



Annual Report of Congleton Town Council 2025-26



Town Mayor's Foreword

As I reflect on my year as **Congleton Town Mayor**, I do so with immense gratitude, pride, and appreciation for the kindness and support shown to me throughout my term of office. Serving the people of Congleton has been a **tremendous honour**, and it is an experience that both the mayoress and I will treasure for many years to come.



Over the past year, we have attended a wide variety of **events, celebrations, and community activities** across the town. Every occasion offered the opportunity to meet remarkable individuals and organisations whose dedication, compassion, and hard work make Congleton such a special place. We have heard **inspiring stories**, witnessed extraordinary acts of kindness, and seen firsthand the strength of community spirit that runs throughout our town. These experiences have been both **rewarding and deeply humbling**.

My chosen theme for the year was **Community Spirit**, and throughout my mayoral term I sought to encourage those small but meaningful connections between people that help create a stronger, kinder, and more **united community**. Looking back, I believe that spirit has been evident in every corner of Congleton.

Supporting **local charities** was also an important part of my year in office. I was proud to champion **Circus Starr, Mentell and Visyon** - three organisations that each provide invaluable support, compassion, and opportunities to those who need them most. It has been a privilege to help raise awareness of their important work and the **positive difference** they make within our communities.

One of the greatest privileges of the year was working alongside my **Mayor's Cadet**, Haru Pepper, who accompanied the mayoress and I to many civic engagements and events. Haru proved himself to be a thoughtful, confident, and **inspiring ambassador** for the young people of Congleton. From the moment he read his poem about the town at our Civic Service, it was clear he was someone very special, and I have been incredibly proud to have him serve as my cadet throughout the year.

I would also like to thank my **fellow councillors** for their dedication, enthusiasm, and commitment to **servicing the residents of Congleton**. Chairing meetings of the town council has given me an even greater appreciation for the hard work undertaken on behalf of our community. Although my mayoral term has now ended, I remain committed to continuing my work as a town councillor and to helping ensure Congleton remains a welcoming and thriving town for all.

Finally, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to everyone who welcomed and supported me during my year as mayor. To the volunteers, community groups, businesses, council staff, residents, and organisers who work tirelessly to improve our town — thank you. Your commitment, generosity, and community spirit are what make Congleton such a **wonderful place to call home**.

Congleton Town Mayor 2025/26
Cllr Robert Brittain

2025/26 Councillors, Personnel & Council Meeting Dates

Town Council

During this annual report period the town council had 22 councillors elected to serve in five wards across the town. Councillors are elected for a period of four years.

The councillors serving from May 2023 to May 2027 are listed below.

You can find out more about the councillors on the town council website.

South East Ward (Mossley, High Town, Timbersbrook)	North East Ward (Bromley, Buglawton)	Central Ward (Town Centre, Newcastle Road)	North Ward (Lower Heath)	West Ward (West Heath)
David Brown (C) Arabella Holland (C) Sally-Ann Holland (C) Heather Pearce (I) Kay Wesley (EP)	Charles Booth (C) Susan Mead (EP) Rob Moreton (I) Shaun Radcliffe (I) Glen Williams (C)	Mark Edwardson (I) Heather Seddon (L) Richard Walton (L) Liz Wardlaw (C)	Dawn Allen (C) Russell Chadwick (C) Amanda Martin (C) 1 Vacancy	Suzie Akers-Smith (I) Robert Brittain (C) – Mayor Robert Douglas (LD) Suzy Firkin (LD) - Deputy Mayor

C = Conservative I = Independent L = Labour LD = Liberal Democrat EP = Equality Party



Map showing the five wards

Staff for the period of this annual report were:

- Chief Officer: David McGifford
- Finance Manager & RFO: Serena Van Schepdael
- Finance Officer: Sue Trow
- Town Hall & Assets Manager: Mark Worthington
- Streetscape Development Manager: Doug Christie
- Streetscape Supervisor: Simon Farrall
- Streetscape Operatives: John Acton, Chris Banks, James Bibby, John Braun, Adrian Bullock, Terry Davies, Dave Foster, Marc Monks, Mick Pritchard, Rob Serwin, Mark Stubbs, Noel Stubbs, Mike Wild
- Countryside Ranger: Andy Stubbs
- Marketing, Communications & Civic Manager: Debbie Coxon
- Communities & Administration Manager: Cathy Dean
- Town Centre & Events Manager: Rachel McCarthy
- Information Centre Manager & Senior Administration Officer: Jessica Thyer
- Information Centre Deputy Manager & Senior Administrative Officer: Celeste Smith
- Information Centre Advisors: Linda Fox, Barbara Fynn, Natasha Henson, Emma Tilbury-Barrow
- Information Centre Casual Advisors: Jackie Potts, Ruth Nichols
- Facility Officers: Tim Muston, Martin Simpson, Peter Wilcox. Pete Forster (casual)
- Paddling Pool Casual Attendants (May-September)

2025/2026 – Committee Dates

The council has five main committees in addition to council. The meeting dates for 2025/26 were:

Community Council	Thursday: 17-July-25 • 18-Sept-25 • 27-Nov-25 • 29-Jan-26 • 16-Apr-26
	Thursday: 12-Jun-25 • 23-Oct-25 • 11-Dec-25 • 22-Jan-26 • 12-Mar-26 • 07-May-26
Council Annual Town Meeting	Thursday 15-May-25
Council AGM (Mayor Making)	Thursday 22-May-25
Environment	Thursday: 03-Jul-25 • 02-Oct-25 • 04-Dec-25 • 05-Feb-26 • 02-Apr-26
Finance & Policy	Thursday: 05-Jun-25 • 25-Sep-25 • 20-Nov-25 • 26-Feb-26 • 26-Mar-26
Planning	Thursday: 29-May-25 • 10-Jul-25 • 07-Aug-25 • 04-Sep-25 • 16-Oct-25 • 13-Nov-25 • 08-Jan-26 • 19-Feb-26 • 19-Mar-26 • 23-Apr-26
Town Hall, Assets & Services	Thursday: 26-Jun-25 • 11-Sep-25 • 06-Nov-25 • 12-Feb-26 • 09-Apr-26

For a copy of the minutes and agendas for each committee meeting see the Committees section of the town council website.

What Services does the Town Council Provide?

Congleton Town Council is one of the largest of the 108 town and parish councils in Cheshire East. The Council was founded in 1980 and became fully operational in April 1981. It provides the most local tier of government for Congleton.

It serves the local community by:

- Providing an essential link between town residents and Cheshire East Borough Council to ensure grassroots views are heard and considered.
- Encouraging economic development and regeneration of Congleton.
- Examining planning and licensing applications and giving opinions to the Borough Council on behalf of residents – 255 applications in 2025-2026.
- Managing a range of local services and facilities to benefit Congleton including the Town Hall, street cleansing and grounds maintenance services, paddling pool and allotments.
- Runs campaigns and activities to promote and encourage a greener and more sustainable and inclusive community.
- Providing financial support to a variety of community groups and organisations which support the well-being of Congleton residents.
- Organising and supporting events that encourage the community to enjoy and celebrate being part of the Congleton community.
- Communicates with local people through the [Bear Necessities newsletter](#), social media, the town guide, leaflets, surveys and stalls in the high street, emails and letters.
- Looks for opportunities to bring funding, pilot schemes or any opportunities to improve the quality of life for residents in Congleton.

Congleton Town Council covers an area of 2255 hectares (22.55 sq. km or 8.7 square miles) with a population of 28,482 (figure from the 2021 census).

Since January 2014 the Town Council has delivered Grounds and Cleansing Services for Congleton, via a devolved services agreement with Cheshire East and ANSA. This includes grounds maintenance - mowing, hedge cutting, pruning of shrubs etc. and street cleansing functions- emptying more than 200 litter and dog bins each day, removal of fly-tips, litter picking and generally keeping Congleton a safe and tidy place to live.

The town council serves as the accountable body for the [Congleton Partnership](#). It also provides funding to [Congleton Community Projects](#) and operates a grant scheme to support local groups and organisations.

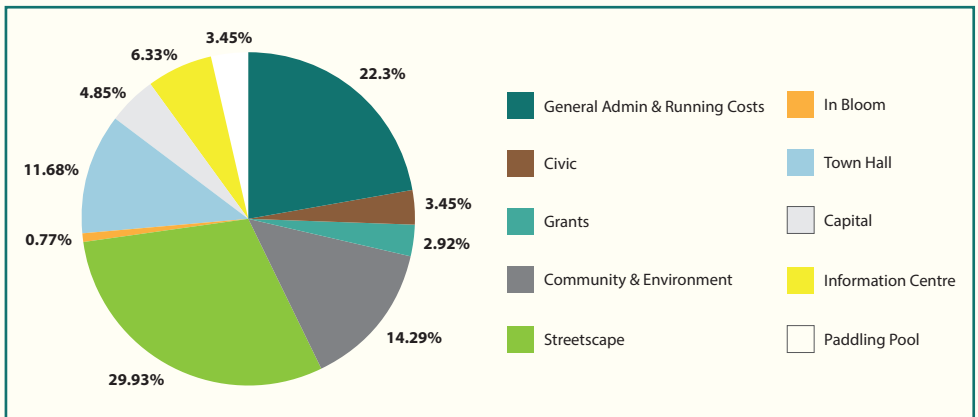
Congleton Town Council activities revolve around eight key strategic objectives shown on pages 11-13 and the central thrust of the 2025-2029 Corporate Strategic Plan. Decisions are made via public committees and ratified at Council. There is a 15-minute public question time at the start of each committee. For more about the work of the Town Council see www.congleton-tc.gov.uk.

How is the Town Council Financed?

The majority of the town council's funds come from a Precept which is added to the Council Tax levy set by the Principal Authority. In 2025-2026 the Precept was £1,333,233 which equated to £117.41 per Band D property for the year.

The total cost of Streetscape Services was £858,155 of which £443,739 was funded through the Cheshire East contract.

The Financial Information provided is unaudited, our year end was 31 March 2026. The Unaudited Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) will be available for public viewing for 30 days, dates are still to be confirmed but will include the first 2 weeks in July. The information will be available via our website Finance page. The Notice of Conclusion of Audit will be available by 30 September 2026 in line with Accounting Regulations and will also be available on our website through the [finance](#) page.



Congleton Town Council Management Accounts: Net Revenue Expenditure 2025-2026 (These figures are unaudited)

Net Revenue Expenditure		
General Admin and Running Costs	£293,378	22.34%
Civic	£45,303	3.45%
Grants	£38,334	2.92%
Community and Environment	£187,639	14.29%
Streetscape	£393,023	29.93%
In Bloom	£10,055	0.77%
Town Hall	£153,378	11.68%
Capital	£63,645	4.85%
Information Centre	83,184	6.33%
Paddling Pool	£45,321	3.45%
Total	£1,313,260	

Grants Given 2025-2026

The Town Council has supported local and voluntary and community groups with approximately £32,600 worth of grants in 2025-2026. Among those assisted were:

Name		
Grants given to hirers of the Town Hall	Town Hall Hire	£2,948.00
Congleton Museum	Notional Rent	£4,500.00
Congleton Community Projects	Project Support	£10,000.00
TOTAL		£17,448.00

Name	Project	Grant (£)
Girl Guiding Cheshire Border	Norway Trip	£150.00
SOL Musical Theatre	2025 Summer places	£365.00
Trinity Amateur Operatic Society	2025 Concert	£1,000.00
1st Buglawton Scouts	Kandersteg trip	£150.00
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RSPCA: Congleton Branch	Bark in the Park	£200.00
Congleton Pride	Circus Skills & Art Day	£250.00
The Green Tree House	Food Pallets	£1,000.00
Congleton Talking Newspaper	Studio Upgrades	£1,000.00
Electric Picture House Artists Co-operative	Works shop	£550.00
No Tier Snooker	Table Hire for support group sessions	£1,000.00
Congleton Chess Club	Chess equipment	£193.40
Congleton Harriers	Cloud 9 Race medical cover	£495.00
Congleton Rangers	Armenia trip	£150.00
Congleton Museum	Santa Grotto	£150.00
Congleton Rotary	Swimathon 2026	£997.50
No Tier Snooker	Table Hire for support group sessions	£1,000.00
Mosley Women's Institute	Defib	£750.00
Marion C of E Primary PTA	Upgrade to outside play area	£500.00
Congleton Pride	Caffeine Connection support group	£500.00
Congleton Museum	Roman Week	£250.00
Congleton Youth Orchestra	Instrument repairs	£450.00
The Green Tree House	Food Pallets	£1,000.00
CIC Live	2026 Festivals	£1,000.00
Friends for Leisure	Congleton Youth	£1,000.00
Visyon	Gaming Day project	£903.00
TOTAL		£15,153.90

To find out more about how to apply for a Town Council grant see the [Grants](#) section of the Town Council website. All applications for Town Council grants are considered by Councillors at the Council's Finance and Policy Committee.

Key Achievements 2025/26

Community Health, Wellbeing and Inclusion

- Delivered the ninth annual Health and Wellbeing Fayre, bringing together organisations and residents to promote healthier lifestyles and access to support services.
- Supported the “Know Your Numbers” health awareness campaign in partnership with CHOC.
- Hosted the Warm Welcome Group at the Town Hall as an extension of the Buddying and Befriending Service.
- Delivered family-focused free and low-cost activities during Easter, Halloween and the Summer Play Days programme.
- In partnership with Ruby’s, delivered weekly Summer SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) sessions at Congleton Paddling Pool.
- Hosted the “Growing Up Wired” event to support parents in understanding the challenges and opportunities of the digital world.
- Supported Disability Pride Month in July and continued to promote inclusion and accessibility across the town.
- Delivered White Ribbon workshops in primary and high schools alongside the annual 16 Days campaign to help eradicate violence against women and girls.

Community Engagement and Civic Participation

- Held a public survey on the use of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding, with residents supporting investment towards the refurbishment of public toilets.
- Progressed Congleton’s Neighbourhood Plan through consultation and external examination, preparing it for the final referendum stage.
- Key delivery body in the UK Town of Culture bid, bringing together community organisations and generating ideas and partnerships for future cultural initiatives.
- Established the new Congleton Youth Council to strengthen youth engagement, encourage participation, and help shape activities and opportunities for young people.
- Continued to host Town Hall tours for youth groups to encourage civic awareness and local engagement.
- Printed and promoted the “Discover Congleton” leaflet, encouraging residents and visitors to explore local walking routes and green spaces across Congleton.

Environment, Transport and Public Realm

- Taking over responsibility for the Ranger Service at Astbury Mere Country Park.
- Delivered the sixth annual Green Fayre, celebrating sustainability, biodiversity and environmental action.
- Supported improvements to local transport, including the introduction of a new bus service for Viking Park and West Heath, with the Equal Access Group providing accessibility guidance for the timetable leaflet.
- Continued campaigning for improved Sunday rail services in partnership with train operators and other stakeholders.
- Purchased a Speed Indicator Device (SID) installed on Manchester Road, which is solar-powered and can be relocated to other sites as required. In addition, poles have been approved for a second SID on Newcastle Road, further supporting town-wide road safety initiatives.

Community Safety and Partnership Working

- Strengthened partnership working with Congleton Police through initiatives including “Design Out Crime” days, Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) walks, and knife sweep operations.
- Developed the new Congleton Code of Conduct to support positive behaviour and a safer, more welcoming town centre environment.
- Continued support for the NSPCC Congleton Toy Appeal, helping local families during the festive period.

Town Centre, Events and Economic Development

- Successfully took over management of the flagship Food and Drink Festival and delivered the first event under town council leadership.
- Supported and promoted a wide range of town centre events, including Congleton Pride, Jazz and Blues, and Congleton Unplugged.
- Hosted a VE Day Tea Dance to commemorate and celebrate the local community’s shared history.
- Delivered the annual Christmas Lights Switch-on event, attracting thousands of residents and visitors into the town centre.
- Presented Disability Welcome Awards to businesses demonstrating commitment to accessibility and inclusion.
- Presented High Street Awards recognising businesses and organisations that contribute positively to Congleton town centre and shopping parades.



Town Council's Strategic Objectives 2025-2029

SO 1 Promote Congleton as an attractive and vibrant market town in which to live, work and play, celebrating its rich history, heritage and culture

- Development of a Tourism and Marketing Strategy by 2026/27 (was 2026)
- Launch new town council website during 2026 (was 2025)
- Support the development of, and promote the town's heritage such as trails, the Town Hall and Town Treasures
- Develop, support and promote a regular events programme
- Provide and develop the CIC as an information hub for Congleton
- Develop an accessible communications strategy utilising all forms of media

SO 2 Play an active role in the development of the town through collaboration with the local authority, partners, businesses and our community

- Complete the Congleton Neighbourhood Plan by the end of 2025
- Engage with landowners and CEC planning to promote the regeneration of key sites within the town e.g. Moody Hall, 1 Swan Bank and The Club on Chapel Street
- Support the development of the museum
- Where possible, enhance the built heritage in the town including awareness and protection of listed buildings and local listed buildings and the application for relevant grants
- Make representations on regeneration projects and new developments to ensure it reflects the heritage and traditional architecture of the town
- Lobby for business development and start up grants link to other business
- Through the Planning process, lobby CEC for S106 and CIL Contributions to support planned infrastructure improvements
- Ensure adequate provision of outdoor sports facilities and associated infrastructure

SO 3 Promote equality, diversity and inclusion and ensure that Congleton, its events, facilities and services are accessible to the entire community

- Develop a Disability Guide and a Disability Welcome Scheme for Congleton
- Implement the Equal Access Action Plan
- Promote the benefits of a diverse and inclusive workforce
- Promote existing services and support the development of additional support for families including affordable childcare provision
- Work with partners to address the challenges of social isolation and the needs of elderly people
- Engage with and support young people to help them fulfil their potential in our town, working with schools, youth groups and partners
- Work to improve public awareness and inclusion for disabled people, LGBTQIA+ people and any other groups that may experience discrimination

SO 4 Help to create a future that is carbon neutral, environmentally sustainable, and is resilient to climate change

- Reduce the carbon footprint for the town council's assets and Streetscape service
- Review existing facilities for recycling and develop new where necessary
- Develop and deliver a campaign (s) promoting the need and facilities for recycling
- Create awareness of training opportunities
- Support the development and delivery of the Congleton Sustainability Group's initiatives
- To work with partners on recycling initiatives
- To improve the air quality in Congleton
- Development of a Sustainable Transport Masterplan for Congleton and surrounding Parishes
- Promote existing infrastructure for sustainable modes of transport
- Review current bus and train provision and develop proposals with CEC for integration
- Review provision for car drivers including electric charging points and Car Parking strategy
- Reinforcing the need for high quality transport plans from developers of new housing

SO 5 Maintain and create opportunities to enhance our green spaces and promote biodiversity

- Work collaboratively with external partners and community groups to drive forward, environmental and biodiversity projects
- Maximise opportunities for the retention and enhancement of Green Open Spaces
- Progress our Biodiversity Plan and the 30 designated biodiversity sites
- Continue the Congleton in Bloom initiative and associated community engagement, with increasing focus on sustainability
- Continue to adapt our working practices for enhanced biodiversity, such as more sustainable planting, reduced harmful pesticide use, and rewilding

SO 6 Support the wellbeing of our residents and work to reduce health inequalities

- Work to reduce social, economic and health inequalities
- Promote initiatives to improve the health and wellbeing of people in Congleton
- To strive for first rate mental health services for our town and surrounding areas
- Support and lobby for continued development of the services provided at Congleton War Memorial Hospital
- Work with providers to lobby for physical and mental health provision in Congleton

SO 7 Ensure Congleton remains a safe place to live, work and visit

- Work with and support the Local Policing Unit to ensure we have adequate police coverage
- Monitor crime levels in the town and work in partnership with the local police, the local authority, other organisations and the public to reduce crime and bring perpetrators to justice
- Implement and promote the Community Safety Charter
- Maintain White Ribbon Accreditation and continue to challenge domestic abuse and sexual violence in Congleton
- Continue reviewing the CCTV provision and other forms of security and monitoring
- Press for transport infrastructure that equally supports all groups including motorists, walkers, cyclists and users of mobility aids
- Promote agencies supporting those living with crime-related trauma, addiction and abuse

SO 8 Maintain effective and efficient governance and management of resources and assets

- To achieve and maintain the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) 'Council Gold Standard of Operation' by 2027
- Through a capital investment plan maintain and develop the current town council's-built assets inclusive of the Town Hall, Cenotaph, Paddling Pool and Allotments
- Explore opportunities to acquire additional assets and services that will benefit the community
- Ensure that health and safety is at the forefront of town council's services
- To develop and enhance the Streetscape grounds maintenance and street cleansing service
- Work to reduce the operational deficit of the Town Hall
- Become a Disability Confident Employer by 2027



Working Groups 2025-26

The town council had four working groups and an advisory group operating in 2025-26 to help develop its work. Working groups are usually proposed by a Town Council Committee to deal with a subject that would benefit from more in-depth work than can be carried out via a committee. Sometimes working groups co-opt non-council people with an interest or expertise in the subject to contribute to the group either as a regular member or as a guest to the meeting.

Each working group has its terms of reference, approved by the main committee. Working Groups are not decision-making bodies and return their findings to the committee from which they originated. Unlike committees, working groups are not open to the press or public unless specifically invited. Their minutes, membership and actions can be seen on the [Town Council's Website](#)

A brief summary of the active Working Groups during the 2025-26 year can be seen below.

Community Safety Working Group

This was formed from the previously titled Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group - the group also includes the Police and Cheshire East Council ASB team. It considers and addresses crime and antisocial behaviour and its underlying causes in Congleton including Hate Crime, Domestic Abuse and Traffic issues. This Working Group reports to the Community Committee.

Congleton in Bloom Working Group

This is a long-standing Working Group that was set up in 2011 when the previous In Bloom volunteer group retired after 13 successful years. It is made up of councillors, officers and volunteers. The Congleton in Bloom group works alongside many It's Your Neighbourhood, community, business and youth groups to help make Congleton an attractive, cleaner and greener town. It also coordinates activities around the annual In Bloom and It's Your Neighbourhood competitions. It reports to the Environment Committee.

Congleton Regeneration and Town Centre Working Group

This group explores and where possible implements or works with partners to implement improvements to the town centre. The remit includes physical and social changes. The group will work collaboratively with East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce, landlords, developers, Cheshire East Council and other interested and vested partners with the aim of future-proofing the Town Centre and to ensure that it can continue to service the needs of our growing town. The working group reports to the Finance and Policy Committee.

White Ribbon Working Group

This group promotes White Ribbon values and behaviours to end male violence against women. The Town Council received White Ribbon accreditation in November 2019. The White Ribbon charity works with men and boys to challenge those male cultures that lead to harassment, abuse and violence. Congleton Town Council wishes to end all harassment, abuse and violence. The group reports to the Community Committee.

Equal Access Advisory Group

This is not a Working Group, but a group of local people with a wide range of disabilities which meet to help advise Congleton Town Council on making Congleton, its town, events, transport and communications more accessible and inclusive for all members of our society. Its work links with the Health and Wellbeing Working Group.

Congleton Climate Change & Nature Emergency Updates

Congleton Town Council continues to be committed to reducing the Council's carbon footprint. The Council declared a Climate Change Emergency in September 2019 and are aiming for carbon neutrality in 2030, although we recognise that this looks extremely challenging.

The three main areas where we are looking to reduce our carbon footprint are:

- Energy Use – especially heating the Victorian Town Hall
- Vehicle Use – transitioning to EVs where possible and reducing fuel usage in council vehicles
- Plant Strategy – moving to more sustainable planting and watering

In 2024-25 a public sector decarbonisation grant (PSDG) was utilised to undertake and complete the feasibility and design stage of the Town Hall Decarbonisation project at no cost to the town council. However, as the project progressed, additional costs associated with the air source heat pump proposal grew and exceeded our budget by over £100k and so in 2025 the council voted to defer the project until more favourable grant funding became available.

We continue to progress other projects which reduce the energy consumption of the town hall and this along with securing a good value green energy tariff for the future has helped us make good progress on reducing our carbon footprint.

The town council is also committed to boosting biodiversity in Congleton. Through the work of our Streetscape team and with our community partners:

- Tree Planting – 30K target completed by Trees for Congleton in March 2025 with support and maintenance now ongoing
- Site management of green spaces looked after by Congleton Town Council and other surrounding parishes – for example, Rheads Meadow
- Managing our 30 Biodiversity sites sensitively to give space for nature and encouraging community engagement
- Working with partners to 'green' our town. For example, the Rotary Club's wildflower 'Heart of Congleton'.

During the year the town council has:

- Installed double glazing in the large windows on the ground floor of the Town Hall
- Secured budget for further double glazing on upper floors
- Secured a competitive fixed green tariff for our electricity
- Continued to improve the control and operation of our heating system
- Continued to replace light bulbs and fittings with LED lights
- Reached out to surrounding parish councils to discuss wildflower planting on roundabouts
- Increased the number of wildflower spaces and borders across the town
- Included an Environment Award in our Civic Award categories
- Recruited a countryside ranger to manage Astbury Mere Country Park and support other nature conservation activities
- Used glyphosate free weed control in sensitive areas and minimised the use of herbicides using targeted droplet dispersal technology
- Reduced the number of planters and baskets with annual plants

- Continued to develop our mowing and weed control regime to support biodiversity
- Hosted the largest annual Green Fayre to date with Congleton Partnership
- Moved towards our paperless council objective on the majority of committees
- Continued to calculate and review the town council’s carbon footprint whilst taking steps to reduce contributing components

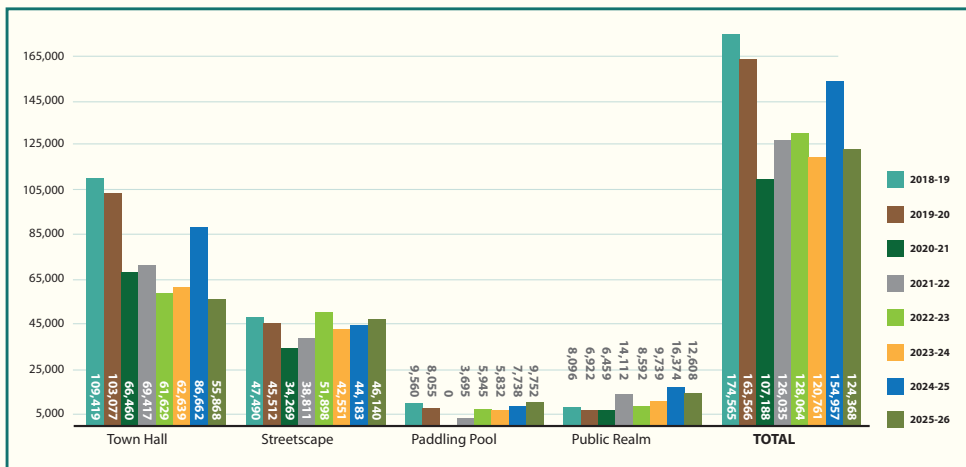


Chart showing Congleton Town Council Carbon Footprint Kg CO2 Per Cost Centre Per Year 2018 to 31st March 2025 Baseline 2018 - 2019

2024/25 Not on Green tariff for electricity, therefore Absolute Emissions used in calculations

Key Priorities for 2026/27

Stronger Local Services and Community Facilities

- Refurbish and maintain public toilets in Congleton Town Centre.
- Continue to increase bookings and community use of the Town Hall.
- Reduce energy consumption through redesign and building improvements.
- Seek additional grants to support the decarbonisation of the Town Hall and other environmental projects.
- Negotiate with Cheshire East Council on the devolution of services that benefit local people.
- Launch a new council website that is more accessible, informative, and easier for residents to use.

Planning, Transport and Infrastructure

- Support Cheshire East Council in taking Congleton's Neighbourhood Plan through to Referendum.
- Work with Cheshire East Council and partners on the new Congleton Transport Development Plan, including improved bus services, delivery of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), and continued lobbying for better rail services.
- Improve road safety through action on nuisance parking, lobbying for improved road layouts and speed limits, and the installation of additional Speed Indicator Devices.
- Introduce enhanced weed control measures on Congleton's highways.
- Continue to maintain and develop the Streetscape Service to ensure a high-quality public realm while offsetting costs where practicable.

Environment, Biodiversity and Green Spaces

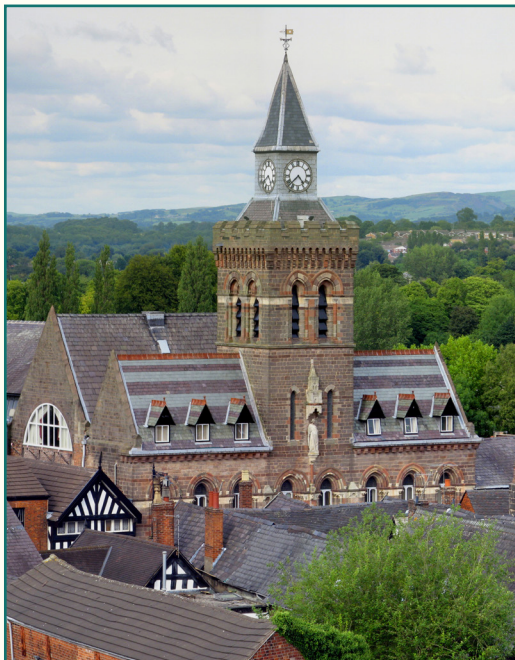
- Successfully manage new ranger responsibilities at Astbury Mere Country Park.
- Continue to manage and enhance the council's 30 biodiversity sites while encouraging greater community engagement.
- Explore opportunities for additional allotment provision across the town.

Health, Inclusion and Community Safety

- Work with local health providers to help ensure health services continue to be delivered locally.
- Continue delivering the Equal Access Action Plan, including the Disability Welcome Scheme for town centre businesses, accessible events, and maintaining Disability Confident Employer status.
- Work in partnership with Cheshire Constabulary to help prevent and combat crime in Congleton, including rollout of the new Congleton Code for the town centre.
- Continue White Ribbon initiatives to combat gender-based violence in partnership with schools, sports clubs, and community organisations.
- Develop further initiatives with the Youth Council, including delivery of a regular Youth Café for young people in Congleton.

Town Centre, Events and Economic Development

- Continue to ensure town centre infrastructure is maintained to a high standard, including paved areas, street furniture, litter bins, benches and other public realm features.
- Work in partnership with Cheshire East Council to progress the installation of gates within the pedestrian areas of Market Street, Mill Street and Little Street to improve pedestrian safety.
- Work with Cheshire East Council to identify and record all cast iron heritage signs within Congleton so they can be included in the borough-wide repainting and maintenance programme.
- Continue lobbying the utility company to replace the temporary tarmac with block paving in the pedestrianised area opposite Orso Lounge.
- Support interested parties in the regeneration of Moody Hall and other heritage buildings.
- Successfully deliver major town centre events, including the annual Food and Drink Festival and Christmas Lights Switch-on.
- Support the reinstatement of heraldic flags within the town centre as part of a Congleton in Bloom initiative.
- Enhance Congleton's profile, stimulate the local economy, and strengthen community engagement across the town.



Congleton Town Council - 2025 - 2026



255

Planning Applications considered by the Planning Committee



£32,600

of grants awarded to 29 Congleton organisations



200

public litter bins emptied daily



17

organisations received subsidies to hold charity events in the town hall



41

Committee meetings held making 360 resolutions



15

public events organised by the Town Council



30

public events supported by the Town Council



7000

Facebook followers



140

Mayoral visits



138,622

linear miles of Congleton streets kept clear of litter



120,732 m2

of playing fields maintained



179,010 m2

of Public Open Space maintained

Congleton Town Council


Congleton Town Hall, High Street, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 1BN

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www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

 Congletontown

 Congleton Town Council