

# Environment and Climate Change Portfolio - Summary

## Performance Summary



1. Performance highlights this quarter include:

- The County Council supported the communities of East Preston, Angmering and Rustington to submit a successful **Community Energy Fund application** to develop renewable energy generation and storage. The £40,000 awarded from the Community Energy Fund, which is administered by Community Energy England, will help the parish council-led project to carry out initial feasibility work and understand the potential for a Local Energy Community (LEC) to be set up. If the feasibility work is successful, the LEC would invest in solar panels and batteries for homes and community buildings and aim to reduce electricity costs for local people, including those that are less able to pay, as well as cutting carbon emissions.
- Phase 1 of the **Estate Decarbonisation Programme** is almost completed with 10 of the 14 sites accomplished during Q1. The remaining sites are due to complete in July 2024. Work is now underway to develop the business case for a second phase of the programme, which is expected to include between 13 – 15 sites. A prior grant application from the [Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme](#) to support a second phase was, unfortunately, unsuccessful, however a further bid to the next round is planned for this coming Autumn.
- In May, the **Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) and Energy Recovery Feedstock Services contract**, covering transport, treatment and disposal of RDF was signed. The New RDF Contract commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024 and will run for an initial period of 11 years to 2035.
- Also in May, approval of expenditure of up to £7.5m was agreed by the County Council to **convert the Mechanical Biological Treatment plant** to take separately collected food waste. This ensures compliance with the Environment Act 2021, which requires district and borough councils in West Sussex to collect food waste separately from other waste streams by April 2026.
- The **Think Before You Throw waste campaign** which provides information on recycling and waste in West Sussex reached 351,754 people, with 666,251 impressions, 807 campaign page hits and 3,767 total video views.
- The **West Sussex and UK Harvest Food Hubs** received 1,264 visits during the quarter which fed 3,757 people. This also saved 15 tonnes of food, worth £32,000, from going to waste.
- Officers continued to engage in the **statutory Development Consent Order (DCO) process in relation to two nationally significant infrastructure projects**, which will require approval from the relevant Secretary of States. This has included working in partnership with nine other local authorities on Gatwick Airport Limited's Northern Runway Project, which seeks to bring the standby/maintenance runway into routine use and the Rampion 2 proposal

which is looks to extend the existing wind farm off the Sussex coast. Both applications for consent are subject to formal examinations, which commenced in February 2024 and will run for six months. Officers continue to seek appropriate changes to both projects (including suitable controls and mitigations) to address the significant concerns raised by the County Council through the DCO process.

## Our Council Performance Measures

2. The following section provides KPI updates comparing performance over the last three periods (each measure will explain the reporting period).

Environment and Climate Change		2024/25 Target	Performance Over The Last 3 Periods			DoT	Year End Position or Forecast
<b>Measure:</b> Equivalent tonnes (te) of CO2 emissions from WSCC activities (CC) Reporting Frequency: Quarterly, Accumulative. Aim Low Measure  <b>(Climate Change Measure)</b>	25,912 CO2te	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	▶	A	
		G	R	A			
		20,224 CO2te	29,971 CO2te	5,996 CO2te			
22	<b>Performance Analysis:</b> Jun-24: Preliminary recorded carbon emissions for Q1 2024/25 totalled 5,996 tonnes. The Q1 emissions were dominated by streetlighting, schools and corporate estate which make up 62% of the total. The year-on-year total emissions data reveals that Q1 2024/25 emissions are at a similar level to previous years with 5,996 tonnes in 2024/25 versus 6,000 tonnes in 2023/24, however the amount is still are down 12% compared to the baseline year - 6,840 tonnes. Looking at the variations between 2023/24 and 2024/25, the decrease in the corporate estate can be seen, however there has been an increase in streetlighting and transportation. <b>Actions:</b> Work continues on the actions set out in the Carbon Management Plan to achieve net zero carbon by 2030.						
<b>Measure:</b> Household waste recycled, reused or composted (CC) Reporting Frequency: Quarterly, Reported in arrears. Aim High Measure  <b>(Climate Change Measure)</b>	56.0%	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	▼	R	
		A	A	A			
		53.4%	52.2%	51.0%			
23	<b>Performance Analysis:</b> Jun-24: The Q4 rate of 51% is the annual rolling average of the period April 2023 – March 2024 reported from the national Waste Data Flow recording system. This percentage has drop by 2.68% since the March 2023 rate of 53.7%. In Q4 for the rolling year, dry recycling had fallen by 2.15% when compared to the March 2023 year end rate, along with composting also falling by 0.54%. There had also been an increase in landfill of 0.89% since the year end March 2023 rate due to some unplanned operational issues at the Mechanical Biological Treatment Facility (MBT) during the year, which could have been a further reason for the reduction in the rolling annual recycling percentage. Across the county, household waste recycled, reused or composted went down by approximately 3,800 tonnes in 2023/24, however household waste has increased by around 12,000 tonnes which has had a negative impact on the recycling rate. Recycling tonnages at the Recycling centres increased in 2023/24 by 5,000 tonnes. <b>Actions:</b> Work continued to increase the level of household waste recycled, reused or composted. The introduction of separating of hard plastics and vapes at the Recycling centres had continued to see a positive response. The 'Think Before you Throw' campaign had been launched in partnership with our district and borough councils and focussed on waste						

Environment and Climate Change	2024/25 Target	Performance Over The Last 3 Periods	DoT	Year End Position or Forecast
<p>minimisation and recycling. Efforts continued to expand face to face and online engagement through various communication campaigns and the waste prevention advisor scheme. A total of 45 events took place speaking with 1,683 people.</p> <p>The extended producer responsibility (EPR) scheme had been deferred for a year until October 2025 in light of the pressure facing consumers and businesses in the current economic context. A new, simpler approach to recycling was announced by DEFRA on 21st October 2023 meaning that people across England will be able to recycle the same materials, whether at home, work or school, putting an end to confusion over what can and can't be recycled in different parts of the country. Weekly collections of food waste will also be introduced for most households across England by March 2026 and the government is proposing new exemptions to make sure that waste collectors will be able to collect a core set of dry recyclables together.</p> <p>The West Sussex Waste Partnership will work together to implement the Government's Simpler Recycling Policy to ensure compliance with the Environment Act 2021.</p>				

## Finance Summary

### Portfolio In Year Pressures and Mitigations

Pressures	(£m)	Mitigations and Underspending	(£m)	Year end budget variation (£m)
Waste Services – Recycling. Projected POPs disposal legislation costs	£0.700m	Waste Services - Increase in Trade Waste income	(£0.500m)	
Waste Services – Recycling. Net tonnage position	£0.020m			
Waste Services – Non-delivery of saving - reduction in recycling income projection	£0.090m			
Planning Services (Environment) – Statutory consultee work	£0.300m			
<b>Environment &amp; Climate Change Portfolio - Total</b>	<b>£1.110m</b>		<b>(£0.500m)</b>	<b>£0.610m</b>

### Financial Narrative on the Portfolio's Position

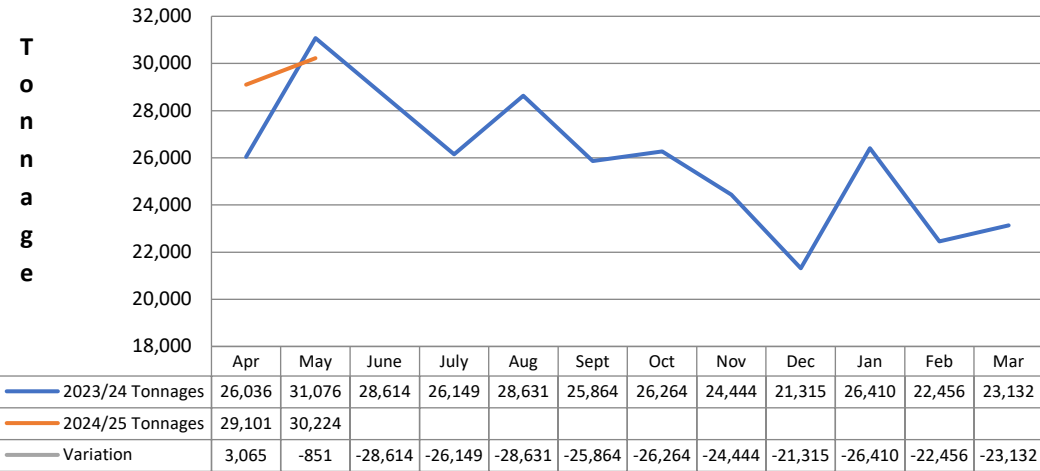
- As at the end of June, the forecast for the Environment and Climate Change Portfolio is a projected overspend of £0.610m.
- Given the early stage of the financial year, there is limited evidence at this time in terms of the throughput of waste volumes, however following the post-pandemic period of uncertainty, these now appear to have settled into a 'new normal'. Therefore, the budget assumption is that waste levels will be broadly similar to 2023/24.
- Continued reductions in levels of inflation have resulted in a lower than anticipated inflation increase requirement for the main waste contracts, releasing £0.6m. However, this funding has been reallocated within the waste contract budget to reset and align to the change in post-pandemic spending patterns. Specifically,

£0.3m has been added to the green waste budget to cover increased volumes and the remaining £0.3m has been used to partly mitigate the impact of new legislation in relation to persistent organic pollutants (POP's).

6. This has resulted in a reduced pressure on the budget for **POPs disposal** to £0.7m in 2024/25. The Waste Service will continue to explore ways to mitigate this relatively new legislative burden throughout the year.
7. Based on the information to May, **waste tonnages** are very slightly higher than profiled which has led to a £0.020m net pressure reported.
8. In relation to **waste recycle values**, the overall mix during 2023/24 seemed to suggest the market was returning to normality. Recyclate values have seen sharp rises and subsequently falls post-Covid, but they seem generally to be settling somewhere close to the historic base. The largest driver of recycling income is waste paper and the value of this material is currently +£64 per tonne. These values are an improvement from the 2023/24 high of +£47 in November 2022 but still well below the recent high of +£124 per tonne, achieved in August 2022.
9. Consequently, there is potential to deliver a large proportion of the unmet **recycling income saving target** from 2023/24. Should volume of material arrive in line with 2023/24 volumes and maintain current values, there would be a forecast shortfall of £0.090m. Given the early stage of the year, this projection will be affected by both volumes of recyclate sold and to a greater extent market values achieved and is therefore likely to see movement throughout the financial year.
10. Increase in waste volumes is also partly due to an increase in **trade waste service** volumes. Two district and borough councils have been temporarily using the County Council's Trade Waste Service following the termination of contracts with their previous providers. This short-term solution is projected to generate an additional £0.5m of income in 2024/25.
11. A £0.3m overspend on **Planning Services** is projected due to additional work required on national significant infrastructure projects, including statutory consultee work required for the Gatwick Airport Development Consent Order application and the Rampion Wind Farm extension.

## Cost Driver Information

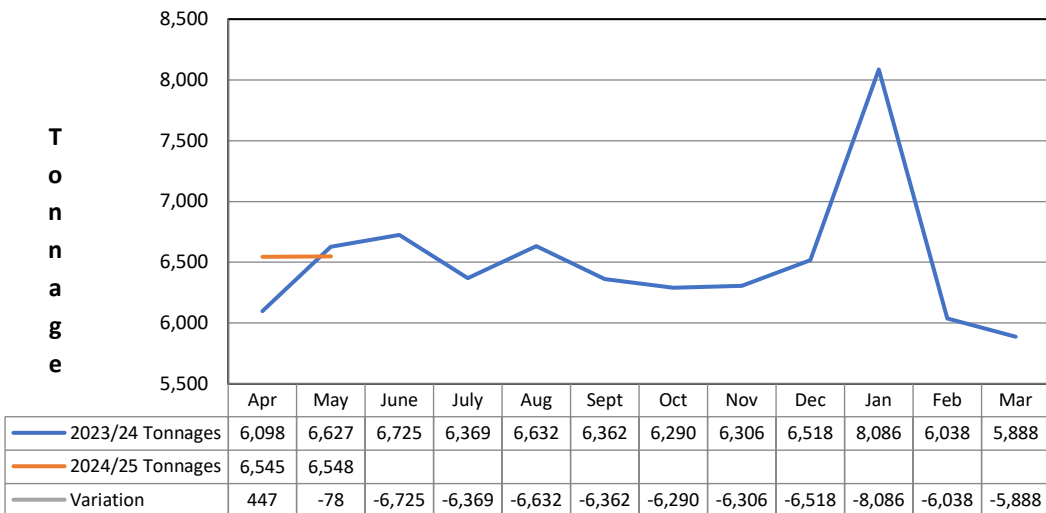
### Contract Handling Fee Tonnage (Recycling Centres and Transfer Stations) 2024/25



This graph shows tonnages received at the Household Waste Recycling Sites (HWRS) and Transfer Stations.

The 2024/25 tonnages to date are around 4% above the budgeted profile.

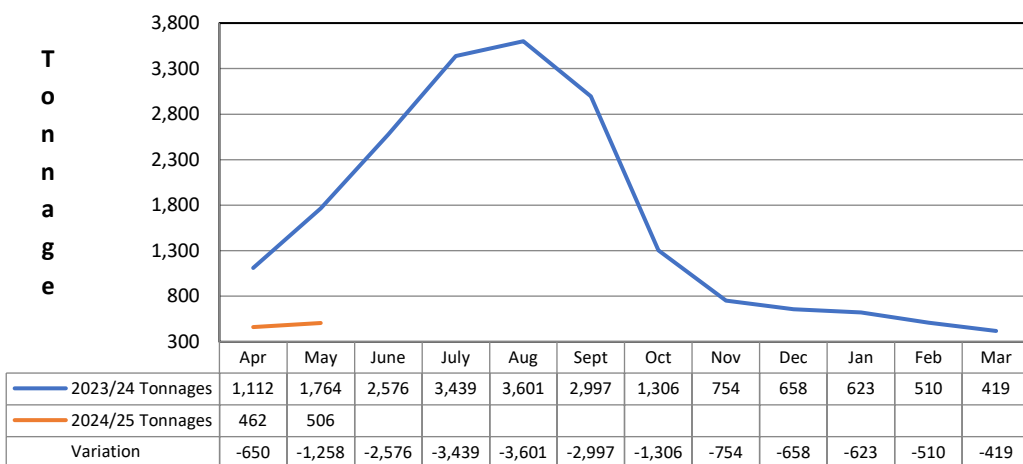
### MRF Tonnage 2024/25



This graph shows the volumes of recycling taken to the Material Recycling Facility (MRF) each month.

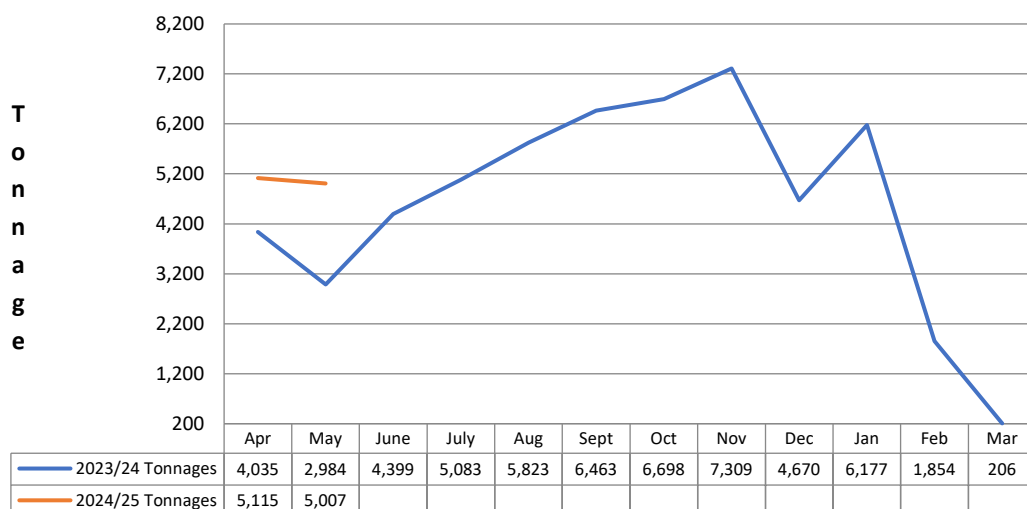
The 2024/25 monthly tonnages taken to the MRF at this early stage of the year are 3% higher than in 2023/24.

### Monthly Tonnage to Landfill (Direct Allocation and MBT Intervention) 2024/25



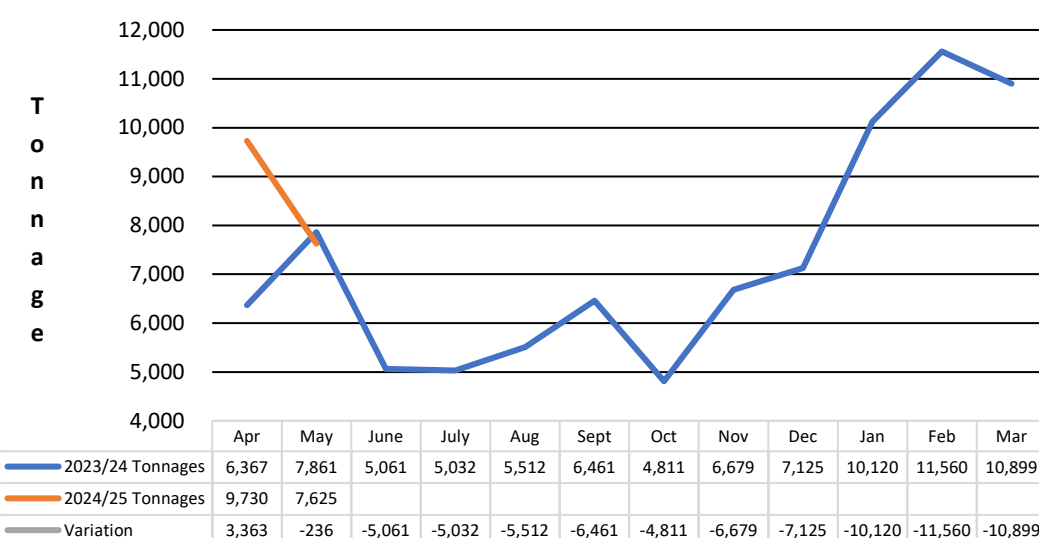
This graph shows the tonnages sent to landfill. So far in 2024/25, the amount of waste sent to landfill is 66% lower than 2023/24. This is due to a change in the disposal methods put in place for 2024/25 with loose RDF and Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) disposal streams coming on-line.

### Monthly Profile and Actual Waste Tonnage Converted into Baled RDF 2024/25



This graph shows the level of baled Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) production compared to the 2023/24 tonnage. Baled RDF levels are currently 44% above 2023/24 volumes.

### Loose RDF, MSW and Heavy Rejects



This graph shows the total volume of loose RDF, Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and heavy rejects through the Materials Resource Management Contract (MRMC). So far in 2024/25, volumes are around 22% higher than in 2023/24. This is largely due to the anaerobic digestion plan no longer being in operation and therefore not able to take 25% of biological waste.

## Savings Delivery Update

12. There are £2.109m of savings to be delivered within the portfolio in 2024/25. Details relating to each saving is reported in the table below:

Saving Activity	Year	Saving to be Delivered in 2024/25	June 2024		Narrative
Recyclate income	2023/24	£0.639m	£0.549m	A	Material values have recovered slightly in May 2024, whilst this increases the likelihood of delivering the saving, the risk is that this is a temporary increase, and values reduce back to or below the values of 2023/24.
			£0.090m	R	

Saving Activity	Year	Saving to be Delivered in 2024/25	June 2024		Narrative
Introduction of Booking System - Extension to All Waste and Recycling Sites Across the County	2024/25	£0.200m	£0.200m	G	
Refuse-derived Fuel Contract Retender	2024/25	£1.000m	£1.000m	G	New contract signed in May 2024.
Implementation of Smarter Working Arrangements	2024/25	£0.220m	£0.220m	A	There is still potential to deliver this saving despite the Northleigh building remaining open due to the impact of the flooded Durban House office.
Solar Panel and Battery Project	2024/25	£0.050m	£0.050m	G	

**Savings Key:**

**R** Significant Risk    **A** At Risk    **G** On Track    **B** Delivered

## Capital Programme

### Summary - Capital

- The Environment and Climate Change capital programme; as approved by County Council in February 2024, agreed a programme totalling £16.853m for 2024/25. Budget of £0.637m, originally profiled to be spent in 2024/25, was accelerated into 2023/24, revising this year's capital programme to £16.216m.
- Since this time, the profiled spend has decreased overall by £3.738m, to give a current year end projection for 2024/25 of £12.478m.
- The portfolio's capital programme contains 13 projects, 12 of these schemes are in delivery and one is complete. The performance and financial details for each scheme are reported below.

	Environment and Climate Change Capital Projects	Performance RAG Status			Total Project Budget	Previous Years Expenditure To 2023/24	2024/25 Expenditure	In Flight Remaining Project Budget
		Time	Quality	Cost				
1	<b>Project:</b> Asset Decarbonisation - Carbon Net Zero Programme	G	G	G	£7.926m	£5.522m	£1.143m	£1.261m
	<b>Latest Estimated Completion Date:</b> July 2024			<b>Project Phase:</b> In Delivery				
	<b>Narrative:</b> Overall programme on track to be delivered.							

	Environment and Climate Change Capital Projects	Performance RAG Status			Total Project Budget	Previous Years Expenditure To 2023/24	2024/25 Expenditure	In Flight Remaining Project Budget
		Time	Quality	Cost	In Flight Projects			
2	<b>Project:</b> Carbon Reduction (Salix) Programme – Block Allocation	G	G	G	£1.756m	£1.632m	(£0.001m)	£0.125m
	<b>Latest Estimated Completion Date:</b> March 2025			<b>Project Phase:</b> In Delivery				
	<b>Narrative:</b> Projects are progressing as planned. Salix have set a deadline of July to commit all remaining projects with the expectation that all projects must complete by March 2025.							
3	<b>Project:</b> Faygate - Gas Schemes	G	G	G	£1.121m	£0.519m	£0.007m	£0.595m
	<b>Latest Estimated Completion Date:</b> 2025			<b>Project Phase:</b> In Delivery				
	<b>Narrative:</b> Final report from consultant to be issued shortly with recommendations and outline design for gas scheme.							
4	<b>Project:</b> Flood Management	G	G	G	£1.009m	£0.744m	£0.017m	£0.248m
	<b>Latest Estimated Completion Date:</b> 2024			<b>Project Phase:</b> In Delivery				
	<b>Narrative:</b> Revised Angmering works programme now scheduled for Summer 2024.							
5	<b>Project:</b> Property Maintenance - Carbon Net Zero – Block Allocation	G	G	G	£5.060m	£3.204m	£0.129m	£1.727m
	<b>Latest Estimated Completion Date:</b> On-going			<b>Project Phase:</b> In Delivery				
	<b>Narrative:</b> Programme progressing as planned.							
6	<b>Project:</b> Halewick Lane Battery Storage	A	G	G	£23.616m	£5.556m	£-	£18.060m
	<b>Latest Estimated Completion Date:</b> To Be Confirmed			<b>Project Phase:</b> In Delivery				
	<b>Narrative:</b> An Options Appraisal is currently being created. The team have been engaging with a number of battery storage developers and have had discussions with UKPN regarding the project.							
7	<b>Project:</b> Operation Watershed - Block Allocation	G	G	G	£0.583m	N/A	£-	£0.583m
	<b>Latest Estimated Completion Date:</b> On-Going to 2028			<b>Project Phase:</b> In Delivery				
	<b>Narrative:</b> Funds are awarded to local communities to help with works to improve drainage and flood areas.							
8	<b>Project:</b> Energy Services Solar PV Schools - Phase 1	A	G	A	£4.685m	£4.235m	(£0.010m)	£0.460m
	<b>Latest Estimated Completion Date:</b> 2024			<b>Project Phase:</b> In Delivery				
	<b>Narrative:</b> A remedial work tender has successfully led to the appointment of a new contractor. There is still some uncertainty over the cost of roof repairs. Legal discussions continue.							



	Environment and Climate Change Capital Projects	Performance RAG Status			Total Project Budget	Previous Years Expenditure To 2023/24	2024/25 Expenditure	In Flight Remaining Project Budget
		Time	Quality	Cost				
9	<b>Project:</b> Energy Services Solar PV and Battery Storage Programme	G	G	G	£7.700m	£0.151m	£0.006m	£7.543m
	<b>Latest Estimated Completion Date:</b> January 2027			<b>Project Phase:</b> In Delivery				
	<b>Narrative:</b> Programme of work agreed with a Key Decision for contract award taken in June 2024.							
10	<b>Project:</b> Waste General After Care Works	G	G	G	£0.434m	£0.419m	£0.001m	£0.014m
	<b>Latest Estimated Completion Date:</b> On-Going			<b>Project Phase:</b> In Delivery				
	<b>Narrative:</b> The numbers and locations for new boreholes at Sompting are still to be scoped.							
11	<b>Project:</b> Capital Receipts Funding Waste New Service Model – Transformation Project	G	G	G	£0.858m	£0.861m	(£0.003m)	£-
	<b>Latest Estimated Completion Date:</b> March 2024			<b>Project Phase:</b> Completed				
	<b>Narrative:</b> The waste transformation project is now complete with its final phase with a trial for segregation and disposal of food and absorbent hygiene products in Mid Sussex now concluded. Final invoices are being confirmed.							
12	<b>Project:</b> Corporate EV Chargepoints	G	G	G	£0.387m	£-	£-	£0.387m
	<b>Latest Estimated Completion Date:</b> 2025/26			<b>Project Phase:</b> In Delivery				
	<b>Narrative:</b> Project is on track. Key Decision to approve the budget and commencement of the procurement process cleared call-in during July 2024.							
13	<b>Project:</b> Littlehampton Recycling Centre – Purchase of Site	G	G	G	£0.600m	£-	£0.500m	£0.100m
	<b>Latest Estimated Completion Date:</b> 2024			<b>Project Phase:</b> In Delivery				
	<b>Narrative:</b> Project is on track. Land purchase now complete.							

16. A of the latest Capital Programme Budget Monitor is reported in **Appendix 4** and full details of all individual schemes are set out in the [Budget Report](#) published in February 2024.

## Risk

17. The following table summarises the risks within the Corporate Risk Register that would have a direct impact on the portfolio. Risks to other portfolios are specified within the respective portfolio sections.

Risk Number	Risk Description	Previous Quarter Score	Current Score
CR73a	<p><b>Climate Change Mitigation</b> - If there is a failure to adequately prioritise, finance, resource and embed into BAU our efforts to decarbonise in alignment with the commitments made in the Council's Climate Change Strategy, there is a risk that there will be <b>insufficient capacity and capability to fully deliver the necessary actions within the stated timeframes</b>. This will lead to additional resource strain, higher demand on capital programmes and threaten organisational reputation.</p>	12	12
CR73b	<p><b>Climate Change Adaptation</b> - West Sussex faces the high risk of increasing impacts of climate change including extreme heat, severe storms, flooding and sea level rise, among others. Without proactive consideration of and preparation for these impacts, <b>WSCC assets, service delivery and West Sussex residents are at increased risk of damage, disruption and injury</b>. This will lead to protracted service disruptions, dangerous conditions and increased reliance on emergency services. In the longer term this could lead to displacement of residents and businesses in vulnerable, lower lying areas.</p>	12	12
CR76	<p>Natural England issued a Position Statement on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021 that affects all planning applications not granted before that date within the Sussex North Water Supply Zone. This has essentially halted all WSCC plans and projects in the water supply zone until <b>water neutrality</b> can be demonstrated. There are a number of impacts on and, potentially, opportunities for WSCC arising. The principal corporate risk is that <b>the council will be unable to provide sufficient school places in the water neutrality area</b>.</p>	12	12

18. Further detail on all risks can be found in **Appendix 5** - Corporate Risk Register Summary. Full details of the latest Risk Register, including actions and mitigations can be found under the County Council's [Regulation, Audit and Accounts Committee Agenda](#) website.