



CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MONDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2017

10.30 am COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, LEWES

MEMBERSHIP - Councillor Roy Galley (Chairman)
Councillors Tania Charman, Chris Dowling, Kathryn Field, Tom Liddiard,
Laurie Loe, Stephen Shing, Alan Shuttleworth (Vice Chair) and
Francis Whetstone

Ms N Boulter, Parent Governor Representative
Dr Anne Holt, Diocese of Chichester
Mr Parr, Roman Catholic Diocese representative
Councillor Julian Peterson, Borough and District Representative

A G E N D A

- 1 Minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2017 (*Pages 3 - 8*).
- 2 Apologies for absence.
- 3 Disclosures of interests.

Disclosures by all members present of personal interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the member regards the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct.
- 4 Urgent items.

Notification of items which the Chair considers to be urgent and proposes to take at the appropriate part of the agenda. Any members who wish to raise urgent items are asked, wherever possible, to notify the Chair before the start of the meeting. In so doing, they must state the special circumstances which they consider justify the matter being considered urgent.
- 5 Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) (*Pages 9 - 16*).
Report by the Chief Executive.
- 6 The state of School Buildings and Plant and wider issues relating to school expansions and closures. (*Pages 17 - 30*).
Report by Director of Children's Services.
- 7 Scrutiny Committee future Work Programme (*Pages 31 - 40*).
- 8 Forward Plan (*Pages 41 – 48*).

The Forward Plan for the period to February 2018. The Committee is asked to make comments or request further information.
- 9 Any other items previously notified under agenda item 4.

PHILIP BAKER
Assistant Chief Executive
County Hall, St Anne's Crescent
LEWES BN7 1UE

17 November 2017

Contact: Stuart McKeown, 01273 481583.

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee held at Council Chamber, County Hall, Lewes on 25 September 2017.

PRESENT Councillors Roy Galley (Chairman), Chris Dowling, Kathryn Field, Roy Galley (Chair), Tom Liddiard, Laurie Loe, Stephen Shing, Francis Whetstone, Ms N Boulter, Mr Parr, Councillor Julian Peterson and Hurst (Catholic Diocese Representative)
Councillor Julian Peterson (Borough and District Representative)

LEAD MEMBERS Councillor Sylvia Tidy (Lead Member for Children and Families)

OTHER MEMBERS Councillor David Elkin, Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Resources

ALSO PRESENT Becky Shaw, Chief Executive, Stuart Gallimore, Director of Children's Services; Louise Carter, Assistant Director (Communication, Planning and Performance) Liz Rugg, Assistant Director (Early Help and Social Care) Fiona Wright, Assistant Director (Education & ISEND), Reg Hooke, Independent Chair of the LSCB, Douglas Sinclair, Head of Children's Safeguards & Quality Assurance, Sally Williams, LSCB Manager, Elizabeth Funge, Head of Education Improvement, Carrie Beech, Project Lead: Primary and Early Years

Stuart McKeown, Senior Democratic Services Advisor.

9 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 JUNE 2017

9.1 **RESOLVED** – to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the last Committee meeting held on 26 June 2017.

10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

10.1 Apologies were received from Councillor Tania Charman and Councillor Alan Shuttleworth. Lesley Hurst, Assistant Director of Education (Diocese of Chichester) attended as substitute for Dr Ann Holt.

11 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

11.1 No disclosures were declared.

12 RECONCILING POLICY, PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES (RPPR)

12.1 Councillor David Elkin, Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Resources, Becky Shaw, Chief Executive and Stuart Gallimore, Director of Children's Services introduced the report by providing an overview of the context within which the current RPPR process is taking place.

12.2 The Committee then discussed the areas of search before them. The key discussion points are summarized below:

- **Integration of Health Services with Children's Centres.** The Committee asked for more information about the integration of Health Services with

Children's Services. In particular the Committee wanted to establish whether there are any further significant opportunities for integration which could result in both improved services for the public and further efficiencies. In response, and for example, the Committee were informed that with regard to services relating to Looked After Children, the respective numbers of staff working within Children's Services and Public Health are not commensurate: there are far fewer health staff operating in this area. As a result, the Department believe there is limited scope for further integration which might deliver additional significant efficiencies or improvements in customer service. However, it is an area of search that is kept under review by the Department.

- **East Sussex Better Together (ESBT) budget.** The Committee asked for more detail about how the ESBT revenue budget 'fits' with the Children's Services Department revenue budget. In particular, whether the revenue identified in the Financial Budget Summary for 2017/18 is guaranteed and whether there is any flexibility regarding expenditure (see Appendix 1 attached to the report). In response the Committee were informed that the monies identified in the Financial Budget Summary represent the current spend, where the primary needs identified for families are health-related. As a result, these needs are dealt with by health services and spending on this budget is therefore driven by demands within that service area (in accordance with the priorities identified by the local Clinical Commissioning Groups).
- **Home to School Transport.** The Committee noted that a significant proportion of the total budget for the Children's Services Department is set aside for Home to School Transport services (nearly £12 million out of an approximate budget of nearly £69 million). The Committee also noted that the Department have identified further potential savings within this budget for 2018/19. However, the Committee asked whether, at the same time as meeting its statutory requirements, the Department could identify further savings. Such savings could then potentially be re-prioritised to help protect other frontline services where there is greater need. In response the Committee were informed the Home to School Transport budget has already been largely reduced to its minimum statutory requirements. As a result, it is not possible for the Department to make further significant savings.

Given this, the Committee agreed a letter should be sent to the Secretary of State for Education. With supporting information provided by the Department, the letter would ask the Secretary of State to consider the Committee's request that local government be given more control over how much is spent on home to school transport. This discretion would then potentially allow the Department to re-direct resources to services where there is greater need.

12.3 RESOLVED – to:

- 1) agree the key areas of interest/lines of enquiry for scrutiny set out in paragraph 12.2.
- 2) establish a scrutiny RPPR review board which will meet on 7 December 2017.
- 3) write to the Secretary of State for Education requesting that consideration be given to the Committee's proposal that local government be given greater discretion over expenditure on home to school transport.

13 LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S BOARD (LSCB) ANNUAL REPORT

13.1 The East Sussex Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) annual report 2016/17 was introduced by Reg Hooke, the Independent Chair of the LSCB. Mr Hooke provided the

Committee with an overview of the key issues covered in the report. This included highlighting, for example, a significant fall in the number of missing 12-18 Year Olds. In 2015/16 the number of incidents of 12-18 Year Olds who were reported missing totalled 693, for 2016/17 the figure dropped to a total of 367 such reports.

13.2 The LSCB are keen to continue with its focus on ensuring its work delivers clear benefits for young people and families in East Sussex. The Board are therefore undertaking a review of its work over the past three years. This review will include assessing the impact of its Serious Case Reviews and associated recommendations.

13.3 The Committee welcomed the progress identified across a range of different areas and commended the clarity of the information provided within the report.

13.4 RESOLVED – the Committee agreed to note the Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report.

14 LEAD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND INCLUSION, SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES UPDATE REPORT

14.1 The report provides a new opportunity for the Committee to understand some of the key developments within the portfolio for the Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability (EISEND).

14.2 The issues discussed by the Committee, together with responses from the Department (on behalf of Councillor Standley who had sent his apologies for the meeting) are summarized below:

- **National Funding Formula.** The Committee noted the continuing uncertainty surrounding the introduction of the National Funding Formula and the level of resources that will eventually be available to schools. The Committee therefore asked for clarification as to when the Council and schools will know what the final settlement will be. In response, it was clarified that whilst notification of how the National Funding Formula will be implemented has been received, the Department will not be able to model effectively the impact on individual schools until December. A final decision on the formula will then be taken by the Schools Forum in January 2018. With this in mind, the Department undertook to provide the Committee with relevant School Forum briefings on this subject and a breakdown of the key dates when relevant information will be available. On the understanding that the Department will have a clearer interim picture in November, the Committee also asked if the Lead Member for EISEND could update the Committee at its next meeting on any further developments.
- **Validated exam results.** The Committee asked for clarification as to when the validated exam results will be available. In response the Department confirmed that it would arrange for confirmation of the dates and the results to be circulated to the Committee at an appropriate time.
- **School Places and School Expansion.** In response to a query about the impact of additional school places on local infrastructure, the Committee were informed that the Department have an 'Education Commissioning Plan'. The Plan is agreed by the relevant Lead Member and takes into account a range of key factors; including live birth data and local borough and district housing plans. The Department confirmed it would make a copy of the Plan available to the Committee.

14.3 RESOLVED – the Committee agreed to:

- 1) With regard to the National Funding Formula, to request that the Department circulate to the Committee relevant briefings as they become available; to circulate a list of dates when key information will be released and to request that the Lead Member for Education and Inclusion and Special Educational Needs includes an update on this subject as part of his report to the Committee at its November meeting.
- 2) With regard to validated exam results, to request that the Department arrange for confirmation of the dates and the results to be circulated to the Committee.
- 3) With regard to the discussion about the impact of providing additional school places, to circulate a copy of the latest edition of the Education Commissioning Plan.

15 APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT WITHOUT LEVELS (AWL)

15.1 At its meeting in June 2016, the Committee asked for an update on progress with the implementation of the 'Assessment Without Levels' assessment framework. A summary of the key issues discussed are set out below:

- **Key Stage 2 (KS2).** Whilst the Committee welcomed the overall positive position set out in the report, the Department were asked to comment on the outcomes at Key Stage 2 for East Sussex, which are below the National figure. In response, the Department explained there was a significant improvement in outcomes 3 years ago. As a result the gap between local and national rates significantly reduced. However, and despite an improvement last year, the Department are disappointed that East Sussex has not achieved further progress in KS2. The Department will therefore continue to help schools improve outcomes for this Stage by facilitating collaborative working arrangements. For example, the Department is actively supporting the establishment of Education Improvement Partnerships which aim to share good practice and resources. A newly formed Primary Consultant Head teacher team is also being established. This team will also work towards helping raise standards in Key Stage 2 (more detail is provided in the next point).
- **Primary Consultant Headteachers (PCHT).** In response to a question from the Committee, it was clarified that a total of six former primary school Headteachers have been appointed to the role of 'Primary Consultant Headteacher' (PCHT). It was also confirmed that all six appointees retired from East Sussex schools rated by Ofsted as either 'Outstanding' or 'Good'. Given they are retired, the Committee also asked the Department to explain how it would ensure PCHTs keep up to date with new developments in the field. In response, it was confirmed that all six PCHTs only retired recently and therefore have up-to-date knowledge. The PCHTs are also appointed on the basis of a one year contract. This relatively short contract gives both parties an opportunity to review the efficacy of any ongoing arrangements.

15.2 RESOLVED – the Committee agreed to:

- 1) note the 2017 outcomes for Key Stage 1 and 2, and the actions being taken at Key Stage 2.
- 2) that once national data is available to consider the outcomes at Key Stage 4 at a future meeting.

16 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

16.1 The Committee agreed to keep 'how schools are coping with change' on the work programme as a potential future scrutiny review topic. However, it was agreed it would be

appropriate to revisit this topic in the new year as by then, there would be more scope for identifying a specific subject area.

16.2 The Committee also noted the increase in the numbers of children being home educated. Whilst it was accepted that home education is not in itself a risk, the Committee agreed that this is an area which they might need to investigate in future. As a result, it was agreed to add this topic to the 'potential scrutiny review' section of the scrutiny work programme.

16.3 The Committee also noted the proposal to discontinue the Education Performance Panel (EPP). In the event that the EPP is discontinued, the Committee asked that the work programme be amended to note that in future it may have an increased focus on scrutinizing attainment and performance.

16.4 RESOLVED – to update the scrutiny work programme so that:

- 1) In relation to minute 15.2, that wording is added to reflect the Committee's decision to review outcomes at Key Stage 4 once the national data is available.
- 2) in relation to minute 16.1, wording is added to the 'how schools are coping with change' item which reflects the Committee's decision to revisit this subject area in the new year.
- 3) In relation to minute 16.2, the issue of the increase in the numbers of children being home educated is added to the 'potential future scrutiny review' section.
- 4) In relation to minute 16.3, and in recognition of the proposed discontinuation of the Education Performance Panel, that wording is added to the work programme to reflect the Committee's interest in continuing to scrutinize attainment and performance.

17 FORWARD PLAN

17.1 The Committee noted the Forward plan for the period to 31 December 2017.

The meeting ended at 12.30 pm.

Councillor Roy Galley, Chairman

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Report to: **Children's Services Scrutiny Committee**

Date: **27 November 2017**

By: **Chief Executive**

Title of report: **Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)**

Purpose of report: **To provide an update on the Council's business and financial planning process (Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources) and the Committee's comments and requests for further information.**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

(1) consider any additional information requested at the September Scrutiny Committee meeting on RPPR;

(2) review the updated savings plans for 2018/19 and areas of search for savings in 2019/20 and 2020/21, as outlined in the RPPR Cabinet report of 10 October 2017, and suggest any amendments or potential alternatives that should be explored; and

(3) identify any further work or information needed to aid the Scrutiny Committee's contribution to the RPPR process for consideration at the December RPPR Board or as part of the Committee's ongoing work programme.

1. Background

1.1 As reported in September, the Council is currently in year two (2017/18) of a three year service and financial plan which was agreed by Council in February 2016. This was developed against a background of permanent reduction in the size of the public sector, including councils. The Council will have seen Revenue Support Grant fall from £100.2m in 2010 to £15m in 2018/19. By the end of the planning period it will no longer exist. Demand for services continues to grow due to demographic change, particularly for older people, and Council Tax rises are currently capped below the rate of inflation.

1.2 It was reported in September that Chief Officers were continuing to develop plans for savings of £21.9m (6% of the net revenue budget) in 2018/19, broadly in line with the allocations agreed by Council in February 2017. Consideration was also being given to high level proposals for further savings required across the subsequent two years, 2019/20 and 2020/21. Cabinet had asked Chief Officers to bring updated savings proposals for 2018/19 and areas of search for 2019/20 - 2020/21 to its meeting on 10 October 2017 for initial consideration.

1.3 The report to Cabinet in October updated the Medium Term Financial Plan, set spending and savings priorities in 2018/19, articulated the implications of the need to make further savings of an estimated £36.2m over the two years 2019/20 and 2020/21 and suggested areas of search in those two years.

2. Scrutiny engagement in RPPR

2.1 At the September meeting the scrutiny committees discussed the current Portfolio Plans and Savings Plans for 2017/18 for those services within their remit. The Committee also reviewed the existing savings proposals for 2018/19 and made comments or requests for further information.

2.2 The **November 2017 scrutiny committees** are invited to:

- consider any additional information requested at the September meeting in preparation for the RPPR Board in December;
- review the updated savings plans for 2018/19 and areas of search for savings for 2019/20-2020/21 and suggest any amendments or potential alternatives that should be explored; and
- fine tune the scrutiny committee's work programme to ensure the Committee is in the best position to contribute to the ongoing RPPR process.

Appendix 1 contains extracts from the 10 October Cabinet RPPR report, which detail the updated savings plans for 2018/19 for those services within the remit of this committee and the proposed areas of search for savings across the Council for 2019/20 and 2020/21.

Appendix 2 contains the additional information requested at the September scrutiny committee meeting.

2.3 The **RPPR scrutiny board** will meet on 7 December 2017 to agree detailed comments and any recommendations on the emerging portfolio plans and savings proposals to be put to Cabinet on behalf of their parent scrutiny committees in January 2018. The Chairs of all the scrutiny committees are invited to attend all the scrutiny review boards.

2.4 The **March 2018 scrutiny committees** will review the process and their input into the RPPR process and receive feedback on how scrutiny input has been reflected in final plans. Any issues arising can be reflected in the future committee work programme.

2.5 Running alongside this process, there will be a number opportunities for Members to engage in the RPPR process.

BECKY SHAW
Chief Executive

Contact Officer: Stuart McKeown (01273 481583)

Local Member: All

Background Documents:

10 October Cabinet RPPR Report.

East Sussex County Council

Updated Savings 2018/19 and Estimated Savings 2019/20 & 2020/21

Department	2017/18 Net Budget £'000s	2018/19 Updated Savings	Estimated Savings Required		
			2019/20 £'000s	2020/21 £'000s	Total £'000s
Business Services/Orbis	20,984	1,396			
Children's Services (excl. schools)	68,757	5,335			
Communities, Economy & Transport	63,384	2,119			
Governance Services	6,414	84			
Centrally Held Budgets	35,835	0			
TOTAL ESCC (excluding ASC/ESBT)	195,374	8,934			
Adult Social Care	39,220	2,359			
East Sussex Better Together	129,491	10,576			
Members' Allowances	866	n/a			
TOTAL	364,951	21,869	17,504	18,725	36,229

MTFP:	
savings adjustment re additional IBCF	445
savings	21,424
	21,869

Children's Services 2018/19 Savings			Gross budget *	Net budget *	Updated Savings
			2016/17	2016/17	2018/19
Service description	Description of savings proposal	Impact assessment	£'000	£'000	£'000
Early Help 0-19	Total budget across EH is £7.5m. The £1.562m saving will be made through: (i) Specific posts in 0-5 family keywork, HV and Children's Centres: (ii) Undertake a review of Children's Centres service offer (similar to libraries service review). (iii) Review youth work service offer (iv) Consider service redesign options for Early Help 0-19 services	Reductions in Health Visiting and children's centres will impact on demand management for children's social care. This will attract negative publicity and there is the potential for clawback of grant funding by the government which could impact on savings realised even if Children's Centres are closed. Depending on the outcome of the review there would be fewer places to go and things to do for young people. Could increase anti- social behaviour and reduce ability to identify young people who may need targeted 1:1 help. May increase referrals to SPOA. TBC depending on outcomes.	18,928	15,519	1,562
Support Services, including Admissions, Buzz and Music service	Management, staff and efficiency savings across support functions and frontline services.	Reduced responsiveness and failing to meet required timescales. Reduced support for operational teams. Reduced ability to support departmental priorities or new initiatives. Staff working under increased pressure.			296
Home to School Transport	Implementing agreed changes to discretionary HTST and review of unsafe routes.	Savings to Home to School Transport (HTST) as a result of policy changes implemented during 16/17 continue to accrue. Implement changes as a result of review of unsafe routes and whether footpaths and bridleways can be used as safe walking routes to school, therefore reducing HTST costs.	11,708	11,221	566
Locality	Review of non-statutory social care services.	Reduced ability to manage demand and costs.	12,298	11,269	228
SWIFT and YOT	Review of non-statutory social care services.	Reduced ability to manage demand and costs.	1,675	539	268
LAC	Continued use of robust placement management. Review Virtual School costs and commitments	LAC modelling shows continued reduction in numbers, however impact of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (where Government grant is insufficient to meet all costs) will need to be factored in. TBC	25,106	21,712	269

Children's Services 2018/19 Savings			Gross budget *	Net budget *	Updated Savings
			2016/17	2016/17	2018/19
Service description	Description of savings proposal	Impact assessment	£'000	£'000	£'000
SLES	Reduce support for the Education Improvement Partnerships. Reduce the performance monitoring of schools.	Support to build a sustainable school improvement system, based on school to school support, will be reduced. There will be little capacity or incentive for schools to take responsibility for the performance of the wider group of schools. The capacity to intervene, by schools or the LA, where there is underperformance, will be severely limited and highly inconsistent across the county. This is likely to impact on educational outcomes. Outcomes for pupils vulnerable to underachievement are likely to decline significantly as they are disproportionately affected by poor provision. The LA will know its maintained schools less well. Our capacity to intervene will be significantly undermined unless there is serious high profile failing, or after annual outcomes are available. This will impact negatively on the proportion of settings and schools judged to be good or better.	25,650	2,985	663
ISEND and ESBAS	Reduce direct support for schools to address attendance and exclusions, increase traded offer.	Some schools will be unprepared to pay for pupil support and the lack of early intervention will see more children and young people excluded and requiring costly specialist provision. LA performance in key indicators will further decline and may impact negatively on Ofsted inspections.	45,005	10,102	1,151
Children's Health	Review of CAMHS and Chailey Heritage contracts (funded by CCGs)	Funding released could be redirected by the CCGs to Early Help and preventative services.			TBC
Unallocated for 2018/19 - offset by full year impact of some 18/19 savings in 19/20					332
TOTAL CSD (excl. Schools)					5,335

* The budgets shown reflect the areas against which savings have been proposed.

East Sussex Better Together (ESBT) 2018/19 Savings			Gross budget *	Updated Savings
			2016/17	2018/19
Service description	Description of savings proposal	Impact assessment	£'000	£'000
Adult Social Care: ESBT Integrated Strategic Investment Plan	ESBT whole system redesign and implementation of integrated health and social care commissioning and delivery	The transformation of the health and social care system at a time of increasing demographic pressures and financial constraint will be challenging. The scale and pace of change required across all services, taking account of the full £864m investment in the health and social care system, will present risks. There will be a need to ensure robust democratic accountability and control, the effective discharge of statutory responsibilities, strong financial control and a clear framework of managing the potential risks of unintended clinical and financial consequences. The formal agreements underpinning the integration will seek to mitigate these risks. There will be potential impacts for service users in how they access services and are supported in the future, which have already been subject to extensive consultation.		10,507
Children's Services: ESBT Integrated Strategic Investment Plan	ESBT whole system redesign and implementation of integrated health and social care commissioning and delivery	The transformation of the health and social care system at a time of increasing demographic pressures and financial constraint will be challenging. The scale and pace of change required across all services, taking account of the full £864m investment in the health and social care system, will present risks. There will be a need to ensure robust democratic accountability and control, the effective discharge of statutory responsibilities, strong financial control and a clear framework of managing the potential risks of unintended clinical and financial consequences. The formal agreements underpinning the integration will seek to mitigate these risks. There will be potential impacts for service users in how they access services and are supported in the future, which have already been subject to extensive consultation.		69
TOTAL ESBT			n/a **	10,576

* The gross budgets shown reflect the areas against which savings have been proposed.

** The Partnership did not formally exist in 2016//17, therefore no gross budget shown.

2019/20 & 2020/21 and beyond (extract from 10 October Cabinet report, section 8)

8.1 The level of uncertainty about the Government's plans and funding for services provided by Local Government means that there could be fundamental changes in both the resources the Council has available and its expectations for service delivery, so the process for the latter two years of the Council's medium term financial plan (MTFP) will, necessarily be iterative. Currently, the MTFP is predicated on the need to make £36.2m of savings during these two years.

8.2 If there are no new resources from Government, by 2021/22 the Council will be left with a minimum service offer. It will provide safeguarding for all ages, will still meet critical and substantial need in ASC and will deal with the highest level of need and risk cases in Children's Services. We will continue to use our influence to assist with the economic development of the county, but will not be able to invest directly in the way we have in the past. We will be able to carry out maintenance on our roads so that they are safe for users. Central services will be reduced to a democratic core with minimum support for departments and more self-service. We will not be able to fund early intervention or prevention services in Adult and Children's Social Care or support to schools to improve attainment. We will have to move away from assets management in highways towards more reactive maintenance, leading to long-term deterioration of condition.

8.3 This challenging outlook places a premium on our lobbying work and the need to explore all our options. Cabinet is asked to endorse a renewed focus on commercialisation and income generation, partnership working and the following areas of search for savings in future years, in order that a balanced budget, focused on priorities, can be achieved in 2019/20 and 2020/21:

- All areas of ASC not directly involved in providing for critical and substantial need;
- Standards and Learning Effectiveness Service;
- Remaining Children's early help offer;
- Highways maintenance;
- Public transport and concessionary fares;
- Road safety and school crossing patrols; and
- All support services.

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee comments on RPPR September 2017

The Committee identified the following specific areas of interest and future lines of enquiry for the RPPR process:

- **Integration of Health Services with Children's Centres.** The Committee asked for more information about the integration of Health Services with Children's Services. In particular the Committee wanted to establish whether there are any further significant opportunities for integration which could result in both improved services for the public and further efficiencies. In response, and for example, the Committee were informed that with regard to services relating to Looked After Children, the respective numbers of staff working within Children's Services and Public Health are not commensurate: there are far fewer health staff operating in this area. As a result, the Department believe there is limited scope for further integration which might deliver additional significant efficiencies or improvements in customer service. However, it is an area of search that is kept under review by the Department.
- **East Sussex Better Together (ESBT) budget.** The Committee asked for more detail about how the ESBT revenue budget 'fits' with the Children's Services Department revenue budget. In particular, whether the revenue identified in the Financial Budget Summary for 2017/18 is guaranteed and whether there is any flexibility regarding expenditure (see Appendix 1 attached to the report). In response the Committee were informed that the monies identified in the Financial Budget Summary represent the current spend, where the primary needs identified for families are health-related. As a result, these needs are dealt with by health services and spending on this budget is therefore driven by demands within that service area (in accordance with the priorities identified by the local Clinical Commissioning Groups).
- **Home to School Transport.** The Committee noted that a significant proportion of the total budget for the Children's Services Department is set aside for Home to School Transport services (nearly £12 million out of an approximate budget of nearly £69 million). The Committee also noted that the Department have identified further potential savings within this budget for 2018/19. However, the Committee asked whether, at the same time as meeting its statutory requirements, the Department could identify further savings. Such savings could then potentially be re-prioritised to help protect other frontline services where there is greater need. In response the Committee were informed the Home to School Transport budget has already been largely reduced to its minimum statutory requirements. As a result, it is not possible for the Department to make further significant savings.

Report to:	Children's Services Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	27 November 2017
By:	Director of Children's Services
Title:	The state of school buildings and plant and wider issues relating to school expansions and closures
Purpose:	To provide an overview of the current status of school buildings and plant in East Sussex, including reference to the school maintenance programme and Education Commissioning Plan

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note and comment on:

- 1) the robust approach to place planning and forecasting and delivery of the Capital Programme.
 - 2) the current condition backlog position and approach to managing the backlog maintenance and priority works identified through the condition survey programme.
 - 3) the steps taken regarding Health and Safety information in respect of fire risks following the Grenfell Tower incident.
-

1 Background

1.1 The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee requested a report be brought to their November 2017 meeting covering the 'state of school buildings and plant' and 'wider issues relating to school expansions and closures'.

1.2 The relevant extracts from the minutes of the meeting, held on 26 June 2017, requesting this report are detailed as follows:

The Committee want an overview of the current status of school buildings and plant in East Sussex. This includes reference to the school maintenance programme and school commissioning plan. Such a review would also include consideration of health and safety issues following the Grenfell Tower fire.

...Fiona Wright, Assistant Director, informed the Committee that responsibility for school buildings is shared between the Children's Services Department and the Business Services Department (where the estates and capital and maintenance teams are based). Also, academies are separate institutions which are not funded via the local authority. These two factors make delivering an accurate picture of the current state of school buildings challenging and time will therefore be needed to co-ordinate relevant information for the Committee. With this in mind, it was requested that a report is provided to the Committee's November meeting.

...wording is added to confirm that a report which updates the Committee on the state of school buildings in the county and wider issues relating to school expansions and closures is provided to the November 2017 meeting.

1.3 This report seeks to address the requests posed in the extracts of the minutes above and is structured as follows:

1.4 Section 2 covers the provision of school places including forecasting, commissioning and organisation of schools. This addresses requests made in the first and the final sections of the minutes above in looking at both the '*...school commissioning plan..*' and '*...issues relating to school expansions and closures...*'.

1.5 Section 3 covers the County Council's Capital Programme that seeks to meet the forecast need detailed in Section 2 and is relevant to how the current status of school buildings and plant ensures that East Sussex County Council meets its statutory duty to ensure there is sufficient capacity to meet present and future demand for early years, primary, secondary and special school places.

1.6 Section 4 covers the Maintenance Programme and provides the '*...overview of the current status of school buildings and plant in East Sussex.*' As requested by the Scrutiny Committee in the first section of the minutes above.

2 School Places

Commissioning school places

2.1 East Sussex County Council, as the local authority, has a statutory duty to ensure there is sufficient capacity to meet present and future demand for early years, primary, secondary and special school places.

2.2 The Council is responsible for promoting a good supply of strong settings and schools through planning, organising and commissioning places in a way that raises attainment, increases diversity, encourages collaboration and promotes community cohesion. The Council seeks to achieve this in partnership with key stakeholders including early year's settings, schools and academies, parents and carers, the dioceses, borough and district councils, the Department for Education, the Regional Schools Commissioner and local communities.

2.3 The Council publishes an Education Commissioning Plan (ECP) every two years which sets out its place planning strategy over a four year period. The current ECP was approved for publication by the Lead Member for Learning and School Effectiveness on 21 December 2015. The plan is available online at:

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/management/download/>

2.4 The ECP explains the Council's pupil forecasting methodology and the key factors that are taken into account in producing forecasts of future demand for places. These include:

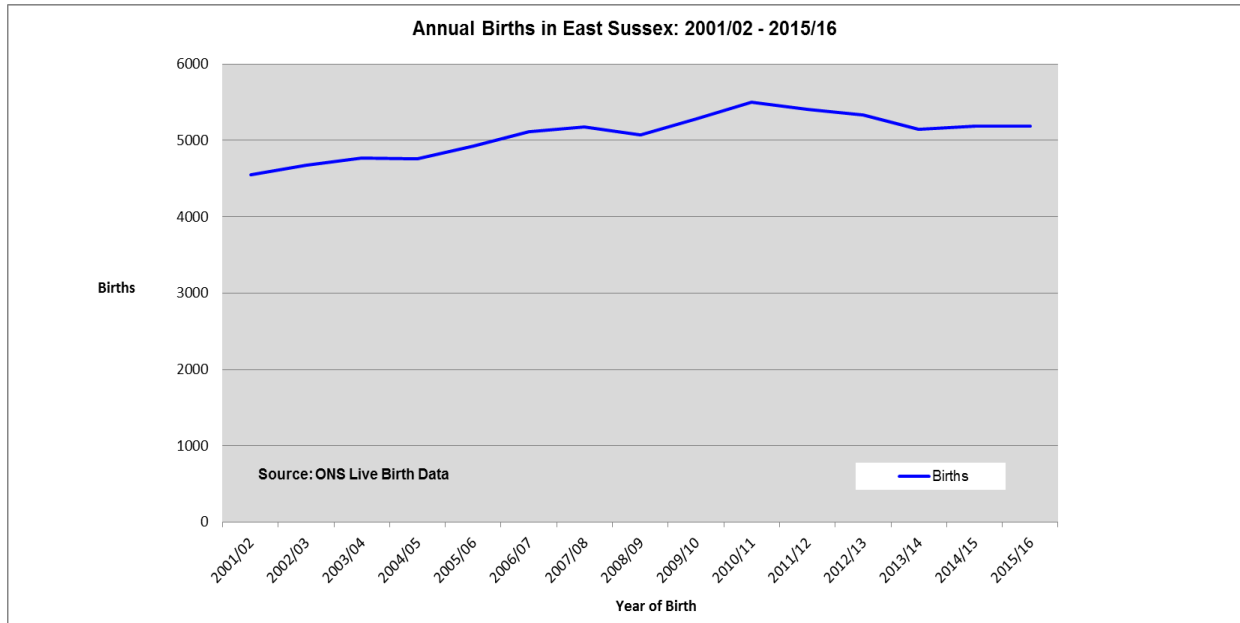
- Existing and planned capacities of schools as well as published intake numbers
- Existing numbers of pupils in schools (from pupil census data)
- Future births and resulting primary Year R numbers
- Parental preference for primary and infant Year R, junior Year 3 and secondary Year 7 places as expressed through the school admissions system
- Transfer (cohort survival) rates between school year groups
- Transfers and transfer rates between infant and junior and primary and secondary schools
- Staying-on rates into school sixth forms
- Additional pupils arising from new housing development in each area

2.5 The ECP also sets out the Council's School Organisation Policy which outlines the principles it will apply when working with schools to review leadership and school structures, including an exploration of collaborations, federations and amalgamations.

2.6 A new ECP, covering the period 2017-2021, is currently being prepared. The Council intends to publish the new plan in early 2018, subject to approval from the Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability.

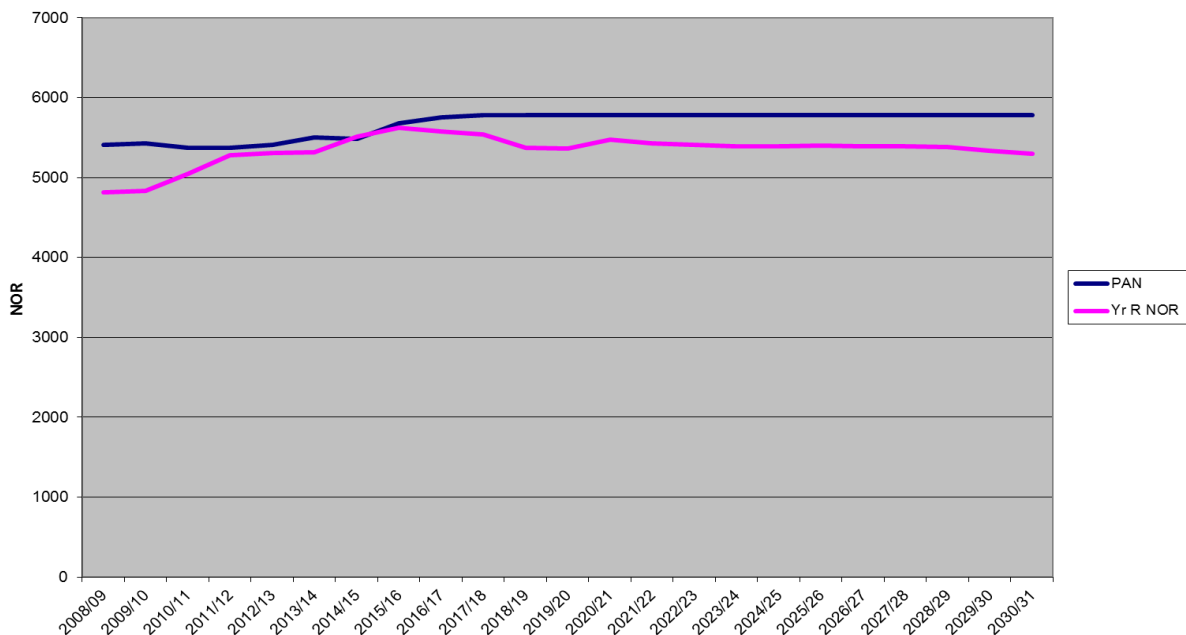
Overview of mainstream school places in East Sussex

2.7 Births in East Sussex rose significantly, from around 4,500 in academic year 2001/02 to a peak of approximately 5,500 in academic year 2010/11. Since then, countywide births have fallen to around 5,200 in 2015/16. This is illustrated in the table below.



2.8 The fall in countywide births is reflected in a fall in primary Year R intake numbers. In 2015/16 there were 5,623 Year R children in East Sussex. By 2019/20 intake numbers are predicted to fall below 5,400. Based on the Council's demographic projections, longer term Year R numbers are forecast to remain around 5,400 – with a continued downward trend in births in some parts of the county being offset by the stimulus to births from high levels of new housing in other areas. See the table below.

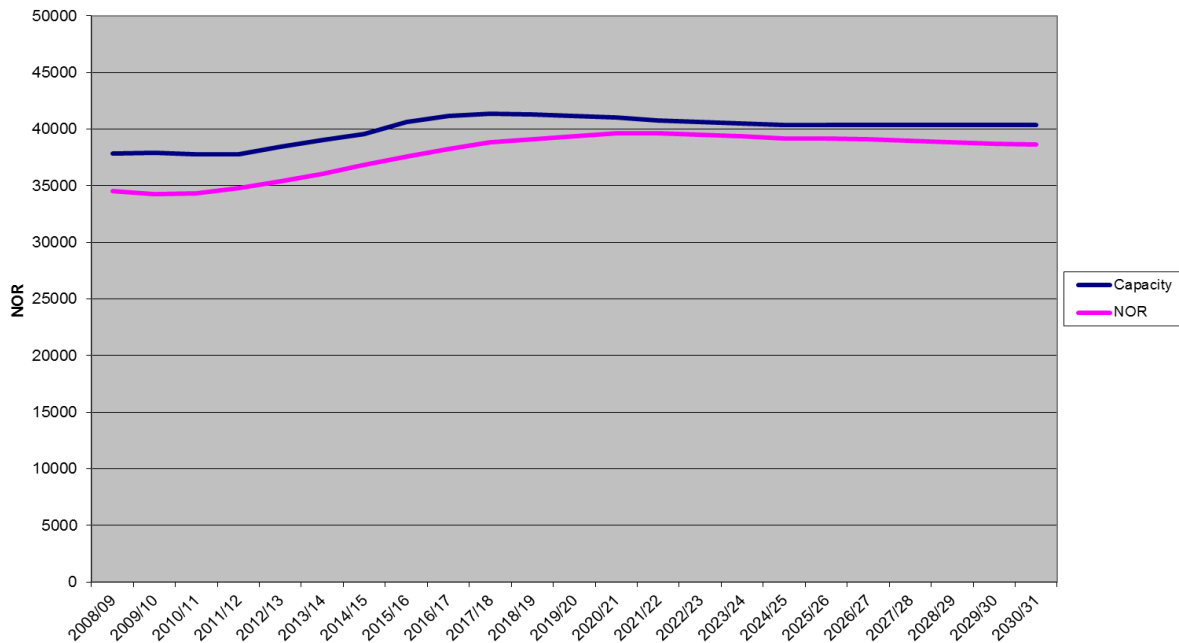
Forecast Yr R NOR - East Sussex Primary Schools



2.9 It will take a number of years before the recent peak in births and Year R numbers works its way through the system. Total primary numbers on roll, standing at 38,264 in 2016/17, are

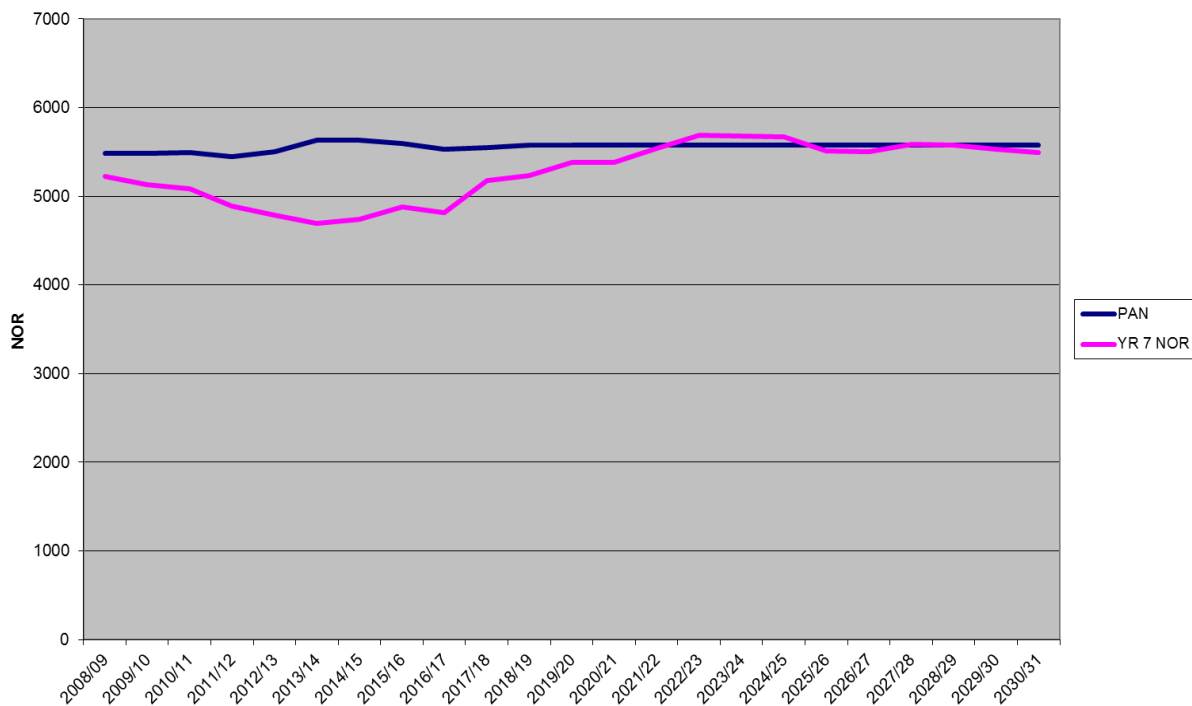
forecast to peak at around 39,700 in either 2020/21 or 2021/22. The following table demonstrates this.

Forecast Number on Roll - East Sussex Primary Schools



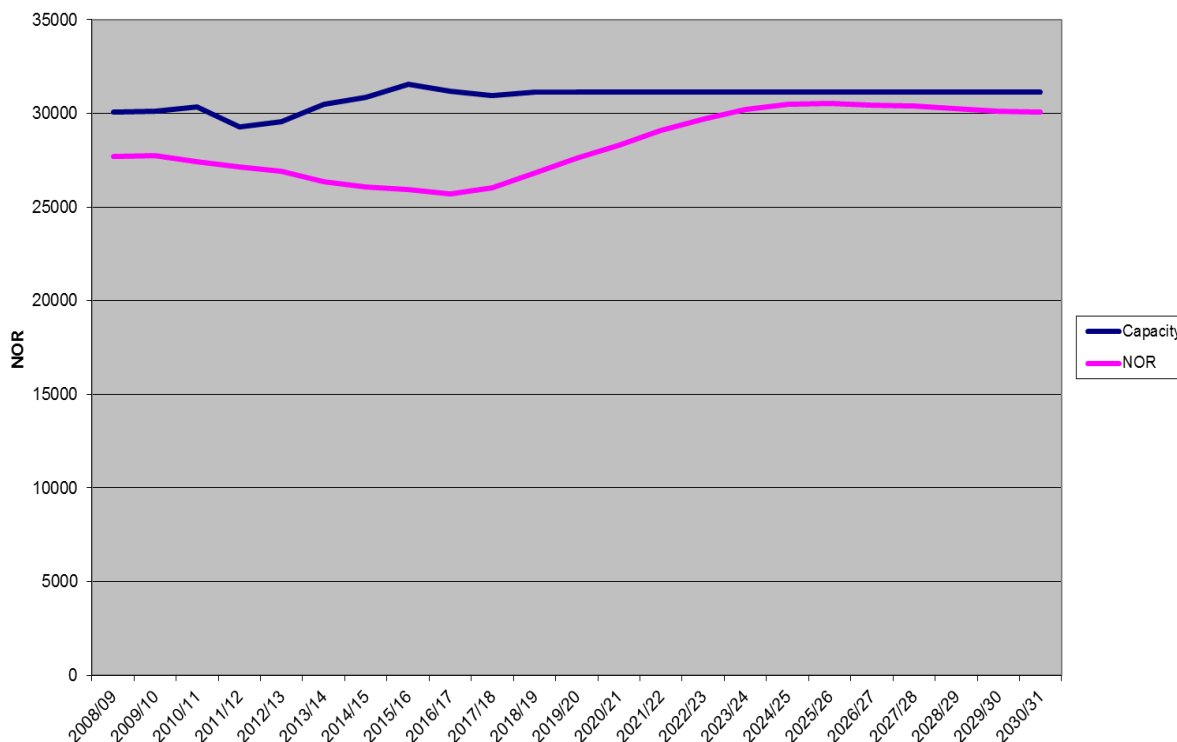
2.10 The rise in births between 2001/02 and 2010/11 is starting to impact on secondary school numbers. Year 7 intake numbers have generally been rising since 2013/14. In 2016/17 the countywide Year 7 total was 4,814. It is predicted to continue to rise until it reaches a peak of around 5,700 in 2023/24. See the table below.

Forecast Yr 7 Number on Roll - East Sussex Secondary Schools



2.11 In 2015/16 total numbers on roll in secondary schools hit their lowest point in recent years at 25,919. By 2023/24 numbers are forecast to exceed 30,000, peaking at approximately 30,500 around the middle of the decade as illustrated in the following table.

Forecast Number on Roll - East Sussex Secondary Schools



2.12 Countywide, the forecasts for primary and secondary school numbers in 2017 are significantly down on the 2016 forecasts. Mainly as a result of the significantly reduced new housing figures in the latest revision to Wealden District Council’s Local Plan, there are now 5,000 fewer new homes planned for East Sussex in the period to 2027/28. Despite this, there remain certain parts of the county (e.g. Hailsham, Uckfield, Bexhill, Polegate/ Willingdon and Newhaven/Peacehaven) where significant volumes of new housing have been built/are planned and additional school places are likely to be required to meet the demand arising from the new housing.

2.13 The changing picture in Wealden District over the last couple of years has brought real challenges in terms of developing a coherent place planning strategy for each growth area. The significant changes over this time, not only to the overall growth figures, but also to locations and timing of proposed developments has required the Council to re-model its pupil forecasts, sometimes at very short notice, and identify new strategies and infrastructure requirements (including land) to support that level of growth. The Council’s most recent update to its forecasting model and its newly emerging place planning strategies take account of the reduced housing figures in the Wealden Local Plan, particularly in Hailsham. However, the Council is mindful of the risk that the situation might change again and require a further re-visit of the pupil forecasts and hence its place planning strategy. This places undue pressure on the Council to deliver additional school places in areas of pressure in a timely manner.

2.14 A number of rural schools are full to their capacity partly as result of demand from children living in nearby large towns, particularly Eastbourne and Hastings. This has sometimes resulted in these schools having difficulty accommodating in-area children. To help alleviate this problem a change to East Sussex County Council’s School Admissions Policy has been made from 2017/18. Under the existing admissions criteria, siblings of children who already have a place at a school normally take priority for places over children with no siblings, even when the child with the sibling lives outside the school’s admissions area. From 2017/18 only siblings of ‘in-area’ children take precedence. The change does not apply to children whose siblings are already in the school before September 2017. As a consequence of this phasing in, the new policy may take a few years to impact significantly on pupil pressures on rural schools.

2.15 A small margin of surplus school capacity is often allowed to facilitate parental choice, to take account of the fact that schools with available places may not always be in the part of a planning area where the demand is, and to allow for a degree of error in the forecasts. In larger towns around one form of entry (30 intake places) is allowed while in other areas around half a form of entry (15 intake places) is allowed although margins vary depending on specific forecasts, capacities and circumstances.

2.16 As identified above, the biggest factors affecting pupil numbers in East Sussex have been high births and new housing development. Certain parts of the county (e.g. Eastbourne) also appear to have experienced higher than normal levels of net inward migration in certain year groups. In common with many other local authorities the Council is committed to accepting the equivalent of 0.07% of our total child population as unaccompanied asylum seekers over 3 years, which equates to 72 young people in total.

2.17 The national education landscape has changed dramatically in recent times with local authority maintained schools sitting alongside voluntary aided schools, foundation trusts, stand-alone academies, multi-academy trusts and free schools. This more autonomous and diverse landscape brings new challenges to the Council as it endeavours to discharge its statutory obligation to secure sufficient capacity to meet demand for places. While the Council retains powers of direction over community and voluntary controlled schools in terms of admissions, it does not have the same authority over voluntary aided schools, academies or free schools. At times this has led to difficulties in reaching agreement with non-maintained and voluntary aided schools about exceeding their published admission number (PAN) to serve children living in their local communities. This is likely to continue to be a challenge as pressure on places moves from primary to secondary, where the majority of schools are non-maintained.

Mainstream school places provided

2.18 In the period 2010/11 to 2017/18 3,738 additional mainstream school places have been created in East Sussex through the provision of temporary bulge classes, the permanent expansion of existing schools and the establishment of new schools. This can be summarised as follows:

Place planning area	Phase	Number of additional places provided
Eastbourne	Primary	1,230
Hastings	Primary	323
Lewes	Primary	165
Newhaven	Primary	300
Peacehaven	Primary	130
Seaford	Primary	300
Iford & Kingston	Primary	70
Ringmer	Primary	105
Wivelsfield	Primary	70
Bexhill	Primary	375
Battle	Primary	30

Rye	Primary	105
Crowborough	Primary	30
Hailsham	Primary	240
Polegate/Willingdon	Primary	90
Buxted	Primary	35
Mayfield	Primary	40
Park Mead	Primary	30
Rotherfield	Primary	70
Total		3,738

2.19 Over the period to 2022/23 the Council plans to create an additional 1,580 primary and secondary school places through the provision of temporary bulge classes, the permanent expansion of existing schools and the establishment of new schools. This is summarised below.

Place planning area	Phase	Number of additional places provided
Newhaven	Primary	30
Peacehaven	Primary	60
Hailsham	Primary	420
Polegate	Primary	210
Eastbourne	Secondary	60
Newhaven/Peacehaven	Secondary	450
Hailsham	Secondary	150
Willingdon	Secondary	200
Total		1,580

Overview of special school places in East Sussex

2.20 The Council's recently developed SEND forecasting model is predicting that overall numbers of children with SEND could rise to over 8,500 by 2020/21 and to 9,800 by 2030/31. The numbers with Education Health Care Plan (EHCPs) could rise to over 3,200 by 2020/21 and to over 3,800 by 2030/31.

2.21 Reflecting recent increases in the number of placements and the presentation of anxiety and mental health issues in requests for support, the numbers with plans with a primary need of Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) could rise by 400 by the end of the next decade.

2.22 If recent trends continue, numbers with plans and a primary need of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) could also rise by around 400 over the same time period.

2.23 Even if the recent high rate of increases will not be fully repeated, the numbers of children with EHCPs and a primary need of Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) could rise by over 100 in the period to 2030/31.

2.24 Probably linked to the increased survival rates of very premature babies, the numbers of children categorised as having Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD) has increased quite significantly in recent years. It is unclear if longer term, with medical developments, the trend will stabilise. However, if recent rising trends do continue we would see this total rising by 100 over the next 15-16 years.

2.25 The Council has worked closely with our current special schools and potential new providers to develop a strategy for the provision of additional special school places to meet the predicted demand and to reduce the high revenue costs to the Council of placing pupils in independent schools. This strategy includes the development of new schools, including through successful free school applications, and a review of specialist facilities as detailed below:

- The Flagship School (wave 12 free school): 9-16 years, with 56 places with High Functioning Autism and pupils with social, behavioural and communication difficulties. Provider – Flagship School Ltd. Preferred site in Hastings. The ESFA will fund the capital works centrally. Indicative opening date: September 2020.
- The Summerdown School (wave 12 free school): 5-16 years, with places for 84 pupils with autism and speech language and communication needs. Provider – Southfield Academy Trust. Preferred site in Eastbourne (Council owned land). The ESFA will fund the capital works centrally. Indicative opening date: September 2020.
- The Workplace Alternative Provision (wave 12 free school): 11-16 years, co-educational, alternative provision school offering provision for 94 pupils with behavioural issues and excluded children. Provider – SABDEN Academy Trust. Preferred site in Bexhill (Council owned land). The ESFA will fund the capital works centrally. Indicative opening date: September 2019.
- New PMLD provision: subject to approval by the Regional Schools Commissioner it is intended that the new Summerdown School above extends its offer to include 51 PMLD places. The Council would fund the PMLD element of the new provision from its capital programme. Indicative opening date: September 2020.
- New SEMH provision: the Council is currently investigating options for delivering 80 SEMH places in either Eastbourne or Hailsham on land that is either in the Council's ownership or is available under an option agreement with a housing developer. The Council would fund the new provision from its capital programme. Indicative opening date: September 2020.
- New specialist facilities: as part of its High Needs Review the Council is also considering a strategy to develop more specialist facilities at mainstream schools which would cater for a broad range of lower level SEND needs where pupil's requirements could be met in a specialist facility that includes appropriate access to mainstream provision. The agreed strategy would be subject of an invest-to-save business case to the Capital Strategic Asset Board for funding in the capital programme.

School organisation

2.26 In addition to the 47 schools in East Sussex which became academies between September 2010 and September 2017, the Council has, in line with its School Organisation Policy, undertaken/overseen a number of organisational changes to its mainstream schools:

2.27 In the last 6 years the Council has determined the following school amalgamations.

Schools	Name of new all-through primary school	Effective date
Hampden Park Infant School and Highfield Junior School	Heron Park Primary Academy	September 2011
Peacehaven Infant School and Hoddern Junior School	Peacehaven Heights Primary School	September 2012
Grays Infant School and Southdown Junior School	Harbour Primary and Nursery School	January 2013
Whitehill Infant School and Herne Junior School	Ashdown Primary School	September 2015
St Thomas a Becket Catholic Infant School and St Thomas a Becket Catholic Junior School	St Thomas a Becket Catholic Primary School	September 2017

2.28 Since 2008 the Council has supported the creation of the following school federations.

Federation name	Schools	Effective date
The Woodlands Federation	Punnetts Town Community Primary School, Broad Oak Community Primary School and Dallington CE Primary School	January 2008
South Ashdown Schools Federation	Bonnors CE Primary School and Buxted CE Primary School	April 2015
St Thomas a Becket CE Federation	Blackboys CE Primary School and Framfield CE Primary School	September 2015
Roselands and Stafford Federation	Roselands Infant School and Stafford Junior School	September 2015
The Saxonbury Federation	Mark Cross CE Primary School and Frant CE Primary School	October 2015
The Pioneer Federation	East Hoathly CE Primary School and Chiddingly Primary School	November 2015
Beckley and Peasmarsh Schools Federation	Beckley CE Primary School and Peasmarsh CE Primary School	April 2016
Riverside Federation	Etchingham CE Primary School and Bodiam CE Primary School	July 2016
Quercus Federation	Hurst Green CE Primary School and Northiam CE Primary School	September 2016
Aspire Federation	Five Ashes CE Primary School and Mayfield CE Primary School	September 2016
The Skylark Federation	Barcombe CE Primary School, Hamsey Community Primary School and Plumpton Primary School	June 2017

2.29 Since 2014 the Council has closed/resolved to close the following small schools.

Schools	Effective date
Mountfield and Whatlington CE Primary School	August 2014
Pells CE Primary School	August 2017

Rodmell CE Primary School	August 2018

2.30 The Council and governing bodies face an increasing pressure to maintain the efficient organisation and effective leadership of its schools; particularly of primary schools. In some rural areas where there is little or no housing to sustain the birth rate, small schools are facing real challenges in terms of their long term financial viability and the impact this could have on their ability to maintain high standards of education.

2.31 The Council will manage a programme of ongoing planning and review of school organisation and leadership arrangements, to provide support for governing bodies to address this challenge and to maintain a sustainable network of village schools, through exploring a range of partnership solutions where appropriate (e.g. collaborations, federations, multi-academy trusts).

2.32 Where there is sustained evidence that a school is failing to meet the needs of its local community and/or to deliver improved outcomes and/or is not financially viable, the Council will also explore the options for closure.

3 Capital Programme

Funding

3.1 The Council receives schools basic need grant funding from central government to help with the costs of providing additional primary and secondary school places. The grant funding is provided on a locally weighted 'cost per pupil place' basis and is calculated from data submitted by the Council in its annual School Capacity (SCAP) return to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

3.2 The per pupil rate of funding the Council receives is generally insufficient to cover the entire capital costs of new build and expansion projects and the Council must supplement the funding received from other sources including its own capital programme and development contributions from S106 and CIL.

ESCC Capital Programme

3.3 In the period 2017/18 to 2022/23 an allocation of £86 million is identified in the Council's capital programme to create new primary, secondary and special school places. New school places are delivered through a mix of temporary (bulge classes) and permanent (school expansions/new schools) solutions depending on how long the pressure on places is expected to last in a given area.

3.4 The capital programme for provision of school places, in common with the remainder of the capital programme across the Authority is predicated on a 'Basic Need' premise. The RPPR process is used to scrutinise and develop the programme which is ultimately signed off by Cabinet and Full Council.

3.5 The programme for school places was developed through the completion of a range of inception studies that took the pupil forecasts described in the previous section and developed very broad outline project scopes for meeting these place number demands. The inception studies completed by external consultants (architects) were then costed by external quantity surveyors using a broad basis methodology including the application of a £/sq.m rate, together with assessments of and making allocations for 'abnormal' costs and significant risk and contingency items.

3.6 This approach was used for each of the individual areas of need across the programme period and an aggregated sum (above) was developed for inclusion in the capital programme.

3.7 As projects come forward for delivery they are subject to a detailed commission prepared by the Children's Services Department detailing the specific deliverables required. Orbis Property Team is then engaged to manage the feasibility, design, planning, construction and handover. All projects in the programme are reported on monthly to the Schools Capital Sub Board, which highlights any significant risk areas likely to affect delivery timescales or costs and makes recommendations for remedial actions or changes to the agreed programme to the Capital and Strategic Asset Board.

4 State of School Buildings and Plant

Identification of planned major building and plant condition need and H & S work

4.1 The County receives an annual School Condition grant from the Department for Education (DfE) which is managed directly by ESCC. The focus of this budget is on addressing firstly high priority 1 & 2 works that are classified as:

- Priority 1 – Urgent work that will address an immediate high risk to the health and safety of occupants and/or prevent immediate closure of premises and/or remedy a serious breach of legislation. Example – boiler unexpectedly fails and no economical repair, requiring immediate replacement to keep school operational.
- Priority 2 - Essential work required within two years that will prevent serious deterioration of the fabric or services and avoid a medium risk to the health and safety of occupants and/or remedy a less serious breach of legislation. Example – flat roof with localised leaks staining ceiling. No immediate risk that effects school operation, but roof considered at the end of its working life, and programmed in for renewal.

4.2 Due to the large scale of investment required it is not possible to address all condition backlog work in one year. A rolling programme is required addressing priority 1 and 2 with priority 3 and 4 deteriorating over time into Priority 1 or 2 needs. This ensures schools are fit for purpose and ESCC complies with its legal statutory duty for property H & S legislation.

4.3 The level of School maintenance backlog is estimated at –

Priority	Backlog	
Urgent Priority 1 & 2	(< 2 yrs)	£1,426,489 **
Essential works Priority 3	(3 – 4 yrs)	£17,046,093
Desirable works Priority 4	(4 - 5 yrs)	£12,197,327
Long term works Priority 5	(5 yrs and above)	£1,326,589

** Note – There are no outstanding priority 1 works in the maintenance backlog. However a yearly amount is set aside for unforeseen breakdowns of building elements and services, which need to be included for immediate repair in the current years planned maintenance programme, to ensure school operations are not disturbed.

4.4 The Local Authority Maintained (LAM) schools identification and prioritisation of work is by:

- A five yearly condition survey undertaken by external consultants, of the fabric and mechanical and electrical systems. There are potential future fee savings from placing less reliance on external consultants in preference for using internal Orbis delivery resources.
- A yearly ESCC Property client Officer annual inspection and meeting with each school, to go through and check the condition survey, where priorities need to be adjusted, or where new works are identified.

Funding

4.5 Funding for the upkeep and maintenance of LAM school buildings and plant is split. Each school has a devolved budget they manage, part of which is used for carrying out minor repairs and maintenance, including the servicing of plant and systems to comply with legislation, such as boiler servicing, legionella testing etc. They also receive a revenue budget for structural maintenance. There is no funding managed centrally by ESCC for academies, as they receive their funding direct from the DfE, and have responsibility for identification and prioritisation of works on their site.

4.6 The majority of LAM schools buy in to the ESCC BSD Property Services, BM01 support service, where their structural budget is managed centrally on their behalf, also providing them with access to a property help desk supporting them for any property issues they may have, including reactive and emergency repairs.

4.7 ESCC receive a yearly capital DfE School Condition grant for LAM schools, for funding of condition and H & S planned maintenance works i.e. boiler renewals, new roofs, window replacement etc. Also for improvement works such as Schools Access Initiative (SAI), where adaptations are required for the specific requirements of new pupils with particular identified needs to attending school, and other legislative requirements requiring major upgrade.

4.8 The below table sets out recent, and future years funding.

Budget Type	(£m)	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20
Schools Condition Capital		5.048	4.967	4.721	4.669	4.422
Schools Structural Revenue		1.700	1.400	1.400	1.400	1.400

* With the likely continuing programme of LAM schools converting to academy status, the DfE School Condition grant received by ESCC is likely to reduce as further schools transfer and receive their grant allocation direct. This will require the budget allocation to be revised to match the reduced grant received.

* The DfE School Condition grant funding that will be received by ESCC is not technically ring-fenced but authorities are to provide a return to the DfE at the end of the year detailing where the money has been spent on LAM schools.

Consideration of Health & Safety Issues following the Grenfell Tower

4.9 As referenced above, the ongoing school surveys and ESCC inspections inform the need of H & S projects needing urgent consideration for funding, from the EFA condition allocation. Prior to the Grenfell Tower incident, ACM (Aluminium Composite Material) cladding was not identified as an issue, and hence would not have been identified in condition surveys as a risk.

4.10 Following the incident a review was undertaken of the 371 individual LAM school buildings, following the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and Fire &

Rescue Service guidelines. The review included risk assessments considering type of use, height, number of storeys and cladding type in all LAM schools buildings. The results showed that no ESCC LAM school buildings were assessed as at risk, and none were assessed to be requiring further investigation/action. A return to the ESFA was completed on this basis and we continue to monitor bulletins and guidelines issued by the DCLG for any further action to be taken.

4.11 For the ongoing management of fire risk, LAM Schools continue to be provided with guidance, documentation and suggested specialists to undertake their Fire Risk Assessments to inform their required fire operational management of buildings. There is assurance that this is in place, it is being monitored by the BSD Property Team inspections, and through H&S team audits.

4.12 Academies were responsible for their own ESFA return for how they were managing the cladding risks at their sites. ESCC communicated with ESFA to request details of returns made by all educational providers in ESCC, that if any issues identified, ESCC would work with the providers to ensure that all buildings providing ESCC educational spaces are safe.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

5.1 The report addresses the Committees wish to receive an overview of the current status of school buildings and plant in East Sussex. This included reference to the school maintenance programme and school commissioning plan. Such a review was to also include consideration of health and safety issues following the Grenfell Tower fire.

5.2 The committee is asked to acknowledge the work of Children's Services Department in ensuring a robust place planning and forecasting process is in place to deliver a schools capital programme to meet the County's statutory obligations to deliver school places.

5.3 The committee is asked to ratify the approach of Orbis Property to ensuring the school estate is maintained in a safe and operational condition.

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Work programme for Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Future work at a glance

Updated: November 2017

This list is updated after each meeting of the scrutiny committee.

Items that appear regularly at committee	
<p>The Council's Forward Plan</p>	<p>The latest version of the Council's Forward Plan is included on each scrutiny committee agenda. The Forward Plan lists all the key County Council decisions that are to be taken within the next few months together with contact information to find out more. It is updated monthly.</p> <p>The purpose of doing this is to help committee Members identify important issues for more detailed scrutiny <i>before</i> key decisions are taken. This has proved to be significantly more effective than challenging a decision once it has been taken. As a last resort, the call-in procedure is available if scrutiny Members think a Cabinet or Lead Member decision has been taken incorrectly.</p> <p>Requests for further information about individual items on the Forward Plan should be addressed to the listed contact. Possible scrutiny issues should be raised with the scrutiny team or committee Chairman, ideally before a scrutiny committee meeting.</p>
<p>Committee work programme</p>	<p>This provides an opportunity for the committee to review the scrutiny work programme for future meetings and to highlight any additional issues they wish to add to the programme.</p>

Future Committee agenda items		Author
2 March 2018		
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) 2018/19	To provide the Committee with an opportunity to review its input into the RPPR process for 2018/19 and suggest improvements to the process.	Becky Shaw, Chief Executive
ISEND Service Demand.	The Committee requested a report be provided which evaluates the impact of the measures set out in the Department's Action Plan to the March 2018 meeting.	Stuart Gallimore, Director of Children's Services
Scrutiny Review of Educational Attainment in Key Stage 4 – Teacher Recruitment and Retention	Six month update report monitoring progress on the implementation of the recommendations of the Scrutiny Review of Educational Attainment in Key Stage 4 – Teacher Recruitment and Retention	Stuart Gallimore, Director of Children's Services
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) Annual Report	To update the Committee on the work of SACRE.	Roy Galley, Chairman of SACRE/ Stuart Gallimore, Director of Children Services
25 June 2018		
East Sussex Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Serious Case Reviews.	A report outlining the findings and outcomes of the Serious Case Reviews undertaken by the LSCB during 2016/17. In addition, at its June 2017 meeting, the Committee requested that the Local Safeguarding Children Board include the findings of its review of the impact of Serious Case Reviews as part of its annual Serious Case Review report to the Committee in June 2018.	Reg Hooke, Chair of LSCB/ Stuart Gallimore, Director of Children's Services
Raising the Age of Participation	At its meeting in June 2017, the Committee requested a progress report on Raising the Age of Participation.	Stuart Gallimore, Director of Children's Services

1 October 2018		
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)	Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources. The Committee will start looking at departmental portfolio plans and the budget setting process for 2019/20.	Becky Shaw, Chief Executive
Educational Attainment in Key Stage 4	Teacher Recruitment and Retention: 12 Month monitoring report planned for the 2018 meeting of the Committee.	Scrutiny/Assistant Directors.
East Sussex Local Safeguarding Children Board	Presentation of the annual report of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).	LSCB Chair/ Director of Children's Services

27 November 2018		
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)	Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources. The Committee will review the information provided at its September meeting and establish an RPPR board to examine departmental portfolio plans and the budget setting process for 2019/20.	Becky Shaw, Chief Executive

Current scrutiny reviews and other work underway		Date available
Educational Attainment in Key Stage 4- Teacher Recruitment and Retention: 12 Month monitoring report planned for the October 2018 meeting of the Committee.		The report is scheduled to come back to the Committee for 12 monthly monitoring in October 2018.
East Sussex Better Together (ESBT). Joint Scrutiny Board established with representatives from two other scrutiny committees to consider the ESBT programme and specific policy and service developments arising from it.		11 December 2017.

Potential future scrutiny work (Proposals and ideas for future scrutiny topics appear here)

How schools are coping with change. The items listed below were originally added to the work programme in June 2017. However at its meeting in September 2017, the Committee agreed to defer consideration of these matters until early 2018 (when the Department will be in a better position to provide relevant information). The issues include a range of significant developments/issues which schools are currently dealing with. The Committee want to assess the potential impact of these developments on pupil attainment and school performance. The key changes the Committee discussed included:

- school funding issues, including data on school funding bids to the Strategic School Improvement Fund (SSIF) and the impact this is having on under-performing schools;
- the impact of the 'Federate First' programme (Federation First is a national campaign developed in 2016 by the National Governors Association to raise awareness of the advantages of federations to school improvement);
- issues relating to pupil attainment and school performance within different Key Stages and the implementation of the Assessment Without Levels assessment framework; and
- Whilst the Committee is interested in developing a clearer understanding of the impact of the key changes it has identified on all types of school within East Sussex, Members also have a specific interest in the sustainability of small schools.
- how schools are now increasingly making decisions regarding which services they purchase and the impact this main have on may have on performance and attainment.

At its meeting in September 2017, the Committee also asked that the following matters are added to the work programme:

- **Key Stage 4 outcomes.** With regard to the Assessment Without Levels report, that the Committee's are supplied with the outcomes at Key Stage 4 once the national data is available.
- **Home Education.** The issue of the increase in the numbers of children being home educated is added to the 'potential future scrutiny review' section.
- **Attainment and Performance.** In recognition of the proposed discontinuation of the Education Performance Panel, that wording is added to the work programme to reflect the Committee's interest in continuing to scrutinize attainment and performance.

Children's Centres. A position statement setting out the current status of Children's Centres in East Sussex and the Department's future plans for Children's Centres.

Background / information reports available to the Committee (Items in this list appear on committee agendas when proposed for scrutiny)		Date available
Performance monitoring	<p>Performance monitoring is an integral part of scrutiny. The committee is alerted to the relevant quarterly reports that Cabinet and Lead Members receive. Members can then suggest matters for scrutiny to investigate in more detail.</p> <p>In the performance reports, achievement against individual performance targets is assessed as either 'Red', 'Amber' or 'Green' ('RAG'):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Green' means that the performance measure is on target to be achieved • 'Amber' means that there is concern about the likelihood of achieving the performance measure by the end of the year • 'Red' means that the performance measure is assessed as inappropriate or unachievable. <p>Requests for further information about individual items in the performance reports should be addressed to the listed contact. Possible scrutiny issues should be raised with the scrutiny team or committee Chair.</p>	<p>Every quarter</p> <p>Every quarter</p>
Children's Services statutory complaints report 2017-18	This will include information about compliments and other representations for the period April 2017 – March 2018.	November 2018

Enquiries: Democratic Services
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GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ACRONYMS APPEARING IN CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE PAPERS

Term	What it means
CAMHS	The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) provides advice, diagnosis of mental disorders and therapeutic work with young people to treat complex, severe or persistent mental health difficulties.
Child Protection Plan (CPP)	A detailed inter-agency plan setting out what must be done to protect a child from further harm; to promote the child's health and development; and, if it is in the best interests of the child, to support the family to promote the child's welfare.
Children in care	Children being looked after by the local authority. See also LAC – Looked after children.
Children's Centre	East Sussex Children's Centres offer all families with children under five a range of services, information and support. Services vary depending on local needs but typically include: advice; home visiting; family 'drop-in'; child health information; help finding specialist and other services they can't provide directly.
Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP)	The CYPP sets out the shared priorities of the Children and Young People's Trust partners to improve the lives of children, young people and their families in East Sussex.
Children and Young People's Trust (CYPT)	The East Sussex CYPT is a group of partners that work together in different ways to improve what we provide for children, young people and families.
DfE	Department for Education (Government department)
Early years foundation stage (EYFS)	The EYFS is a set of welfare and learning and development requirements, which must be followed by providers of care for children below 5 years old – the age of compulsory education in the UK.
ESBAS	East Sussex Behaviour & Attendance Service
Key Stage 1 (KS1)	The two years of schooling in maintained schools in England and Wales normally known as Year 1 and Year 2, when pupils are aged between 5 and 7.
Key Stage 2 (KS2)	The four years of schooling in maintained schools in England and Wales normally known as Years 3, 4, 5 and 6, when pupils are aged between 7 and 11.
Key Stage 3 (KS3)	The three years of schooling in maintained schools in England and Wales normally known as Years 7, 8 and 9, when pupils are

Term	What it means
	aged between 11 and 14.
Key Stage 4 (KS4)	The two years of school education which incorporate GCSEs, and other exams, in maintained schools in England, Wales, normally known as Years 10 and 11 in England and Wales.
Key Stage 5 (KS5)	An unofficial label used to describe the two years of post-compulsory education for students aged 16-18, or at sixth form, in England and Wales.
LAC (Looked After Children)	Children who are either looked after or in the care of a local authority, or are provided with accommodation for more than 24 hours by a local authority. We use the term 'children in care' to include all children being looked after by a local authority.
Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)	The Children Act 2004 places a duty on every local authority to establish an LSCB. Members of the East Sussex LSCB include an independent chair, two lay members and senior representatives from a wide range of statutory and voluntary sector agencies. The LSCB coordinates the work undertaken by its members to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in East Sussex, and to ensure that the safeguarding work is effective. See http://www.eastsussexlscb.org.uk
NEETs	People who are N ot in E ducation, E mployment or T raining.
Pupil Premium	The pupil premium was introduced in April 2011 and is an additional payment paid directly to schools by the government for every pupil who has been registered for free school meals at any point in the last six years (known as 'Ever 6 FSM'). Schools also receive funding for children who have been looked after continuously for more than six months, and children of service personnel.
RPA (Raising the school participation Age)	From summer 2013, all young people will have to continue in education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17. From summer 2015, this will change to their 18th birthday.
RPPR	Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources is the County Council's budget and business planning process.
Safeguarding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - protecting children from maltreatment - preventing impairment of children's health or development - ensuring that children are growing up with safe and effective care - undertake that role so as to enable those children to have optimum life chances and to enter adulthood successfully.
Schools Forum	A body which advises the local authority on how the schools budget is spent. Members include headteachers, school governors and councillors.

Term	What it means
SE7(South East 7)	South East 7 group of local authorities is a partnership of local authorities in the South East that are committed to working together on some key work areas for mutual benefit.
SEN	Special Educational Needs
SEND Pathfinder	Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Pathfinder is a national programme trying to find better ways to help families who need it. The main thing is to put families at the centre of the process when assessing their needs and those of their child, to give them more choice and control over the help they can get.
THRIVE Transformation programme	In East Sussex - a means of improving outcomes for children by investing more money in the early help services to give families the support they need <i>before</i> they get into difficulties. The thinking is that if families solve their problems before they escalate, the need for more costly social care services, such as Child Protection Plans or taking children into care, is reduced.
TYS Targeted Youth Service)	The Targeted Youth Support (TYS) Service offers young people advice, information and support around issues such as: sexual and mental health, drugs and alcohol, family and relationships, money and accommodation. Youth work sessions include: sports and arts based activities, getting involved in youth councils and local volunteering opportunities.
Youth Offending Team	The Youth Offending Team aims to cut youth crime by changing the behaviour of young people who offend. It helps them get into mainstream education and health services, so that they can be diverted from crime in the future.
VSB	Virtual Schools Bank.

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EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL'S FORWARD PLAN

The Leader of the County Council is required to publish a forward plan setting out matters which the Leader believes will be the subject of a key decision by the Cabinet or individual Cabinet member in the period covered by the Plan (the subsequent four months). The Council's Constitution states that a key decision is one that involves

- (a) expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the expenditure of the County Council's budget, namely above £500,000 per annum; or
- (b) is significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral divisions.

As a matter of good practice, the Council's Forward Plan includes other items in addition to key decisions that are to be considered by the Cabinet/individual members. This additional information is provided to inform local residents of all matters to be considered, with the exception of issues which are dealt with under the urgency provisions.

For each decision included on the Plan the following information is provided:

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- the name of the individual or body that is to make the decision and the date of the meeting
 - the title of the report and decision to be considered
 - groups that will be consulted prior to the decision being taken
 - a list of other appropriate documents
 - the name and telephone number of the contact officer for each item.

The Plan is updated and published every month on the Council's website two weeks before the start of the period to be covered.

Meetings of the Cabinet/individual members are open to the public (with the exception of discussion regarding reports which contain exempt/confidential information). Copies of agenda and reports for meetings are available on the website in advance of meetings. For further details on the time of meetings and general information about the Plan please contact Andy Cottell at County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, BN7 1UE, or telephone 01273 481955 or send an e-mail to andy.cottell@eastsussex.gov.uk.

For further detailed information regarding specific issues to be considered by the Cabinet/individual member please contact the named contact officer for the item concerned.

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL
County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, BN7 1UE

For copies of reports or other documents please contact the officer listed on the Plan or phone 01273 335274.

FORWARD PLAN – EXECUTIVE DECISIONS (including Key Decisions) –3 November 2017 TO 28 February 2018

Additional notices in relation to Key Decisions and/or private decisions are available on the [Council's website](#).

Cabinet membership:

Councillor Keith Glazier - Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development

Councillor David Elkin – Lead Member for Resources

Councillor Bill Bentley – Lead Member for Communities and Safety

Councillor Rupert Simmons – Lead Member for Economy

Councillor Nick Bennett – Lead Member for Transport and Environment

Councillor Carl Maynard – Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health

Councillor Sylvia Tidy – Lead Member for Children and Families

Councillor Bob Standley – Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability

Date for Decision	Decision Taker	Decision/Key Issue	Decision to be taken wholly or partly in private (P) or Key Decision (KD)	Consultation	List of Documents to be submitted to decision maker	Contact Officer
14 Nov 2017	Lead Member for Resources	3 Council Cottages, Selmeston Seeking authority to declare the property surplus and for disposal		Local Members	Report, other documents may also be submitted	Kate Nicholson 01273 336487
14 Nov 2017	Lead Member for Resources Lead Member for Resources	Old Nursery and land at Catsfield Road, Crowhurst Seeking authority to declare the property surplus and for disposal.			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Kate Nicholson 01273 336487
14 Nov 2017	Lead Member for	School Appeals Digital Project	P		Report, other	Paul Dean

	Resources	Next steps for the School Appeals Digital Project			documents may also be submitted	01273481751
27 Nov 2017	Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health	Employment Opportunities – Future arrangements To consider the future arrangements for successful supported employment and skills development pathways for people with learning disabilities.			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Kay Holden 01323 464470
11 Dec 2017	Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability	Enlargement of Polegate School - Final decision To consider the final decision regarding the enlargement of Polegate School - Final decision		Local Members	Report, other documents may also be submitted	Gary Langford 01273 481758
11 Dec 2017	Lead Member for Children and Families	To approve the business case for submission of the planning application for extension of Lansdowne Secure Unit To determine whether East Sussex County Council should submit a planning application develop and extend the existing Secure Unit to add capacity for 5 more beds to the Unit		Local Members	Report, other documents may also be submitted	Nicky Scott 01323 747179 Helen Simmons 01323 466030
11 Dec 2017	Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability	To approve the outcome of the ESCC funding formula consultation with Schools and Academies. Proposed changes to the ESCC's school funding formula were put forward for consultation with Schools and Academies		All Primary and Secondary Schools and Academies in ESCC.	Report, other documents may also be submitted	Ed Beale 01273 337984

		and now require lead member approval.				
12 Dec 2017	Cabinet	Annual Audit Letter 2016/17 To consider the Annual Audit letter and fee update from the External Auditor.	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Ola Owolabi 01273 482017
12 Dec 2017	Cabinet	Council Monitoring: Quarter 2 2017/18 The consider a Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) update and the Council Monitoring report for Quarter 2, 2017/18.			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Jane Mackney 01273 482146
12 Dec 2017	Cabinet	Looked After Children Annual Report To consider the Looked After Children's Annual Report			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Teresa Lavelle-Hill 01323 747197
12 Dec 2017	Cabinet	Treasury Management Annual Report 2016/17 and mid year report 2017/18 To consider a report on the review of Treasury Management performance for 2016/17 and for outturn for the first six months of 2017/18, including the economic factors affecting performance, the Prudential Indicators and compliance with the limits set within the Treasury Management Strategy.	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Ola Owolabi 01273 482017
18 Dec 2017	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	Rescinding of highway improvement scheme at Broad Oak, Brede To seek Lead Member approval to rescind the highway improvement scheme at Broad Oak, Brede and declare such land as necessary surplus to CET requirements		Four week consultation with local residents	Report, other documents may also be submitted	Jonathan Wheeler 01273 482212

<p>20 Dec 2017</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 45</p>	<p>Lead Member for Communities and Safety</p>	<p>Registration Service Income Generation For the Lead Member to note the breadth of income generation schemes currently being progressed within the Registration Service and consider proposals to:</p> <p>1) refer customers who are getting married to an approved Will writer, in return for a referral fee (predicated on the fact that marriage annuls all former wills). 2) refer customers to an approved insurance broker to organise Ceremony insurance for them in return for a fee from the insurance broker. 3) hold funeral services and wakes at Southover Grange. 4) offer a fee reduction of up to 25% for non-statutory optional ceremonies if they are booked at the same time as the customer transacting other business with the service.</p>	<p><i>KD</i></p>		<p>Report, other documents may also be submitted</p>	<p>Steve Quayle 01273 337148</p>
<p>20 Dec 2017</p>	<p>Lead Member for Communities and Safety</p>	<p>Road Safety Policies Update To consider a report regarding the updates to Road Safety Policies.</p>			<p>Report, other documents may also be submitted</p>	<p>Claire Scriven 0345 6080193</p>
<p>22 Jan 2018</p>	<p>Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability</p>	<p>Education Commissioning Plan 2017-2021 To seek approval for publication of the Education Commissioning Plan 2017-2021</p>	<p><i>KD</i></p>		<p>Report, other documents may also be submitted</p>	<p>Gary Langford 01273 481758</p>

22 Jan 2018	Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability	Final decision on a proposal to enlarge Willingdon Community School For the Lead Member to take the final decision on the proposal to enlarge Willingdon Community School from 1 September 2020	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Gary Langford 01273 481758
22 Jan 2018	Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability	To approve the DSG Budget for 2018/19 The DSG allocations are notified to the Local Authority in December and the DSG budget requires approval.			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Ed Beale 01273 337984
23 Jan 2018	Cabinet	Conservators of Ashdown Forest Budget 2018/19 To consider the Conservators of Ashdown Forest Budget for 2018/19.	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Ian Gutsell 01273 481399
23 Jan 2018	Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development	Local Growth Fund - Amendments to spend profiles 2017/18 To seek approval for the changes to 2017/18 Local Growth Fund profiles			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Ben Hook 01273 336408
23 Jan 2018	Cabinet	Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) 2018/19: Draft Council Plan To consider the revenue budget, savings proposals, capital programme and draft Council Plan for 2018/19.	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Jane Mackney 01273 482146
23 Jan 2018	Cabinet	Treasury Management Strategy 2018/19			Report, other	Ola Owolabi

		To consider the Treasury Management Strategy for the financial year 2018/19.	<i>KD</i>		documents may also be submitted	01273 482017
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