

# Agenda

## Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel

**Thursday, 14 March 2024, 10.00 am**  
**Council Chamber, County Hall, Worcester**

All County Councillors are invited to attend and participate

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## DISCLOSING INTERESTS

There are now 2 types of interests:  
**'Disclosable pecuniary interests'** and **'other disclosable interests'**

### WHAT IS A 'DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST' (DPI)?

- Any **employment**, office, trade or vocation carried on for profit or gain
- **Sponsorship** by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party of your member or election expenses
- Any **contract** for goods, services or works between the Council and you, a firm where you are a partner/director, or company in which you hold shares
- Interests in **land** in Worcestershire (including licence to occupy for a month or longer)
- **Shares** etc (with either a total nominal value above £25,000 or 1% of the total issued share capital) in companies with a place of business or land in Worcestershire.

**NB Your DPIs include the interests of your spouse/partner as well as you**

### WHAT MUST I DO WITH A DPI?

- **Register** it within 28 days and
- **Declare** it where you have a DPI in a matter at a particular meeting
  - you must **not participate** and you **must withdraw**.

**NB It is a criminal offence to participate in matters in which you have a DPI**

### WHAT ABOUT 'OTHER DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS'?

- No need to register them but
- You must **declare** them at a particular meeting where:  
You/your family/person or body with whom you are associated have a **pecuniary interest** in or **close connection** with the matter under discussion.

### WHAT ABOUT MEMBERSHIP OF ANOTHER AUTHORITY OR PUBLIC BODY?

You will not normally even need to declare this as an interest. The only exception is where the conflict of interest is so significant it is seen as likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest.

### DO I HAVE TO WITHDRAW IF I HAVE A DISCLOSABLE INTEREST WHICH ISN'T A DPI?

Not normally. You must withdraw only if it:

- affects your **pecuniary interests** **OR** relates to a **planning or regulatory** matter
- **AND** it is seen as likely to **prejudice your judgement** of the public interest.

### DON'T FORGET

- If you have a disclosable interest at a meeting you must **disclose both its existence and nature** – 'as noted/recorded' is insufficient
- **Declarations must relate to specific business** on the agenda
  - General scattergun declarations are not needed and achieve little
- Breaches of most of the **DPI provisions** are now **criminal offences** which may be referred to the police which can on conviction by a court lead to fines up to £5,000 and disqualification up to 5 years
- Formal **dispensation** in respect of interests can be sought in appropriate cases.

## Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel

### Thursday, 14 March 2024, 10.00 am, County Hall, Worcester

**Membership:** Cllr Alastair Adams (Chairman), Cllr Tony Muir (Vice Chairman),  
Cllr Dan Boatright-Greene, Cllr Andrew Cross, Cllr Emma Marshall,  
Cllr Beverley Nielsen, Cllr David Ross and Cllr Emma Stokes

## Agenda

Item No	Subject	Page No
1	<b>Apologies and Welcome</b>	
2	<b>Declarations of Interest and of any Party Whip</b>	
3	<b>Public Participation</b> Members of the public wishing to take part should notify the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance in writing or by e-mail indicating both the nature and content of their proposed participation no later than 9.00am on the working day before the meeting (in this case 13 March 2024). Further details are available on the Council's website. Enquiries can also be made through the telephone number/e-mail address listed in this agenda and on the website.	
4	<b>Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous meeting</b> Previously circulated.	
5	<b>Environment Act Developments</b> <i>(Indicative timing: 10:05 - 10:45am)</i>	1 - 6
6	<b>Performance and 2023-24 In-Year Budget Monitoring</b> <i>(Indicative timing: 10:45 - 11:40am)</i>	7 - 58
7	<b>Refresh of the Scrutiny Work Programme 2024-25</b> <i>(Indicative timing: 11:40am - 12 noon)</i>	59 - 64

Agenda produced and published by the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester WR5 2NP

To obtain further information or a copy of this agenda contact Alyson Grice/Alison Spall, Overview and Scrutiny Officers on 01905 844962/846607, [scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk)

All the above reports and supporting information can be accessed via the Council's website

Date of Issue: Wednesday, 6 March 2024

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## **ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

### **14 MARCH 2024**

## **ENVIRONMENT ACT DEVELOPMENTS**

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### **Summary**

1. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Environment and the Director of Economy and Infrastructure have been invited to the meeting to update the Panel on developments relating to the Environment Act 2021.

### **Background**

2. The Environment Act, 2021 offers new powers to set binding targets for air quality, water, biodiversity, and waste reduction and operates as the framework for environmental protection, replacing some of the environmental protections which originally came from the European Union (EU).
3. The Act sets out a number of specific functions and duties for Worcestershire County Council (the Council) with regard to:
  - Biodiversity including the publication of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy, strengthened Biodiversity Duty and the requirement for Biodiversity Net Gain.
  - Air quality including a strengthened role as an air quality partner and to work cohesively across local authorities to tackle air quality.
  - Waste Management.
4. The Panel has discussed the individual topics within the Environment Act at previous meetings with an overview in October 2022.

### **Biodiversity**

#### **Local Nature Recovery Strategy**

5. Local Nature Recovery Strategies are new locally led spatial plans for nature. The legislation outlines that these will bring together communities and decision makers from the public, private and voluntary sectors across the county to collaborate in planning and prioritising actions for nature's recovery. These will help to protect and improve the local environment, meet national environmental objectives, and support delivery of the national Nature Recovery Network.
6. Each Local Nature Recovery Strategy must:
  - Agree local priorities for nature's recovery.
  - Map the most valuable existing habitat for nature.
  - Map specific proposals for creating and improving habitats for nature and wider environmental goals.

7. The Government, through the Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), have set a target date for the adoption of all the Local Nature Recovery Strategies of March 2025.
8. In Worcestershire the following progress is being made with the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy:
  - Cabinet approved an Issues and Options consultation in November 2023 and gave approval to progress the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
  - The Issues and Options consultation (15 January 2024 - 23 February 2024 – extended to 10 March 2024) was an initial consultation to inform the preparation of the strategy. It included questions on the content and functionality of the mapping, key local threats and pressures on nature, potential opportunities for recovery and headline principles for the local nature recovery.
  - The consultation was supported by the publication of an evidence base which includes the Worcestershire State of Nature Report (2023) and Worcestershire Grasslands Report. These are available on the website at: [Worcestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy background papers](#)
  - A cross local authority members reference group has been established and will continue to meet throughout the process of the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. The District Councils are all designated Supporting Authorities for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy through the Environment Act. They will have to approve the final document.
9. The results of the Issues and Options consultation will inform the ongoing development of the strategy, with further engagement planned in autumn 2024 on the final draft of the strategy. The final strategy will then return to the Cabinet for adoption and implementation.

### **Requirement for Biodiversity Net Gain**

10. The requirement for Biodiversity Net Gain also arises from the Environment Act and applies to planning applications. From February 2024, all major applications have been required to deliver a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain. This will apply to all applications from April 2024.
11. The biodiversity net gain which must be secured from each application is determined by a combination of the specific habitat type at the location of the development and its quality. This is measured in biodiversity units.
12. To comply with biodiversity net gain, the planning applicant must then secure the units required to offset the biodiversity impact of their development. This can either be on site as part of the development proposals or off site. In either case, the biodiversity units are secured to create or enhance habitat. All units must be maintained for a minimum of 30 years and are subject to monitoring visits and enforcement action if there is a failure to maintain them appropriately.
13. The legislation expects that a market will develop for offsite units which will enable developers to purchase the appropriate number of units to offset the impact of their development. Defra envisage that this market will be one of the

ways in which the aspirations of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy are delivered as landowners enter the off-setting market and secure funding from developers.

14. County Planning have updated their validation checklist to include the requirement for biodiversity net gain. The larger minerals operators have been aware of this requirement and are working towards including it in their applications utilising onsite land. Many waste operators have small sites where there is less onsite potential for biodiversity net gain and may have to seek to purchase off site provision.
15. A series of preparatory works have been undertaken to prepare for this new requirement, including securing additional resources from Defra to resource this commitment for 12 months, initial desk-based assessment of the Council's land holdings and the role which these assets can have in securing biodiversity net gain for the Council's projects and engaging proactively with the District Councils to share knowledge and undertake joint activity where possible.

### **Enhanced biodiversity duty**

16. The third biodiversity element of the Environment Act is the enhanced biodiversity duty. This originated from the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and placed a general duty on public sector organisations to have regard to biodiversity.
17. The Environment Act has strengthened this to include three elements which must be reported on:
  - Consider what you can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
  - Agree policy and specific objectives based on these considerations.
  - Act to deliver your policies and achieve your objectives.
18. In accordance with the timetable set by Defra, an initial report was published in January 2024 which sets out the first consideration of the Council's actions in connection with biodiversity reporting. This is available on the website at: [Biodiversity Duty Legal Requirements \(worcestershire.gov.uk\)](https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/biodiversity-duty-legal-requirements)
19. The first formal Biodiversity Report will subsequently be prepared no later than 1 January 2026, and then repeated every five years. Reports should detail actions that have conserved and enhanced biodiversity and plans for future actions. This will include information on biodiversity net gain secured in the county, and actions to implement the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

### **Air Quality**

20. A further element of the Environment Act is concerned with air quality. This remains a District Council matter, but the role of the County Council has been strengthened. Where air quality falls below the thresholds set by government and air quality management areas have been declared, the County Council is now a partner in actions to address air quality.

21. These actions include contributing to the Air Quality Management Plan (AQAP) through proposals and projects which will improve air quality.

## **Waste**

22. The Environment Act 2021 brings three main areas of reform relating to waste:
- Simpler Recycling.
  - Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging (EPR).
  - Deposit Return Scheme (DRS).

## **Simpler Recycling**

23. Some of the detail around Simpler Recycling was announced in October 2023 after a long wait for the outcomes of consultation carried out in 2021. Simpler Recycling aims to bring consistency across England to the materials collected for recycling.
24. Through Simpler Recycling, the Environment Act places a duty on local authorities to:
- Separately collect food waste from households at least weekly.
  - Collect aluminium foil, food trays and tubes from households by March 2026. Note – Worcestershire authorities already collect most of the dry recyclables required by Simpler Recycling.
  - Collect Plastic film from households by March 2027.
25. Non-household municipal premises like universities, schools and larger businesses need to implement Simpler Recycling by March 2025. Further consultation on Statutory Guidance to implement Simpler Recycling including setting a minimum frequency for residual waste collection of fortnightly, was carried out in October/November 2023. The results of that consultation are still to be published. The Council is working with the Waste Collection Authorities and our contractor to implement the requirements of Simpler Recycling.
26. A Worcestershire Task and Finish Group was established in 2022 to review how the authorities can introduce food waste collection most efficiently and effectively.
27. The Worcestershire authorities are reviewing what is required to introduce food waste collection.
28. Defra has announced three funding streams to provide New Burdens for Waste Collection Authorities to support for the introduction of food waste collection:
- Capital transitional funding.
  - Transitional resource funding.
  - Ongoing resource (revenue) funding.
29. Details of capital transitional funding for the purchase of vehicles and food waste caddies/bins was provided to all Local Authorities in January 2024. Further detail is awaited on the other two funding streams.
30. The Worcestershire authorities have collaborated on a response to Defra outlining concerns that no funding has been allocated to changes to infrastructure and that the indicative capital funding amounts do not cover the costs of food



waste transfer facilities and additional depot capacity for the expanded food waste collection fleet.

31. Costs for the transfer and disposal of food waste borne by the Council are to be funded through savings in the disposal of residual waste.

### **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging**

32. As part of the EPR, labelling on packaging will become clearer and more standardised. This will make it easier for consumers to understand how to recycle the packaging. EPR will see local authorities receive payments for the packaging they deal with through their waste management services. A Scheme Administrator will operate the system, taking payments from packaging producers, and passing these to local authorities. EPR payments are due to commence in October 2025 and local authorities should receive notifications of indicative amounts to be paid during the 2024/25 financial year. Both Waste Disposal Authorities and Waste Collection Authorities will receive payments for dealing with packaging material handled as part of their waste collection and disposal activities.
33. The method for calculating payments is under development by Defra and will include a quality element relating to how 'efficient and effective' services are. From October 2024, sampling at Materials Reclamation Facilities, including Worcestershire's EnviroSort facility, has to almost double in line with EPR requirements.

### **Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)**

34. The scheme is designed on the principle of the 'Polluter Pays', with the packaging producers funding the cost of the take back scheme. A DRS allows the consumer to return a drinks container to a retailer to redeem a deposit. The scheme is due to be introduced across the UK from October 2025. Drinks containers made from metal and plastic are included in the scheme, glass and cartons are excluded. The implementation of a DRS will potentially have a significant impact on the waste that local authorities collect and dispose of, removing a large percentage of the waste that is made up of metal (aluminium and steel drinks cans) and plastic bottles. As the composition of the waste changes, this is likely to bring significant changes to the cost of dealing with waste which will become a key consideration in the future.
35. The Environment Act also sets out a new legally binding target to 'halve residual waste (excluding major mineral waste) produced per person by 2042'. Residual waste is defined as waste that is sent to landfill, put through incineration or used in energy recovery.

### **Purpose of the Meeting**

36. The Panel is asked to:
  - Consider and comment on the information provided on the Environment Act, 2021.
  - Agree any comments to highlight to the Cabinet Member.

## Contact Points

Rachel Hill, Assistant Director for Economy, Major Projects and Waste Tel: 01905 843539 Email: [rjhill@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:rjhill@worcestershire.gov.uk)

Emily Barker, Head of Planning and Transport Planning Tel: 01905 846723  
Email: [ebarker@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:ebarker@worcestershire.gov.uk)

Richard Woodward, Waste Services Manager Tel: 01905 843417  
Email: [woodward@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:woodward@worcestershire.gov.uk)

Alyson Grice/Alison Spall, Overview and Scrutiny Officers Tel: 01905 844962/846607  
Email: [scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk)

## Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

[Agenda and Minutes of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel 7 October 2022](#)

[Agenda and Minutes for Cabinet on Thursday, 23rd November 2023, 10.00 am](#)

[All agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website here.](#)

## **ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

### **14 MARCH 2024**

## **PERFORMANCE AND 2023/24 IN-YEAR BUDGET MONITORING**

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### **Summary**

1. The Panel will be updated on performance and financial information for services relating to the Environment.
2. The Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Environment, and Highways & Transport, Senior Officers from the Economy and Infrastructure (E&I) Directorate and the Deputy Chief Financial Officer have been invited to attend the meeting to respond to any queries from Panel Members.

### **Performance Information**

3. Attached at Appendix 1 is a dashboard of performance information relating to Quarter 3 (October to December 2023). It covers the indicators from the Directorate and corporate level and other management information (as appropriate) which relate to services relevant to this Scrutiny Panel's remit.
4. A summary of the performance information is also provided by a Power BI report. The link to the Power BI Summary report can be found here [Our performance | Worcestershire County Council](#)
5. The Scrutiny Panels consider this information on a quarterly basis and then report by exception to the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) any suggestions for further scrutiny or areas of concern.

### **Financial Information**

6. The Panel also receives in-year budget information. The information provided is for Quarter 3 (Period 9) and is attached in the form of presentation slides at Appendix 2.

### **Purpose of the Meeting**

7. Following discussion of the information provided, the Scrutiny Panel is asked to determine:
  - any comments to highlight to the Cabinet Members at the meeting and/or to Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board at its meeting on 27 March 2024
  - whether any further information or scrutiny on a particular topic is required.

### **Supporting Information**

## Contact Points

Alison Spall/Alyson Grice, Overview and Scrutiny Officers, Tel: 01905 846607/ 844962  
Email: [scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk)

## Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- Agenda and minutes of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 30 November, 25 September, 19 July, 23 March and 18 January 2023, 11 July, 7 October and 8 November 2022
- Agendas and minutes of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 19 July, 20 September, 9 November 2021 and 1 March 2022
- Agendas and minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board on 19 December, 19 October, 26 July, 29 March and 30 January 2023, 7 December, 29 September, 20 July and 23 March 2022.

[All agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website here.](#)

# Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel Performance Summary

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# Economy and Infrastructure Directorate - Areas of Success and Challenge

## Areas of Success

### 1) Outstanding Public Enquiries (PEMs)

Reports raised by members of the public that remained outstanding at the end of December totalled 759. That represented a reduction of 20.2% from the equivalent total at the end of the previous quarter (951). It was also 35.8% less than the total on the last day of October, the wettest October since 2000, storm Babet causing the Severn, Avon, and Teme to all rise very quickly, resulting in significant flooding. The number of reports received from residents that month was 2,064, the second-highest calendar-month total of 2023, exceeded only by January's 2,100.

### 2) Condition of Highways

Improving highways has been one of Worcestershire residents' top priorities for many years. We continue to strive to ensure the condition of Worcestershire's roads remains above the national average and in the upper or top quartiles nationally. Periods of severe hot, cold, and wet weather and flooding make this challenging. However, Coarse Visual Inspections of the network of principal, non-principal, and unclassified roads during 2022/2023 show that for each category of road there has been a decrease in the percentage to be considered for maintenance. Latest Surface Condition Assessment of the National Network of Roads (SCANNER) results serve to confirm the improvement in the condition of principal and non-principal roads.

### 3) Street Lighting Energy Consumption

The rapid LED streetlighting rollout programme commenced in April 2022. The programme, which concluded in August 2023, resulted in nearly 22,000 sodium streetlights being upgraded to more energy-efficient LED units. The total kilowatt hours (kWh) expended on streetlighting in the October-to-December quarter was 3,165,685. That total represents a reduction of 45.3% compared with the ten-year average for the same quarter (5,788,304). The kWh total for April to December (7,546,632) was also markedly down (by 42.9%) compared with the ten-year average for the same period (13,205,051). Compared with the April-to-December 2022 figure of 9,737,255, the 2023 total equates to a 22.5% reduction.

## Areas of Challenge

### 1) Condition of Highways and Footways

Further improvement in the condition of highways and footways will always remain a high-profile priority. There is a commitment in the Corporate Plan to improve the condition of Worcestershire's roads and pavements to be among the best nationally. Safe and reliable journeys throughout the county are essential for social and economic success, two fundamental pillars supporting the 'Open for Business' priority in the Corporate Plan. While the strategic Asset Management programme, innovative use of new technology, and ongoing workforce education will help to deliver improvements, the challenges presented by extreme weather at any time of the year (exemplified this winter) will always present a major challenge. For example, the annual Surface Dressing programme is highly weather dependent and can often be delayed due to rain or high temperatures.

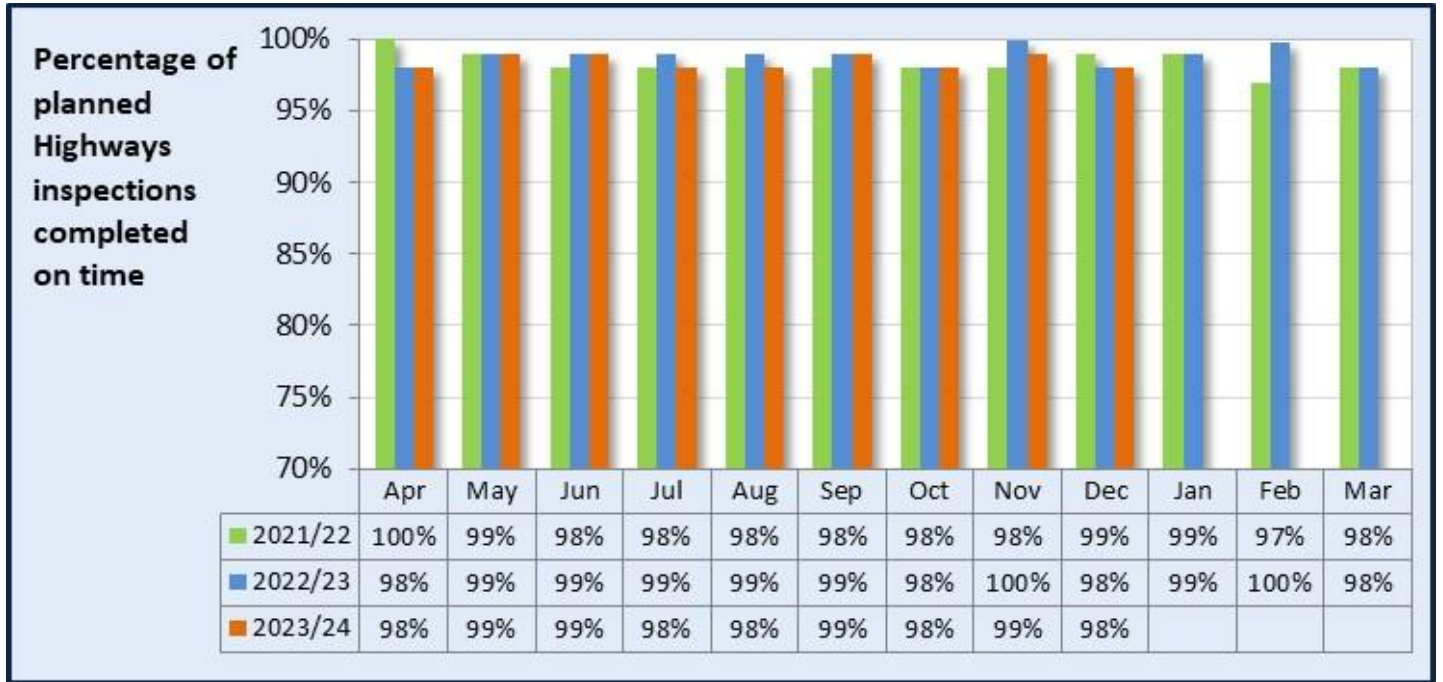
### 2) Public Rights of Way Reports Resolved

Figures that are above seasonal norms tend to be due to the completion of large programmes of planned work (such as those concerning signage); decreases are normally due to adverse weather, vacancies, annual leave, and sickness absence. Resolutions in the October-to-December quarter totalled 347, down 38.8% compared with the July-to-September tally (565) and 37.1% less than the number resolved in the October-to-December quarter of 2022 (552). Reports resolved between April and December 2023 totalled 1,378; the total for the whole of the 2022/2023 financial year was 2,513; in 2021/2022 it was 3,719. After three quarters of the current financial year, the resolutions-by-volunteers total was 145, equivalent to 62.5% of 2022/2023's year-end total of 232.

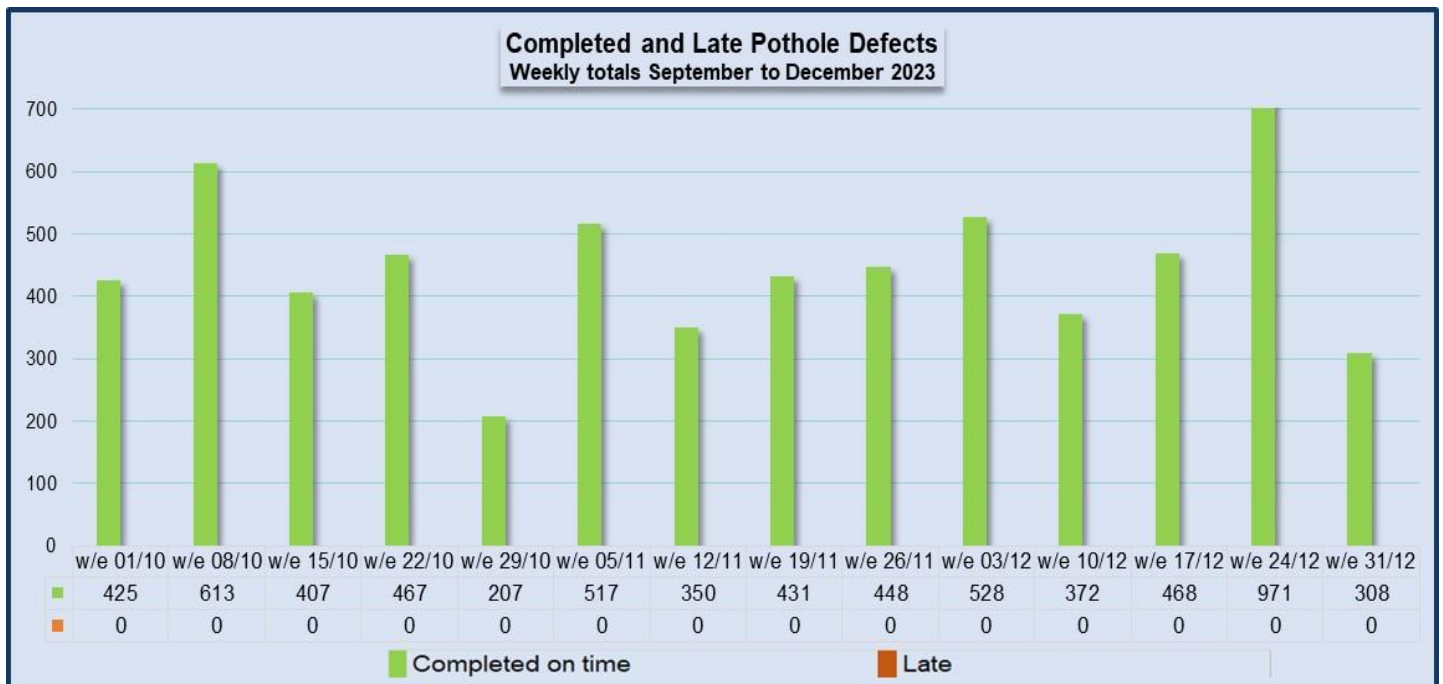
### 3) Waste Reused, Recycled or Composted

Waste reused, recycled or composted in 2022/2023 fell slightly to 42.1% from 42.4% in 2021/2022. That figure was, in turn, down compared with the previous financial year's 43.3%. Despite the last two years' fall, the underlying long-term trend remains upward, the figure for 2013/2014 having been 40.9%. However, there is a need to understand why 2022/2023's figure fell, given that by the end of that financial year there had been an improvement (reduction) in the amount of household waste collected per resident and the amount sent to landfill. Ways to reduce, reuse, recycle, and recover household waste continue to be promoted. This includes subsidising the provision of compost bins for composting at home, maintaining the dedicated waste and recycling website (LetsWasteLess.com), and publicising initiatives and suggestions for residents to reduce, reuse, recycle, and recover household waste (e.g. 'Food Savvy', which offer tips to help reduce food waste, save money, and help the environment; quarter three's Recycle Week 2023 in October, with its 'Big Recycling Hunt' theme, focussing on items commonly put in the black bin, which can in fact be put in the green recycling one).

# Economy & Infrastructure Dashboard

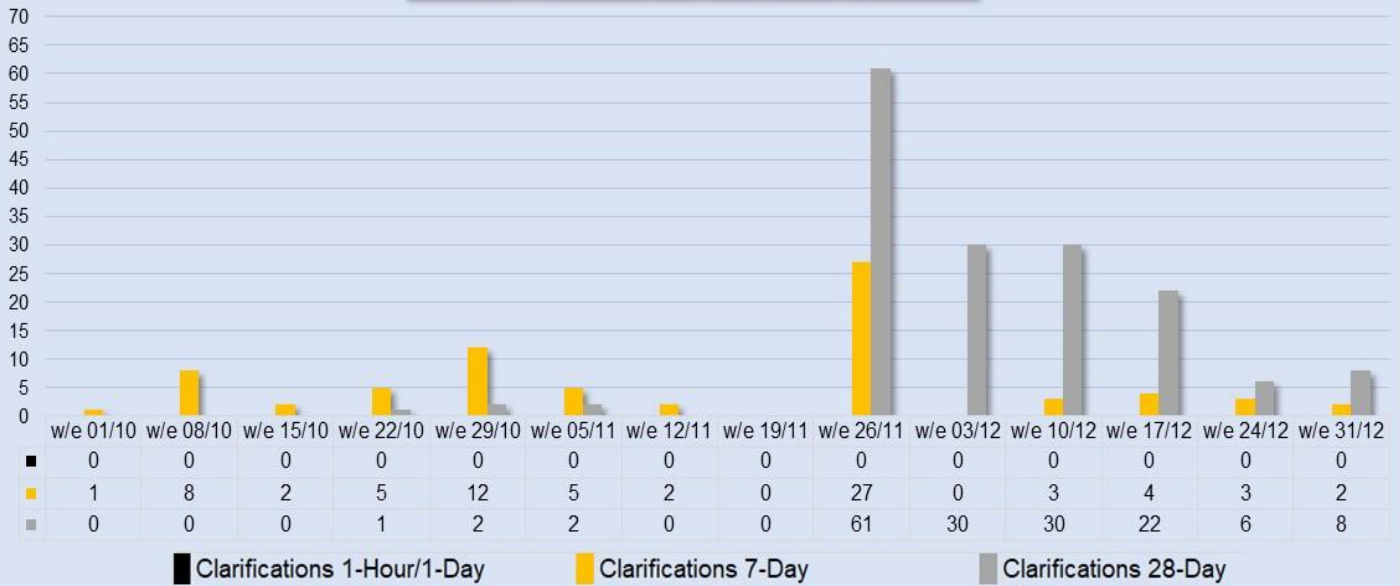


Percentage of inspections meeting national guidelines in Code of Practice for Maintenance Management "Well Maintained Highways".



The weekly totals of pothole defects completed on time or late.

**Pothole Defect Reports: Clarifications (Queries)**  
Weekly totals September to December 2023



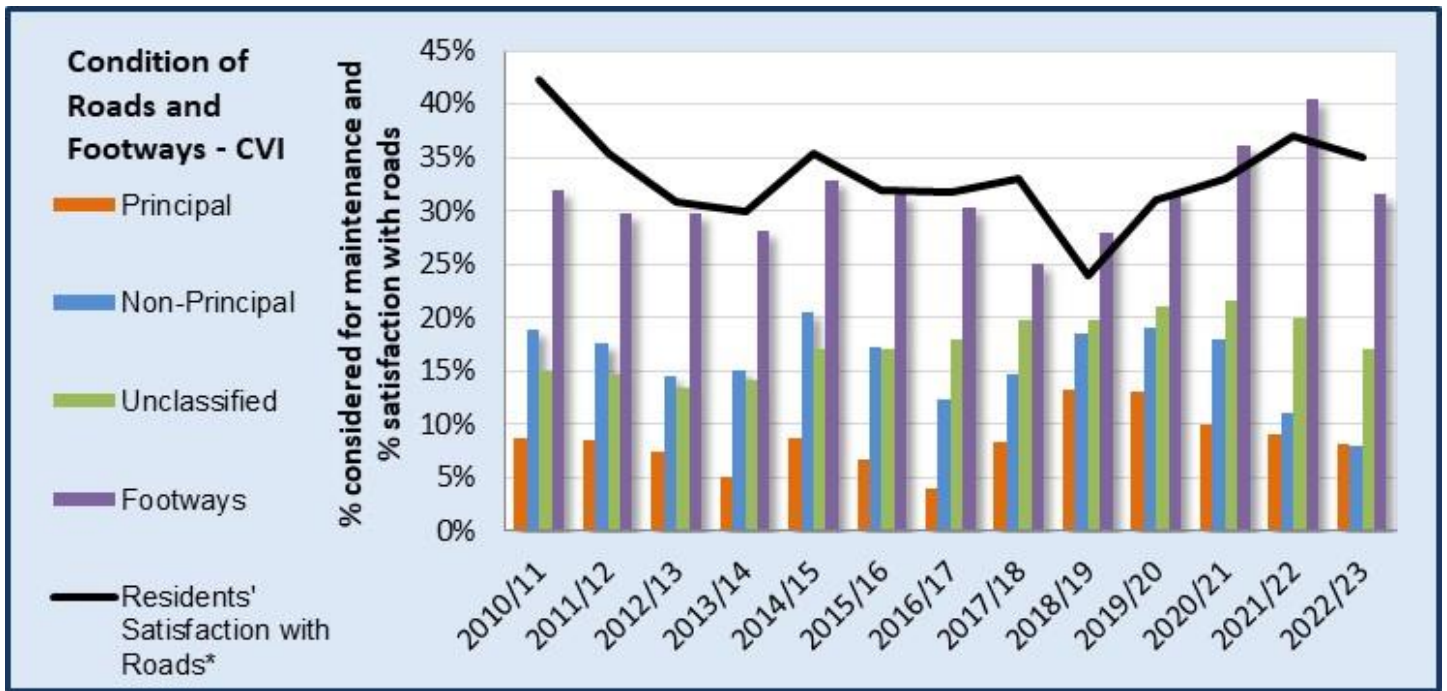
The weekly totals of defects for which clarifications are sought. Clarifications occur when a defect cannot be completed within the specified time frame because of external factors (e.g. because it is under flood water, snow or a parked vehicle or is located in an area that is too high-speed for a safe repair to be made during working hours). An attempt is always made to make safe the issue. The clock on the defect is then stopped until it can be accessed to undertake the original repair.

**Traffic Regulation Orders - December 2022 to December 2023**

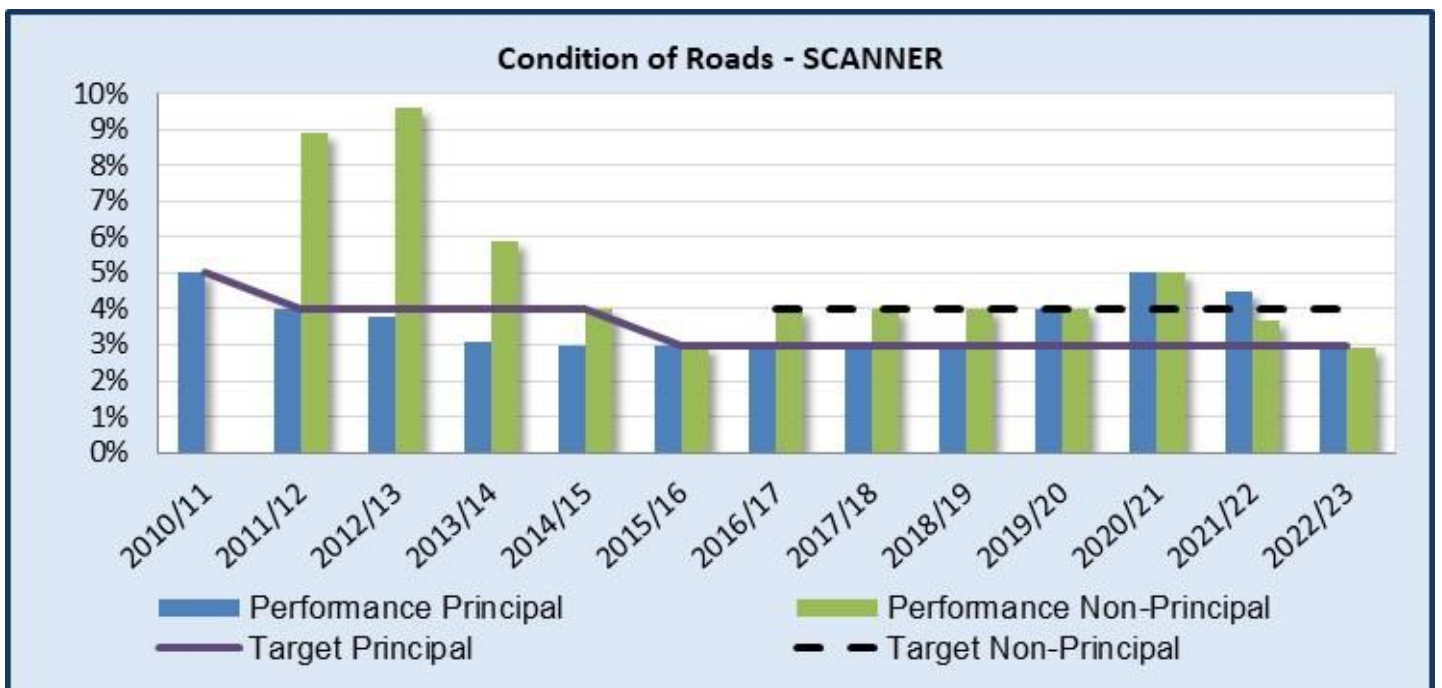


The number of new, completed, and outstanding standard Traffic Regulation Orders, not including those associated with Development Control planning issues and internally-generated schemes.

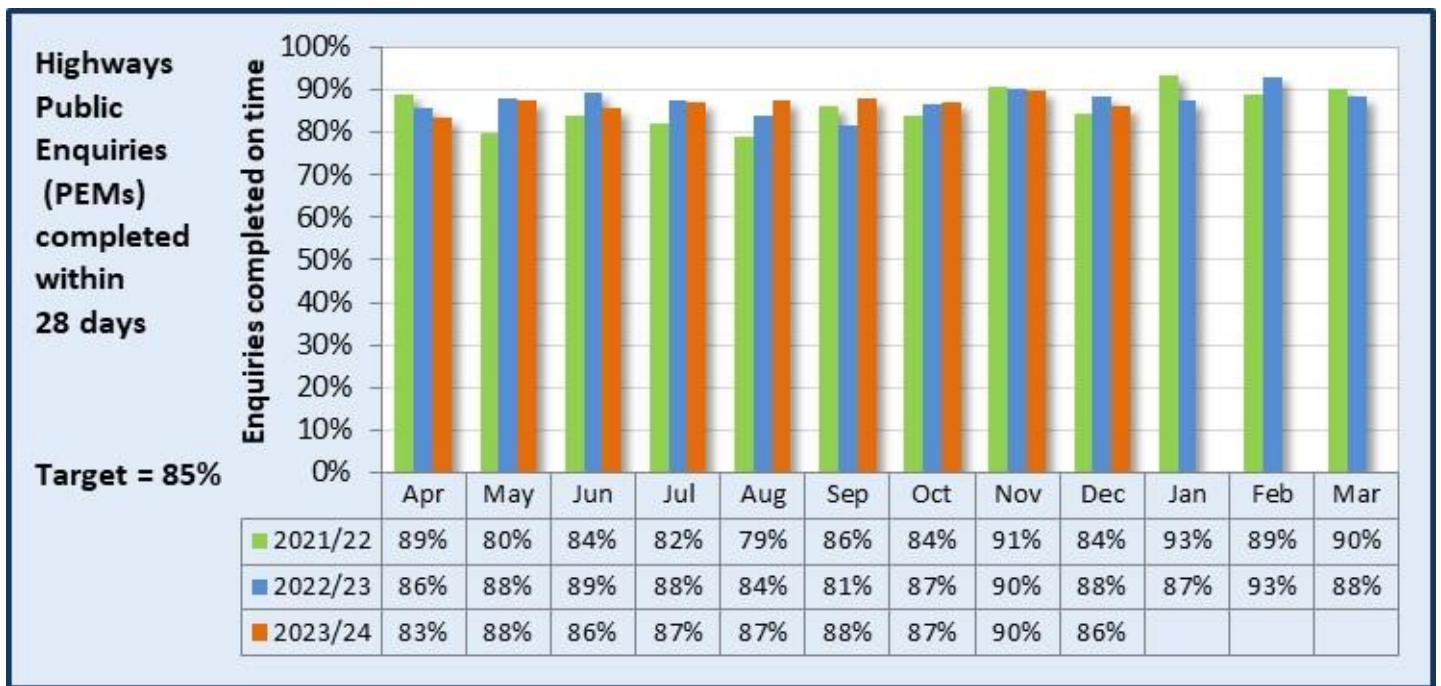




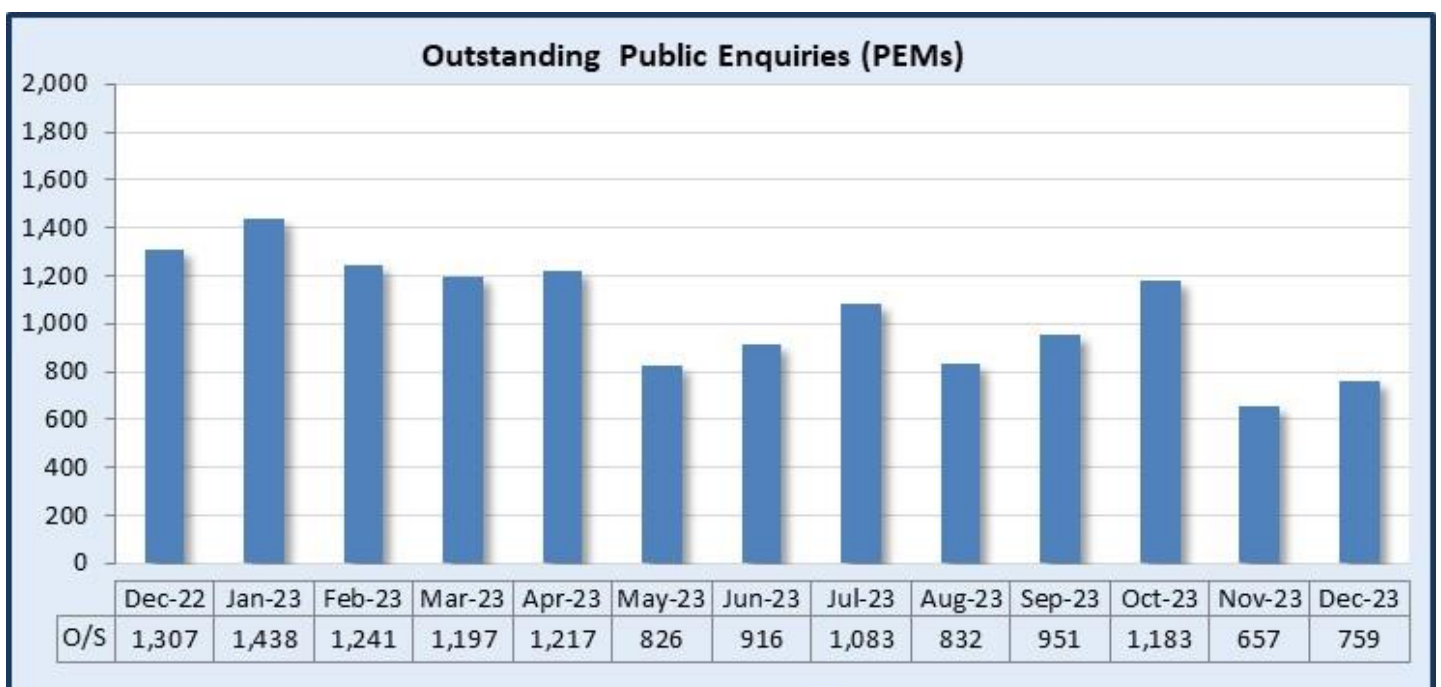
The percentage of footways and roads (Principal, Non-Principal and Unclassified) considered for maintenance after completion of the annual Coarse Visual Inspection (CVI) survey of the network. This is carried out from a slow-moving vehicle. A large part of a highways authority's road network is assessed each year. To produce the report, two years' data is combined, half the data being carried over from the previous year. Each year, 50% of Unclassified roads are the subject of a CVI. This exceeds the Department for Transport requirement of 25% inspection-coverage per annum. 'Major maintenance' is repairs to the edging, surface or structure of the carriageway. These involve at least one of edge patching or strengthening, carriageway strengthening (overlay, partial re-construction or full depth re-construction) or carriageway re-surfacing (inlay or overlay). Technical indices for edging, surface, and structure condition determine the point at which works are deemed necessary.



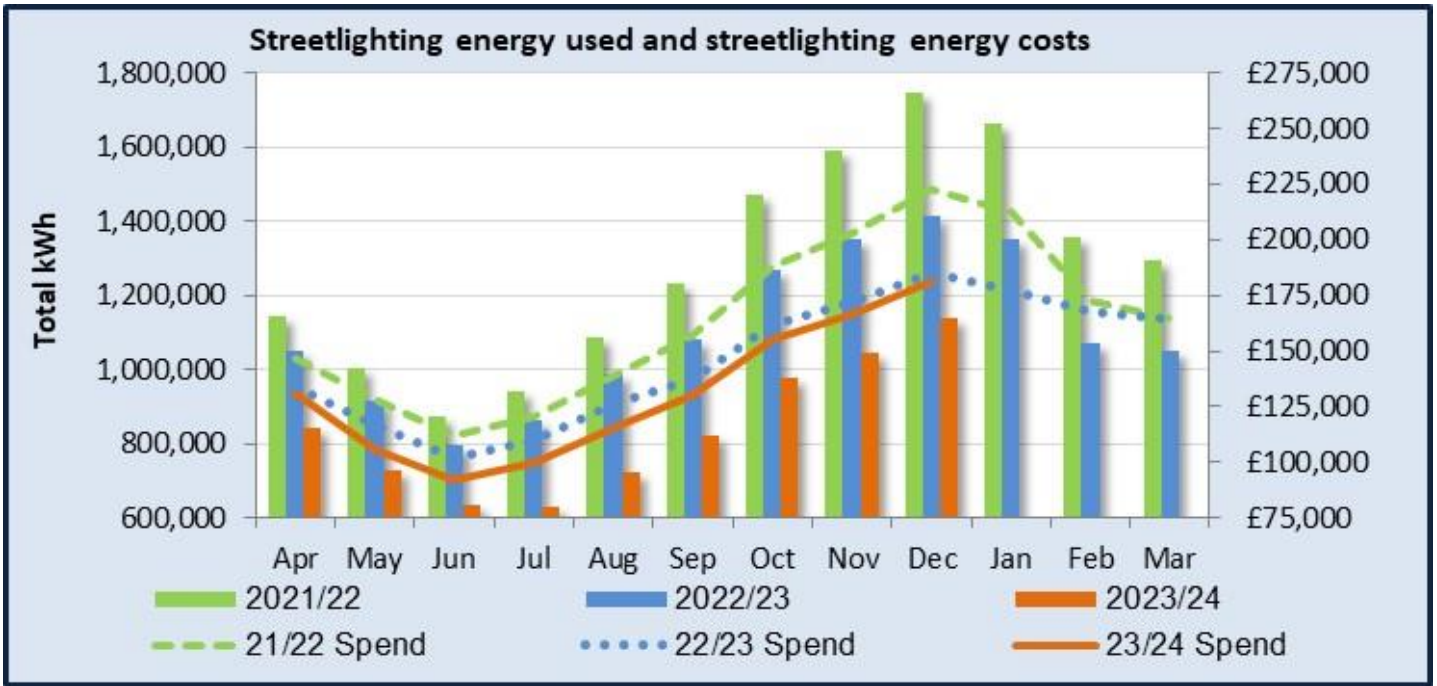
The percentage of principal (A-class roads) and non-principal roads (B- & C-class roads) that are deemed to require major maintenance following the annual Surface Condition Assessment of the National Network of Roads (SCANNER) survey.



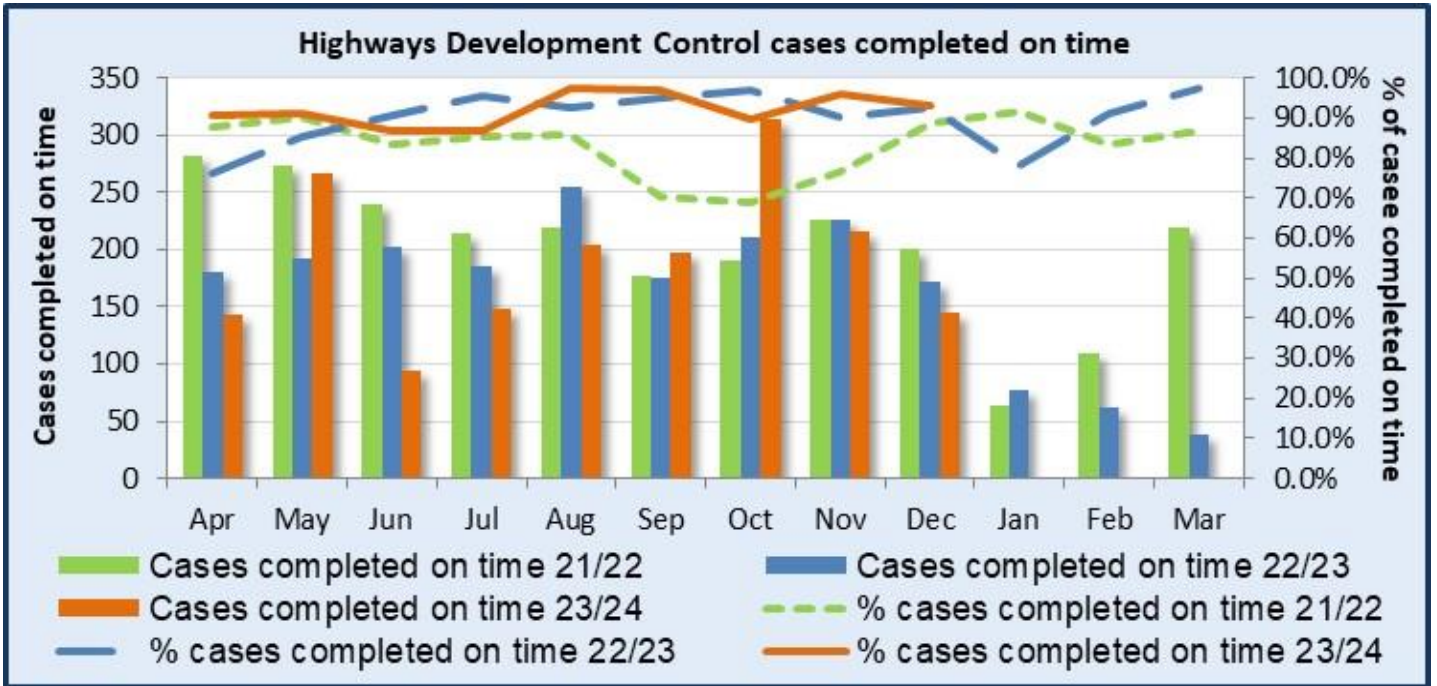
The percentage of PEMs (customer enquiries) completed on time within each month in accordance with the 28-day Service Level Agreement. The overall completed-within-28-days percentage for the current financial year at the end of September was 86.4%. For the 2022/2023 financial year as a whole it was 87.6%. The 2021/2022 percentage was 85.3%.



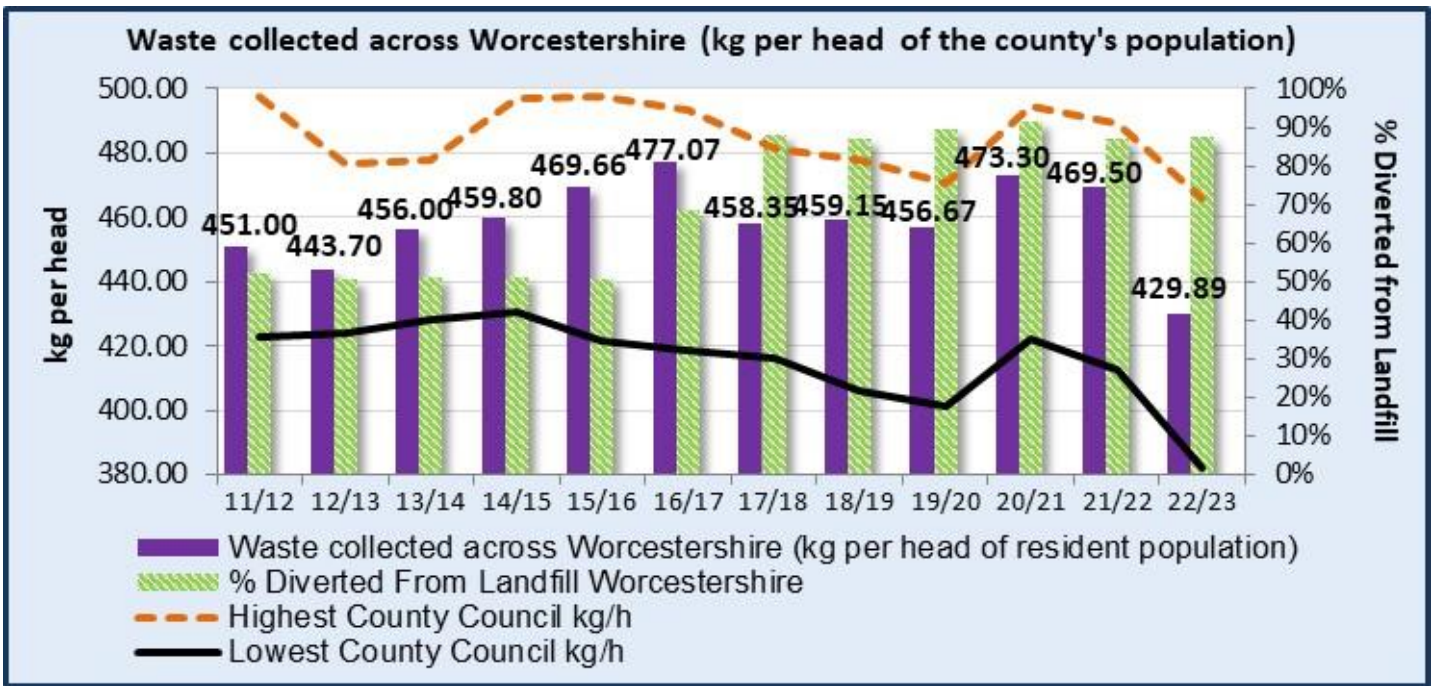
The number of Highways PEMs outstanding at the end of the last day of the month.



The columns show the total energy used for lighting County Council-owned streetlights, whilst the lines indicate the amount spent on streetlighting per month.



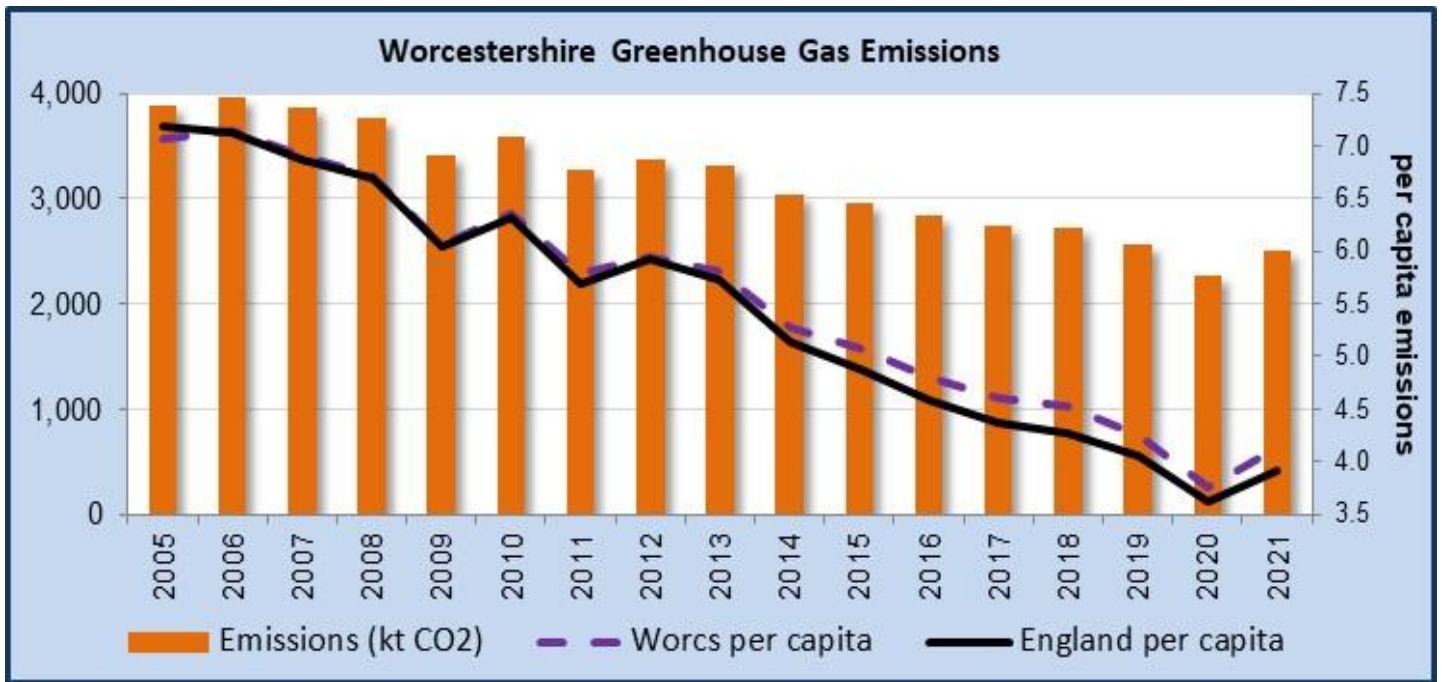
The number of Highways Development Control planning applications received each month and the percentage responded to within the required 21 days. This relates only to the providing of recommendations concerning each application to the relevant planning authority and is not linked to Highways Act section 278 and section 38 agreements.



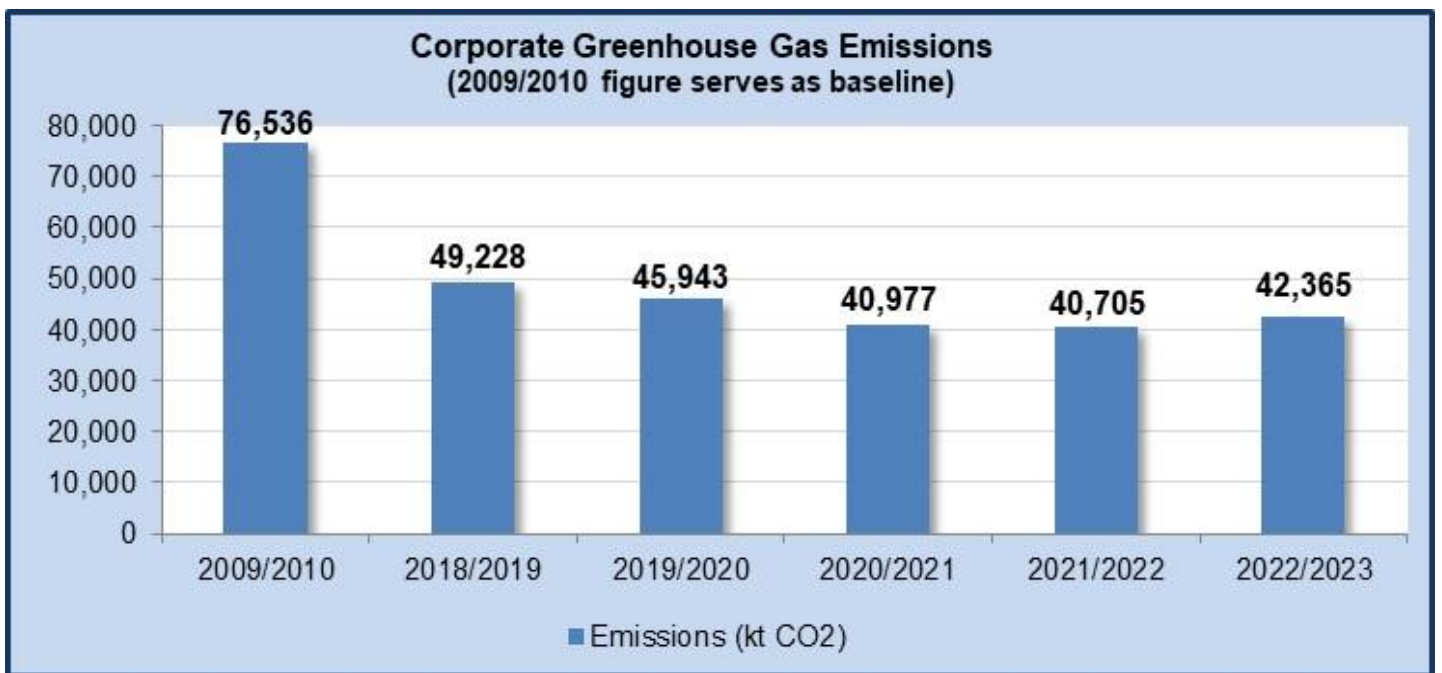
Kilograms of Household Waste (HHW) per resident of Worcestershire. The figure is from the verified tonnage data for HHW. Population data is from the Waste Data Flow (WDF) system, which also sets out the HHW definition. The County Council Waste Disposal Authority with the highest figure in 2022/2023 was Cumbria (466.0), while the lowest figure (382.0) was Oxfordshire's. In the data-set for 2021/2022, Oxfordshire's figure was again the lowest.



This indicator measures the percentage of municipal waste sent to landfill and applies only to Waste Disposal Authorities (WDAs). It also monitors the amount of waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting. The latest-available data (confirmed in mid-October 2023) relates to the 2022/2023 financial year.



Worcestershire's estimated annual carbon dioxide emissions totals in kilotonnes of CO2. Also shown are per capita figures for the county and for England as a whole. The totals relate to emissions that can be influenced, i.e. they exclude emissions from large industrial sites, railways, and motorways. Data is published two years in arrears by Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. 2022's data is scheduled to be published in June 2024.



Corporate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reporting follows the international protocol guidelines. Emissions are categorised in three different 'scopes'. Between them, these cover direct emissions from Council activities under our control and all indirect emissions, whether they emanate from corporately-owned buildings or assets (e.g. street lights), staff travel or outsourced operations, including municipal waste-disposal. Worcester's GHG Emissions Report 2022/2023 was published in September 2023.

## Planned Highways Inspections

Percentage completed on time (latest update: December 2023)

Month	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024
April	98%	90%	98%	100%	100%	98%	98%
May	98%	90%	98%	100%	99%	99%	99%
June	98%	95%	95%	100%	98%	99%	99%
July	98%	95%	95%	100%	98%	99%	98%
August	99%	95%	100%	100%	98%	99%	98%
September	99%	95%	100%	98%	98%	99%	99%
October	99%	98%	98%	98%	98%	98%	99%
November	99%	100%	100%	99%	98%	100%	99%
December	98%	100%	97%	100%	99%	98%	98%
January	97%	100%	95%	98%	99%	99%	
February	96%	100%	96%	99%	97%	100%	
March	96%	98%	99%	99%	98%	98%	

## Highways Development Control Cases Dealt With On Time

Monthly figures in respect of cases completed and cases dealt with on time (latest update: December 2023)

2019/2020	Total on time	% cases completed on time	Total cases completed
April	208	77%	271
May	203	78%	258
June	230	81%	285
July	193	88%	219
August	163	89%	184
September	155	73%	213
October	185	86%	216
November	172	83%	206
December	157	87%	180
January	72	97%	74
February	138	97%	142
March	200	90%	223

2020/2021	Total on time	% cases completed on time	Total cases completed
April	205	90%	229
May	163	87%	187
June	213	92%	232
July	179	86%	208
August	209	88%	238
September	202	83%	242
October	241	91%	264
November	225	95%	238
December	194	94%	206
January	40	100%	40
February	164	98%	168
March	214	87%	247

2021/2022	Total on time	% cases completed on time	Total cases completed
April	282	88%	321
May	273	90%	302
June	240	83%	288
July	214	85%	251
August	219	86%	255
September	177	70%	252
October	190	69%	275
November	226	77%	295
December	200	89%	225
January	64	91%	70
February	109	83%	131
March	220	87%	254

2022/2023	Total on time	% cases completed on time	Total cases completed
April	181	76%	237
May	192	85%	225
June	203	91%	224
July	185	95%	194
August	254	93%	274
September	175	95%	184
October	211	97%	218
November	226	90%	251
December	172	92%	186
January	58	95%	61
February	137	93%	147
March	211	88%	241

2023/2024	Total on time	% cases completed on time	Total cases completed
April	143	91%	158
May	267	91%	293
June	94	87%	108
July	149	87%	172
August	204	98%	209
September	197	97%	203
October	314	90%	349
November	216	96%	225
December	145	93%	156

## Traffic Regulation Orders

The average time it takes for standard Traffic Regulation Orders from initiation to implementation, not including those associated with Development Control planning issues and internally generated schemes. (Latest update: December 2023)

2020	Average Weeks to Complete	Number Completed	Outstanding List of Requests	New Requests
January	26	11	91	10
February	39	9	90	11
March	31	10	87	8
April	42	6	70	3
May	27	4	71	6

June	0	0	76	10
July	34	7	57	5
August	30	8	67	11
September	40	9	68	16
October	43	11	72	6
November	45	11	66	7
December	40	7	70	11

<b>2021</b>	<b>Average Weeks to Complete</b>	<b>Number Completed</b>	<b>Outstanding List of Requests</b>	<b>New Requests</b>
January	37	10	60	2
February	41	10	63	6
March	34	9	67	8
April	36	11	66	10
May	37	6	72	10
June	40	11	74	8
July	30	14	70	2
August	32	10	57	5
September	37	15	51	11
October	26	6	58	10
November	23	9	58	12
December	27	6	61	7

<b>2022</b>	<b>Average Weeks to Complete</b>	<b>Number Completed</b>	<b>Outstanding List of Requests</b>	<b>New Requests</b>
January	24	4	54	3
February	22	4	63	4
March	31	5	60	9
April	31	8	59	3
May	31	11	57	2
June	27	12	56	5
July	25	4	55	4
August	36	8	57	4
September	27	10	60	8
October	26	9	57	8
November	32	8	57	11
December	30	4	62	8

<b>2023</b>	<b>Average Weeks to Complete</b>	<b>Number Completed</b>	<b>Outstanding List of Requests</b>	<b>New Requests</b>
January	28	9	71	9
February	39	4	75	10
March	25	4	66	12
April	29	2	44	3
May	26	6	40	8
June	43	8	44	9
July	25	2	53	9
August	25	6	52	7
September	27	2	50	6
October	30	7	47	4
November	29	8	44	12
December	27	7	46	2



## Condition of Roads & Footways - Coarse Visual Inspection (CVI)

Percentage of footways and roads considered for maintenance after the annual CVI programme.

Year	Principal (A-class) Roads	Non-Principal (B- and C-class) Roads	Unclassified Roads	Footways
2010/2011	8.7%	18.9%	15.0%	31.9%
2011/2012	8.5%	17.6%	14.7%	29.7%
2012/2013	7.4%	14.6%	13.5%	29.8%
2013/2014	5.1%	15.1%	14.2%	28.1%
2014/2015	8.7%	20.5%	17.0%	32.8%
2015/2016	6.7%	17.3%	17.0%	31.5%
2016/2017	4.0%	12.3%	18.0%	30.4%
2017/2018	8.4%	14.7%	19.8%	25.0%
2018/2019	13.2%	18.5%	19.9%	28.0%
2019/2020	13.0%	19.0%	21.0%	31.6%
2020/2021	10.0%	18.0%	21.5%	36.1%
2021/2022	9.0%	11.0%	20.0%	40.4%
2022/2023	8.2%	8.0%	17.0%	31.5%

## Condition of Roads & Footways - Surface Condition Assessment of the National Network of Roads (SCANNER) Survey Results

Percentage of footways and roads considered for maintenance after the annual survey results have been received.

Year	Principal Roads %	Principal Roads Target	Non-Principal Roads %	Non-Principal Roads Target	Satisfaction with Roads
2010/2011	5.0%	5.0%	--		42.2%
2011/2012	4.0%	4.0%	8.9%		35.4%
2012/2013	3.8%	4.0%	9.6%		30.9%
2013/2014	3.1%	4.0%	5.9%		30.0%
2014/2015	3.0%	4.0%	4.0%		35.4%
2015/2016	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%		32.0%
2016/2017	3.0%	3.0%	4.0%	4.0%	31.7%
2017/2018	3.0%	3.0%	4.0%	4.0%	33.1%
2018/2019	3.0%	3.0%	4.0%	4.0%	24.0%
2019/2020	4.0%	3.0%	4.0%	4.0%	31.0%
2020/2021	5.0%	3.0%	5.0%	4.0%	33.0%
2021/2022	4.5%	3.0%	3.7%	4.0%	37.0%
2022/2023	2.9%	3.0%	2.9%	4.0%	35.0%

Each year's out-turn is the percentage of Viewpoint panel members who state they are satisfied or very satisfied with the condition of the county's roads. The 2022/2023 survey took place from 16<sup>th</sup> May to 12<sup>th</sup> June 2022, with 1,912 responses being received in respect of the question "How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with each of the following services provided or supported by Worcestershire County Council? - Keeping public roads in a reasonable condition." There were 1,984 responses to the equivalent question in the 2021/2022 survey.

## Public Enquiries (PEMs)

### Percentage completed within 28 days

Latest update: November 2023

	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024
April	76%	87%	71%	76%	93%	89%	86%	83%
May	45%	83%	75%	81%	88%	80%	88%	88%
June	63%	82%	77%	80%	86%	84%	89%	86%
July	77%	82%	78%	78%	85%	82%	88%	87%
August	73%	78%	81%	76%	78%	79%	84%	87%
September	72%	78%	81%	79%	83%	86%	81%	88%
October	83%	84%	85%	78%	88%	84%	87%	87%
November	82%	81%	89%	69%	90%	91%	90%	90%
December	77%	84%	83%	69%	86%	84%	88%	
January	83%	79%	84%	76%	86%	93%	87%	
February	83%	78%	86%	78%	84%	89%	93%	
March	81%	78%	86%	85%	80%	90%	88%	

## Public Enquiries (PEMs) Received in Each Month

Latest update: December 2023

2019/2020	Received	Average per Day
April	1,501	50
May	1,614	52
June	2,160	72
July	2,112	68
August	1,801	58
September	1,991	66
October	2,188	71
November	2,506	84
December	1,892	61
January	2,605	84
February	3,185	110
March	1,509	49
<b>Totals</b>	<b>25,064</b>	<b>68</b>

2019/2020	Received	Average per Day
Quarter 1	5,275	58
Quarter 2	5,904	64
Quarter 3	6,586	72
Quarter 4	7,299	80
<b>Totals</b>	<b>25,064</b>	<b>68</b>

2020/2021	Received	Average per Day
April	596	20
May	925	30
June	1,638	55
July	1,572	51
August	1,808	58
September	1,652	55
October	1,653	53
November	1,337	45
December	1,674	54
January	2,478	80
February	2,314	83
March	1,956	63
<b>Totals</b>	<b>19,603</b>	<b>54</b>

2020/2021	Received	Average per Day
Quarter 1	3,159	35
Quarter 2	5,032	55
Quarter 3	4,664	51
Quarter 4	6,748	75
<b>Totals</b>	<b>19,603</b>	<b>54</b>

2021/2022	Received	Average per Day
April	1,426	48
May	1,917	62
June	2,097	70
July	2,107	68
August	1,811	58
September	1,901	63
October	1,884	61
November	1,743	58
December	1,478	48
January	1,699	55
February	2,023	72
March	1,764	57
<b>Totals</b>	<b>21,850</b>	<b>60</b>

<b>2021/2022</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Average per Day</b>
Quarter 1	5,440	60
Quarter 2	5,819	63
Quarter 3	5,105	55
Quarter 4	5,486	61
<b>Totals</b>	<b>21,850</b>	<b>60</b>

<b>2022/2023</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Average per Day</b>
April	1,311	44
May	1,694	55
June	1,458	49
July	1,519	49
August	1,430	46
September	1,314	44
October	1,380	45
November	1,874	62
December	1,199	39
January	2,100	68
February	1,314	47
March	1,957	63
<b>Totals</b>	<b>18,550</b>	<b>51</b>

<b>2022/2023</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Average per Day</b>
Quarter 1	4,463	49
Quarter 2	4,263	46
Quarter 3	4,453	48
Quarter 4	5,371	60
<b>Totals</b>	<b>18,550</b>	<b>51</b>

<b>2023/2024</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Average per Day</b>
April	1,731	58
May	1,837	59
June	2,043	68
July	2,041	66
August	1,591	51
September	1,484	49
October	2,064	67
November	1,394	46

December	1,703	55
<b>Totals</b>	<b>15,888</b>	<b>58</b>

<b>2023/2024</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Average per Day</b>
Quarter 1	5,611	62
Quarter 2	5,116	56
Quarter 3	5,161	56
<b>Totals</b>	<b>15,888</b>	<b>58</b>

### Public Enquiries (PEMs) Outstanding

Total outstanding at the end of each month and each financial-year quarter-end (Latest update: December 2023)

<b>Month</b>	<b>2019/2020</b>	<b>2020/2021</b>	<b>2021/2022</b>	<b>2022/2023</b>	<b>2023/2024</b>
April	1,104	723	856	1,533	1,217
May	1,206	705	1,255	1,556	826
June	1,475	790	1,355	1,484	916
July	1,600	740	1,641	1,611	1,083
August	1,399	968	1,658	1,746	832
September	1,615	882	1,681	1,619	951
October	1,291	683	1,859	1,589	1,183
November	2,019	512	1,736	1,691	657
December	1,900	924	1,759	1,307	759
January	1,935	1,031	1,618	1,438	
February	2,087	1,205	1,839	1,241	
March	1,217	1,041	1,567	1,197	

<b>Quarter</b>	<b>Outstanding at Quarter-End 19/20</b>	<b>Outstanding at Quarter-End 20/21</b>	<b>Outstanding at Quarter-End 20/21</b>	<b>Outstanding at Quarter-End 22/23</b>	<b>Outstanding at Quarter-End 23/24</b>
Quarter 1	1,475	790	1,355	1,484	916
Quarter 2	1,615	882	1,681	1,619	951
Quarter 3	1,900	924	1,759	1,307	759
Quarter 4	1,217	1,041	1,567	1,197	

## Public Enquiries (PEMs) by Subject

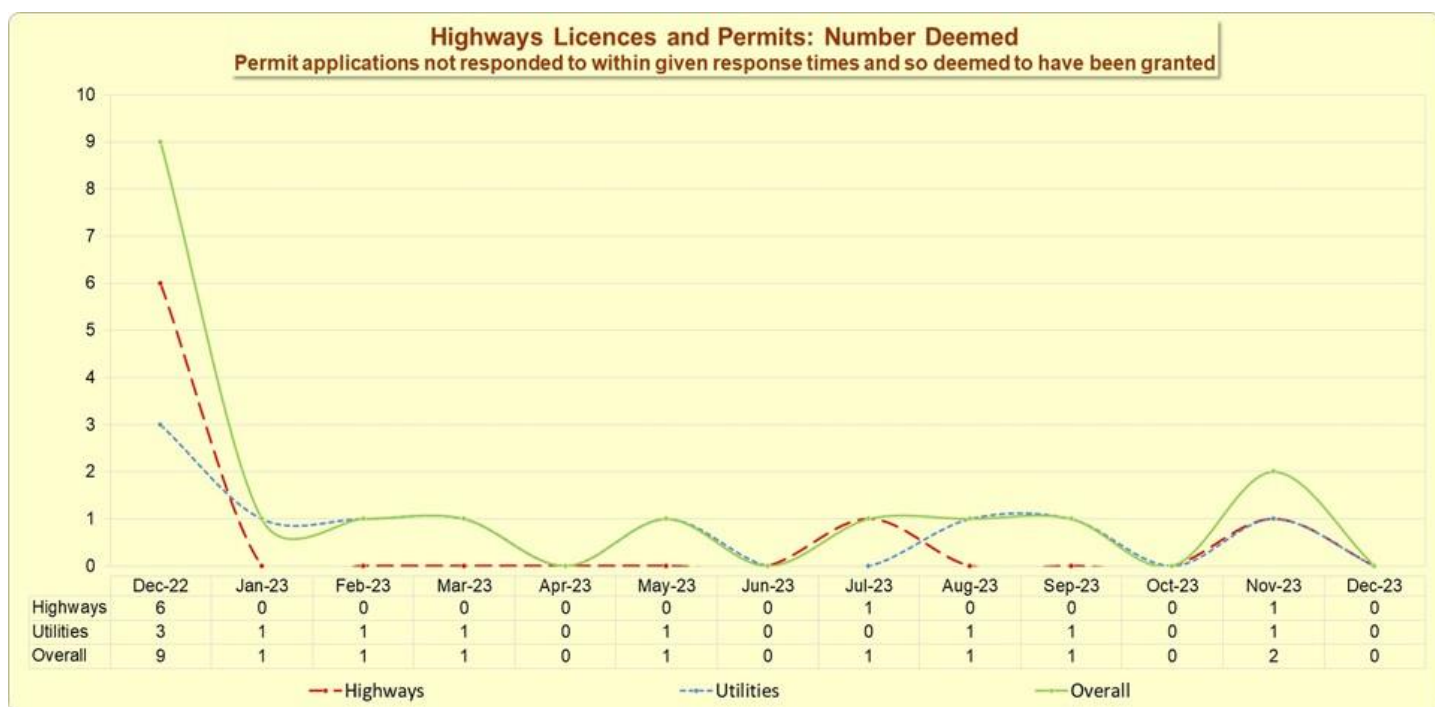
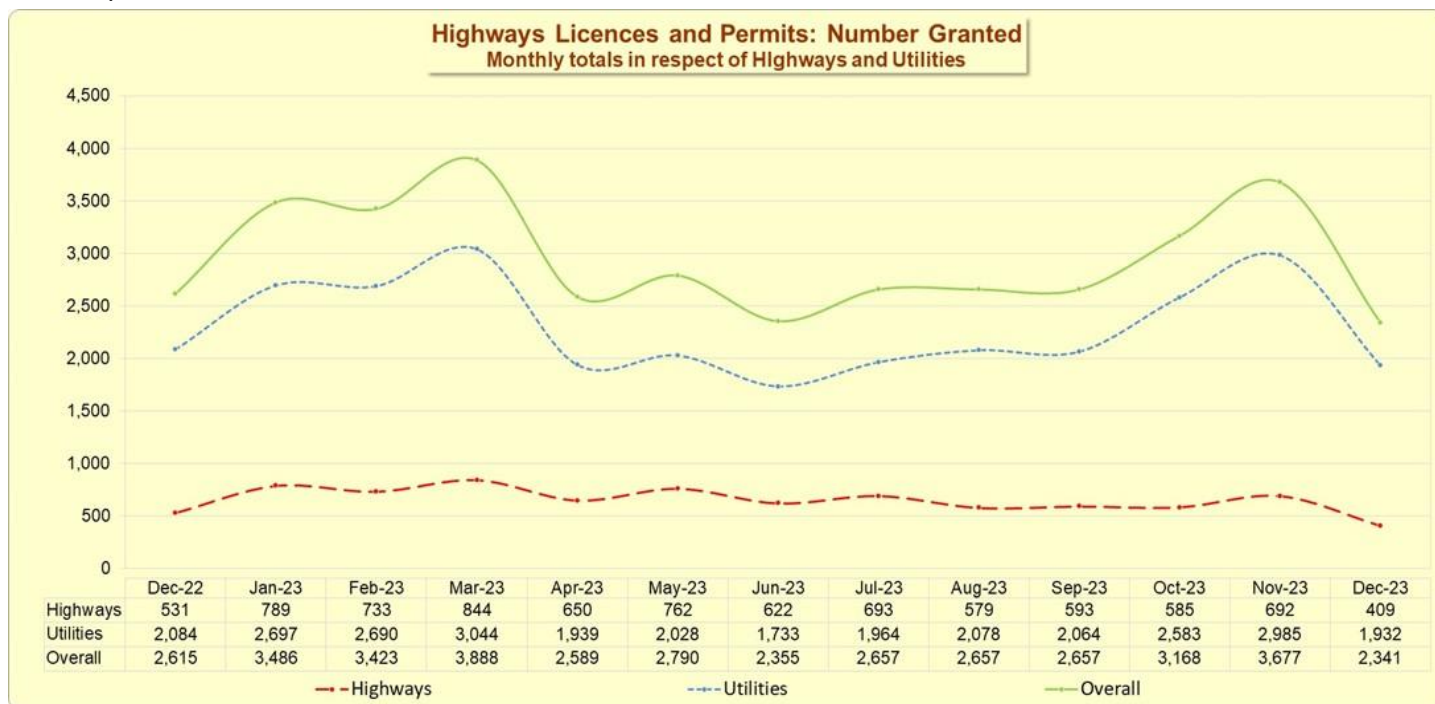
Subject and number of enquiries/reports received from the public (Latest update: December 2023)

Subject of Enquiry	Oct 2023		Nov 2023		Dec 2023		Oct-Dec 2023		Oct-Dec 2022	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Bridgeworks	27	1.3	9	0.6	18	1.1	54	1.0	28	0.6
Drainage	694	33.6	382	27.4	569	33.4	1,645	31.9	1,361	30.6
Existing Signs - Unlit	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Flooding	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Fences and Furniture	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Grass Cutting / Verges	259	12.5	180	12.9	234	13.7	673	13.0	599	13.5
Grit Bin Service request	17	0.8	17	1.2	15	0.9	49	0.9	118	2.6
Hedge & Trees	39	1.9	17	1.2	7	0.4	0	0.0	2	0.0
Highways Search / Adopted	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Ice Snow and Gritting Requests	0	0.0	2	0.1	6	0.4	8	0.2	35	0.8
Major Highway Projects	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Mud / Hazard on Highway	66	3.2	33	2.4	30	1.8	129	2.5	97	2.2
New Dropped Kerb	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
New Signs and Road Markings	1	0.0	2	0.1	0	0.0	3	0.1	0	0.0
Potholes	273	13.2	217	15.6	309	18.1	799	15.5	663	14.9
Road Works Enquiry	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Roads Footpaths and Cycle Tracks	609	29.5	470	33.7	455	26.7	1,597	30.9	1,320	29.6
Scaffold / Skip Permits / Temporary Road or Lane Closure / Building Materials	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Section 38 / 278 - Development Control	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Speed Limits	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Traffic Calming	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Traffic Regulation Orders	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Traffic Signals - Permanent	41	2.0	34	2.4	35	2.1	110	2.1	99	2.2
Traffic Signals - Temporary	38	1.8	31	2.2	25	1.5	94	1.8	131	2.9
Utility Company Apparatus / Works	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,064</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,394</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,703</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5,161</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,453</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## Streetworks Licences and Permits

Highways and Utilities Permits granted and deemed and summary of inspections.

Latest update: December 2023



Inspections Summary - 2019/2020	Total Category As	Total Category Bs	Total Category Cs	Total Category Ds	Total Permits	Total Defects	Total Inspections
Apr-Jun	1,189	533	792	295	786	430	4,025
Jul-Sep	867	654	604	482	586	1,218	4,411
Oct-Dec	1,054	1,103	1,137	536	734	976	5,540
Jan-Mar	1,263	1,018	1,051	485	932	955	5,704
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,373</b>	<b>3,308</b>	<b>3,584</b>	<b>1,798</b>	<b>3,038</b>	<b>3,579</b>	<b>19,680</b>

Inspections Summary - 2020/2021	Total Category As	Total Category Bs	Total Category Cs	Total Category Ds	Total Permits	Total Defects	Total Inspections
Apr-Jun	1,189	533	792	295	786	430	4,025
Jul-Sep	1,519	1,216	1,536	669	976	850	6,766
Oct-Dec	1,590	1,967	1,797	847	1,142	1,275	8,618
Jan-Mar	1,853	1,638	1,742	1,007	1,163	1,218	8,621
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,151</b>	<b>5,354</b>	<b>5,867</b>	<b>2,818</b>	<b>4,067</b>	<b>3,773</b>	<b>28,030</b>

Inspections Summary - 2021/2022	Total Category As	Total Category Bs	Total Category Cs	Total Category Ds	Total Permits	Total Defects	Total Inspections
Apr-Jun	1,983	1,167	2,147	947	1,432	1,196	8,872
Jul-Sep	2,099	1,555	1,907	1,256	1,607	1,150	9,574
Oct-Dec	2,047	1,596	2,093	1,148	1,613	1,264	9,761
Jan-Mar	2,384	1,238	1,841	1,196	1,758	1,356	9,773
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,513</b>	<b>5,556</b>	<b>7,988</b>	<b>4,547</b>	<b>6,410</b>	<b>4,966</b>	<b>37,980</b>

Inspections Summary - 2022/2023	Total Category As	Total Category Bs	Total Category Cs	Total Category Ds	Total Permits	Total Defects	Total Inspections
Apr-Jun	2,169	2,232	2,677	1,095	1,483	1,800	11,456
Jul-Sep	2,794	2,311	2,101	1,647	1,967	2,021	12,841
Oct-Dec	2,239	2,473	1,611	1,261	1,492	2,183	11,259
Jan-Mar	2,217	2,380	1,634	1,316	1,560	2,178	11,285
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,419</b>	<b>9,396</b>	<b>8,023</b>	<b>5,319</b>	<b>6,502</b>	<b>8,182</b>	<b>46,841</b>

Inspections Summary - 2023/2024	Total Category As	Total Category Bs	Total Category Cs	Total Category Ds	Total Permits	Total Defects	Total Inspections
Apr-Jun	1,667	2,487	1,492	1,088	1,097	1,713	9,544
Jul-Sep	2,204	2,407	1,632	1,228	1,550	1,240	10,261
Oct-Dec	2,600	2,192	1,206	1,430	1,902	1,144	10,474
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,471</b>	<b>7,086</b>	<b>4,330</b>	<b>3,746</b>	<b>4,549</b>	<b>4,097</b>	<b>30,279</b>

For definitions of each of the categories of inspections in the tables, please refer to the glossary, which forms Appendix 1 of this report.



## Street Lighting Energy Consumption

Calendar-month totals of energy used by County Council-owned streetlights and street lighting energy costs (Latest update: December 2023)

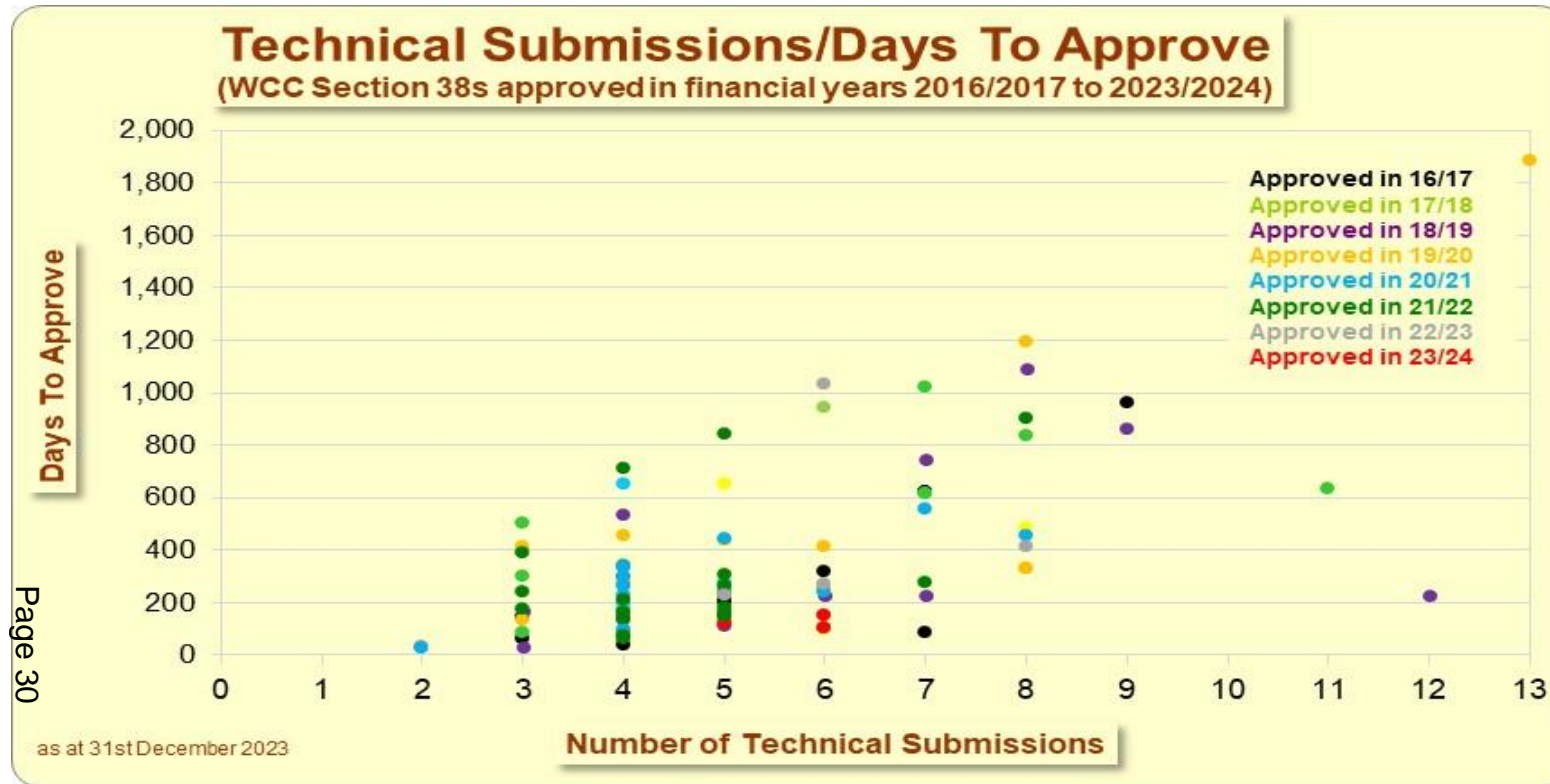
Year	Total (Annual)	Apr kWh	May kWh	Jun kWh	Jul kWh	Aug kWh	Sep kWh	Oct kWh	Nov kWh	Dec kWh	Jan kWh	Feb kWh	Mar kWh
2012/13	22,092,112	1,616,050	1,414,056	1,224,429	1,325,052	1,544,212	1,754,119	2,099,387	2,283,098	2,501,979	2,426,921	1,985,936	1,916,874
2013/14	22,074,495	1,598,089	1,397,565	1,215,750	1,319,907	1,542,914	1,766,583	2,124,409	2,293,261	2,494,577	2,427,819	1,984,869	1,908,753
2014/15	21,323,429	1,579,957	1,377,198	1,184,729	1,276,190	1,505,677	1,703,392	2,051,200	2,228,522	2,409,414	2,326,843	1,886,775	1,793,533
2015/16	20,236,063	1,453,173	1,265,786	1,085,762	1,181,794	1,395,073	1,598,872	1,937,053	2,122,625	2,317,472	2,243,437	1,891,674	1,743,341
2016/17	19,563,456	1,405,973	1,217,648	1,057,199	1,141,479	1,348,397	1,537,804	1,875,059	2,060,268	2,264,689	2,193,015	1,773,924	1,688,001
2017/18	19,052,069	1,365,933	1,189,413	1,037,269	1,130,145	1,333,283	1,529,746	1,853,163	2,006,613	2,177,150	2,098,502	1,697,195	1,633,657
2018/19	18,457,931	1,331,816	1,151,340	993,727	1,082,584	1,281,116	1,448,438	1,760,351	1,942,887	2,141,210	2,063,869	1,674,834	1,585,759
2019/20	18,269,388	1,292,581	1,123,235	983,411	1,063,770	1,252,667	1,436,531	1,749,274	1,924,699	2,105,215	2,047,659	1,719,621	1,570,726
2020/21	16,874,248	1,280,336	1,110,931	980,406	1,058,243	1,235,707	1,328,746	1,592,725	1,732,248	1,880,342	1,811,463	1,465,666	1,397,435
2021/22	15,402,926	1,145,766	1,005,040	875,776	941,971	1,086,596	1,231,355	1,469,940	1,589,187	1,744,917	1,662,161	1,355,068	1,295,150
2022/23	13,212,738	1,049,984	917,278	798,257	864,532	989,861	1,082,772	1,268,447	1,349,675	1,416,450	1,353,721	1,071,957	1,049,805
2023/24	7,546,632	840,739	729,692	637,141	629,885	724,324	819,167	977,253	1,047,404	1,141,028			

## Street Lighting Spend

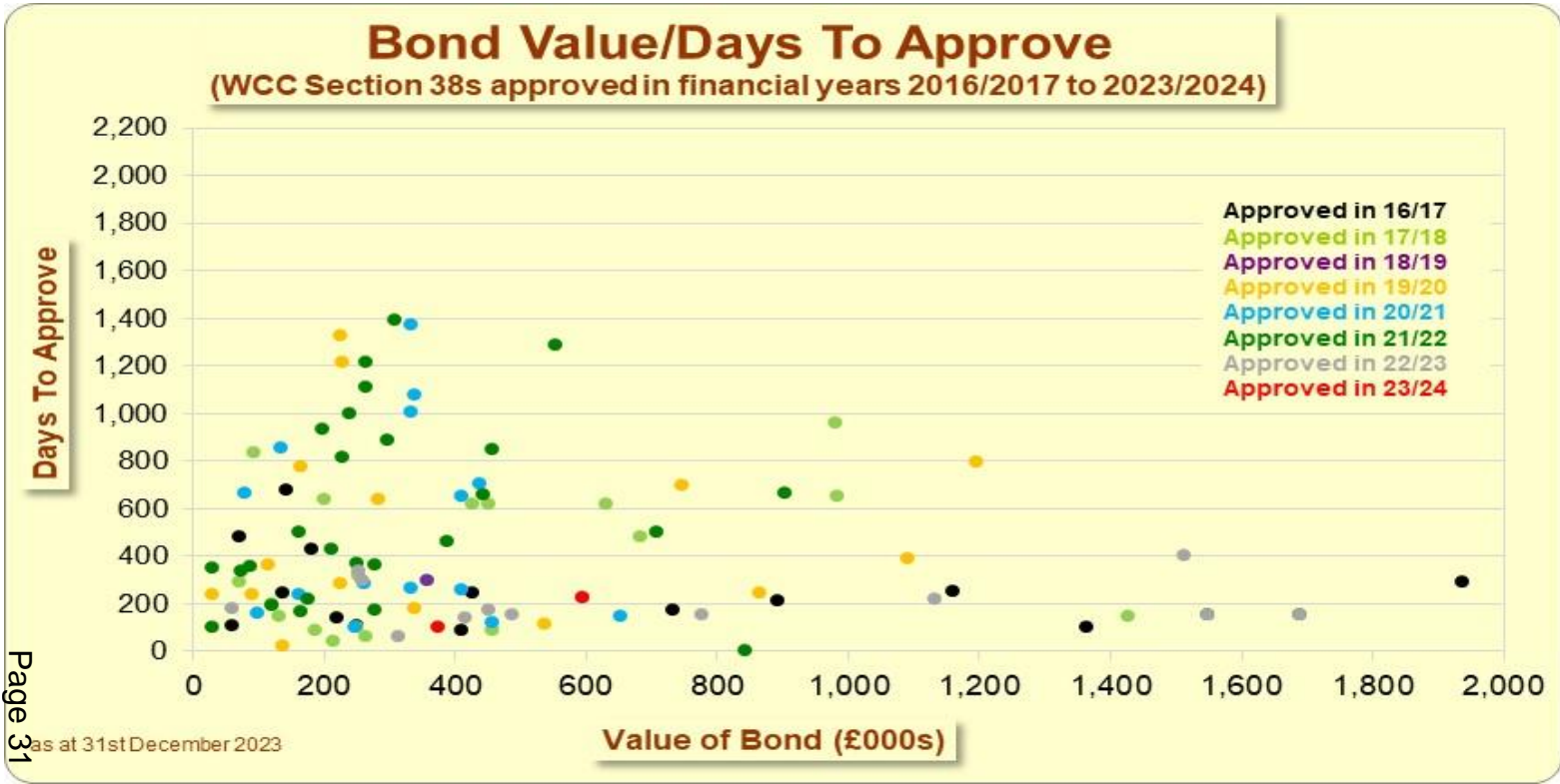
Calendar-month totals (in £s) for County Council-owned streetlights (Latest update: December 2023)

Year	Total (Annual)	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
2016/17	2,209,301	158,488	137,303	119,887	128,167	151,887	173,450	211,570	233,115	259,175	249,768	198,168	188,323
2017/18	2,479,439	179,003	155,878	135,773	147,204	173,898	197,159	238,615	259,312	284,576	276,772	219,691	211,558
2018/19	2,671,459	192,447	166,948	143,841	156,155	184,884	209,593	254,683	281,659	313,081	300,332	240,357	227,479
2019/20	2,884,348	207,374	180,855	158,180	170,150	200,794	225,817	274,910	303,184	334,093	320,764	265,568	242,659
2020/21	2,270,768	172,289	149,496	131,934	142,407	166,351	178,803	214,861	233,094	253,021	243,753	197,224	187,535
2021/22	1,965,695	146,222	128,263	111,777	120,221	138,672	157,139	188,049	202,797	222,669	212,113	172,924	164,849
2022/23	1,753,141	133,644	116,753	101,604	110,039	125,991	137,817	161,450	171,789	185,387	177,177	167,446	164,045
2023/24	1,178,015	131,328	105,503	92,121	99,757	115,157	130,235	155,559	166,726	181,629			

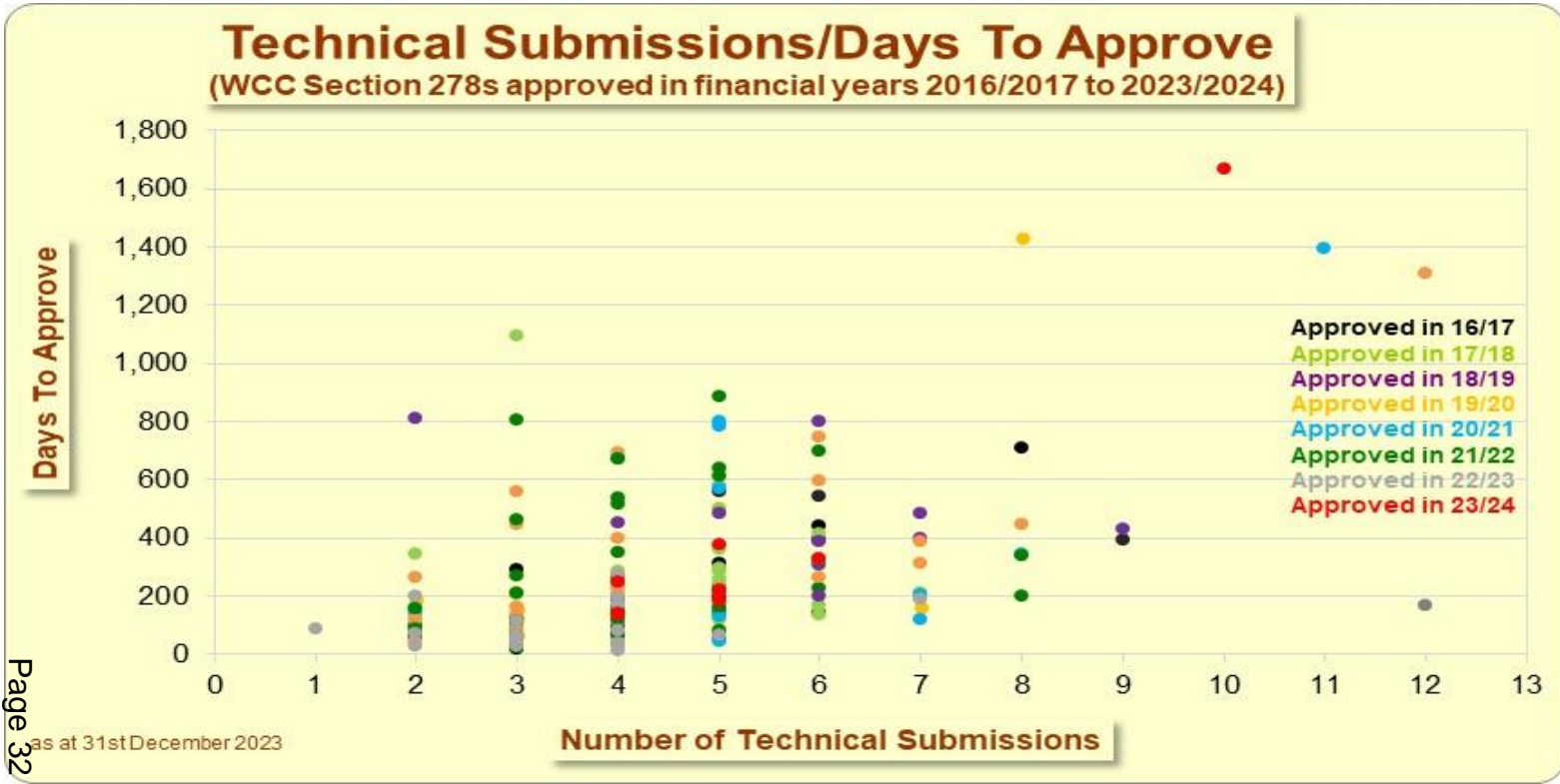
## Development Control Technical Submissions/Days To Approve Graphs



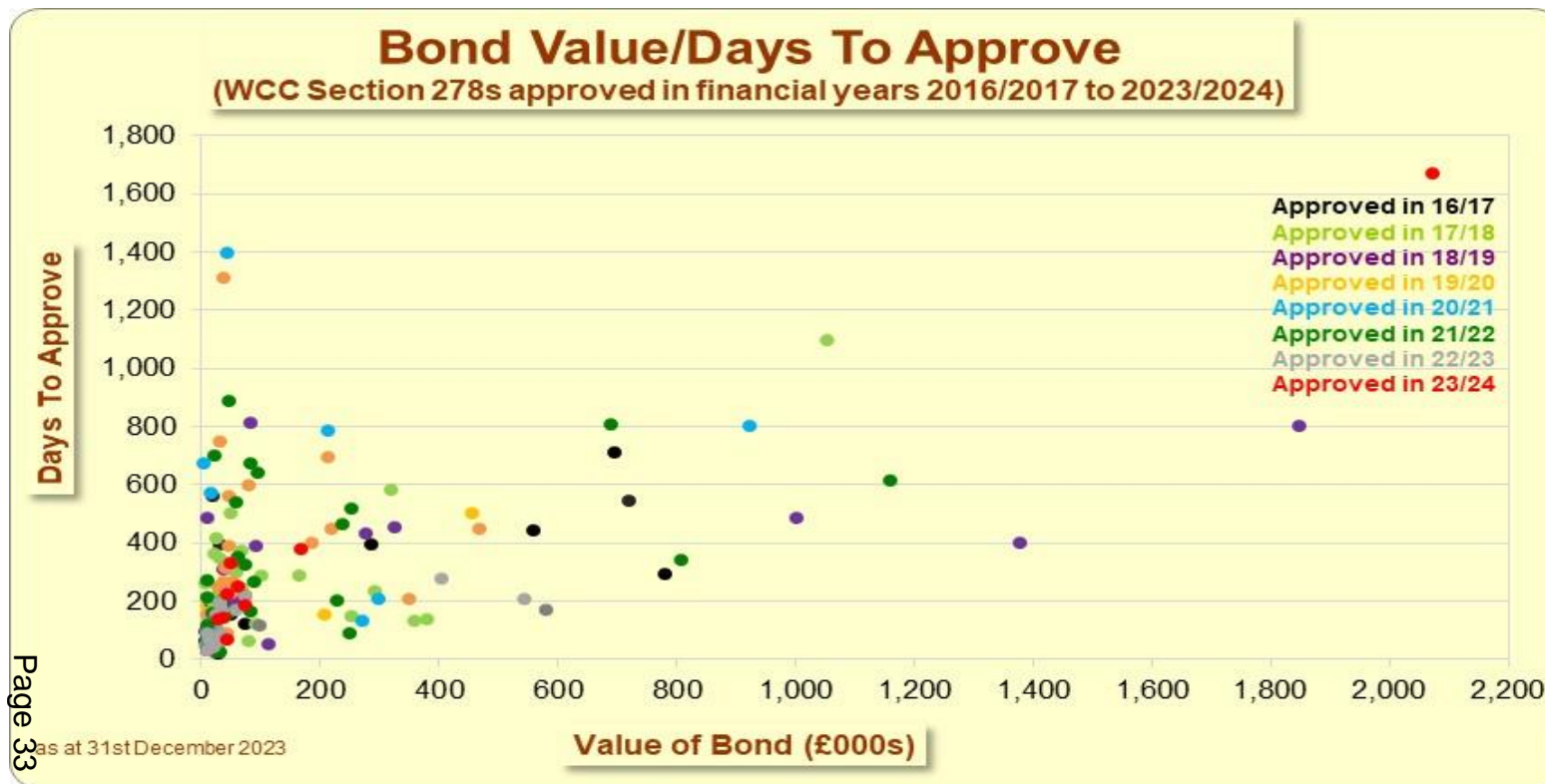
- At the end of December, the average number of days to approve 38s during this financial year was 379.
- Average days-to-approve figures can be significantly affected by one or two schemes that take longer to reach approval, hence the measures put in place to improve monitoring and to address key issues.
- One of the schemes approved in 2023/2024 (Piper Homes's at Hallow) took 1,036 days to reach approval; the others have taken an average of 160 days to attain approval.
- The average number of days to approve the 15 38s approved in the 2022/2023 financial year was 323.
- The average number of days to approve the 27 38s approved in the 2021/2022 financial year was 372.
- The days-to-approve average for the 16 38s approved in the 2020/2021 financial year was 411.
- The 38s approved in 2023/2024 have required on average 6 Technical Submissions to reach approval.
- In 2022/2023, the average was 5 Technical Submissions, although 4 required only 4 or less. The highest number required was 8.
- For those 38s approved in the 2021/2022 financial year, the average number of Technical Submissions was 5. Of those 27 approvals, 14 (51.9%) required 4 or less.



- Up to and including 31<sup>st</sup> December, the average bond value of the 38s approved in the 2023/2024 financial year was £484,500.
- The average bond value of the 38s approved in the 2022/2023 financial year was £848,400.
- The average is inflated by the combined figure of £3,239,000 for phases 2 and 3 of Bellway's residential development at Whitford Road, Bromsgrove. Both schemes approved after 151 days and 5 Technical Submissions.
- The average bond value of schemes approved in 2021/2022 was £595,699. The highest bond value was £1,390,700 for phase 2 of the Lea Castle development in Kidderminster, approved after 308 days and 5 Technical Submissions.



- For schemes submitted since the review of the Development Control function began in January 2021 and attaining approval, the average number of related Technical Submissions is 4 and the days-to-approve average is 146, down from 148 at the end of September 2023 and down from 167 at the start of last April.
- The 27 278s submitted in the three years prior to the review commencing required on average 5 Technical Submissions and 362 days to reach approval.
- The average number of Technical Submissions required for 2023/2024's 12 approved schemes is 5, although the figure is inflated by two Taylor Wimpey schemes (Perryfields/Stourbridge Road in Bromsgrove and Croome) which, respectively, required 10 and 8 submissions. Only one of the other schemes has needed more than 5 submissions to reach approval.
- For any new schemes, regular monitoring is in place to manage the Technical Approval process more effectively. This is coupled with closer liaison and meetings with developers where required.



- The average bond value of the 12 278s attaining approval in the current financial year as at 31<sup>st</sup> December was £249,080.
- One of the schemes reaching approval in the current financial year had a bond value of £2,075,000; the average of the other 11 was £66,490.
- The average bond value of the 21 278s reaching approval in the 2022/2023 financial year was £25,873.
- Of 2022/2023's submissions, the highest Bond Value (£59,900) related to Persimmon Homes's access road scheme for Kidderminster Road, Bewdley.
- The average value for schemes approved in 2021/2022 was £174,443, with the highest bond being £925,000 for Bloor Homes' Martley Road, Lower Broadheath (B4204) roundabout.

## Household Waste

### Waste collected across Worcestershire (kg per head of resident population)

Worcestershire's 2022/2023 figures were confirmed in mid-October 2023. The latest DEFRA WasteDataFlow national data-set (covering the 2022/2023 financial year) was published on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024.

	kg/h Worcestershire	Highest County Council kg/h	Lowest County Council kg/h	% Diverted From Landfill Worcestershire
2011/2012	451.00	497.80	422.70	51.95%
2012/2013	443.70	476.70	424.10	50.73%
2013/2014	456.00	477.70	428.40	50.88%
2014/2015	459.80	497.20	430.80	50.95%
2015/2016	469.66	497.79	421.65	50.55%
2016/2017	477.07	493.40	418.80	68.80%
2017/2018	458.35	481.20	416.13	88.20%
2018/2019	459.15	477.70	406.00	86.98%
2019/2020	456.67	470.80	401.13	89.65%
2020/2021	473.30	494.40	422.20	91.62%
2021/2022	469.50	489.10	412.90	87.20%
2022/2023	429.89	466.00	382.00	87.30%

The 2022/2023 financial year was the second in succession in which the English County Council Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) with the lowest waste-collected figure was Oxfordshire (2020/2021: Hampshire). The highest County Council WDA figure of 2022/2023 was Cumbria's (2020/2021 and 2021/2022: North Yorkshire).

### Municipal waste sent to landfill and waste sent for re-use, recycling or composting

Worcestershire's 2022/2023 figures were confirmed in mid-October 2023. The percentage of municipal waste sent to landfill has increased by 4.7 percentage points when compared to 2020/2021's figure. This is mainly due to the increase in waste tonnages handled by the County Council following the COVID-19 pandemic and residents working from home.

Financial Year	% Municipal Waste Landfilled	% Household Waste Re-Used, Recycled or Composted
2013/2014	49.1	40.9
2014/2015	49.1	40.8
2015/2016	47.6	41.4
2016/2017	31.2	42.7
2017/2018	11.8	42.9

Financial Year	% Municipal Waste Landfilled	% Household Waste Re-Used, Recycled or Composted
2018/2019	12.4	43.3
2019/2020	9.9	43.6
2020/2021	8.0	43.3
2021/2022	12.8	42.4
2022/2023	12.7	42.1

## Table and graph showing the percentage for each method ('route') of disposal, 2000/2001 to 2021/2022

Percentages for 2022/2023 to be confirmed as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

Disposal Method/Route	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011
Landfill	87.21%	85.26%	83.66%	73.55%	67.88%	65.58%	59.73%	55.62%	50.79%	49.66%	50.64%
Recovery	0.00%	0.00%	0.06%	3.11%	3.06%	3.10%	6.43%	6.47%	8.10%	8.50%	5.03%
Recycling and Composting	12.79%	14.74%	16.28%	23.34%	29.06%	31.31%	33.84%	37.91%	41.11%	41.85%	44.33%
Reuse	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Disposal Method/Route	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022
Landfill	50.10%	51.28%	51.16%	50.84%	49.61%	38.04%	16.25%	12.53%	19.94%	11.06%	13.77%
Recovery	4.73%	3.77%	5.37%	6.06%	6.58%	17.89%	41.67%	44.97%	37.46%	47.71%	42.29%
Recycling and Composting	45.17%	44.95%	43.47%	43.10%	43.80%	44.05%	42.35%	42.48%	42.59%	41.22%	43.93%
Reuse	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%



## Worcestershire Greenhouse Gas Emissions – kilotonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions estimates 2005-2021

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy - UK Local Authority and Regional Carbon Dioxide Emissions National Statistics (Latest update: June 2023 for calendar years 2005 to 2021)

Year	Industrial	Commercial	Domestic	Public Sector	Transport	Land use, land-use change, and forestry	Agriculture	Waste Management	Total	Worcs. per capita emissions	England per capita emissions
2005	729.1	478.1	1,385.8	192.5	1,749.1	-84.3	--	--	4,450.3	8.3	8.6
2006	751.7	522.9	1,399.8	189.9	1,758.4	-85.4	--	--	4,537.3	8.4	8.5
2007	720.6	490.7	1,352.5	176.8	1,774.1	-90.7	--	--	4,424.1	8.2	8.2
2008	667.3	480.9	1,349.9	166.3	1,708.0	-97.1	--	--	4,275.3	7.9	7.9
2009	557.4	400.0	1,224.2	141.8	1,672.8	-96.7	--	--	3,899.5	7.2	7.1
2010	627.5	419.1	1,318.4	152.8	1,657.6	-97.4	--	--	4,078.1	7.4	7.3
2011	563.9	396.0	1,142.7	140.9	1,613.4	-100.7	--	--	3,756.3	6.8	6.6
2012	574.8	413.5	1,225.0	145.8	1,558.4	-98.0	--	--	3,819.5	6.9	6.9
2013	584.9	399.1	1,193.9	144.6	1,570.3	-102.7	--	--	3,790.1	6.8	6.7
2014	547.9	342.0	1,015.2	124.3	1,601.5	-101.8	--	--	3,529.1	6.3	6.1
2015	510.4	309.6	981.4	112.9	1,643.0	-106.0	--	--	3,451.2	6.1	5.8
2016	465.6	271.8	935.9	98.7	1,680.5	-99.5	--	--	3,353.2	5.9	5.4
2017	489.4	207.1	884.3	110.6	1,665.0	-102.9	--	--	3,253.5	5.7	5.2
2018	540.6	132.8	867.0	114.6	1,615.4	-102.3	103.0	7.4	3,278.5	5.5	5.1
2019	481.7	117.7	833.8	114.9	1,595.3	-104.5	77.1	9.0	3,124.9	5.2	4.8
2020	431.8	86.3	816.6	114.2	1,275.5	-104.3	73.2	8.1	2,701.4	4.5	4.3
2021	513.9	96.5	841.2	127.8	1,456.6	-103.8	81.1	7.5	3,020.8	5.0	4.6



## Worcestershire Greenhouse Gas Emissions – kilotonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions estimates 2005-2021 - Scope of Influence

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy - UK Local Authority and Regional Carbon Dioxide Emissions National Statistics (Latest update: June 2023 for calendar years 2005 to 2021. Next update due mid-2024 to include 2022's figures. Totals exclude large industrial sites, railways, motorways, and land-use).

Year	Industrial	Commercial	Domestic	Public Sector	Transport	Agriculture	Waste Management	Total	Worcs. per capita emissions	England per capita emissions
2005	697.8	478.1	1,385.8	192.5	1,054.0	75.7	10.5	3,894.3	7.1	7.2
2006	719.1	522.9	1,399.8	189.9	1,047.1	81.9	7.8	3,968.5	7.2	7.1
2007	688.1	490.7	1,352.5	176.8	1,062.2	81.0	8.3	3,859.7	6.9	6.9
2008	634.1	480.9	1,349.9	166.3	1,035.5	88.8	8.3	3,763.8	6.7	6.7
2009	546.6	400.0	1,224.2	141.8	1,007.5	78.6	8.5	3,407.2	6.1	6.1
2010	615.9	419.1	1,318.4	152.8	996.1	76.8	8.4	3,587.4	6.4	6.3
2011	554.8	396.0	1,142.7	140.9	971.0	68.7	7.8	3,282.0	5.8	5.7
2012	566.1	413.5	1,225.0	145.8	941.5	78.2	7.2	3,377.3	5.9	5.9
2013	575.1	399.1	1,193.9	144.6	929.6	70.4	7.6	3,320.4	5.8	5.7
2014	535.4	342.0	1,015.2	124.3	949.0	67.9	8.1	3,041.9	5.3	5.1
2015	497.0	309.6	981.4	112.9	974.3	71.5	7.1	2,953.6	5.1	4.9
2016	452.9	271.8	935.9	98.7	1,000.2	65.5	7.9	2,833.0	4.8	4.6
2017	471.7	207.1	884.3	110.6	998.2	70.6	8.0	2,750.4	4.6	4.4
2018	521.1	132.8	867.0	114.6	982.1	93.2	7.4	2,718.3	4.5	4.3
2019	464.7	117.7	833.8	114.9	956.0	66.2	9.0	2,562.2	4.2	4.0
2020	418.9	86.3	816.6	114.2	769.7	62.5	8.1	2,276.3	3.8	3.6
2021	497.4	96.5	841.2	127.8	861.9	69.8	7.5	2,502.0	4.1	3.9

## Worcestershire County Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Scope (Type of Activity)

Latest update: September 2023.

Emissions Category (please see notes for details)	2009/2010 (baseline)	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2022/2023 % +/- 2021/2022	2022/2023 % +/- 2009/2010
Scope 1	4,598	2,668	2,467	2,480	2,300	2,008	-12.7	-56.3
Scope 2	16,672	7,304	6,459	0	0	0	0.0	-100.0
Scope 3	55,266	38,256	37,017	38,497	38,405	40,357	+5.1	-27.0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>76,536</b>	<b>49,228</b>	<b>45,943</b>	<b>40,977</b>	<b>40,705</b>	<b>42,365</b>	<b>+4.1</b>	<b>-44.6</b>

Scope 1: Natural gas use in WCC buildings (excluding schools); fuel use in WCC vehicle fleet; residual fuel use (e.g. burning oil, LPG, etc.) consumed at WCC sites (excluding schools).

Scope 2: Indirect emissions - electricity use in WCC buildings (excluding schools) and street lighting (grid generation). Since 2020, the County Council has purchased Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin (REGO) accredited green electricity for all corporate sites and street lighting. All scope 2 emissions associated with the generation of REGO-accredited electricity can be classed as a net benefit, or carbon offset, for reporting purposes.

Scope 3: Other indirect emissions, e.g. electricity use in WCC buildings (excluding schools) and street lighting (grid transmission and distribution); staff mileage travelled by WCC staff for business purposes; electricity and gas consumption in buildings operated by the main out-sourced contractors for Waste Management and Highways services; fleet and staff mileage undertaken by main out-sourced contractors for Waste Management and Highways services on behalf of WCC; petrol and diesel consumption by contracted fleet vehicles; emissions from municipal waste disposal.

Local authorities have removed schools' emissions from their Greenhouse Gas reporting. In Worcestershire, an exercise was undertaken in 2019 to remove schools' emissions from the 2009/2010 data. This was done to ensure the baseline total against which progress is being monitored was calculated using the same methodology as has been applied for all years from 2018/2019.

### Worcestershire County Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Share of Annual Corporate Emissions by Activity

Latest update: September 2023 for 2022/2023

Share of Annual Corporate Emissions by Activity	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Waste Disposal	67%	69%	72%	74%	78%
Severn Waste	4%	5%	4%	5%	9%
Buildings - Gas	3%	3%	4%	3%	3%
Ringway	4%	3%	4%	3%	3%
Fleet	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%
Staff Mileage	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%
Contract Fleet	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Buildings - Electricity	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%
Street Lighting	12%	11%	10%	8%	0%
Residual Fuels	0%	0.4%	0%	0%	0%
Staff Air Travel	0%	0.1%	0%	0%	0%

# Countryside Access – Reports and Resolutions Summary 2023/2024

Latest update: December 2023

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
<b>Outstanding Public Rights of Way (PROW) reports</b>	5,802 (4,896 defects & 906 obstructions)	5,865 (4,959 defects & 906 obstructions)	5,939 (5,029 defects & 910 obstructions)	5,956 (5,041 defects & 915 obstructions)	6,008 (5,080 defects & 928 obstructions)	6,007 (5,070 defects & 937 obstructions)	6,036 (5,107 defects & 929 obstructions)	6,008 (5,073 defects & 935 obstructions)	6,033 (5,093 defects & 940 obstructions)			
<b>New reports received in month</b>	150 (132 defects & 18 obstructions)	182 (159 defects and 23 obstructions)	282 (257 defects & 25 obstructions)	228 (211 defects & 17 obstructions)	261 (233 defects & 28 obstructions)	149 (129 defects & 20 obstructions)	169 (154 defects & 15 obstructions)	139 (121 defects & 18 obstructions)	78 (64 defects & 14 obstructions)			
<b>Reports resolved in month</b>	132 (109 defects & 23 obstructions)	135 (108 defects & 27 obstructions)	199 (176 defects & 23 obstructions)	211 (196 defects & 15 obstructions)	177 (162 defects & 15 obstructions)	177 (163 defects & 14 obstructions)	109 (88 defects & 21 obstructions)	154 (140 defects & 14 obstructions)	84 (70 defects & 14 obstructions)			
<b>Reports resolved by volunteers (Cumulative, for this financial year)</b>	18	32	48	69	85	105	114	142	145			
<b>New Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs) submitted in month</b>	0	1	1	0	2	3	1	0	0			
<b>DMMOs completed in month</b>	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0			
<b>DMMOs outstanding on the register</b>	80	80	80	80	80	79	82	82	82			
<b>Public Path Orders (PPOs) being progressed</b>						21			18			

**Outstanding Public Rights of Way (PROW) reports:** The bulk of outstanding reports are of low priority (such as missing signs and waymarking). At the end of December, the total of outstanding reports was 6,033, up 68 (0.4%) compared with the total at the end of the previous quarter (6,007) and 319 (5.6%) higher than total of 5,714 at the end of December 2022. Remedial work continues and additional contractor capacity has been taken on.

**New reports received each month:** The number received remains very seasonal, with the bulk of new reports being in early-/mid-summer. Other variations are normally due to submission of surveys from The Ramblers. The October-to-December reports-received total was 386, down 252 (39.5%) compared with the previous quarter's 638 and 107 (21.7%) less than the October-to-December 2022 total of 493. The overall total for the 2022/2023 financial year was 2,519; in 2021/2022, it was 3,280. At the end of the third quarter of the current financial year, the total was 1,638.

**Reports resolved each month:** The number of reports resolved per month is more consistent throughout the year. Variations tend to be due to the completion of large programmes of planned work (such as those concerning signage) and shortfalls in capacity due to vacancies, annual leave, and sickness absence. The number resolved in the October-to-December quarter was 347, down 218 (38.6%) compared with the July-to-September tally (565) and 205 (37.1%) less than the number resolved in the October-to-December quarter of 2022 (552). The total resolved between April and December 2023 was 1,378; the total for the whole of the 2022/2023 financial year was 2,513; in 2021/2022 it was 3,719.

**Reports resolved by Volunteers (Cumulative, for this financial year):** This is the number of defects resolved by volunteers, both individuals and groups. The true figure is higher as much of their work is not recorded, but are instead identified and resolved on-site when out on the network. After three quarters of the current financial year, the resolutions-by-volunteers total was 145, equivalent to 62.5% of 2022/2023's year-end total of 232.

**New Volunteer Groups:** There are 16 groups across the County. This doesn't indicate how active the groups are (some do work several times a month, others only very occasionally). Reports resolved by volunteers provides a much better gauge of the success of our volunteer scheme.

**New Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs) submitted by month:** This includes any applications submitted, but still awaiting validation. Applications will not be added to the register of applications until they have been validated in line with legislation.

**DMMOs completed by month:** This includes all DMMOs for which a determination not to make an Order has been made or, alternatively, the determination has been made to make the Order, which has then been made and confirmed either by WCC or (if required) by the Secretary of State's inspector.

**Cumulative number of outstanding DMMOs:** This includes all DMMOs currently on the register, whether under investigation or awaiting investigation. It will not include any applications received but still being validated.

**Public Path Orders (PPOs) being progressed:** PPOs are discretionary – Worcestershire County Council has a *power* to process such Orders, but not a *duty* (except for some rare cases). However, the County Council may choose to process PPOs where they meet the legal tests, as they often protect the network, improve accessibility, and benefit users and landowners alike. Further information about PPOs is provided in the Glossary. The figures shown are the number being processed on the last day of the quarter.

## Countryside Access – Reports and Resolutions Summary 2022/2023

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
<b>Outstanding Public Rights of Way (PROW) reports</b>	5,696 (4,841 defects & 855 obstructions)	5,750 (4,892 defects & 858 obstructions)	5,835 (4,978 defects & 857 obstructions)	5,783 (4,927 defects & 856 obstructions)	5,768 (4,903 defects & 865 obstructions)	5,767 (4,896 defects & 871 obstructions)	5,759 (4,881 defects & 878 obstructions)	5,792 (4,865 defects & 927 obstructions)	5,714 (4,836 defects & 878 obstructions)	5,707 (4,829 defects & 878 obstructions)	5,748 (4,853 defects & 895 obstructions)	5,786 (4,882 defects & 904 obstructions)
<b>New reports received in month</b>	233 (203 defects & 30 obstructions)	281 (246 defects and 35 obstructions)	247 (220 defects & 27 obstructions)	269 (240 defects & 29 obstructions)	256 (227 defects & 29 obstructions)	217 (187 defects & 30 obstructions)	194 (170 defects & 24 obstructions)	212 (187 defects & 25 obstructions)	87 (76 defects & 11 obstructions)	160 (138 defects & 22 obstructions)	173 (139 defects & 34 obstructions)	190 (161 defects & 29 obstructions)

<b>Reports resolved in month</b>	209 (191 defects & 18 obstructions)	264 (243 defects & 21 obstructions)	195 (169 defects & 26 obstructions)	309 (281 defects & 28 obstructions)	306 (275 defects & 31 obstructions)	202 (184 defects & 18 obstructions)	227 (207 defects & 20 obstructions)	203 (176 defects & 27 obstructions)	122 (107 defects & 15 obstructions)	177 (151 defects & 26 obstructions)	137 (120 defects & 17 obstructions)	162 (139 defects & 23 obstructions)
<b>Reports resolved by volunteers (Cumulative, for this financial year)</b>	29	44	61	103	111	143	150	181	187	207	219	232
<b>New Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs) submitted in month</b>	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
<b>DMMOs completed in month</b>	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
<b>DMMOs outstanding on the register</b>	78	79	79	80	79	80	79	80	79	80	80	80

## Countryside Access – Reports and Resolutions Summary 2021/2022

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
<b>Outstanding Public Rights of Way (PROW) reports</b>	6,205 (5,424 defects & 781 obstructions)	6,190 (5,411 defects & 779 obstructions)	6,384 (5,601 defects & 783 obstructions)	6,372 (5,575 defects & 797 obstructions)	6,378 (5,563 defects & 815 obstructions)	6,296 (5,482 defects & 814 obstructions)	6,232 (5,396 defects & 836 obstructions)	6,119 (5,283 defects & 836 obstructions)	6,016 (5,171 defects & 845 obstructions)	5,844 (5,008 defects & 836 obstructions)	5,816 (4,981 defects & 835 obstructions)	5,674 (4,841 defects & 833 obstructions)
<b>New reports received in month</b>	288 (226 defects & 62 obstructions)	219 (184 defects and 35 obstructions)	388 (359 defects & 29 obstructions)	418 (391 defects & 27 obstructions)	343 (285 defects & 58 obstructions)	319 (280 defects & 39 obstructions)	209 (178 defects & 31 obstructions)	274 (236 defects & 38 obstructions)	154 (130 defects & 24 obstructions)	155 (131 defects & 24 obstructions)	199 (184 defects & 15 obstructions)	314 (289 defects & 25 obstructions)
<b>Reports resolved in month</b>	198 (169 defects & 29 obstructions)	207 (172 defects & 35 obstructions)	246 (214 defects & 32 obstructions)	358 (339 defects & 19 obstructions)	397 (367 defects & 30 obstructions)	394 (356 defects & 38 obstructions)	246 (234 defects & 12 obstructions)	342 (313 defects & 29 obstructions)	321 (299 defects & 22 obstructions)	265 (237 defects & 28 obstructions)	277 (262 defects & 15 obstructions)	467 (440 defects & 27 obstructions)

<b>Reports resolved by volunteers (Cumulative)</b>	10	33	60	88	99	146	173	199	221	240	263	286
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<b>New Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs)</b>	2	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
<b>DMMOs completed in month</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>DMMOs outstanding on the register</b>	68	68	70	72	72	72	74	74	75	75	76	76

## Countryside Access – Reports and Resolutions Summary 2020/2021

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
<b>Outstanding Public Rights of Way (PROW) reports</b>	5,992 (4,964 defects & 628 obstructions)	5,726 (5,068 defects & 658 obstructions)	5,905 (5,249 defects & 656 obstructions)	5,968 (5,306 defects & 662 obstructions)	6,017 (5,355 defects & 662 obstructions)	6,073 (5,388 defects & 685 obstructions)	6,127 (5,427 defects & 700 obstructions)	6,151 (5,430 defects & 721 obstructions)	6,096 (5,386 defects & 710 obstructions)	6,050 (5,329 defects & 721 obstructions)	6,105 (5,389 defects & 716 obstructions)	6,086 (5,342 defects & 744 obstructions)
<b>New reports received in month</b>	176 (110 defects & 66 obstructions)	290 (228 defects and 62 obstructions)	359 (314 defects & 45 obstructions)	293 (253 defects & 40 obstructions)	197 (166 defects & 31 obstructions)	231 (185 defects & 46 obstructions)	212 (172 defects & 40 obstructions)	231 (172 defects & 59 obstructions)	195 (164 defects & 31 obstructions)	212 (183 defects & 29 obstructions)	245 (207 defects & 38 obstructions)	330 (276 defects & 54 obstructions)
<b>Reports resolved in month</b>	45 (34 defects & 11 obstructions)	119 (93 defects & 26 obstructions)	227 (188 defects & 39 obstructions)	194 (163 defects & 31 obstructions)	139 (110 defects & 29 obstructions)	157 (137 defects & 20 obstructions)	164 (135 defects & 29 obstructions)	220 (182 defects & 38 obstructions)	223 (183 defects & 40 obstructions)	256 (238 defects & 18 obstructions)	193 (165 defects & 28 obstructions)	326 (290 defects & 36 obstructions)
<b>Reports resolved by volunteers (Cumulative)</b>	10	26	34	42	46	59	64	106	118	131	152	166
<b>New Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs)</b>	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

<b>DMMOs completed in month</b>	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>DMMOs outstanding on the register</b>	68	68	67	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68

## Countryside Access – Reports and Resolutions Summary 2019/2020

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
<b>Outstanding Public Rights of Way (PROW) reports</b>	5,107 (4,624 defects & 483 obstructions)	5,133 (4,650 defects & 483 obstructions)	5,223 (4,733 defects & 490 obstructions)	5,341 (4,844 defects & 497 obstructions)	5,403 (4,894 defects & 509 obstructions)	5,436 (4,911 defects & 525 obstructions)	5,416 (4,888 defects & 528 obstructions)	5,307 (4,778 defects & 529 obstructions)	5,288 (4,761 defects & 527 obstructions)	5,215 (4,775 defects & 540 obstructions)	5,390 (4,840 defects & 550 obstructions)	5,446 (4,875 defects & 571 obstructions)
<b>New reports received in month</b>	253 (220 defects & 33 obstructions)	153 (138 defects and 15 obstructions)	202 (190 defects & 12 obstructions)	332 (299 defects & 33 obstructions)	240 (212 defects & 18 obstructions)	193 (165 defects & 28 obstructions)	199 (178 defects & 21 obstructions)	123 (107 defects & 16 obstructions)	119 (111 defects & 8 obstructions)	169 (150 defects & 19 obstructions)	165 (151 defects & 14 obstructions)	143 (117 defects & 26 obstructions)
<b>Reports resolved in month</b>	123 (113 defects & 10 obstructions)	143 (125 defects & 18 obstructions)	120 (112 defects & 8 obstructions)	188 (170 defects & 18 obstructions)	173 (164 defects & 9 obstructions)	166 (153 defects & 13 obstructions)	233 (216 defects & 17 obstructions)	224 (211 defects & 13 obstructions)	147 (134 defects & 13 obstructions)	152 (141 defects & 11 obstructions)	94 (90 defects & 4 obstructions)	84 (79 defects & 5 obstructions)
<b>Reports resolved by volunteers (Cumulative)</b>	36	53	99	136	161	186	211	234	275	286	312	319

## Appendix 1 - Glossary of Abbreviations and Technical Definitions

Term	Abbreviation	Description
Category A inspection		Inspections undertaken during street works, carried out against the Department for Transport publication Safety at Street Works and Road Works. Compliance with the document is statutory for street works and became statutory for Works for Road Purposes as of 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2014.
Category B inspection		Inspections undertaken between the date the street work finishes to any time up to six months later.
Category C inspection		Check of street works at the end of 2-year guarantee period.
Category D inspection		Undertaken either at the point defective street works are identified, during remedial works, or once the remedial works have been completed.
Clarification		It may not always be possible to make good a reported highways defect within the specified time frame due to a number of reasons, which require clarification. These will be beyond the County Council's control (e.g. the defect is under a parked vehicle; is inaccessible due to it being within a road closure governed by a utility service; is under flood water or compacted snow; requires a piece of repair equipment that is not a standard stock item or is currently unavailable; is located in a high-speed area, which means a safe repair can only be made outside standard working hours. In all cases, an attempt is made to make safe the issue. The clock on the defect is stopped until the repair(s) can be undertaken. Clarifications are checked every week to ensure they are not left and then never actioned.
Coarse Visual Inspection	CVI	Coarse Visual Inspection (CVI): A CVI Survey provides a visual condition assessment of the highway. It is a simple and efficient survey, providing a reliable method of assessing the 'coarse' condition of a network. Undertaken from a slow-moving vehicle, the survey team use a laptop computer linked to a digital trip meter. As each defect is observed it is recorded for distance, position and extent using a Condition Index (CI) score. There are 4 categories within a CVI, covering surface properties, wearing, structural condition, edging. Each category has a numerical range, which, when combined, gives the overall Condition Index. A higher Index indicates more extensive remedial work is required.
Deemed		A street works permit authority should reply to permit applications within the given response times. If it fails to do so, however, under the terms of the Traffic Management Act 2004, a permit is deemed to be granted in the terms of the application.
Definitive Map Modification Order	DMMO	A legal order that changes the Definitive Map and Statement of public rights of way. A claim can be made to add new public rights of way or to upgrade, downgrade or delete existing routes. There are legal processes that have to be followed when considering whether or not an Order should be made.
Fixed-Penalty Notice	FPN	In this context, this refers to penalties imposed on street works contractors in relation to permissions, timeliness, and quality of work, as set out in the New Road and Street Works Act 1991
Footways - Prestige Walking Zones		Areas with a high proportion of public space with high footfall, often in large retail areas or approaching a transport hub.
Footways - Primary Walking Routes		Busy urban shopping and business areas and main pedestrian routes.
Footways - Secondary Walking Routes		Medium-usage routes through local areas that feed into primary walking routes, local shopping centres, etc.
Footways - Link Footways		In urban areas, these provide connections between local-access urban routes; in rural areas, any busy route.
Footways - Local Access Footways		Low-usage routes, short estate-road pathways, and cul-de-sac walkways.
Footways - Minor Footways		Little-used rural footways serving a very limited number of properties.
Household Waste	HHW	
Household Waste Recycling Centre	HWRC	County Council administers the rubbish tips / household recycling centres provided for residents to recycle and dispose of their household waste. Sites are located in Bromsgrove, Droitwich, Kidderminster, Malvern, Pershore, Redditch, Stourport, Tenbury, Upton, and Worcester (Bilford Road and Hallow Road).



Kilowatt hour	KWh	The kilowatt hour is commonly used as a billing unit for energy delivered by electric utilities. The total energy in kilowatt hours is equal to the power in kilowatts multiplied by the time in hours.
Licences and Permits		Required when undertaking street works on the highway in Worcestershire. Only registered companies can apply for licences and permits on the highway. Applications are required for road closures, footpath closures, speed restrictions, temporary traffic signals, lane closures, diversionary routes, cranes, fencing, hoardings, Mobile Elevated Working Platforms (MEWPs), scaffolding, skips, welfare cabins.
Mobile Elevating Work Platform	MEWP	Mobile Elevating Work Platforms provide safe and quick access to trees and a secure working platform.
New Road and Street Works Act 1991	NRSWA	An Act relating to provision of new roads (including Development Control) and to make provisions with respect to street works
Office for National Statistics	ONS	The executive office of the UK Statistics Authority, a non-ministerial department which reports directly to the UK Parliament. Population and economic data used in the performance indicators is taken from ONS data-sets.
Public Path Order	PPO	As an Order Making Authority, Worcestershire County Council has the power to make, confirm and certify Public Path Orders in accordance with the Highways Act 1980. These orders, once confirmed, have the effect of permanently creating, extinguishing or diverting footpaths, bridleways or restricted byways. Before it decides to make an Order, the County Council has to be satisfied that legal tests relevant to the particular type of Order can be met and is under no obligation to make an Order.
Public Enquiries Management System	PEM	Members of the public are able to use our website to report highways issues on-line via our Public Enquiry Management (PEM) system. This has a tracking facility and allows our Highways and Transport Control Centre to review all requests received each day and determine the most appropriate action. The PEM system allows members of the public to be updated about the progress of their reported issue. As a result of using the system to log and track enquiries, 'PEMs' has become the generally-used term for the enquiries themselves.
Permits		Please see 'Licences'

## Appendix 2 - Traffic Management Act 2004: Application and Response Times

Activity Type	Minimum application periods ahead of proposed start date	Minimum application periods ahead of proposed start date	Minimum period before permit expires for application for variation (including extension)	Response Times for issuing a permit or seeking further information or discussion	Response Times for issuing a permit or seeking further information or discussion	Response times to applications for permit variations
	Application for provisional advance authorisation	Application for permit		Application for provisional advance authorisation	Application for permit	
Major	3 months	10 days	2 days or 20% of the original duration whichever is longest	1 calendar month	5 days	2 days
Standard	n/a	10 days	2 days or 20% of the original duration whichever is longest	n/a	5 days	2 days
Minor	n/a	3 days	2 days or 20% of the original duration whichever is longest	n/a	2 days	2 days

Activity Type	Minimum application periods ahead of proposed start date	Minimum application periods ahead of proposed start date	Minimum period before permit expires for application for variation (including extension)	Response Times for issuing a permit or seeking further information or discussion	Response Times for issuing a permit or seeking further information or discussion	Response times to applications for permit variations
	Application for provisional advance authorisation	Application for permit		Application for provisional advance authorisation	Application for permit	
Immediate	n/a	2 hours after	2 days or 20% of the original duration whichever is longest	n/a	2 days	2 days

### Appendix 3 - Highways Inspections: Categories and Frequencies

Carriageways	Frequency
Strategic Routes	Once a month
Main and Secondary Distributors	Once a month
Link Roads	Every three months
Local Access Roads	Once a year

Footways	Frequency
Prestige Walking Zones	Once a month
Primary Walking Routes	Once a month
Secondary Walking Routes	Every three months
Link Footways	Once a year
Local Access Footways	Once a year

Cycleways	Frequency
Part of carriageway	As per relevant carriageway-category inspection frequency
Remote from carriageway	Every six months
Cycle Trails	Once a year

# Budget Position – Quarter 3 (Period 9)

**Environment Overview and Scrutiny  
Panel**

**14 March 2024**

# Corporate Budget Position – Quarter 3 (Period 9)

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# Key Headlines – 2023/24

- At the end December, our net overspend was at **£19.2m** on a £401m net budget – this was **after** using one off monies from additional income from business rates (£4.1m), £9m additional use of reserves (on top of £5.5m used to balance the budget approved before the start of this year) that were set aside in the budget to manage.

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Our structural deficit (*a budget deficit due to our ongoing expenditure greater than our income*) is **c£35m**.

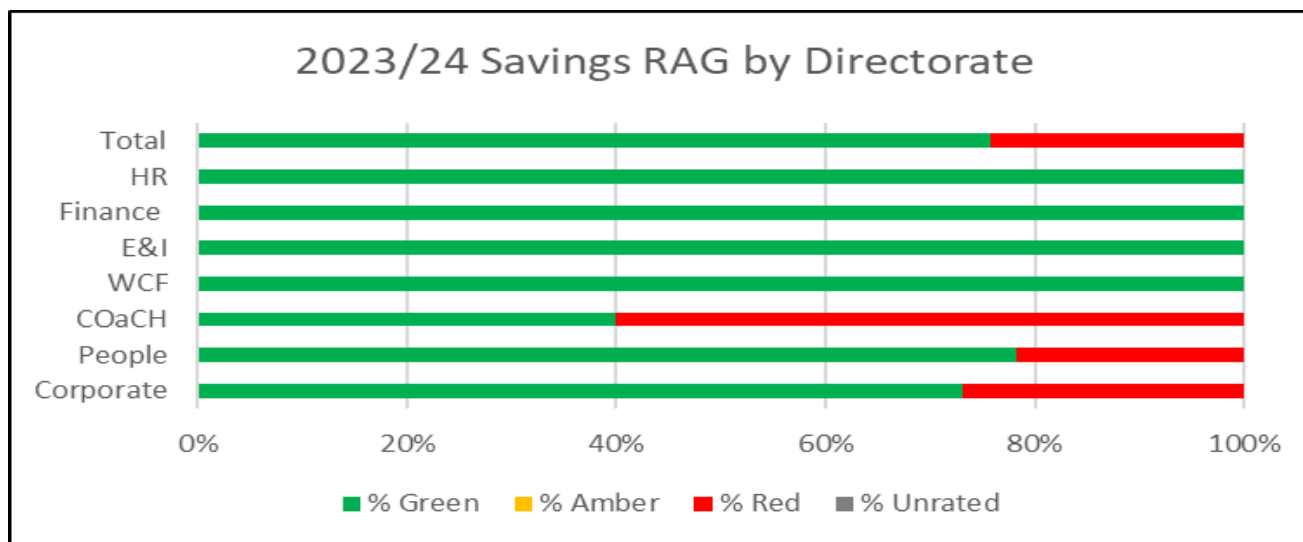
- Our overspend position is not because of poor control, oversight or policy decisions. It is simply an exceptionally large increase in our costs for demanded services, set against our constrained ability to raise additional income.

FY 2023/24 P9			
Service Area	Budget £m	Forecast £m	Variance £m
People – Adults	145.816	151.145	5.329
People – Communities	21.596	22.023	0.427
WCF Contract	90.244	90.244	0.000
Economy & Infrastructure	72.072	72.581	0.509
Home to School Transport	20.759	29.750	8.991
Commercial & Change	10.291	11.586	1.295
Chief Executive / HR / Finance	3.222	3.085	-0.137
Public Health	0.186	0.186	0.000
<b>Total: Service excl DSG</b>	<b>364.186</b>	<b>380.600</b>	<b>16.414</b>
Corporate Items	36.630	33.948	-2.682
Non-assigned items	0.000	0.000	0.000
<b>WCC TOTAL</b>	<b>400.816</b>	<b>414.548</b>	<b>13.732</b>
WCF Company Position	123.284	141.820	18.536
<b>WCF Total</b>	<b>123.284</b>	<b>141.820</b>	<b>18.536</b>
<b>WCC Net Budget</b>	<b>400.816</b>	<b>433.084</b>	<b>32.268</b>
<b>Additional Funding:</b>			
Business Rates			-4.100
Use of Reserves			-9.000
<b>Net WCC &amp; WCF Overspend</b>			<b>19.168</b>

# Savings within the 2023/24 Budget

- £22.4m of savings built into the overall budget
- 76% rated as green i.e., delivered or expected to be fully delivered and 24% rated red where there is significant risk of non-delivery
- £1.6m relate to one-off use of grants, including Public Health, and a further £1.5m are one-off, giving a recurrent pressure from 2024/25 of £3.1m which has been built into the 2024/25 base budget

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- Current value of the Capital Programme for 2023/24 to 2026/27, following approval by Full Council, totals £390m
- 54% is funded via external sources, namely developer contributions (s106 funding) and government grants including those allocated to the County Council for scheme delivery by district partners. The remainder is a mixture of borrowing (40%), capital receipts (4%) and use of earmarked reserves held for capital (1%) and revenue funding (1%)

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Total Expenditure	23/24	23/24 Revised	24/25 Revised	25/26 Revised	26/27 Onwards	Total 23/24 +
	Actuals YTD	Budget	Budget	Budget	Revised Budget	Revised Budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Open for Business	6,240	15,804	47,978	17,585	8,788	90,154
The Environment	47,188	80,913	64,795	3,930	815	150,453
Children and Families	14,830	24,656	51,597	28,796	25,802	130,850
Efficiency and Transformation	1,252	6,344	4,213	2,214	3,076	15,847
Health and Well-Being	101	768	1,899	27	0	2,694
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>69,611</b>	<b>128,485</b>	<b>170,481</b>	<b>52,552</b>	<b>38,480</b>	<b>389,999</b>

# Spending Controls for the Council

Management actions have been put in place to control spending across the council to reduce the deficit in the current financial year based on the following principles, spend will be allowed on:

- Existing permanent staffing and payroll costs,
- expenditure on goods and services which have already been received,
- contractually committed expenditure,
- urgent expenditure to safeguard vulnerable residents (Adults and Children),
- expenditure required to deliver the council's provision of essential statutory services at a minimum possible level, which includes adults and children's services including HTST,
- agreed political priorities of the council,
- expenditure necessary to achieve value for money and / or mitigate additional in year costs and / or generate additional income where evidenced through an "invest to save" business case.



# Financial planning, strategy and the Medium-Term Financial Plan

- Required refresh of the MTFP has been approved by Council.
- Significant and sustained inflation.
- Extremely challenging time for local government.
- Council remains focused on living within its means.
- 2024/25 budget setting process has been extremely tough as the Council seeks to achieve its priorities whilst meeting the growing cost of demand, all from within limited funds.

- 15 Feb Council Report outlines all the areas of pressures, demand and savings and efficiencies.
- Appendix 3 outlines the approved savings and efficiencies as part of the budget.

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Proposed Budget	2024/25
	£m
Structural deficit	35.0
Pressures and Investments	52.0
Removal of non-recurrent reserves	0.0
<b>Total pressures and investments</b>	<b>87.0</b>
<b>Funded From:</b>	
Government Funding	-27.9
Council Tax	-19.6
Additional use of Reserves	-2.3
Savings and Efficiencies	-37.2
<b>Gap</b>	<b>0.0</b>

## Key Messages

- Very difficult time for local government
- Essential that services remain within budget and implement the delivery of the £37.2m savings
- Council will still constantly review and ensure we only spend where it is absolutely necessary throughout 2024/25.

# Specific 2023/24 Quarter 3 (Period 9) information

## Areas within remit of the Environment Panel

# P9 Revenue Position for E&I, HTST and Skills

E&I Revenue Forecast	2023-24 Gross Budget Q3	2023-24 Net Budget Q3	2023-24 Forecast Outturn Q3	2023-24 Forecast Variance Q3	2023-24 Forecast Variance Q1	2023-24 Forecast Variance Q2
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Economy & Sustainability	3,032	1,424	1,356	-68	-3	-53
Planning and Regulation	1,655	890	1,447	557	473	552
Infrastructure & Contracts	1,594	1,594	1,661	67	24	67
Major Projects	2,570	248	321	73	10	40
Passenger Transport Operations	17,766	11,254	11,064	-190	-190	-190
Business Management	871	13	13	0	0	0
Road Lighting	5,983	5,919	5,412	-507	-607	-507
Waste Management	53,685	39,229	39,757	528	627	578
Network Management	3,979	-33	47	80	84	79
Development Management - S278/S38	1,165	206	278	72	42	71
Highways Operations & PROW	11,350	11,328	11,468	140	201	79
<b>TOTAL ECONOMY &amp; INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	<b>103,650</b>	<b>72,072</b>	<b>72,824</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>716</b>
<b>Home to School Transport</b>	<b>23,041</b>	<b>20,759</b>	<b>29,750</b>	<b>8,991</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>9,500</b>
<b>Skills and Investment</b>	<b>6,681</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>82</b>

# Key Headlines – P9 Revenue Position for E&I

- Forecast overspend of c£0.7m (1% of the net budget)
- Inflationary pressures being seen in the department and the continuing need to employ consultants to cover hard to fill vacancies
- The most significant variances from budget
  - Planning and Regulation is forecast to overspend by £0.5 million, with pressures in Transport Planning which is after the full utilisation of the £1.037 million earmarked reserve.
  - Within Waste Management, there is a £0.5 million overspend projected, due to rates on waste tonnage increasing beyond what was assumed at budget setting. This is net of a favourable position relating to recycling within the contract.
  - £0.5 million underspend in Road Lighting, based on the current LED rollout reducing kWh usage by 20% rather than the expected and budgeted 15%.

- Current value of the Capital Programme for 2023/24 to 2026/27, approved by Full Council at [Appendix 2 - Capital Programme.pdf \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#):
  - £90m relating to Open For Business
  - £150m relating to The Environment
- Funded by
  - 45% funded from borrowing / capital receipts
  - 44% via Government Grants
  - 9% via developer contributions (s106 funding)
  - 2% from Revenue
- £97m forecast to be spent this financial year
- £53m spent to date

## ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 14 MARCH 2024

### REFRESH OF THE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25

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#### Summary

1. The Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel is asked to consider suggestions for its 2024/25 Work Programme prior to it being submitted to Council for approval.

#### Background

2. Worcestershire County Council has a rolling annual Work Programme for Overview and Scrutiny. The Panel routinely reviews its work programme at each meeting to consider which issues should be investigated as a priority.
3. In addition, on an annual basis, the rolling annual Work Programme for Overview and Scrutiny is approved by Council.

#### Scrutiny Work Programme 2024/25

4. The Scrutiny Work Programme for 2024/25 is now being refreshed. Panel Members and other stakeholders have been invited to suggest topics for future scrutiny.
5. Members are asked to consider the draft Work Programme and agree its priorities for 2024/25. Issues should be prioritised by using the scrutiny feasibility criteria agreed by OSPB.
6. The Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board will receive feedback on the HOSC's and Scrutiny Panels' discussions and agree the final Scrutiny Work Programme at its 25 April meeting. Council will be asked to agree the Work Programme at its meeting on 16 May.

#### Feasibility Criteria

7. The criteria (listed below) will help to determine the scrutiny programme. A topic does not need to meet all of these criteria to be scrutinised, but they are intended as a guide for prioritisation.
  - Is the issue a priority area for the Council?
  - Is it a key issue for local people?
  - Will it be practicable to implement the outcomes of the scrutiny?
  - Are improvements for local people likely?
  - Does it examine a poor performing service?
  - Will it result in improvements to the way the Council operates?

- Is it related to new Government guidance or legislation?

## **Remit of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

8. The Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel is responsible for scrutiny of:

- Environment (including Net Zero Plans)
- Highways
- Flooding
- Waste

## **Dates of Future Meetings**

- 14 May 2024 at 10am
- 17 July 2024 at 10am
- 14 October 2024 at 10am
- 27 November 2024 at 10am

## **Purpose of the Meeting**

9. The Panel is asked to consider and prioritise the draft 2024/25 Work Programme and consider whether it would wish to make any amendments. The Committee will wish to retain the flexibility to take into account any urgent issues which may arise.

## **Supporting Information**

Appendix 1 – Draft Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2024/25

## **Contact Points**

Alyson Grice/Alison Spall, Overview and Scrutiny Officers, Tel: 01905 844962/846607  
Email: [scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk)

## **Background Papers**

In the opinion of the Proper Officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

[Agenda and minutes for Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board on 28 April 2023](#)

[Agenda and Minutes for Council on 18 May 2023](#)

All Agendas and Minutes are available on the Council's website [weblink to Agendas and Minutes](#)



## SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25

### Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Date of Meeting	Issue for Scrutiny	Date of Last Report	Notes/Follow-up Action
14 May 2024	Flood Risk Management Annual Report	23 March 2023	Annual standing item
	Update on cutting congestion	13 May 2022	
	Update on cycling and walking infrastructure	13 May 2022	
	Net Zero Policy Update	30 November 2023	Requested at Panel 25 January 2024
17 July 2024	Biodiversity Net Gain		Suggested at Panel 26 May 2023
	Environment Plan		Suggested by CMR 26 May 2023
	Local Nature Recovery Strategy		Suggested by CMR 26 May 2023
	Environment approach: partnership working		Suggested by CMR June 2022
	Performance (Q4 January to March) and Year End Budget Monitoring		
14 October 2024	Highways Innovations update	18 January 2023	Further update requested in due course
	Gully Cleansing		Added to the Work Programme by the Chairman October 2023.
	Performance (Q1 April to June) and In-Year Budget Monitoring		

27 November 2024	Update on (i) Demand Responsive Transport and (ii) Community Transport	25 September 2023	Further update requested in 12 to 18 months.
	Performance (Q2 July to September) and In-Year Budget Monitoring		
January 2025	Budget Scrutiny 2024/25		
	Road Safety and Reduction of Speeding by use of Built Highways Infrastructure	13 May 2022	Update in 12 to 18 months
	Safer Streets outside Schools		Resulting from Motion to Council 18 May 2023
March 2025			
	Performance (Q3 October to December) and In-Year Budget Monitoring		
<b>Possible Future items</b>			
TBC	Renewal of Highways Maintenance Contract		Requested by Chairman 8 February 2024
TBC	Local Transport Plan 5		Suggested by Cllr Jenkins June 2023
TBC	Section 38 agreements and adoption of roads		
TBC	Worcestershire Street Scape Design Guide		Prior to being considered by Cabinet
TBC	Waste Management Service Contract	8 November 2022	Update report once contract extension has been agreed
<b>Standing Items</b>			

March/July/ Sept/Nov	Budget and In-year performance monitoring		
November/January	Budget Scrutiny Process		
Annually	Flood Risk Management Annual Report	23 March 2023	

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