

# Marbury Update April 2025

## Summary of National issues impacting locally:

- **Min Wage + NI Changes** – these increases come into place from this month, impacting SMEs / High Street and Hospitality as well as larger businesses operating in the Borough. This will also have an effect on 'bought-in' services used by the Council with the full extent on this year's expenditure still to be confirmed.
- **Farm Inheritance Tax** – Along with Esther McVey MP, we continue to voice concern and highlight the ramifications of this change on our farming community. It is a very short-sighted policy that will raise a relatively small sum for the Treasury but have huge detriment for our farming communities for future generations, restricting investment, food security and either fragmentation of land ownership or further consolidation of our farmland into large corporates/pension funds. Eitherway this is an unnecessary move by the Government causing irreversible damage to multi-generational family farms across the Borough



## Devolution – Cheshire & Warrington

Devolution – the government consultation is on-going - Cheshire and Warrington devolution consultation - GOV.UK. This is a statutory consultation which always happens when local areas go for devolution and the results are NOT shared with the local authorities.

- A Shadow Combined Authority will need to be in place by the end of the year – and we expect the vote on the formal devolution deal to happen at July Full Council.
- With regards to wider LGR, Halton is staying in LCR and Cheshire West and Cheshire East definitely won't be going through any restructuring (which is contrary to some reports heard – which is positive).
- Mayoral Elections will be May 2026
- Post May 2026, there will be further local consultation on priorities and the phasing of transfer of powers and funds from Whitehall to the Combined Authority.

*Presentation / Q&A document from a recent briefing included for reference*

## Devolution Consultation – closes 13th April 2025 at 23:59

Links below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/cheshire-and-warrington-devolution/cheshire-and-warrington-devolution-consultation>

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/news/cheshire-and-warrington-devolution-have-your-say>

more information on the [link](#)

## Highways

**Ongoing statutory undertaker works** (i.e. gas, electric, B.T. and water) on the highway network are all on this [Link](#)

**Live roadworks | Cheshire West and Chester Council:** [Link](#)

**Highways | Cheshire West and Chester Council:**  
Highways [Link](#)

## National Planning Framework and increases to housing targets for CWaC

As residential development continues across the ward, we can expect to see changes to the volume and routes taken by motorists. This is becoming evident in several locations and needs to be considered as part of the planning process.

Pillmoss Lane (Whitley) is the latest location experiencing this – a report has been submitted to CWaC regarding road condition, increased traffic, road safety for residents and speed limits



## Flooding

We are continuing to work with officers, Kathy McArdle (the new Director of Place), Parish Councils, residents and landowners to implement some long-term solutions to the growing number of Flooding hot spots across the ward.

**Current target areas include:**

**Anderton** – Cogshall Lane

**Antrobus** – Village Centre

**Sutton Weaver** – Chester Rd (Meadowbank Farm)

**Whitley** - Town Pit, Greenhill Lane, Pillmoss Lane



## Sandbag Policy

The Council is updating its sandbag policy to provide clear and concise information on how CWaC manage our sandbag stock.

### What is happening

During recent flood events there has been confusion on the provision of sandbags. The policy aims to outline the Council's responsibility, property owner's responsibilities, and our procedure for the provision of sandbags and their delivery.

CWaC are committed to working with communities affected by frequent flooding, and along with our Emergency Planning team, we are helping to develop community resilience plans to increase awareness and reduce the impacts of flooding.

### When it is happening

The policy was presented at the Council's Highway Board on 15th November 2024, the new sandbag policy is now live and can be found on the CWaC website:

Preparing for a flood | Cheshire West and Chester Council: [Link](#)

## New automated technology for reporting missed bin collection

Currently the ways to report a missed bin collection are via the Council's website, the 'Report it' app, the Council Alexa skill or by telephoning the Contact Centre.

To reduce the large volume of calls that are received by the Contact Centre, CWaC are launching call technology that will enable residents to report a missed bin collection at any time of the day.

### What is happening

Automated call technology to enable customers to report a missed bin collection is being launched on Wednesday, 19 February.

This new reporting option will have its own telephone number, independent of the Contact Centre. **01244 255801**

The Digital, Data and Technology team have been carrying out rigorous testing prior to launch to ensure that everything is working as it should be. This new way of reporting will be soft launched to the public initially by providing the new telephone number on the Council's website. Once any glitches, if any, have been resolved then the new telephone number will be promoted to residents via social media and other communication channels.

Benefits of adding call automation to this element of the waste service are as follows:

- Improved customer experience: automated lines provide customers with 24/7 access to services.
- Increased customer access: automation of this line will enable customers who do not wish to, or are unable to, engage online to use this new way of reporting.

- Reduction in wait times: by automating this process, the amount of time a customer spends on hold / in call queues (approx. 2 mins 20 seconds) will be reduced. This will lead to increased customer satisfaction.
- Increased flexibility: this new way of reporting will reduce demand on the Contact Centre freeing up time for more complex calls and requests for support.
- Increased efficiency: automated lines can handle high volume of calls simultaneously, reducing the demand on Contact Centre agents.
- Improved customer self-service: automated lines can handle simple customer enquiries such as reporting a missed bin collection, allowing customers to get information they need quickly, without having to wait for a Call Centre agent to assist them.
- Customers who are unable to confirm their details or have an issue with the automated system will still be able to speak to a Contact Centre agent through trigger points in the automated process.
- Any residents reporting a missed bin collection via the Contact Centre, after launch of the new number, will automatically be transferred over to the new line.

#### **When did this happen**

- **19 February** - the new automated service for bin collection is now live.

## **Launch of engagement on the Starting Well 0-19 years Service (25 with SEND)**

Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (CWP) is the current provider of the 0-19 [Starting Well service](#). This service is for children and young people aged up to 19 (or 25 for those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and their families.

It includes Children's Centres as well as statutory Public Health services within the Healthy Child Programme (including health visiting and school nursing). The Family Nurse Partnership, an intensive, targeted home-visiting programme for first-time young mothers and families, is also included within the contract.

A Member's Decision Notice in November 2024 gave approval under the Provider Selection Regime (PSR) Direct Award C to award a two-year contract to CWP until 31 June 2027. This two-year period will provide the opportunity to seek views on the future service delivery of the Starting Well service, including the proposed future use of the Children's Centre estate, which forms part of the service.

#### What is happening

The Council will gather initial ideas and views through a range of face-to-face meetings, engagement workshops and online meetings with parents/carers, children and young people, organisations, Children's Social Care as well as colleagues from teams across the Council.

Engagement opportunities will be available on the Council's consultation platform *Participate Now*, through an online feedback form and ideas board.

For more information visit: [www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/startingwell](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/startingwell) Offline, paper-based opportunities will also be available.

These methods will help capture the priorities for residents and professionals that will inform the options for the consultation and subsequent service development.

#### When is it happening

The engagement phase is open from Monday, 3 March, to Friday, 9 May 2025.

## Helping People prepare for later life

There is an ageing population in west Cheshire, with a 24 per cent increase in people aged 65 and above according to the latest Census data, meaning more people are needing to access Adult Social Care services provided by the Council and organisations it commissions.

Depending on individual circumstances and finances, people might need to pay for all or some of the care they receive in the community.

#### What is happening

The Council is launching a campaign to help people across the borough prepare for later life and access any support they might need.

Managing finances and paying for care services can be a complicated area, with many options available to you depending on your financial circumstances.

While the Council wants to help people who are currently accessing its services to receive any support they might need, it is also aiming to support others as they prepare for later life as we don't know what lies ahead of us with life choices, health or potential care needs.

The Council has created an easy to use, online financial assessment calculator, which will tell you how much you might be asked to contribute towards any care depending on your financial circumstances.

Visit: [Financial assessment calculator | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

For more information about the support available from the Council and a range of other partners, visit: [cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/managingyourmoney](http://cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/managingyourmoney).

Finance officers from the Council will also be attending the regular **Let's Talk** sessions across west Cheshire, providing an opportunity for residents to have an informal chat with them about care services and the help available to help you pay for them.

- [More about the Let's Talk sessions](#)

The Council's Adult Social Care teams will be working closely with those who currently access services to make them aware of all these resources.



## Big Conversation Tool Kit

### Help Us Share 'The Big Conversation'

We need your support in spreading the word about The Big Conversation, Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust's large-scale engagement programme. Running from March to May 2025, this initiative invites staff, patients, and the wider community to share their views on key priorities, care models, sustainability, and the future of Leighton Hospital.

To make this a truly inclusive conversation, we're asking our partners to help amplify our message by sharing the provided social media posts, posters, and internal newsletter copy. Your support will ensure that as many people as possible have the opportunity to contribute their voices and shape the future of healthcare in our community.

[Document included with links and dates](#)

## Northwich Regeneration Update

**Northwich Market**, colleagues are planning to hold the 2 public consultation events in the proposed BQ Market unit to be held from 12 – 7pm on 1st and 2nd May, and that we will be promoting these nearer the time. There will also be an online consultation people can complete too.

**Updates will be posted regularly on the CWaC website:**



<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/regeneration-of-west-cheshire/northwich-regeneration/northwich-market>

## Northwich Library

Current progress below:

- The required scaffold/propping installations on the third gable are in place on the west elevation.
- CWaC have received the RIBA stage 3 design outcome and are now progressing to planning application.
- To fully understand any further limitations of the existing building, and to further de-risk the refurbishment phases, some soft stripping works will soon be undertaken throughout the building. Anticipated to begin in April following contractor appointment in March.
- A public drop in event to share the plans for the building is being held at Weaver Hall Museum on Friday 14 March, 2-7pm. See media release for further information: Plans for Northwich Library renovation to be shared at drop-in event | Cheshire West and Chester Council
- Following the drop in event the planning application based on Stage 3 designs will be submitted.

- The full repair and refurbishment works are expected to be completed **Summer/Autumn 2026.**
- Updates and images following the drop-in session will continue to be shared on the project webpage: [Northwich Library renovation | Cheshire West and Chester Council.](#)
- The library team are working hard to continue to build the audience at Weaver Hall Museum and have many events and activities bringing people into the library and museum. [Forthcoming events: Library events | Cheshire West and Chester Council.](#)

## Barons Quay Glazing Works

Update at : <https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/regeneration-of-west-cheshire/northwich-regeneration/barons-quay>

## Mapping Affordable Food Places in West Cheshire

The West Cheshire Food Partnership at CWVA are working to map the availability of affordable food across the different community partnership areas. As part of this, we want to identify organisations that offer affordable food options to the community (this could be through social supermarkets, community cafes, food pantries, or more...) If your Parish does have a food offer, if you could take a few minutes to fill out this form, that would be great: [Link](#) to form:

Equally, if you know of any other organisations that do, please feel free to send this link over to them. The information gathered will help us create both printed and digital flyers to raise awareness of what is available locally and ensure people know where they can access affordable food in their area. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact [tyra.goodwin@cwva.org.uk](mailto:tyra.goodwin@cwva.org.uk)

## Policing:

### Northwich and Winsford (Police) Problem Solving Group (PSG)

Last PSG was held on 14 February 2025

Boroughwide PSPO responses are being analysed and a report being prepared for sharing

Northwich and Winsford has welcomed a new Inspector and Chief Inspector and the Community Safety Partnership looks forward to forming strong links to continue our partnership working

Community Safety Wardens and Police colleagues continue to gather evidence from regular patrols at hotspots in Northwich, Winsford and Rural locations

### [Changes in Northwich Local Policing Unit staffing](#)

**Inspector Paul Heatley**, Northwich LPU Beat Inspector takes over from Dave Levins. ([paul.heatley@cheshire.police.uk](mailto:paul.heatley@cheshire.police.uk))

**Matt Charnock** has also taken over as the new CI for the area taking over from Leeroy Moss, ([Matt.Charnock@cheshire.police.uk](mailto:Matt.Charnock@cheshire.police.uk))

Please see the link below residents voice link. Please pass onto the public/ any groups as relevant this will help shape what the police do in the future, based on the publics wants/needs

**Resident's voice | Cheshire Constabulary:** [Link](#)

## **Consultations:**

### **Council Housing Tenant and Leaseholder Engagement Strategy Consultation**

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/your-council/consultations-and-petitions/consultations/current-consultations/council-housing-tenant-leaseholder-engagement-strategy-consultation>

**Closing date: 5pm on Sunday 13 April 2025**

### **Charitable Street Collection Policy Consultation**

<https://participatenow.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/charitable-street-collection-policy-consultation>

**Closing date: Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May**

### **Starting Well Engagement**

<https://participatenow.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/starting-well-engagement>

**Closing date: Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May**

## **Planning Policy Consultations**

- Local Plan
- Design Code
- Call for Nature Investment Sites
- Neighbourhood Planning Consultation

**<https://consult.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/kse/folder/98590>**

### **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**

- Consultation feedback still pending
- Housing numbers to be increased from current delivery of 1000 to 2100 per year in CWaC
- Further clarification required on increased building in 'green' belt by naming areas 'grey' belt and rather ambiguous definitions.
- More information on the link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

**All Council consultations are listed on the [CWaC website](#)**



This website also hosts the **Participate Now** engagement platform and the online Citizen's Panel.

[Join Participate Panel Participate Panel](#)

## Events

### Northwich event web link

Visit Northwich - <https://visitnorthwich.co.uk>

**NOW Northwich** will be held on **Saturday 03 May 2025**. A marketing strategy is being rolled out so please keep an eye on the website for updates.

<https://nownorthwich.co.uk>

## Members Budgets 2025-2026 / Space Hive

The by-election in Runcorn & Helsby means we have a period of *Purdah* where some activity is restricted.

The **Member Budget Award Scheme** for 2025/26 allocates £5,000 to all Members to support local projects and initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life and wellbeing of their communities. Funding is provided to recipients as a discretionary award and is aimed at addressing local priorities for action.



The **Cheshire West Crowd** is the Councils partnership with Spacehive to deliver civic crowdfunding. The approach allows communities to play their part through gaining funding to deliver projects that are aligned to the Council's Borough plan.

[The guidelines and restrictions on publicity during the pre-election period started on 28 March 2025.](#)

**Member Budgets** will open on 1 April 2025, applications can be accepted but will not be formally determined or approved until after the election.

**For Cheshire Crowd**, project creators can continue to shape, develop, and submit their projects for verification during the pre-election period.

Projects will not go live between 28 March and 2nd May 2025. The deadline for projects to submit for verification is Wednesday 4th June 2025. Campaign dates are set by the project creator.

[The Council will not allocate any funds during the pre-election period.](#)

All assessment panels that involve Ward Councillors will also take place outside of the pre-election period.

### **Member Budgets**

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/your-council/councillors-and-committees/councillors-allowances/member-budgets>

### **Cheshire Crowd**

<https://www.spacehive.com/movement/cwc>

## **Other Funding Opportunities:**

**Funding Opportunities:** [Funding opportunities | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

- Tackling Food Surplus [£15 million food surplus fund now open for applications - GOV.UK](#)
- Healthy Hearts Grants [Healthy Heart Grants - Heart Research UK](#)
- Energy Efficiency Funding [Energy Efficiency Sharematch | Crowdfunder.co.uk](#)
- Network Rail Community Tree Planting [Network Rail Community Tree Planting Fund - The Tree Council](#)
- [The Stobart Sustainability Fund | Stobart \(eddiestobart.com\)](#)
- Rural Countryside Fund (some parts of NW will be eligible for this) [Supporting Rural Communities - The Royal Countryside Fund](#)
- Grants for Charities or CIO's - [What We Fund - Bernard Sunley Foundation](#)  
[Grants for historic church interiors and churchyard structures | The Church of England](#)
- [Small Grants | Trusthouse Charitable Foundation](#)

Your organisation's postcode falls within the following on the **Indices of Multiple Deprivation**:

- if you are located in an urban area, you must be in the bottom 15% most deprived areas
- if you are located in a rural area, you must be in the bottom 50% most deprived areas
- [Applying for a memorial grant - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) **ENDING SOON**  
Public memorial grant – for repairs/maintenance
- Climate Action Fund: Our Shared Future ([tnlcommunityfund.org.uk](http://tnlcommunityfund.org.uk))

- Aviva Community Fund [Aviva Community Fund](#)
- Veolia [Funding \(veoliatrust.org\)](#)
- Biffa Funding [Home Page - Biffa Award](#)
- Blue Spark Foundation – grants for projects supporting children and young people [Home - Blue Spark Foundation](#)
- Energy Resilience Fund – Power to Change  
The Energy Resilience Fund is an initiative assisting community businesses in retrofitting their buildings with energy-saving measures. [Energy Resilience Fund - Power to Change](#)
- Neighbourhood Planning Grant Funding – [Locality](#). [Home - Locality Neighbourhood Planning](#)
- Electricals Recycling Fund – Material Focus  
The Electricals Recycling Fund aims to grow existing methods or test new creative and practical ones for recycling small household electricals. If you have a project that would make it easier for the public to repair, reuse or recycle their electricals, you can apply for funding. [Electricals Recycling Fund - Material Focus](#)
- Community Ownership Fund
- Village Halls Main Grants

Grants are available up to £75,000 to support larger improvement projects to rural community buildings in England such as full refits and extensions (this will cover some of the rural areas in the Northwich/Winsford area). [Main grants scheme for village halls - ACRE](#)

**London Hearts has launched this scheme** with the aim of increasing the number of AEDs to help save lives. As a charity they understand it is not always possible to install a public access Defibrillator and people's needs differ particularly in the workplace.

The fund is moving far quicker than they initially anticipated given the limited funding requirement, so they are allocating on a first come first basis as to avoid any disappointment. Anyone in your Parish can apply, including the Parish Council. Funding of circa £660 per unit is required.

Interested? Apply using the link below! — <https://londonhearts.org/defib-scheme/>

<https://londonhearts.org/article/lh-launches-new-defibrillator-scheme-to-help-save-lives-across-the-uk/>



Facebook Link to the Scheme to Share -

<https://www.facebook.com/LondonHearts1/posts/pfbid0VtehyLLPq8U3yWF5xuoztJTA5r1vrMasnEdNnnYjxRk5kPQukH3XAvZQbkKn9XTWI>

**End**