs through to April 2027. We have entered 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 in 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.</p> <p>A meeting with relevant CEC officers has taken place, and it was agreed to work collectively to develop a new SLA with our requirements included. There is no clarity at this point on whether the decision will be delegated or elevated to the Council.</p> <p><u>Fly Tipping</u> (see Appendix 1)</p> <p>As well as noting the quantity of fly tips per month and annually, we are also calculating the cost for each specific fly tip over the course of a year. Within Appendix 1, you will note the number of fly tips we have dealt with since 2019, which is the year of the Closure of the Congleton Household Waste Disposal site</p> <p><u>Vehicle Graphics</u></p> <p>All collection vehicles now have CTC logos on them.</p> <p><u>Members of the Streetscape team at work and new recruits.</u></p> <p>We have had a small spike in attendance with 2 operatives who are expected back in work within the next 2/3 weeks. Still one operative awaiting a knee operation, but is still working.</p> <p>We have completed interviews for both posts previously approved, and the current situation is as follows</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Streetscape Flexi Operative – An excellent operative was interviewed and has been offered the role and has agreed to the position, subject to contract. The expected start date is towards the end of April.		

2. We have appointed an experienced Countryside Ranger, Andy Stubbs, who starts on Monday, 30th March.

I am sure both will be excellent additions to our team.

Litter Bin Replacement Plan



We are hoping to start replacing some of the worn-out and rotten bins across the town with a standard covered litter bin that can accept bagged dog waste and general litter, subject to available budget. We will continue to investigate options for recycling cans or similar on the main street.

Training Matrix

A new enhanced training matrix will be developed following Streetscape operatives' appraisals in early April. This information will be provided at the next meeting of the Environment Committee.

Quad Bike Weed Spraying

Formal training is due to commence for users of the quad bike. We anticipate commencing spraying during April with both the quad bike and on-foot spraying.

Any significant operational Issues

None of note.

Finance	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 should be given to areas to be weed-sprayed and the specific type of chemicals used.
Equality	Where we undertake new, existing projects or activities, we will need to engage all sectors of the community, and we will look to ensure full inclusivity.
PROPOSAL :	To receive the Streetscape Update.

Appendix 1. Congleton FLY Tipping Data

	2019 *	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
January	4	4	4	16	30	20	17	12		
February	10	2	10	11	25	7	5	16		
March	4	0	32	24	14	8	7 29	21 49		
April	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			
August	5	18	10	26	19	18	22			
September	6	6	14	23	13	9	14			
October	5	3	10	8	21	17	13			
November	4	4	17	25	4	6	10			
December	5	4	10	30	15	22	6			
Total	70	136	150	205	206	194	182	49		
Cost £	2324.16	5380.52	2481.45	12,300.87	15,360.76	13,077.18	11,834.74	3202.15		

2019* Closure of the Congleton Household Waste Disposal site

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Environment Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	2nd April 2026 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Doug Christie- Streetscape Development Manager/Serena Van Schepdael- RFO		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	10 Carbon Footprint Update		
Update	<p>Appendix A</p> <p>Up-to-date graphs and figures on the Town Council's Carbon Footprint. Our data is divided into the following areas of operation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Hall • Streetscape • Paddling Pool • Public Realm <p>The latest figures are shown as a graph in Appendix A. These figures are for the end of quarter 3, December 2025. See below for the latest summary.</p> <p><u>Utilities</u></p> <p>See Appendix B</p> <p>Our carbon emissions data is taken directly from our supplier. Absolute Emissions are total Emissions. We reduce our absolute emissions by opting into the Green Energy tariff; for information purposes, absolute emissions are included in the summary to highlight our savings. For the financial year 2024-2025, we were not opted into the Green Tariff, hence the spike in the net emissions; we are opted in again from April 2025.</p>		

LATEST SUMMARY

No further additions for this summary on Paddling Pool and Public Realm during quarter 3. Figures for Town Hall are looking lower due to us now being back on a Green Tariff for Electricity, emissions for Gas are historically higher during the winter months, which will be indicated in the next summary. See Appendix A for the charts.

Area	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	** Up to Month 11	
							2024-25	2025-26
Town Hall	109,419	103,077	66,460	69,417	61,629	62,639	86,662	47,737
Streetscape	47,490	45,512	34,269	38,811	51,898	42,551	44,183	44,138
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	113,566

** : Not on Green tariff for electricity, therefore Absolute Emissions used in calculations

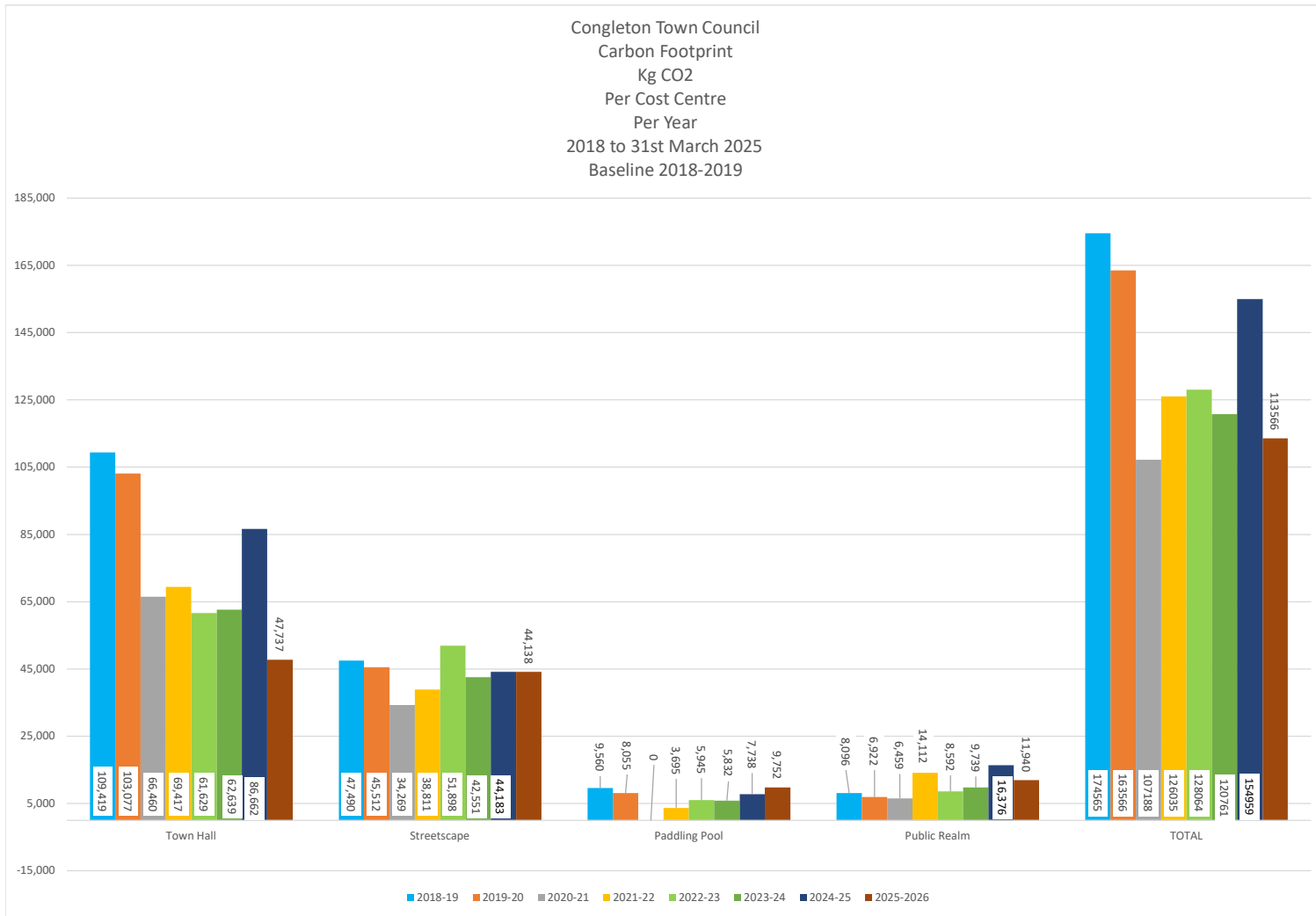
Methodology	<p>Fuel: Calculated on litres used, the equation is based on 2.31kg of CO2 per litre for Petrol and 2.54 kg for Diesel.</p> <p>Utilities: Gas & Electric data taken directly from the Energy Supplier based on usage. Water per 0.298 of CO2 per M³</p> <p>Plants/Compost/Chemicals: Currently using the original method of calculations based on £, for Plants, we are currently looking at other methods, including using the Plant Passport.</p>
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 Month 11, 28 th February 2026.

Congleton Town Council Carbon Footprint Summary

Appendix A

Area	** Up to Month 11							
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-2026
Town Hall	109,419	103,077	66,460	69,417	61,629	62,639	86,662	47,737
Streetscape	47,490	45,512	34,269	38,811	51,898	42,551	44,183	44,138
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	174565	163566	107188	126035	128064	120761	154959	113566

**: Not on Green tariff for electricity, therefore Absolute Emissions used in calculations



Congleton Town Council

Carbon Footprint Summary: Utilities

Appendix B

ELECTRICITY

Net Carbon Emissions

Area	Green Tarriff							Up to Month 11
	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

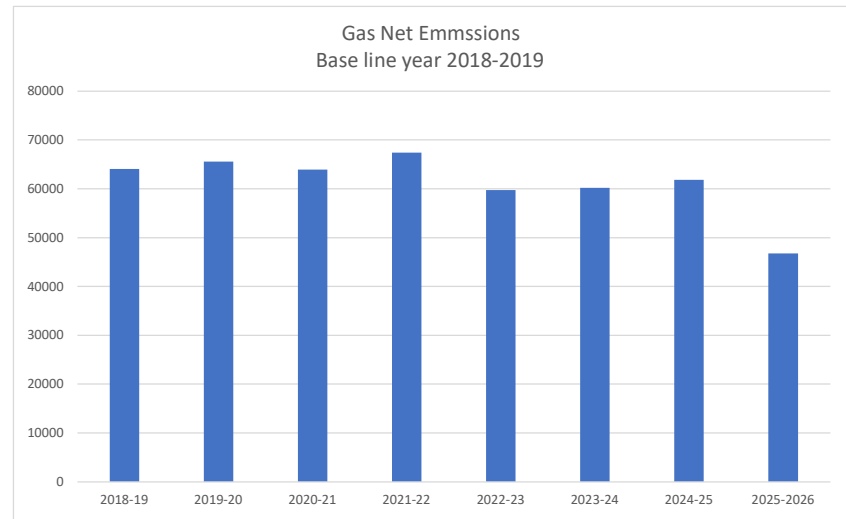
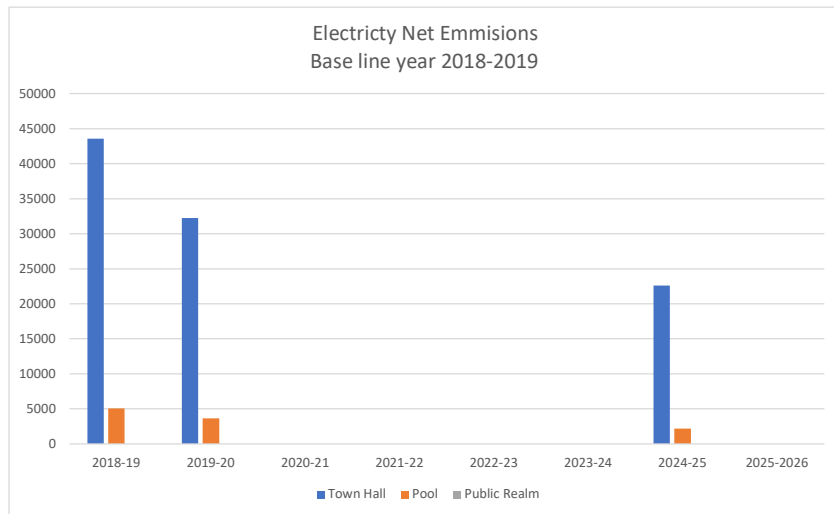
Absolute Carbon Emissions for information: To show savings

Area	Green Tarriff							Up to Month 11
	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	18,175
Pool	5064	3655	14	1125	1697	2251	2208	1,747
Public Realm	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	19

GAS

Net Carbon Emissions

Area	Green Tarriff							Up to Month 11
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-2026
Town Hall	64023	65568	63911	67400	59764	60209	61841	46,747



CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Environment Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	2nd April 2026 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Cllr Suzy Firkin – Environment Committee Chair		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	11 Decarbonisation Update		
	<p>The Council’s Town Hall Decarbonisation was a major part of the Council’s strategy to become a Carbon Neutral Council by 2030.</p> <p>The project, substantially funded by a Public Sector Decarbonisation Grant via SALIX, allowed us to undertake a full feasibility and design study around the replacement of the Town Halls Gas Boiler based heating system with an Air Source Heat Pump system.</p> <p>At completion of the full grant-funded study and receipt of bids for delivery of the fully defined project, costs came in significantly beyond the £80k contribution originally budgeted. Despite £300k of grant funding, the council would still require £210k to complete the project. Council voted to defer the project until such time as more favourable grant funding might become available (for example, via Mayoral Devolution).</p> <p>Since then, we have continued to investigate opportunities to future-proof the Town Hall. This has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a study to understand the costs of replacing the existing gas boilers with new gas boilers, which came in at approx. £200k. It is important to stress that this was an information-gathering exercise and no decision to proceed was made. • a review of the economics of installing the solar power element of the SALIX project. • Installation of double glazing on the ground floor and planned for the top floor. • Revisiting the portfolio of small projects that improve the thermal efficiency and performance of the building. <p>The Town Council is now on a capped green tariff with our energy provider, West Mercia, and as such, all electricity bills carry a zero carbon status. However, as long as we continue to have a gas-based heating system, we will still have a long way to go to achieve carbon neutrality.</p> <p>The second biggest contributor to our footprint is our fleet. Work has begun to investigate the feasibility of transitioning to an electric fleet. In order to do so, we need an extension to our contract with CEC, which gives us the ability to take out a 5 or 7-year fleet hire agreement on EVs. Despite the higher costs of EV’s, savings on fuel costs should still enable us to make operational savings as well as carbon savings if we can commit to a sufficiently long lease.</p> <p>The contribution of the public realm areas and the Paddling Pool to the carbon footprint are much smaller and subject to ongoing monitoring to ensure impact is minimised.</p>		

Environmental	Reducing the carbon footprint of the Town Hall and the Town Council's operational activities was the primary focus of the decarbonisation project. However, there are still many small projects that we can pursue to keep driving down the carbon footprint and contributing towards a reduction in greenhouse gases and a reliance on volatile fossil fuel supplies.
Equality	A commitment to reduce our carbon footprint and protect the environment is a commitment to ensure that the most vulnerable in society, who may be living in fuel poverty, will live in a region supporting the drive to renewable, low-cost energy that will help to close the fuel poverty gap for the future.
Financial	Reducing energy usage (gas and electricity) and water and chemical usage has the potential to bring down not only the carbon footprint of the Town Council but also to make a cost saving on utilities bills.
Decision Requested	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To note the report. 2. To support the ongoing activities to reduce energy usage and utilities bills for the Town Hall and other CTC assets.