



## CABINET

TUESDAY, 7 MARCH 2023

10.00 AM COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, LEWES

MEMBERSHIP - Councillor Keith Glazier (Chair)  
Councillors Nick Bennett (Vice Chair), Bob Bowdler, Claire Dowling,  
Carl Maynard, Rupert Simmons and Bob Standley

## A G E N D A

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2023 (*Pages 3 - 6*)
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. Council Monitoring: Quarter 3 2022/2023 (*Pages 7 - 70*)  
Report by Chief Executive
6. Transport for the South East - Final Strategic Investment Plan (*Pages 71 - 100*)  
Report by Director of Communities, Economy and Transport
7. Any other items considered urgent by the Chair
8. To agree which items are to be reported to the County Council

PHILIP BAKER  
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27 February 2023

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## CABINET

MINUTES of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Council Chamber, County Hall, Lewes on 24 January 2023.

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PRESENT      Councillors Keith Glazier (Chair)

Councillors Nick Bennett (Vice Chair), Bob Bowdler, Claire Dowling, Carl Maynard, Rupert Simmons and Bob Standley

Members spoke on the items indicated:

Councillor Bennett	- item 5, 7 (minute 36 and 38)
Councillor Daniel	- item 5, 7 (minute 36 and 38)
Councillor di Cara	- item 8 (minute 39)
Councillor Field	- item 8 (minute 39)
Councillor Howell	- item 8 (minute 39)
Councillor Maynard	- item 8 (minute 39)
Councillor Stephen Shing	- item 7 (minute 38)
Councillor Standley	- item 5 (minute 36)
Councillor Swansborough	- item 7 (minute 38)
Councillor Tutt	- item 5, 7 (minute 36 and 38)

### 34. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 DECEMBER 2022

34.1 The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on the 13 December 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

### 35. REPORTS

35.1 Copies of the reports referred to below are included in the minute book.

### 36. RECONCILING POLICY, PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES: DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN 23/24, REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME

36.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Executive together with a summary of the consultation meeting held with Trade Unions which was received after publication of the Cabinet agenda.

36.2 It was RESOLVED to recommend the County Council to:

- 1) Approve in principle the draft Council Plan 2023/24 at Appendix 1 and authorise the Chief Executive to finalise the Plan in consultation with the relevant Lead Members;
- 2) Increase Council Tax by 2.99% in 2023/24;
- 3) Increase the Adult Social Care Precept by 2% in 2023/24;
- 4) Issue precepts to be paid by Borough and District Councils in accordance with the agreed schedule of instalments at Appendix 5 (Draft);
- 5) Approve the net Revenue Budget estimate of £501.4m for 2023/24 set out in Appendix 2 (Medium Term Financial Plan) and Appendix 3 (Draft) (Budget Summary) and authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer, Leader and Deputy Leader, to make adjustments to the presentation of the Budget Summary to reflect the final settlement and final budget decisions;
- 6) Agree the Reserves Policy set out in Appendix 6;
- 7) Approve the Capital Strategy and Programme at Appendix 8;

- 8) Note progress with the Council Plan and Budget 2022/23 since quarter 2 set out in section 4;
- 9) Note the Medium Term Financial Plan forecast for 2023/24 to 2025/26, set out in Appendix 2;
- 10) Note the comments of the Chief Finance Officer on budget risks and robustness, as set out in Appendix 6;
- 11) Note the comments from engagement exercises set out in Appendix 7; and
- 12) Note the schedule of fees and charges that have increased above 4% at Appendix 9.

## Reason

36.3 Based on a firm foundation of sound financial management over many years, and with additional Government funding for the coming year, the Council can again offer service stability for our residents. Whilst the additional national funding is welcome, it is short term, with uncertainty about the level and distribution of funding in future years. Coupled with major reforms to key services, the implications of which remain unclear, this creates significant risk and uncertainty for the future and we must continue to do all we can now to prepare for the demands ahead.

36.4 There is continued reliance on raising funding for core pressures, particularly growing demand in adult social care, through local Council Tax which is unrelated to social care need and unsustainable. In this context we must again ask local people to contribute more to protect services for the most vulnerable for the future. This recommendation is not made lightly, given the current pressures on household budgets, but it is essential if we are to protect services for the years to come. Support will continue to be available through local Council Tax Support Schemes for those residents eligible and we will continue to work with partners to signpost residents to sources of support with the cost of living, including access to benefits they may be entitled to.

36.5 The budget presented is for one year, with significant uncertainty remaining about the outlook beyond this. Looking further ahead, we still face a significant gap between the funding we currently expect to have and the cost of providing our services as well as the undefined impacts of reforms. The proposals set out in the report put us in the best position we can to manage this situation and maintain our support to residents, particularly the most vulnerable children and adults, as well as making provision for investment to help manage future demand in Children's Services and achieve the best possible outcomes for families.

36.6 In this context, we will need to continue to work with our local, regional and national partners to highlight the specific needs of East Sussex and to press for fair and sustainable allocation of funding that enables us to continue to meet the needs of our residents. Core to this is a requirement for Government to ensure sustainable, needs-based funding for growth in demand. Until this is delivered our medium term financial position will remain very challenging. Lobbying to ensure that our residents and businesses have what they need to be successful in the future will be fundamental to achieving a strong recovery from current economic challenges and reducing the need for County Council support and services in future.

## 37. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2023/24

37.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Operating Officer.

37.2 It was RESOLVED to recommend the County Council to:

- 1) approve the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy Statement for 2023/24;
- 2) approve the Annual Investment Strategy for 2023/24;
- 3) approve the Prudential and Treasury Indicators 2023/24 to 2025/26;

- 4) approve the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement 2023/24 at Appendix A (Section 3).

Reason

37.3 This policy sets out the acceptable limits on ratings, investment periods, amounts to be invested and the borrowing strategy. The financial position is kept under constant review and if at any time it is felt that any of these limits represent an unacceptable risk appropriate and immediate action will be taken accordingly.

### 38. CORPORATE CLIMATE EMERGENCY PLAN

38.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport and the Chief Operating Officer.

38.2 It was RESOLVED to:

- 1) agree the final draft of the corporate Climate Emergency Plan as set out in appendix 1; and
- 2) agree the draft summary version of the Climate Emergency Plan as set out in appendix 2.

Reason

38.3 In October 2019 the County Council set a target of achieving carbon neutrality from its activities as soon as possible and in any event by 2050. In June 2020 Cabinet approved a corporate climate emergency action plan for 2020-22. In 2021-22 Cabinet agreed an additional £9.9m to address corporate climate change up to March 2025. The report covers an updated corporate Climate Emergency Plan covering 2023-25. The final draft of the Climate Emergency Plan is set out in Appendix 1 of the report and a summary version is set out in Appendix 2 of the report.

### 39. SCRUTINY REVIEW OF USE OF DIGITAL AND TECHNOLOGY IN ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH - REPORT OF THE PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

39.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Assistant Chief Executive and a report by the Director of Adult Social Care and Health with observations on the Scrutiny Committee's report.

39.2 It was RESOLVED to:

- 1) note and welcome the report of the Scrutiny Committee;
- 2) recommend the County Council to welcome the report of the scrutiny Committee and to agree the response of the Director of Adult Social Care to the recommendations and their implementation as set out in the action plan attached as Appendix 1 to the Director's report.

Reason

39.3 The Scrutiny review has been welcomed as it provided an opportunity to review the use of digital and technology in Adult Social Care and Health.

### 40. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR LEWES PUBLIC LIBRARY AND MUSEUM CHARITABLE TRUST

40.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport.

40.2 It was RESOLVED to:

- 1) note the final note the final accounts for 2021/22 for the Lewes Public Library and Museum Charitable Trust; and
- 2) note that there are no issues that require any further action by the County Council as the Corporate Trustee.

Reason

40.3 The report fulfils the requirement for the annual accounts for the Lewes Public Library and Museum Charitable Trust to be submitted to the Cabinet.

41. TO AGREE WHICH ITEMS ARE TO BE REPORTED TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL

41.1 It was agreed that items 5, 6, 7 and 8 be reported to the County Council.

*[Note: The items being reported to the County Council refer to minute numbers 36,37, 38 and 39]*

**Title:** Council Monitoring Report – Q3 2022/23  
**Report to:** Cabinet  
**Date:** 07 March 2023  
**Report by:** Chief Executive  
**Purpose:** To report Council monitoring for Q3 2022/23

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1) note the latest monitoring position for the Council; and
  - 2) note the deletion of the Post European Union (EU) Transition risk from the Strategic Risk register.
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## 1. Introduction

1.1 This report sets out the Council's position and year-end projections for the Council Plan targets, Revenue Budget, Capital Programme, and Savings Plan, together with Risks at the end of December 2022.

1.2 Broad progress against the Council's four strategic priority outcomes is summarised in paragraph 4 and an overview of finance and performance data is provided in the Corporate Summary at Appendix 1. Strategic risks are reported at Appendix 7.

## 2. Council Plan 2022/23 amendments and variations

2.1 The Council Plan 2022/23 and the Portfolio Plans 2022/23 – 2024/25 have been updated with available 2021/22 outturns and final performance measure targets. All plans are published on the Council's website. The Corporate Summary (Appendix 1) contains a forecast of performance against targets.

2.2 The Strategic Risk Register, Appendix 7, was reviewed and updated to reflect the Council's risk profile. Risk 12 (Cyber Attack) has an updated risk definition. Risk 8 (Capital Programme) has an updated risk definition and risk controls. Risk 1 (Roads) has an updated risk definition and risk controls, together with an updated risk rating.

Risk 4 (Health), Risk 5 (Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources), Risk 6 (Local Economic Growth), Risk 9 (Workforce), Risk 15 (Climate) and Risk 17 (Safeguarding of Children and Young People) have updated risk controls.

Risk 14 (Post European Union (EU) Transition) related to potential border control issues immediately following the transition and has been removed from the register.

## 3 Budget Outturn

3.1 The details of revenue over and underspends in each department are set out in the relevant appendices, and show a total forecast overspend of £10.8m (£8.2m at quarter 2). The main headlines are:

- Children's Services (CSD) has a forecast overspend of £11.6m, an increase of £3.1m since quarter 2. The main movements relate to Early Help and Social Care where the forecast overspend has increased by £3.5m, comprising £4.4m increase in Looked After Children (LAC) Agency Placements, £1.2m reduction for Lansdowne and £0.3m increase to Children's Homes and Locality.

The forecast increase in LAC of £4.4m arises from the continued increase in the number of Looked After Children (an additional 15 at the end of Q3) together with increased costs of care. The projection has been supported by the review and alignment of actual spend, data recorded within the care management system "Controcc" and the LAC model. In common with many

other local authorities, the needs of children in care are increasing in complexity and the price of care is rising on a weekly basis.

Actions to mitigate these costs include: further engagement with regional local authority commissioning groups to drive down costs and increase purchasing power for commissioned placements, Head of Service and Assistant Director sign off required for all external placements, continuing to seek contributions from health partners wherever possible and monthly Head of Service and Assistant Director review of top 20 high-cost placements including scrutiny of move on / exit plans.

The forecast reduction of £1.2m for Lansdowne has resulted from the decision to temporarily close Lansdowne, plus further application of COVID-19 funding and other small changes which has improved the forecast overspend position since quarter 2, reducing the forecast overspend for Lansdowne to £1.3m.

Other movements across the department can be found in Appendix 4.

- The Adult Social Care (ASC) projected outturn is an overspend of £0.2m (£0.4m at quarter 2); just over 0.1% of the net budget. This comprises an overspend of £1.7m in the Independent Sector, offset by an underspend of £1.5m in Directly Provided Services, the latter due mainly to staffing vacancies.
- Communities, Economy & Transport (CET) is projecting an underspend of £0.7m (£1.0m at quarter 2). The main underspend arising primarily within Waste Services, due to increased income from recycling, electricity sales, and third parties. £2.5m of this windfall Waste income has been transferred to the Waste Reserve to cover future budget pressures. There is a net overspend of £0.9m on the Highways budget due to extraordinary high inflation-based compensation claim and additional tree work due to Ash Die Back. There are small underspends across other services due to, staff vacancies, project slippage and additional income from developer contributions.
- The Business Services (BSD) forecast underspend of £0.3m (£0.3m overspend at quarter 2). The movement is mainly the result of a rigorous review of the Property reactive maintenance programme, allocating appropriate costs to the relevant capital projects and capturing works attributed to managing the COVID-19 requirements.

3.2 Within Treasury Management (TM), Corporate Funding and other centrally held budgets there is an underspend of £11.0m (including the general contingency):

- Corporate Funding budgets are overspending by £0.9m, because of a £0.6m error by Rother District Council in their precept returns to the Council at budget setting, and a £0.3m reduction in the income from Business Rate Pooling arrangements compared with the district and borough forecasting used for budget setting.
- The General Contingency of £4.3m will be required in full to offset part of the Service and Corporate Funding overspend.
- There is currently an estimated £6.7m underspend on TM as a result of improved returns on market investment. The slippage on the capital programme, and an increase in our cash balances, has also removed the need to borrow externally in 2022/23. All of £6.7m will be required to offset part of the Service and Corporate Funding Overspend.
- The remaining £0.743m of the Service and Corporate Funding overspend can be met from reserves.

3.3 The Council is still experiencing residual COVID-19 related costs and income losses which are being fully mitigated from general and specific funding. The following table shows the current forecast for use of this funding in 2022/23:



COVID-19 Grants 2022/23 (£m)	Carried forward	Estimated use in-year (including payback*)	Specific set-aside for LAC in future yrs	Estimated balance remaining
COVID-19 General Funding	14.1	(5.5)	(3.1)	5.5
COVID-19 Specific Funding	9.0	(9.0)	-	-
<b>Total funding</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>(14.5)</b>	<b>(3.1)</b>	<b>5.5</b>

\* to date the Council has repaid £2.0m of unused grant

3.4 Capital Programme expenditure for the year is projected to be £78.7m against a budget of £82.2m, a net variation of £3.5m. Of the net variation, £1.3m relates to Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) funded projects being delivered by or in partnership with others.

Main variations include:

- Westfield Lane – Underspend of £0.6m due to budget provisionally held for potential land charge not being required.
- Bus Service Improvement Programme – Slippage of £0.6m as awaiting outcome of consultants reports before commencement of bus priority infrastructure work.
- Street Lighting and Traffic Signals Replacement Programme – Slippage of £1.0m due to combination of long lead of times of stock and availability of contractor resources to install new street lighting columns.
- Hastings Bexhill Movement and Access Programme (LEP funded project) – slippage of £1.1m mainly due to elements of the project being delayed until commencement of new highways contract in May 2023.
- Managing Back Office System (MBOS) Programme – Slippage of £1.0m due to system testing taking longer than anticipated.
- Bexhill and Hastings Link Road – Overspend of £1.4m due to Part 1 claims settled this year, the balance of claims should be settled and paid in 2023/24, with an estimated further £1.0m needed to close the project.

## 4 Progress against Council Priorities

### Driving sustainable economic growth

4.1 The Council has spent £295m with 908 local suppliers over the past 12 months, which equates to 67% of our total spend. The Procurement team continues to promote our contract opportunities to local suppliers, as well as building local supply chain opportunities into our tenders where possible (Appendix 3).

4.2 Trading Standards provided training and bespoke advice to 31 businesses and individuals in quarter 3, which was fewer than expected. This is partly due to capacity issues within the team, which are expected to improve in quarter 4, and partly due to fewer requests for advice from businesses than expected (Appendix 5).

4.3 13 contracts were awarded in quarter 3, of which seven were in-scope of the Social Value Measurement Charter, which quantifies the economic, social and environmental benefits of Council procurement. The seven applicable contracts had a total value of £318m and secured £185m in social value commitments, which equates to an outturn of 58%. The social value secured included apprenticeships, employability support, providing jobs for the long-term unemployed and support for the voluntary sector. The Council's Social Value Marketplace featured at the Eastbourne Big Sparks Event in quarter 3. The event celebrates, inspires and showcases the amazing things communities are doing in East Sussex. The Marketplace was demonstrated at the event, with attendees being given a walkthrough of the site, to understand how it benefits

residents and communities. Engagements were also made with local charities and projects, including All Sorts Youth Project, Black Butterfly and Wayfinder Woman (Appendix 3).

4.4 Highways works, utilising the one-off investment agreed by Cabinet in November 2021, have continued in quarter 3. Over 752 road improvement schemes have been completed at the end of quarter 3 at 398 sites, with a further 100 sites expected to be completed by the end of 2022/23. 328 small footway patching schemes have been completed at the end of quarter 3. £0.1m worth of new signs were installed in quarter 3, with a further £0.1m of road marking works also completed. Further sign and road marking improvements are scheduled for quarter 4 (Appendix 5).

4.5 The statutory process to agree the Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme as part of the £41m Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) for East Sussex is now complete. The final plan and scheme were approved by the Lead Member in quarter 3, and the new Bus Team have started work to deliver the BSIP and the Enhanced Partnership (Appendix 5).

4.6 Plans were developed in quarter 3 to improve the temporary bus stops at the bottom of School Hill in Lewes, which were necessitated by the owners of Lewes Bus Station stopping buses using the town's bus station earlier in the year. Works to widen the footways and install bus shelters started on 9 January 2023 and are expected to be completed in quarter 4 (Appendix 5).

4.7 73% of Looked After Children at academic age 16 were participating in education, training or employment with training in quarter 3, against a target of 80%. At academic age 17, 58% of children were participating against a target for 70%. The Virtual School and through care teams are continuing to work together to support young people into education, employment and training. Post 16 pupil premium funding is being used to support providers and prevent the breakdown of educational placements. We will also fund a small number of bespoke packages for young people who are unable to engage with existing providers (Appendix 4).

4.8 Attainment results for Key Stage 2 have been published for the first time since the start of the pandemic. 37.6% of disadvantaged pupils in East Sussex achieved at least the expected standard in reading, writing and maths at Key Stage 2 in academic year 2021/22, compared to 42.8% nationally. The target for this measure is 45.8% based on our 2018/19 results. Education Improvement Partnerships have focussed on the needs of individual schools, looking at where schools can work together to support improvement (Appendix 4).

4.9 Provisional results are also available for Key Stage 4. The average Progress 8 score for state funded schools in East Sussex for academic year 2021/22 was -0.11. This is below the target set of  $\geq -0.06$  and the national average which was -0.03. The average Attainment 8 score for disadvantaged pupils for academic year 2021/22 was 33.2. This was just below the target of  $\geq 33.6$ , and below the national average of 37.6. Council maintained schools are being given support to improve their outcomes. Four academies, which are attended by a fifth of all pupils in Year 11, significantly underperformed which has impacted on the overall outturn for East Sussex (Appendix 4).

4.10 69% of pupils achieved a good level of development in the Early Years Foundation Stage compared to a national average of 65%. 98% of early years providers in East Sussex are rated as good or outstanding, compared to 96% nationally (Appendix 4).

### **Keeping vulnerable people safe**

4.11 Trading Standards made 274 positive interventions to protect vulnerable people in quarter 3. This total has increased significantly on previous quarters due to engagement with the financial inclusion group and talks to various groups. Work to protect vulnerable people included installing call blockers and CCTV at their homes. Trading Standards have obtained Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) confiscation orders against convicted individuals this year totalling nearly £100,000. The POCA ensures that criminals do not profit from their crimes (Appendix 5).

4.12 Funding has been secured to deliver projects for children and young people experiencing mild to moderate emotional difficulties and other health inequalities. The projects will offer the children support and pay for the activities they will be encouraged to participate in, according to

their interests and wishes. One project will target specific groups of children including those who are receiving free school meals, those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, those known to early help and social care, those with higher rates of absence in schools, or children demonstrating other signs of emotional difficulties, in four primary schools in the High Weald area. The second project will be targeted at children and young people fleeing the war in Ukraine (Appendix 4).

4.13 The rate of Looked After Children (LAC) at quarter 3 is 61.6 per 10,000 children, which equates to 656 children. 72 are Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC). This is above the target set of 59.8 per 10,000 children. Higher numbers of children are staying as LAC for longer due to significant delays in the court system, which impacts on our ability to move children, for example, from a Special Guardianship Order or for very young children to adoptive families (Appendix 4).

4.14 A new Connected Families Service was launched in quarter 3 for families with children aged 11-17 who are on the edge of care. The service aims to enable children to live safely at home or, where care is necessary, to maintain relationships and work to support children to return home when appropriate. Connected Coaches provide proactive, tailored support for families at their point of need. 43 young people engaged with the service in quarter 3 (Appendix 4).

4.15 The Percentage of Health and Social Care Connect (HSCC) referrals triaged and progressed to required services within 24 hours is 87%, which is lower than the target for the year of 95%. HSCC saw a 22% increase in referrals in 2021/22 and this has continued in 2022/23. Alongside the increased demand there has also been a 25% vacancy rate in the service. The service has also been impacted by sickness absences. Staffing levels are improving, and sickness absence is being managed, with some phased returns to work in recent months (Appendix 2).

4.16 The latest available figures, as of 11 January, show that 1,170 guests are currently in East Sussex under the Homes for Ukraine scheme. The guests are at 503 different properties across the county, and more than 400 school places have been allocated to Ukrainian children. During quarter 3 the Third Sector support team has continued to work with the Voluntary Actions (3VA, HVA and RVA) and local Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise organisations in East Sussex to support Homes for Ukraine guests and hosts across the county (Appendix 2).

### **Helping people help themselves**

4.17 In quarter 2 (reported a quarter in arrears) 30.7% of eligible people from the 20% most deprived areas in East Sussex took up a health check for the five-year period 2018/19 – 2022/23. The target is 35% uptake. Health checks are due to start being delivered by Hastings & St Leonards Primary Care Network by the end of 2022/23, they will be targeting invitations at those living in the most deprived areas. Discussions with Bexhill Primary Care Network about setting up a similar partnership specifically targeting those experiencing worse health inequalities are ongoing (Appendix 2).

4.18 Work to support health and social care integration has continued in quarter 3. Schemes to support people who were medically fit to leave hospital into appropriate onward care settings were mobilised early in quarter 3, to help alleviate pressures on the NHS. Our teams also worked with urgent community response healthcare services to support people and their carers to remain within their own homes. The Sussex Health and Care Assembly's Sussex Integrated Care Strategy was developed and approved in quarter 3. The next step will be to develop a draft Joint Forward Plan which will support delivery of shared priorities, this is expected to be complete in quarter 4 (Appendix 2).

4.19 There were 331 members registered with Support With Confidence at the end of quarter 3 against a target for the year of 360. There have been 46 new approvals made since April 2022, and there are currently 70 live applications in progress. There has been a higher turnover of membership in 2022/23 than in previous years, which has impacted on the outturn (Appendix 2).

4.20 Five infrastructure schemes to improve road safety in the county were completed in quarter 3. These schemes were in Duddleswell, Bexhill, St Leonards, Eastbourne and Hadlow Down. 142

'Bikeability' courses were delivered to 1,131 individuals at participating schools and the Cycle Centre at Eastbourne Sports Park in quarter 3. We also delivered 47 'Wheels for All' sessions to 704 attendees at the Sports Park (Appendix 5).

### **Making best use of resources now and for the future**

4.21 Lobbying continued in quarter 3, including the Leader writing to the new Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak MP, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up Housing and Communities and East Sussex MPs to call for action to enable remote council meetings to take place. We have also corresponded with Government on actions needed to improve the current approach to the placement of asylum seekers in the county. We also contributed to the County Councils Network's research on the impact of inflation and other pressures on county authorities' budgets, which fed into the County Councils Network's national lobbying ahead of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement (Appendix 6).

4.22 There was a 29% reduction in carbon emissions at the end of quarter 2 (reported a quarter in arrears) compared to the baseline year of 2019/20, below our target for the year of 34%. The need to provide ventilation in our building as part of COVID-19 safety measures continues to have an impact on our reported performance. Several energy efficiency projects continued in quarter 3. Nine LED lighting projects have been completed, with the final project due to be complete in quarter 4. Three Solar Photovoltaic (PV) projects have been completed, with six more due to complete in quarter 4. One Solar Photovoltaic project has been delayed due to supply chain issues and is now expected to be completed in 2023/24. The Ninfield Primary School decarbonisation project was completed in quarter 3 and it is estimated this will save the equivalent of 18 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. The second decarbonisation project at Hertsmonceux Primary School has had all of the equipment installed and is expected to be complete in quarter 4 (Appendix 3).

4.23 The Council has continued to work with a range of partners to develop and deliver carbon reduction and climate change adaptation work in quarter 3. Climate change needs assessments were carried out at 30 local business, while 15 businesses were provided with grants, totalling £75,000 to cut their carbon emissions and energy bills. An online engagement event was held with over 200 Council staff, and feedback from this is being used to guide future communications with staff and Members (Appendix 5).

4.24 The Council achieved Cyber Essentials Plus accreditation in quarter 3. Cyber Essentials Plus is the industry standard for the private and public sectors, underpinning safe sharing with partners and helping assure sufficient controls are in place to minimise the risk of a cyber incident. Delivery of business continuity preparedness exercises has continued in quarter 3, and an enhanced network detection and response solution has been purchased. This system will use artificial intelligence, machine learning and data analytics, in near real-time, to detect threats before they become destructive or damaging (Appendix 3).

**Becky Shaw, Chief Executive**

## How to read this report

This report integrates monitoring for finance, performance and risk. Contents are as follows:

- Cover report (includes how to read this report)
- Appendix 1 Corporate Summary
- Appendix 2 Adult Social Care and Health – (ASCH)
- Appendix 3 Business Services (Department) – (BSD)
- Appendix 4 Children's Services (Department) – (CSD)
- Appendix 5 Communities, Economy and Transport – (CET)
- Appendix 6 Governance Services – (GS)
- Appendix 7 Strategic Risk Register

### Cover report, Appendix 1

The cover report and Appendix 1 provide a concise corporate summary of progress against all our Council Plan Targets (full year outturns at quarter 4), Revenue Budget, Savings Targets, and Capital Programme.

The cover report highlights a selection of key topics from the departmental appendices, for the four Council priorities:

- driving sustainable economic growth;
- keeping vulnerable people safe;
- helping people help themselves; and
- making best use of resources in the short and long term.

More information on each of these topics is provided in the relevant departmental appendix referenced in brackets, e.g. (Appendix 2). More detailed performance and finance data is also available in the departmental appendices.

### Departmental Appendices 2 - 6

The departmental appendices provide a single commentary covering issues and progress against key topics for the department (including all those mentioned in the cover report). This is followed by data tables showing progress against Council Plan Targets, Savings Targets, Revenue Budget, and Capital Programme for the department.

For each topic, the commentary references supporting data in the tables at the end of the appendix, e.g. **(ref i)**. The tables include this reference in the 'note ref' column on the right hand side. Where the commentary refers to the Revenue Budget or Capital Programme, it may refer to all or part of the amount that is referenced in the table, or it may refer to several amounts added together. Performance exceptions follow these rules:

Quarter 1	All targets not expected to be achieved at year end i.e. not RAG rated Green, and any proposed amendments or deletions. Changes to targets early in Q1 should be made under delegated authority for the Council Plan refresh in June.
Quarter 2	Targets that have changed RAG rating since Q1 including changes to Green (except where target was amended at Q1), plus proposed amendments or deletions.
Quarter 3	Targets that have changed RAG rating since Q2 including changes to Green (except where target was amended at Q2), plus proposed amendments or deletions.
Quarter 4	Targets that have changed RAG rating since Q3 to Red or Green (except where target was amended at Q3). Outturns that are not available are reported as Carry Overs. All target outturns for the full year are reported in the year end summary at Appendix 1.

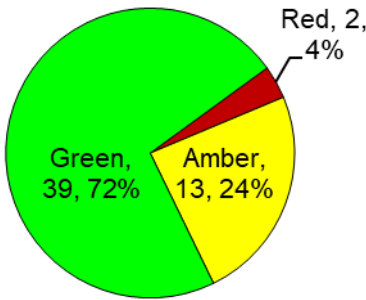
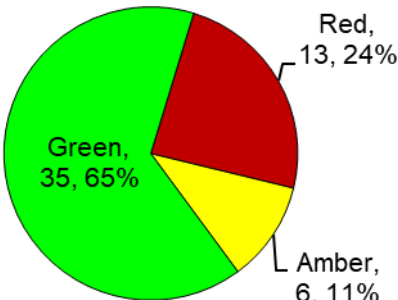
### **Strategic Risk Register Appendix 7**

Appendix 7 contains commentary explaining mitigating actions for all Strategic Risks.

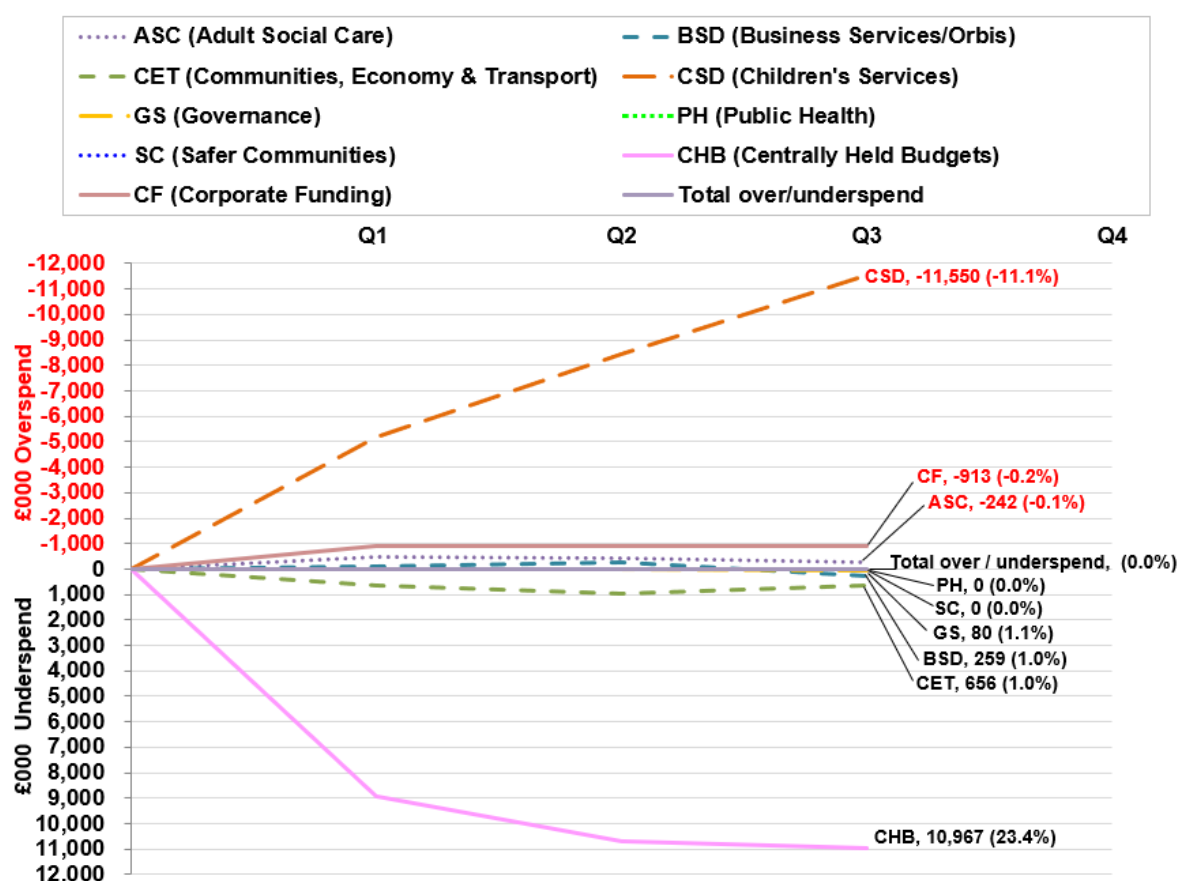
## Council Monitoring Corporate Summary – Q3 2022/23

### Council Plan performance targets

Priority	Red	Amber	Green
Driving sustainable economic growth	6	3	15
Keeping vulnerable people safe	3	0	6
Helping people help themselves	2	2	12
Making best use of resources now and for the future	2	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>35</b>

Performance overview Q2 2022/23	Performance overview Q3 2022/23	Measures off target by department
		<p>There are 54 measures in the Council Plan. In Q3, 4 departments have measures that were off target.</p> <p>ASCH – 2 Red, 1 Amber            BSD – 2 Red, 1 Amber            CSD – 8 Red, 3 Amber            CET – 1 Red, 1 Amber</p>

### Revenue budget outturn (net £000)



**Revenue budget summary (£000) 2022/23****Services:**

Divisions	Planned Gross	Planned Income	Planned Net	Projected Gross	Projected Income	Projected Net	(Over)/ under spend Gross	(Over)/ under spend Income	(Over)/ under spend Net
Adult Social Care	309,022	(105,641)	203,381	319,489	(115,866)	203,623	(10,467)	10,225	(242)
Safer Communities	2,012	(909)	1,103	2,321	(1,218)	1,103	(309)	309	-
Public Health	31,097	(31,097)	-	31,004	(31,004)	-	93	(93)	-
Business Services / Orbis	59,160	(32,466)	26,694	55,644	(29,209)	26,435	3,516	(3,257)	259
Children's Services	382,118	(278,508)	103,610	396,808	(281,648)	115,160	(14,690)	3,140	(11,550)
Communities, Economy & Transport	136,928	(72,949)	63,979	145,754	(82,431)	63,323	(8,826)	9,482	656
Governance Services	8,184	(643)	7,541	8,129	(668)	7,461	55	25	80
<b>Total Services</b>	<b>928,521</b>	<b>(522,213)</b>	<b>406,308</b>	<b>959,149</b>	<b>(542,044)</b>	<b>417,105</b>	<b>(30,628)</b>	<b>19,831</b>	<b>(10,797)</b>

**Centrally Held Budgets (CHB):**

Divisions	Planned Gross	Planned Income	Planned Net	Projected Gross	Projected Income	Projected Net	(Over)/ under spend Gross	(Over)/ under spend Income	(Over)/ under spend Net
Treasury Management	21,630	(1,700)	19,930	18,419	(5,142)	13,277	3,211	3,442	6,653
Capital Programme	1,084	-	1,084	1,084	-	1,084	-	-	-
Unfunded Pensions	8,023	-	8,023	8,066	-	8,066	(43)	-	(43)
General Contingency	4,330	-	4,330	-	-	-	4,330	-	4,330
Contrib. to Reserves	11,890	-	11,890	11,891	-	11,891	(1)	-	(1)
Apprenticeship Levy	600	-	600	708	-	708	(108)	-	(108)
Levies, Grants and Other	1,022	(20)	1,002	956	(90)	866	66	70	136
<b>Total Centrally Held Budgets</b>	<b>48,579</b>	<b>(1,720)</b>	<b>46,859</b>	<b>41,124</b>	<b>(5,232)</b>	<b>35,892</b>	<b>7,455</b>	<b>3,512</b>	<b>10,967</b>

**Corporate Funding:**

Divisions	Planned Gross	Planned Income	Planned Net	Projected Gross	Projected Income	Projected Net	(Over)/ under spend Gross	(Over)/ under spend Income	(Over)/ under spend Net
Business Rates	-	(86,641)	(86,641)	-	(86,374)	(86,374)	-	(267)	(267)
Revenue Support Grant	-	(3,687)	(3,687)	-	(3,687)	(3,687)	-	-	-
Service Grant	-	(5,175)	(5,175)	-	(5,175)	(5,175)	-	-	-
Council Tax	-	(333,174)	(333,174)	-	(332,528)	(332,528)	-	(646)	(646)
Social Care Grant	-	(23,674)	(23,674)	-	(23,674)	(23,674)	-	-	-
New Homes Bonus	-	(816)	(816)	-	(816)	(816)	-	-	-
<b>Total Corporate Funding</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(453,167)</b>	<b>(453,167)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(452,254)</b>	<b>(452,254)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(913)</b>	<b>(913)</b>

Divisions	Planned Gross	Planned Income	Planned Net	Projected Gross	Projected Income	Projected Net	(Over)/ under spend Gross	(Over)/ under spend Income	(Over)/ under spend Net
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>977,100</b>	<b>(977,100)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,000,273</b>	<b>(999,530)</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>(23,173)</b>	<b>22,430</b>	<b>(743)</b>
Use of Reserves to cover remaining overspend	-	-	-	-	(743)	(743)	-	743	743
<b>FINAL TOTAL</b>	<b>977,100</b>	<b>(977,100)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,000,273</b>	<b>(1,000,273)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(23,173)</b>	<b>23,173</b>	<b>0</b>



**Revenue Savings Summary 2022/23 (£'000)**

Service description	Original Target for 2022/23	Target including items c/f from previous year(s)	Achieved in-year	Will be achieved, but in future years	Cannot be achieved
ASC	-	-	-	-	-
BSD/Orbis	-	-	-	-	-
CS	-	-	-	-	-
CET	1,257	1,257	197	1,000	60*
GS	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Savings</b>	<b>1,257</b>	<b>1,257</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>60</b>
ASC			-	-	-
BSD / Orbis			-	-	-
CS			-	-	-
CET			-	-	-
GS			-	-	-
<b>Subtotal Permanent Changes <sup>1</sup></b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Savings &amp; Permanent Changes</b>	<b>1,257</b>	<b>1,257</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>60</b>

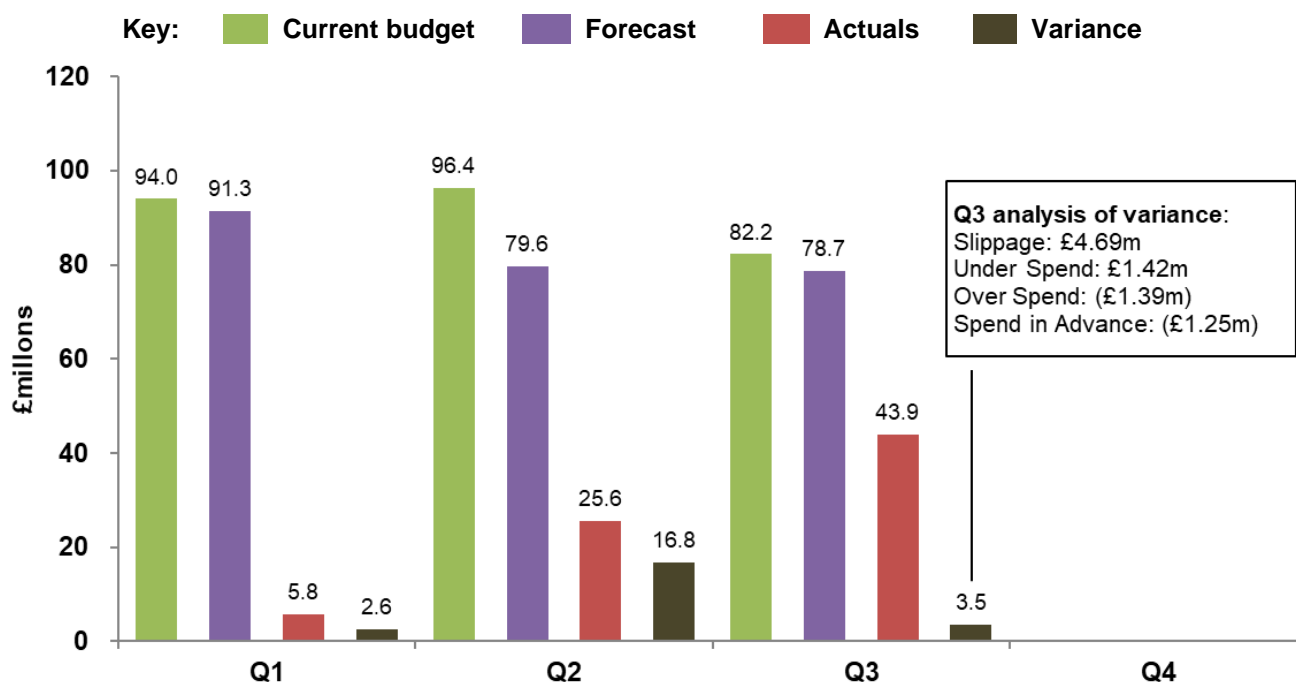
Memo: treatment of savings not achieved in the year (£'000)	Temporary Funding <sup>2</sup>	Part of reported variance <sup>3</sup>	Total
ASC	-	-	0
BSD / Orbis	-	-	0
CS	-	-	0
CET	1,000	60*	1,060
GS	-	-	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>1,060</b>

\*NB: The £60k Environmental Service saving is unachievable. It forms part of the reported variance this year and the department will look to find alternative savings next year.

<sup>1</sup> Where agreed savings are reasonably unable to be achieved other permanent savings are required to be identified and approved via quarterly monitoring.

<sup>2</sup> Temporary funding will only replace a slipped or unachieved saving for one year; the saving will still need to be made in future years (or be replaced with something else).

<sup>3</sup> The slipped or unachieved saving will form part of the department's overall variance - it will either increase an overspend or decrease an underspend. The saving will still need to be made in future years (or be replaced with something else).

**Capital Programme (gross £ millions) – approved projects****Capital Programme Summary 2022/23 (£'000)**

	Budget Q3	Actual to date Q3	Projected 2022/23	Variation (Over) / under Q3 budget	Variation analysis: (Over) / under spend	Variation analysis: Slippage to future year	Variation analysis: Spend in advance
Adult Social Care	394	317	584	(190)	-	-	(190)
Business Services	26,018	13,318	23,565	2,453	816	1,637	-
Children's Services	1,450	1,221	1,450	-	-	-	-
Communities, Economy & Transport	54,345	29,089	53,138	1,207	(784)	3,049	(1,058)
<b>Gross Expenditure (Planned Programme)</b>	<b>82,207</b>	<b>43,945</b>	<b>78,737</b>	<b>3,470</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>4,686</b>	<b>(1,248)</b>
Section 106 and CIL	1,961	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Specific Funding	8,332	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Receipts	9,591	-	-	-	-	-	-
Formula Grants	34,234	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reserves and Revenue Set Aside	20,435	-	-	-	-	-	-
Borrowing	7,654	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Funding (Planned Programme)</b>	<b>82,207</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

## **Treasury Management**

The Treasury Management Strategy (TMS), which provides the framework for managing the Council's cash balances and borrowing requirement, continues to reflect a policy of ensuring minimum risk, whilst aiming to deliver secure realistic investment income on the Council's cash balances.

The average level of Council funds available for investment purposes during quarter 3 was £282m. The total amount received in short term interest for the quarter was £1.7m at an average rate of 2.37%, an increase from quarter 2, £1m at an average rate of 1.30%. The Bank of England Base Rate was increased twice; on the 3 November and 15 December to a rate of 3.50% by end of quarter 3. The investment return outlook has improved due to anticipated increases in future interest rates, and we have been able to place a number of fixed term deposits with Banks for periods up to 1 year at much improved rates. These investments have been 'laddered' and will mature at different intervals in the next 12 months. This will take advantage of a rising bank rate in future quarters.

In seeking investment opportunities, as defined by the TMS, an opportunity has been undertaken to reinvest a maturing Bank Deposit that aligns to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In quarter 3, £22m of maturities was reinvested for a duration of three to six months, maintaining the £30m placed for investment in this deposit type. Deals maturing with other Local Authorities are looking to be placed later in quarter 4 if the rates are more favourable than traditional bank deposits.

No short or long term borrowing was required in quarter 3. The majority of the Council's external debt, totalling £210m at quarter 3, is held as long-term loans, and no cost-effective opportunities have arisen during quarter 3 to restructure the existing Public Works Loan Board (PWLb).

The Treasury Management budget is currently forecasting to underspend by £6.7m. This is based on the position outlined above with regard to balances held and investment returns and slippage on the capital programme removing the need to borrow externally in 2022/23.

## **Reserves and Balances 2022/23 (£000)**

Reserve / Balance	Balance at 1 Apr 2022	Forecast net use at Q2	Forecast net use at Q3	Movement	Estimated balance at 31 Mar 2023
<b>Statutorily ringfenced or held on behalf of others:</b>					
Balances held by schools	21,328	-	-	-	21,328
Public Health	6,857	-	550	550	7,407
Other	6,941	(37)	74	111	7,015
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>35,126</b>	<b>(37)</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>35,750</b>
<b>Service Reserves:</b>					
Corporate Waste	17,013	1,000	1,788	788	18,801
Capital Programme	18,942	953	(1,077)	(2,030)	17,865
Insurance	7,253	(646)	(78)	568	7,175
Adult Social Care	-	-	2,500	2,500	2,500
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>43,208</b>	<b>1,307</b>	<b>3,133</b>	<b>1,826</b>	<b>46,341</b>

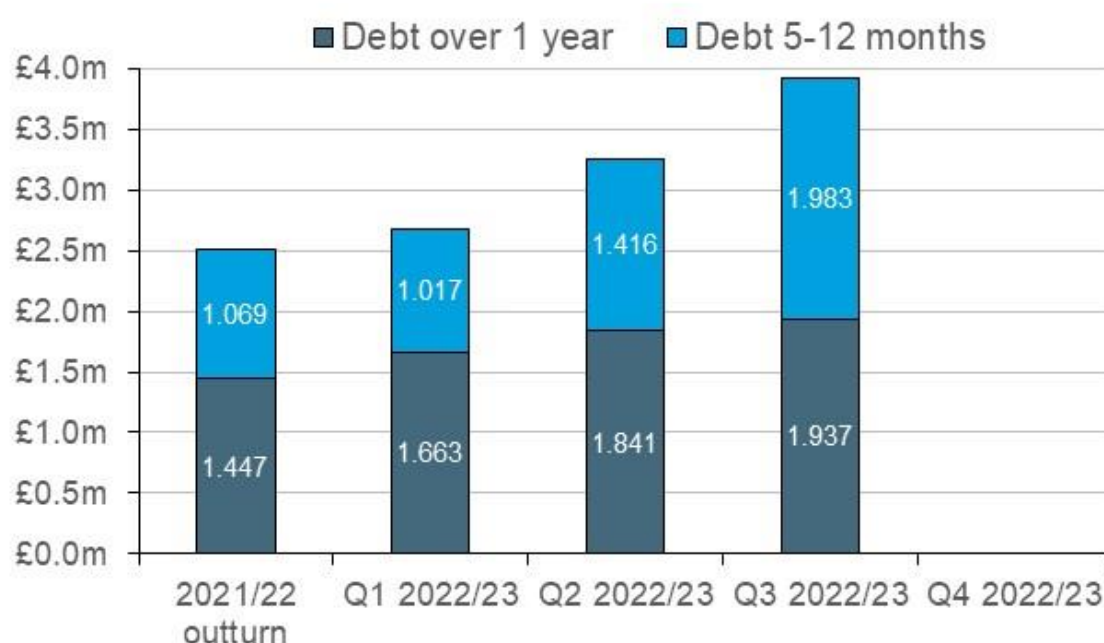
**Strategic Reserves:**

Priority / Transformation	17,285	(12,193)	(4,623)	7,570	12,662
Financial Management	47,303	(2,513)	(6,048)	(3,535)	41,255
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>64,588</b>	<b>(14,706)</b>	<b>(10,671)</b>	<b>4,035</b>	<b>53,917</b>
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>142,922</b>	<b>(13,436)</b>	<b>(6,914)</b>	<b>6,522</b>	<b>136,008</b>
General Fund	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
<b>Total Reserves and Balances</b>	<b>152,922</b>	<b>(13,436)</b>	<b>(6,914)</b>	<b>6,522</b>	<b>146,008</b>

NB: excludes any transfers relating to quarter 3 variances

**Changes to Fees & Charges**

Changes to fees and charges during quarter 3 were reported to Cabinet on January 24 2023 as part of the RPPR report.

**Outstanding debt analysis (£ millions)**

The value of debt aged over 5 months as at Quarter 3 has increased by £1.404m, from 2021/22 outturn position of £2.516m to £3.920m. The majority £3.438m (87.73%) of all debt over 5 months old relates to Adult Social Care (ASC).

Of the £1.404m increase in debt to Quarter 3, £1.114m is due from Adult Social Care (ASC) client contributions, £0.143m due from other Local Authorities and £0.119m due from NHS.

The table below summaries the categories of debt over 5 months old within ASC of £3.438m and the increase over the last 3 quarters of £1.114m

<b>Summary of Unsecured ASC debt over 5 months</b>	<b>YE 2021/22 £</b>	<b>01/12/2022 £</b>	<b>Movement £</b>
Estate case waiting for Executor information (B Block)	300,213	789,109	488,896
Non-payment and Financial Hardship referrals (N Block)	300,583	851,449	550,866
Client contribution with Legal	686,642	661,619	(25,023)
Pending ASC	323,009	390,693	67,684
Waiting for POA or Deputyship (I Block)	156,929	274,601	117,672
Others	555,913	470,668	(85,245)
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,323,289</b>	<b>3,438,139</b>	<b>1,114,850</b>

Debt has increased by 48%, £1.404m over the last 3 quarters, the majority £1.114m is within ASC, in two blocks of debt as follows:

Estate case waiting for Executor information has increased by £0.489m, and has seen an increase in clients cases of 71 to 341 at quarter 3.

Non – payment and Financial Hardship referrals has seen an increase of £0.551m with client numbers nearly double at 274 compared to the previous year which has been linked to the cost of living crisis

In terms of benchmarking, ESCC debt remains low relative to regional comparators, debt as a proportion of billed income is lower than the South East Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) median, who have all seen debt rise in the past 12 months.

Debt recovery related to ASC client contributions can often take a long time due to circumstances of the client e.g. lack of capacity, delays with executors of estates. Recovery of debt continues to be a high priority and regular ASC debt case review meetings ensure that the most appropriate steps are taken to recover debt with sensitivity and consideration of the clients or families concerned and in accordance with the Care Act.

## Adult Social Care and Health – Q3 2022/23

### Summary of progress on Council Priorities, issues arising, and achievements

#### **Adult Social Care (ASC)**

##### **Health and social care integration**

Proposals for winter hospital discharge schemes were approved for implementation by the Integrated Care System Winter Board in Q3, with a start being made on implementing local East Sussex plans before Christmas, to complement Sussex-wide plans. This has included additional intensive planning over the festive and New Year period to support the NHS during the industrial action taken by ambulance workers and nurses during January 2023, leading to:

- Rapid development and early mobilisation of additional winter schemes to ensure the national social care fund is appropriately deployed in our system, focussing on additional care sector capacity and workforce schemes to support people who are medically ready to leave hospital into the appropriate onward care setting.
- ASC teams working with urgent community response healthcare services to support people and their carers to remain within their own homes, as part of mobilising virtual wards initially aimed at supporting frail people with complex care needs within the community setting.

System discussions have also started on the potential deployment of the recently announced further £200m available nationally to support hospital discharge, aimed at alleviating the current challenges being experienced by the urgent and emergency care system.

As a statutory member of the new Sussex Health and Care Assembly, we worked with West Sussex County Council, Brighton & Hove City Council and the local NHS during Q3 to develop and agree the Sussex Integrated Care Strategy. The Strategy builds on the existing Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and Health and Wellbeing Board Strategies covering the populations of East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton and Hove as well as local progress. It identifies workforce, digital and implementing integrated care in communities and neighbourhoods as key shared priorities that will benefit from a collective focus at a Sussex level. Children and young people, loneliness and social isolation (all ages) will also be a focus throughout the strategy as part of a life course approach taking in improving population health, prevention and early intervention. The next phase will be to develop an initial draft Joint Forward Plan by March, which will support delivery of the shared priorities at the East Sussex 'place' level. To support our local ambitions, local leadership and planning, the plan will focus on:

- Our model in East Sussex for community and neighbourhood working, taking in the life course approach, integrated care and access to the broad range of assets, services and support that impact on health and wellbeing in local communities.
- The strategic leadership of our shared plans and programmes and updating our governance to support this.
- Population health outcomes and reducing health inequalities and how we measure improvements across the contribution of all partners in our system, including the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector (VCSE) and wider local government services including those provided by borough and district councils.

This will be informed by our recent evaluation of the Healthy Hastings and Rother programme, exploration of new ways to use data and insight to design local interventions with older frail people in Lewes, and participation in the delivery of the Universal Healthcare Proposition in Hastings, to develop an understanding of the issues that healthcare services and the people that need to access them face, with the aim of reducing health inequalities.

### Third Sector support

During Q3 work has continued with the Voluntary Actions (VA) (3VA, HVA, and RVA), and local VCSE organisations to develop support for Homes for Ukraine guests and hosts across the county.

A further focus has been implementing the new Household Support Fund through the five districts and boroughs, VCSE sector partners, and Food Banks and Food Partnerships.

Activity is underway through the Multi Agency Financial Inclusion Steering Group to develop information and signposting on cost of living support and working up plans with partners that will assist people with maximising their incomes.

### Homes for Ukraine

Latest figures (as at 11 January) show that 1,170 guests were currently in East Sussex under the Homes for Ukraine scheme. The guests were at 503 different properties across the county. More than 412 school places have been allocated to Ukrainian children. The majority of guests matched to hosts in East Sussex have now arrived. Some guests who were staying with hosts in East Sussex have now moved on, with some moving into private sector accommodation or moving to other areas.

### Percentage of Health and Social Care Connect (HSCC) referrals triaged and progressed to required services within 24 hours

Current performance is 86.9% (**ref iii**). In 2021/22 HSCC saw a 22% increase in Health referrals and this upward trend continues into 2022/23. There is an increase in the volume of work across the whole of HSCC year on year. Alongside increased demand there has been a 25% vacancy rate in the service, there has also been the impact of long-term sickness absence and an increase in short term absence across the service. Whilst HSCC has been short-staffed this is improving. Sickness absence is being managed and there have been some phased returns to work in recent months.

### Adults are able to take control of the support they receive

- At the end of Q3, 32.5% of adults and older people were receiving Direct Payments. This equated to a total of 1,515 people.
- As at end of Q3 there are 331 Support With Confidence members (**ref i**), made up of 280 Personal Assistants and 51 businesses. There have been 46 new approvals made since April 2022. There are currently 70 live applications in progress (67 Personal Assistant applicants and three business applicants). Due to higher turnover of membership the scheme has experienced this year, we predict that the end of year target will not be met and that the target set is not achievable. Maintaining scheme membership levels at a constant level is recognised as an achievement in itself, in the context of the wider ASC workforce challenges that are impacting on all areas of the social care market.

### Adults are supported to find and keep safe and affordable accommodation:

1,915 people were supported in Q3, bringing the total figure for Q1–Q3 to 5,948. The provider of this service Brighton Housing Trust continue to effectively support the Homes for Ukraine programme, providing support to sustain hosting arrangement and helping Ukrainian guests to move-on to independent accommodation.

### Reabling people to maximise their level of independence

Reablement services are provided to help people to regain mobility and daily living skills, especially after a hospital stay. A range of measures are used to look at how effective reablement services are:

- Between April and September 2022 90.7% of older people discharged from hospital to reablement / rehabilitation services were at home 91 days after their discharge from hospital.

- Between April and December 2022 no further request was made for on-going support for 94.5% people who received short-term services.
- In Q3 72% of Reablement service users discharged from the Joint Community Rehabilitation Service did not require on-going care.

### **Safer Communities (Safer East Sussex Team (SEST), Substance Misuse and Recovery Services and Domestic Violence and Abuse, Sexual Violence and Abuse Services)**

#### **Modern Slavery**

- The SEST have worked with Children's Services on the development of a Contextual Safeguarding Officer role (jointly funded by ASC) to coordinate place-based plans arising from local Contextual Safeguarding Assessments. During Q3 the SEST supported the data gathering and insights work that is being undertaken to plan activity to disrupt county lines activity and the exploitation of vulnerable young people and adults.
- In Q3 the SEST delivered training to raise awareness and reporting of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (with the ASC Safeguarding Development Team and Project Discovery) to staff working in the VCSE and Brighton Housing Trust. Alongside this, a training session for Community Volunteers was delivered by the Safeguarding Adults Board.

#### **Fraud and Scams**

- During Q3, Get Safe Online (GSO) and the Council promoted a '**Safe Online Christmas**' campaign. The campaign provided top tips to help individuals and families go online with safety, security and confidence.
- During Q3, the SEST began to develop an online safety training session targeted at Designated Safeguarding Liaison Officers in schools with GSO and the Standards and Learning Effectiveness Service.

#### **Preventing Violent Extremism**

- During Q3 the SEST provided Relation-shops workshops to the year 6 students of two primary schools and a Prevent Awareness workshop was delivered to students at a Children's Secure Unit. In addition, Prevent Awareness Assemblies were provided to over 825 secondary school students in East Sussex.
- In Q3, the SEST worked with the Preventing Radicalisation fund to identify a provider to deliver training to front line practitioners in statutory and voluntary sector organisations and further educational settings for people who are vulnerable to radicalisation through exposure to extreme materials online.

#### **Serious Violent Crime**

- The SEST facilitated a partnership discussion to look at proposals for the East Sussex Home Office intervention allocation for 2023/24 and has put forward projects for consideration around a whole systems approach to child exploitation, and a targeted project looking at deterring the carrying of knives.
- The Home Office have recently announced that Sussex will receive funding to implement the Serious Violence Duty over the next three years (distributed by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner). The SEST are working with partners to develop plans to implement the new Serious Violence Duty, including determining what resources are required to do so and the spending of this new funding stream.
- During Q3, the SEST worked with 3VA to recruit and plan the induction of a Community Development worker for Devonshire Ward in Eastbourne (funded by Safer Streets 4).
- In Q3, the SEST have been gathering data and insights to support the development of a place-based approach to tackle anti-social behaviour, violence, and substance misuse.



## **Public Health**

### **NHS Health Checks**

Cumulative uptake by eligible individuals from individuals in the 20% most deprived areas (according to the Indices of Deprivation – IMD1) is 30.7% for the five-year period 2018/19–2022/23 Q2 (reported a quarter in arrears). In Q2, changes were made to the invite codes used by GPs to record patients who have been invited to their NHS Health Check (**ref ii**). This has resulted in an overall increase in the number of invitations being recorded when the data is collected on a quarterly basis, therefore reducing the uptake rate by IMD1. Delivery of NHS Health Checks by Hastings & St Leonards Primary Care Network (PCN) is due to start in Q3/Q4. Hastings & St Leonards PCN will be running specific searches from practices' lists for those living in the most deprived areas. Discussions are ongoing with Bexhill PCN about setting up a similar partnership specifically targeting those experiencing worse health inequalities.

### **Recent achievements by Public Health to improve the physical and mental health and wellbeing of East Sussex residents**

#### **Suicide Prevention**

Most suicides are in males aged between 30-59 years (in East Sussex and nationally). The Hastings community development project, delivered by Mind, co-ordinates activities to improve men's mental health and wellbeing. Craig's Cabins completed five 'Night Walk' sessions following feedback from men that they find night-time difficult with racing thoughts and being alone. The Hastings Men's network delivered events including summer BBQs, sea shanty singing, bike rides, walks, and online men's discussion groups.

#### **Community Assets**

Co-ordinated crowd and match funding has resulted in five new projects with donations made by 230 supporters (residents and businesses) covering:

- Peer support for children and young people experiencing family illness, bereavement or suicide.
- A multimedia journalism training programme for young people from under-represented backgrounds.
- Transforming a school's outdoor areas to increase opportunities for pupils and the local community to connect with nature.
- Improved accessibility measures at a popular community centre.
- Converting a disused shed factory into an energy-efficient creative community hub with affordable workshop areas, gallery space and a community garden.

In November, over 500 people attended the Big Spark event in Eastbourne to celebrate and learn about the amazing things that communities are doing in East Sussex. There were films, performances, art exhibitions, as well as skill-sharing and discussions relating to a range of topics from climate change to arts therapy. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

#### **Sexual Health**

The SHIFT conference, held in Den Haag (The Hague) in the Netherlands represented the culmination of work with European partners to improve sexual health in people aged 45 and over. The work has resulted in academic journal articles, short promotional films, a website, and free online and face to face training targeted at both professionals and the public.

#### **Youth Wellbeing**

The Arts and Creativity in Young People programme, which operates at locations across the county, has prioritised places for young people at risk of disengaging from education and employment and now includes a mentoring component to embed new skills. Following a series of arts and creativity workshops, over three quarters of the 28 participants, aged between 16 and 22 years, said that they feel more positive about life.

Public Health, The Towner Gallery and partners were successful in their Arts Council England Place Partnership bid for the 'Leave It To Us' (Turner Prize Wrapround) project. The feedback on the bid was overwhelmingly strong. The collaboration between Public Health and Cultural Partners was praised as an example of good practice.

### **Revenue Budget Summary**

#### **Public Health**

The Public Health (PH) Budget of £31.097m comprises of the PH grant allocation of £28.862m, Test Track and Contain grant allocation £0.792m, ADDER Grant allocation £1.350m and £0.093m drawn from reserves to support in year spending. As at 31st December 2022 projected expenditure is less than anticipated with a projected underspend of £0.584m due to Covid recovery and renewal with additional support expenditure being allocated to Test, Trace and contain Grant.

The General PH Reserve of £5.363m is projected to increase to £5.549m and the Health Visiting reserve of £1.494m balance will remain the same by year end.

#### **ASC**

The net ASC budget of £203.381m includes an inflationary uplift equal to 6% across all independent sector care services, to support the independent sector care market. The budget also includes an additional £3.100m from the 1% precept and £1.750m market sustainability and fair cost of care grant funding. These will mitigate any initial impacts of the now delayed social care charging reforms during 2022/23.

At the end of Q3 the projected outturn is an overspend of £0.242m, just over 0.1% of the net budget. This comprises an overspend of £1.761m in the Independent Sector, offset by an underspend of £1.519m in Directly Provided Services, the latter mainly due to staffing vacancies.

In addition to the core revenue budget, ASC continues to incur expenditure funded by a range of COVID-19 related funding streams. For the Contain Outbreak Management Funding and Test and Trace Grant, these will fund ongoing costs relating to schemes initiated during the national COVID-19 response. For other grants, expenditure relates to the repayment of unspent funding to the government:

<b>Grant</b>	<b>Funding b/f £'000</b>	<b>Planned Usage £'000</b>	<b>Balance Remaining £'000</b>
Contain Outbreak Management Funding 20/21	6,491	4,570	1,921
Test & Trace Grant	792	792	-
CEV Grant (support to CEV individuals)	1,539	-	1,539
Infection Control Fund 4	48	48	-
Rapid Test Fund 3	40	40	-
Infection Control and Testing Fund - Round 3	140	140	-
Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund	10	10	-
Omicron Support Fund	186	145	41
Practical Support Payments	1,044	1,044	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,290</b>	<b>6,789</b>	<b>3,501</b>

In December, the Government updated the guidance on Homes for Ukraine (HFU) funding and announced that the amount of HFU funding per guest would fall from £10,500 to £5,900 from 1 January 2023. Income projections account for this.

Income to date relates to 1,343 guests, who had arrived at the end of October. By 30 November, the total had reached 1,500, with a further 20 in December and 289 attracting the reduced funding post 1 January. Not of all these guests may end up arriving so income could be lower.

Total estimated expenditure in 2022/23 is currently projected to be £7.4m, representing an unspent balance of £9.6m against total expected income. This funding is expected to be carried forward under the terms of the grant and used for continued support for the scheme in 2023/24.

In addition, ESCC are passing through an estimated £2.573m of ring-fenced funding to Education and £2.793m for host payments to district and borough councils.

HFU Grant Funding	Funding Confirmed £'000	Further Funding Anticipated £'000	Total Funding £'000	Planned Usage £'000	Balance Remaining £'000
Funding at £10.5k per guest	14,119	2,863	16,982	7,386	9,596
Host Payments at £350 per week per host	2,793	tbc	2,793	2,793	-
Education funding for guests under 18	2,573	tbc	2,573	2,573	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,485</b>	<b>2,863</b>	<b>22,348</b>	<b>12,752</b>	<b>9,596</b>

### **Capital Programme Summary**

The ASC Capital programme is £0.394m for 2022/23. The projected expenditure is forecast to be on £0.584m. The variance of £0.190m is spend in advance for the four supported living projects and will not impact on the Total Projected Spend which remains within the budget.

### **Performance exceptions (see How to read this report for definition)**

#### **Priority – Helping people to help themselves**

Performance measure	Outturn 21/22	Target 22/23	RAG Q1 22/23	RAG Q2 22/23	RAG Q3 22/23	RAG Q4 22/23	Q3 22/23 outturn	Note ref
Number of providers registered with Support With Confidence	327	360	G	A	R		331	i
Improving targeting of NHS Health Checks	70% (37/51)	35% uptake rate by eligible patients from IMD1 (pandemic baseline 18%)	G	G	A		Q2: 30.7% (Reported a quarter in arrears)	ii

#### **Priority – Keeping vulnerable people safe**

Performance measure	Outturn 21/22	Target 22/23	RAG Q1 22/23	RAG Q2 22/23	RAG Q3 22/23	RAG Q4 22/23	Q3 22/23 outturn	Note ref
Percentage of Health and Social Care Connect referrals triaged and progressed to required services within 24 hours	N/A	95%	G	A	R		Q3 year to date: 86.9%	iii

**Savings exceptions 2022/23 (£'000)**

Service description	Original Target For 2022/23	Target including items c/f from previous year(s)	Achieved in-year	Will be achieved, but in future years	Cannot be achieved	Note ref
	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Total Savings</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
			-	-	-	
			-	-	-	
<b>Subtotal Permanent Changes <sup>1</sup></b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Total Savings and Permanent Changes</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

Memo: treatment of savings not achieved in the year (£'000)	Temporary Funding <sup>2</sup>	Part of reported variance <sup>3</sup>	Total	Note Ref
	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Where agreed savings are reasonably unable to be achieved other permanent savings are required to be identified and approved via quarterly monitoring.

<sup>2</sup> Temporary funding will only replace a slipped or unachieved saving for one year; the saving will still need to be made in future years (or be replaced with something else).

<sup>3</sup> The slipped or unachieved saving will form part of the department's overall variance - it will either increase an overspend or decrease an underspend. The saving will still need to be made in future years (or be replaced with something else).

**Revenue Budget 2022/23 (£'000)****Adult Social Care – Independent Sector:**

Divisions	Planned Gross	Planned Income	Planned Net	Projected Gross	Projected Income	Projected Net	(Over)/ under spend Gross	(Over)/ under spend Income	(Over)/ under spend Net	Note ref
IS - Physical Support, Sensory Support and Support for Memory & Cognition	126,290	(45,551)	80,739	127,287	(46,685)	80,602	(997)	1,134	137	
IS - Learning Disability Support	71,287	(4,878)	66,409	74,820	(5,336)	69,484	(3,533)	458	(3,075)	
IS - Mental Health Support	20,734	(10,946)	9,788	23,873	(15,262)	8,611	(3,139)	4,316	1,177	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>218,311</b>	<b>(61,375)</b>	<b>156,936</b>	<b>225,980</b>	<b>(67,283)</b>	<b>158,697</b>	<b>(7,669)</b>	<b>5,908</b>	<b>(1,761)</b>	

**Adult Social Care – Directly Provided Services & Assessment and Care Management:**

Divisions	Planned Gross	Planned Income	Planned Net	Projected Gross	Projected Income	Projected Net	(Over)/ under spend Gross	(Over)/ under spend Income	(Over)/ under spend Net	Note ref
Physical Support, Sensory Support and Support for Memory & Cognition	16,258	(4,850)	11,408	14,930	(4,879)	10,051	1,328	29	1,357	
Learning Disability Support	8,151	(606)	7,545	7,771	(609)	7,162	380	3	383	
Mental Health Support	3,363	(3,241)	122	3,343	(3,241)	102	20	-	20	
Substance Misuse Support	477	-	477	476	-	476	1	-	1	
Equipment & Assistive Technology	6,804	(3,507)	3,297	7,184	(3,797)	3,387	(380)	290	(90)	
Other	130	-	130	110	-	110	20	-	20	
Supporting People	5,504	(310)	5,194	5,504	(310)	5,194	-	-	-	
Assessment and Care Management	27,721	(2,145)	25,576	30,225	(4,649)	25,576	(2,504)	2,504	-	
Carers	3,374	(2,679)	695	3,168	(2,474)	694	206	(205)	1	
Management and Support	18,309	(26,730)	(8,421)	19,166	(27,392)	(8,226)	(857)	662	(195)	
Service Strategy	620	(198)	422	1,632	(1,232)	400	(1,012)	1,034	22	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>90,711</b>	<b>(44,266)</b>	<b>46,445</b>	<b>93,509</b>	<b>(48,583)</b>	<b>44,926</b>	<b>(2,798)</b>	<b>4,317</b>	<b>1,519</b>	

## APPENDIX 2

Divisions	Planned Gross	Planned Income	Planned Net	Projected Gross	Projected Income	Projected Net	(Over)/ under spend Gross	(Over)/ under spend Income	(Over)/ under spend Net	Note ref
<b>Total Adult Social Care</b>	<b>309,022</b>	<b>(105,641)</b>	<b>203,381</b>	<b>319,489</b>	<b>(115,866)</b>	<b>203,623</b>	<b>(10,467)</b>	<b>10,225</b>	<b>(242)</b>	

### Safer Communities:

Divisions	Planned Gross	Planned Income	Planned Net	Projected Gross	Projected Income	Projected Net	(Over)/ under spend Gross	(Over)/ under spend Income	(Over)/ under spend Net	Note ref
Safer Communities	2,012	(909)	1,103	2,321	(1,218)	1,103	(309)	309	-	
<b>Total Safer Communities</b>	<b>2,012</b>	<b>(909)</b>	<b>1,103</b>	<b>2,321</b>	<b>(1,218)</b>	<b>1,103</b>	<b>(309)</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>0</b>	

### Public Health – Core Services:

Divisions	Planned Gross	Planned Income	Planned Net	Projected Gross	Projected Income	Projected Net	(Over)/ under spend Gross	(Over)/ under spend Income	(Over)/ under spend Net	Note ref
Mental Health & Best Start	10,806	-	10,806	10,692	-	10,692	114	-	114	
Risky Behaviours and Threats to Health	12,187	-	12,187	11,882	-	11,882	305	-	305	
Health Systems	3,107	-	3,107	2,876	-	2,876	231	-	231	
Communities	959	-	959	1,092	-	1,092	(133)	-	(133)	
Central Support	3,061	-	3,061	3,087	-	3,087	(26)	-	(26)	
Test, Track and Contain	792	-	792	665	-	665	127	-	127	
Community Mass Testing	185	-	185	126	-	126	59	-	59	
Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Public Health Grant income	-	(28,862)	(28,862)	-	(28,862)	(28,862)	-	-	-	
Test, Track and Contain Grant income	-	(792)	(792)	-	(792)	(792)	-	-	-	
ADDER Grant	-	(1,350)	(1,350)	-	(1,350)	(1,350)	-	-	-	
Draw from General Reserves	-	-	-	584	-	584	(584)	-	(584)	
Draw from Health Visiting Reserves	-	(93)	(93)	-	-	-	-	(93)	(93)	
<b>Total Public Health</b>	<b>31,097</b>	<b>(31,097)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31,004</b>	<b>(31,004)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>(93)</b>	<b>0</b>	

**Capital programme 2022/23 (£'000)**

Approved project	Budget: total project all years	Projected: total project all years	Budget Q3	Actual to date Q3	Projected 2022/23	Variation (Over) / under Q2 budget	Variation analysis: (Over) / under spend	Variation analysis: Slippage to future year	Variation analysis: Spend in advance	Note ref
Supported Living Projects	6,400	-	200	316	390	(190)	-	-	(190)	
Greenacres	2,598	2,598	144	1	144	-	-	-	-	
House Adaptations for People with Disabilities	2,719	2,719	50	-	50	-	-	-	-	
<b>Total ASC Gross</b>	<b>11,717</b>	<b>5,317</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>(190)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(190)</b>	

## Business Services – Q3 2022/23

### Summary of progress on Council Priorities, issues arising, and achievements

#### Summary of successes and achievements

##### Key cross cutting programmes

##### **Carbon**

The outturn for Q2 (reported a quarter in arrears) shows a 29% reduction in carbon emissions against a 2022/23 target of a 34% reduction from the baseline year, 2019/20, which is the same as the reported outturn for Q1. Gas consumption for buildings (schools and corporate) was down 27% and electricity consumption was down 6% compared to 2021/22.

Part of the reduction in consumption is due to the more typical weather experienced in Q1 when compared to the unexpected low average minimum temperatures experienced in 2021/22, but improved management of buildings to reduce energy usage was also a factor. The need to provide ventilation in our buildings as part of COVID-19 safety measures is still adversely affecting our overall percentage reduction. A programme of carbon reduction measures continues to be delivered in schools and across the corporate estate, in line with our Climate Action Plan.

Good progress was made in Q3 on delivery of energy efficiency projects to move us closer to achievement of our annual targets, including:

- Nine projects have been completed as part of the 2022/23 LED lighting programme, with one project almost complete (final building checks pending); all projects are on target.
- Three Solar Photovoltaics (PV) projects have been completed and six more should complete in Q4. One of the ten targeted projects will not be fully complete before the end of Q4 (**ref i**) due to supply chain lead times for the batteries and inverters.
- The Ninfield Decarbonisation project was completed in November 2022. The project has estimated savings of 18t CO<sub>2</sub>e (tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent) per annum – while it will take one year to generate the expected saving, it is a further stride towards our carbon neutral target. This first pilot decarbonisation of heat project has provided valuable learning points that are being built into future projects. The second project at Herstmonceux has had all machinery and equipment installed, with commissioning and site handover expected in Q4.
- Following submission of our bid in early Q3, the Phase 3b Public Sector Decarbonisation scheme announced in December that the Council had been awarded a grant of £1m for decarbonisation of heat investments in six primary schools. Three sites went out for tender in Q3, and a further update will be provided in Q4 on the other three sites.
- The Carbon modelling tool was used to estimate procurement related carbon emissions for inclusion in the annual Green House Gas Report for 2021-22 which, subject to Lead Member approval, will be published in Q4.
- Energy Saving for School Site Managers workshops were delivered by a specialist consultant commissioned by the Energy Team on 15 November 2022. A further four workshops for both corporate and school site/building managers will run in Q4 to support energy cost and carbon reduction through good site management practice. Attendees will receive good practice checklists and wall mountable thermometers with recommended temperature settings.

##### **Modernising Systems**

The Managing Back Office Systems (MBOS) Programme was established to deliver the replacement of the Council's financial, resource management and property asset management systems. Replacement of these systems will support further developments to increase agile and digital working.

The User Acceptance Test phase has been running since mid-September 2022 and the pace of testing has not been in line with original expectations. We will only move on to the next phase



when quality standards have been met and are therefore considering all options for a feasible go live date that does not require us to compromise on the quality of the system or data.

## **Workstyles**

Staff engagement group sessions have taken place during Q3, and the Workstyles staff survey was launched. The response rate was high at 33%. Work on the Workstyles property elements for County Hall continue to be paused. Engagement and the analysis of the results of the survey will be used to formulate recommendations for any further office adaptations and workforce support for hybrid working. Work to deliver the new office work bases in Hastings has continued. The new offices incorporate a relocation of Workstyles property elements from Ocean House thus efficiently reusing items which were designed to be flexible and moveable when installed.

IT & Digital completed the programme to install additional meeting room technology to support hybrid meetings, and the Tech Advocate team continued to be on hand supporting staff to maximise their use of the technology available.

## **Human Resources and Organisational Development (HROD)**

### **Recruitment and Retention**

In common with most employers, the Council is facing significant recruitment and retention challenges as a result of the current labour market conditions and cost of living pressures. A range of actions have therefore been developed in response and one-off investment was agreed by Cabinet in September 2022 to progress these. In summary, the actions include the continuation of the current work on the development of an employer brand ('We Choose East Sussex'), updating the jobs pages on our website and recruitment documentation to identify the Council as an employer of choice. This includes extending our reach into sections of the labour market that are underrepresented and/or face significant barriers to employment by working in partnership with organisations that support these communities. In addition, the actions include the forecasting of workforce 'gaps' and future need, as well as investment in the continuous professional development of our staff. To take this work forward, two new fixed term posts have been established: Pre-employment Co-ordinator and Workforce Planner, with the appointees due to start shortly.

Alongside attracting individuals to work for the Council, we are working with Korn Ferry (Hay) consultancy to undertake a pay benchmarking and market assessment exercise for key roles within the Council. It is currently anticipated that this will report in Q2 2023/24.

### **Apprenticeships**

Work to grow apprenticeships within the Council and Schools has continued in quarter 3, details can be found in Communities, Economy & Transport, Appendix 5.

### **Attendance Management and Wellbeing**

The 2022/23 Q1-3 sickness absence figure for the whole authority (excluding schools) is 7.58 days lost per Full Time Equivalent employee (FTE), an increase of 16.7% since last year. The year-end estimate for 2022/23 is 10.79 days/FTE, so the target of 9.10 days/FTE is currently predicted not to be met (**ref ii**). The predominant reason for the increase in absence rates is due to COVID-19 related absences, with a 2,813 increase of days lost compared to the same period last year. The benchmarking data suggests the Council is experiencing slightly higher rates of COVID-19 related absence, compared to the average of other local authorities.

Mental health absence has also increased by 892 days compared to the same period last year. However, the benchmarking data from GoodShape suggests this is a common theme across local authorities and our absence rates are within the average for this. Set against this background, we have increased support to staff by:

- Planning a dedicated campaign for stress awareness month in April including Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) awareness sessions, 'food for your mood' workshops and evidence-based signposting.
- Raising awareness of the mental health support available from our EAP and partners 'able futures' through a series of interactive staff webinars and individual staff sessions.
- Our growing Mental Health First Aid network continues to pro-actively support staff and promote wellbeing resources within teams.
- Launched a short 4-minute film for World Mental Health Day to promote the resources available, raise awareness and encourage early intervention.
- Ran a series of dedicated workshops in November for managers on managing stress.

## **Procurement**

### **Savings achieved through procurement, contract and supplier management activities**

The Council has spent £295m with 908 local suppliers over the past 12 months, which equates to 67% of our total spend, compared to a target of 60%. This figure includes our Tier 2 supplier data (i.e., the direct spend with the Council's suppliers that is then sub-contracted by them to a local supplier). The Procurement team continues to promote our contract opportunities to local suppliers, as well as building local supply chain opportunities into our tenders where possible.

### **Social Value**

In Q3, a total of 13 contracts were awarded, of which six were out of scope of the Social Value Measurement Charter, which quantifies the economic, social and environmental benefits of the procurement, as they accessed an existing pre-approved list of suppliers (Frameworks) with predefined contractual terms. The seven in-scope contracts had a total contract value of £317.65m and secured £184.65m in Social Value commitment, which equates to an outturn of 58% against a target of 10%.

Three contracts secured significant social value commitment in Q3, which is reflected in the outturn figure:

- **Highways and Infrastructure Services Contract:** This contract is currently in the mobilisation phase, preparing for a start date of 1 May 2023. The successful supplier has committed to a social value offer of circa £180m (around 62% of contract value). This includes a commitment to deliver 60% of the contract value through local supply chains, in addition to delivering apprenticeships and creating local jobs, plus a wide range of employability support.
- **Multiply programme:** This programme has a funding commitment totalling £1.67m, to be used to increase and improve the levels of adult numeracy skills across the county. The social value commitment secured was £455k, 27% of the cumulative contract value. A large part of the commitment is in employability support, with the successful suppliers giving every one of the locally based participants of the Multiply course a minimum of 12 hours of support, ranging from the creation or tailoring of CVs, through to introductions to employers and interview preparation. A number of the suppliers have also committed to the delivery of a wide range of support to local businesses and partners within the voluntary sector.
- **Extra Care Housing schemes:** The successful supplier has committed to a social value offer of circa £2.2m, 11% of the contract value. The majority of their social value commitment is around training local people to NVQ level 2/3 and providing job opportunities to the long term unemployed, those currently working less than 16 hours per week and 18-24 year olds not in employment, education or training. The provision of e-bikes and electric cars and the encouragement of car sharing and virtual meetings when appropriate are proposed to reduce carbon emissions against these contracts.

Please note: The Social Value figures detailed above are financial proxies used in the Social Value Measurement Charter, to reflect the value of how much of a social impact the commitments will have to local residents and communities, based on the measurements that in the [National Themes, Outcomes and Measures \(TOMs\)](#).

The East Sussex Social Value Policy was approved by the Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change in September and is currently forming part of a Place Scrutiny review, which is due to conclude at the end of Q4/early Q1 2023/24. The outcome of this review will feed into the roll out of the Policy across the Council.

In Q3, the Social Value Marketplace featured at the Eastbourne Big Sparks Event, which uncovers, celebrates, inspires and showcases the amazing things that communities are doing in East Sussex. The Marketplace was demonstrated in a workshop style setting, with attendees being given the opportunity to have a walkthrough the site, to understand how it is used to benefit residents and local communities. Engagements were made with charities and projects, All Sorts Youth Project, Black Butterfly and Wayfinder Woman.

The Orbis Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Policy was approved by the Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change in Q3 and has been published on the Council's website. The policy sets out the Council's expectations of prospective suppliers in procurement activities performed by the Council, including commissioning, procurement and contract management. It aims to minimise negative, and promote positive, environmental impacts, where possible, within the Council's supply chain. As a result of this policy, environmental considerations will be built into the procurement and delivery of goods, works and services through specifications, tender questions, evaluation criteria, key performance indicators and clauses of contracts.

### **Property**

Property provided increased advice and options for several organisational transformation programmes in Q3. In addition, Property concentrated on a number of workstreams in the Council's Asset Management Plan 2020-2025, focusing on more efficient use of offices, supporting service transformation and providing advice to schools on energy efficiency.

Key outcomes secured across Property in Q3 include:

- Increasing the Council's commercial income portfolio by 3% compared to Q2.
- Lead Member approval secured for disposal of two former operational assets in Wealden and Rother districts. The exchange of contracts for these assets are due in Q4.
- The Hastings office leases were completed in Q3 and fit out works are being implemented for occupation in spring 2023.
- New accommodation was found for the Modern Records service in Q3 by re-purposing a Council owned asset. A lease was signed in Q3 for a warehouse building which will become the base for Modern Records service to allow this service to move from Ropemaker in due course. The accommodation is smaller than the current premises and will contribute to reduced property operational costs and reduced carbon emissions from this service.

### **Property Strategy (SPACES)**

Strategic Property Asset Collaboration in East Sussex (SPACES) is a partnership of public bodies and third sector organisations, which aims to improve the use of public sector assets, creating efficiencies (such as reducing property costs and releasing capital receipts) and more effective environments to deliver services.

The Brownfield Land Release Fund (BLRF) is used to unlock local authority owned brownfield land for housing, which may not otherwise be available due to viability issues. As reported at Q2, working with local authority partners, SPACES submitted two bid applications for the BLRF Phase 2 in August 2022. In November it was formally announced that both bids were successfully awarded the full funding request. £485,000 of capital grant funding was awarded to deliver a total

of 30 new homes on brownfield land in Rother and Wealden. Many of these homes will be affordable units.

### **IT & Digital**

Migration of services to the new South East Grid network on behalf of the Link Consortium has been a key focus for Q3, with the exit from the previous wide area network contract and novation of infrastructure to the new supplier. Discussions are also taking place with other public sector organisations about their use of the Council's framework contract for the provision of high speed digital infrastructure.

Work to strengthen security approaches and overall organisational cyber resilience continued during Q3 including achieving Cyber Essentials Plus accreditation. This is the current industry standard used across private and public sectors to underpin safe sharing with partners and help assure sufficient controls are in place to minimise the risk of a cyber incident.

With the risk of cyber-attack remaining high, delivery of business continuity preparedness exercises continue and an enhanced network detection and response solution has now been purchased. This system is being configured to use artificial intelligence, machine learning and data analytics, in near real-time, to detect threats before they become destructive or damaging. This investment in automation technology will help protect the organisation from cyber-attack.

### **Revenue Budget Summary**

The 2022/23 Business Services net revenue budget is £26.694m and is forecast to underspend by £0.259m. There are no planned savings in BSD this financial year.

IT&D are forecasting an underspend of £0.201m (**ref iii**), arising from vacancy and recruitment gaps; and from the unbudgeted contribution to SAP hosting support from Surrey County Council following delays to their new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system 'go-live'. ERP is a new finance system.

Property is forecasting an overspend of £0.048m (**ref iv**). This overspend has reduced from Q2 after a rigorous review of the reactive maintenance programme, allocating appropriate costs to the relevant capital projects and capturing works attributed to managing the Covid-19 requirements.

### **Capital Programme Summary**

The 2022/23 capital budget is £23.565m, with an underspend of £0.816m and slippage of £1.637m forecast.

Special Educational Needs, Grove Park has slippage of £0.429m (**ref v**) because negotiations for the location of the school have not concluded.

14 Westfield Lane has an underspend of £0.616m (**ref vi**) mainly due to the budget provisionally held for potential land charge, which is no longer required.

The Core Programme - Schools Basic Need has an underspend of £0.200m (**ref vii**) relating to the new Uckfield/Ridgewood Primary project.

Core Programme - IT & Digital Strategy Implementation MBOS has slippage £0.951m (**ref viii**), which reflects delays in build and testing.

### **External Funding**

In the first three quarters of 2022/23, the External Funding Team helped 34 organisations secure £1,126,277. This includes large applications such as Energise Sussex Coast, who received £298,617 from the National Lottery Community Fund to fund training and support of volunteer energy champions and the mentoring and support of new community energy projects; and smaller ones such as Nutley War Memorial Hall, who received £5,000 from the Bernard Sunley Foundation towards the installation of a hybrid heat pump system.

**Performance exceptions (See How to read this report for definition)****Priority – Making best use of resources now and for the future**

Performance measure	Outturn 21/22	Target 22/23	RAG Q1 22/23	RAG Q2 22/23	RAG Q3 22/23	RAG Q4 22/23	Q3 22/23 outturn	Note ref
Progress on implementation of Carbon reduction schemes	New measure 2022/23	10 low energy lighting schemes 10 solar PV schemes 2 decarbonisation of heat schemes implemented	G	G	R		Solar PV: 3 projects completed Forecast outturn: 9 will complete	i
Number of working days lost per FTE (Full Time Equivalent) employee due to sickness absence in non-school services	9.24	9.10	A	A	R		Q1-Q3: 7.58 days lost per FTE	ii

**Savings exceptions 2022/23 (£'000)**

Service description	Original Target For 2022/23	Target including items c/f from previous year(s)	Achieved in-year	Will be achieved, but in future years	Cannot be achieved	Note ref
Planned savings - BSD	-	-	-	-	-	
Planned savings - Orbis	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Total Savings</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
			-	-	-	
			-	-	-	
<b>Subtotal Permanent Changes <sup>1</sup></b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Total Savings and Permanent Changes</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

Memo: treatment of savings not achieved in the year (£'000)	Temporary Funding <sup>2</sup>	Part of reported variance <sup>3</sup>	Total	Note Ref
	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Where agreed savings are reasonably unable to be achieved other permanent savings are required to be identified and approved via quarterly monitoring.

<sup>2</sup> Temporary funding will only replace a slipped or unachieved saving for one year; the saving will still need to be made in future years (or be replaced with something else).

<sup>3</sup> The slipped or unachieved saving will form part of the department's overall variance - it will either increase an overspend or decrease an underspend. The saving will still need to be made in future years (or be replaced with something else).

### **Revenue Budget 2022/23 (£'000)**

Divisions	Planned Gross	Planned Income	Planned Net	Projected Gross	Projected Income	Projected Net	(Over)/ under spend Gross	(Over)/ under spend Income	(Over)/ under spend Net	Note ref
Finance & Business Administration	10,642	(5,900)	4,742	11,527	(6,873)	4,654	(885)	973	88	
HR & OD	2,989	(1,089)	1,900	3,077	(1,195)	1,882	(88)	106	18	
IT & Digital	12,783	(4,777)	8,006	12,624	(4,819)	7,805	159	42	201	iii
Procurement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Property	29,046	(20,700)	8,346	24,716	(16,322)	8,394	4,330	(4,378)	(48)	iv
Contribution to Orbis Partnership	3,700	-	3,700	3,700	-	3,700	-	-	-	
<b>Total BSD</b>	<b>59,160</b>	<b>(32,466)</b>	<b>26,694</b>	<b>55,644</b>	<b>(29,209)</b>	<b>26,435</b>	<b>3,516</b>	<b>(3,257)</b>	<b>259</b>	

### **Capital programme 2022/23 (£'000)**

Approved project	Budget: total project all years	Projected: total project all years	Budget Q3	Actual to date Q3	Projected 2022/23	Variation (Over) / under Q3 budget	Variation analysis: (Over) / under spend	Variation analysis: Slippage to future year	Variation analysis: Spend in advance	Note ref
SALIX Contract	3,500	3,500	350	446	350	-	-	-	-	
Property Agile Works	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Lansdowne Unit (CSD)	75	75	75	4	75	-	-	-	-	
Special Educational Needs	3,198	3,198	175	105	175	-	-	-	-	
Special Provision in Secondary School	120	120	120	108	120	-	-	-	-	
Special Educational Needs - Grove Park	19,179	19,179	750	312	321	429	-	429	-	v
Disabled Children's Homes	786	786	57	-	57	-	-	-	-	
14 Westfield Lane	721	721	721	27	105	616	616	-	-	vi
Core Programme - Schools Basic Need	98,444	98,444	2,749	1,993	2,549	200	200	-	-	vii
Core Programme - Capital Building Improvements Corporate	44,119	44,119	3,439	1122	3,362	77	-	77	-	
Core Programme - Capital Building Improvements Schools	42,817	42,817	5,179	3,104	5,179	-	-	-	-	

# APPENDIX 3

Approved project	Budget: total project all years	Projected: total project all years	Budget Q3	Actual to date Q3	Projected 2022/23	Variation (Over) / under Q3 budget	Variation analysis: (Over) / under spend	Variation analysis: Slippage to future year	Variation analysis: Spend in advance	Note ref
Core Programme - IT & Digital Strategy Implementation	78,847	78,847	4,186	2,089	4,006	180	-	180	-	
Core Programme - IT & Digital Strategy Implementation MBOS	-	-	8,193	4,008	7,242	951	-	951	-	viii
IT & Digital - Utilising Automation	24	24	24	-	24	-	-	-	-	
<b>Total BSD Gross</b>	<b>291,830</b>	<b>291,830</b>	<b>26,018</b>	<b>13,318</b>	<b>23,565</b>	<b>2,453</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>1,637</b>	<b>0</b>	

## **Children's Services – Q3 2022/23**

### **Summary of progress on Council Priorities, issues arising, and achievements**

#### **Summary of successes and achievements**

##### **The percentage of eligible 2-year-olds who take up a place with an eligible early years provider**

81% of eligible 2-year-olds took up a place with an eligible early year's provider in the autumn 2022 funding period. The latest available national average, as of September 2022, is 72%. The take up for the autumn funding period in 2022 is higher than the take up in the same period 2021, 69%.

##### **Early Years Improvement**

East Sussex outcomes for the Early Years Foundation Stage were above the national average. In East Sussex 69% of pupils achieved a good level of development compared to the national average of 65%. This is the first set of data since 2019. Changes in the new statutory framework mean that data cannot be compared to previous years. 98% of early years providers in East Sussex are rated as good or outstanding compared to 96% nationally. We continue to work with all providers who have early years children and have completed an annual exercise to contact all providers that we are not directly engaged with.

##### **Percentage of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) annual review meetings where the child gave their view and/or participated**

During Q3 94.7% (504 out of 532) of children and young people gave their views and/or participated in their annual review.

##### **Proportion of new EHCPs issued within 20 weeks**

In Q3 81.2% (125 out of 154) of all new EHCPs including exceptions and 83.3% (125 out of 150) excluding exceptions, were issued within the statutory timescale of 20 days. This is above the targets of 65% for EHCPs including exceptions and 70% for EHCPs excluding exceptions.

##### **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities strategy development**

The new [East Sussex Special Educational Needs and Disabilities \(SEND\) Strategy 2022-25](#) was launched in November after a 10-month consultation period with key partners across the East Sussex SEND community. The Strategy outlines a joint approach to service provision and commissioning by putting children and young people, and their families at the centre of decision-making. The strategy sets out the shared ambitions we aim to achieve across education, health and social care over the next three years for children and young people with SEND. Further information about how the strategy was developed can be found on the [Local Offer website](#). There is also a [YouTube video](#) of young people in East Sussex talking about the strategy.

##### **Apprenticeship Graduation**

An East Sussex Apprenticeship Graduation took place on the 19 October 2022. Details can be found in Communities, Economy & Transport, Appendix 5.

##### **Mental Health Support Team (MHST) Celebration**

Representatives from over 30 schools attended the MHST celebration event on 4 October 2022. Attendees included MHST schools, MHST staff, representatives from the Department for Education (DfE) and Public Health. The DfE set out the national context for the programme. MHST staff and schools presented a showcase of good practice that has been developed.

##### **Funding for social prescribing for children and young people**

We have received funding from NHS Sussex Health Inequalities, Homes for Ukraine, and Active Sussex to co-ordinate the delivery of two social prescribing projects for children and young people. There will be two wellbeing projects which will work with children and young people experiencing



mild to moderate emotional difficulties and other health inequalities. They will offer them support and pay for the activities they will be encouraged to participate in, according to their interests and wishes. The programmes will:

- Target children in four primary schools in the High Weald area, as a pilot project for the Primary Care Network area. The focus is on children on free school meals, with SEND, known to early help and social care, with higher rates of absence in schools, or demonstrating other signs of emotional difficulties, including challenging or withdrawn behaviour and/or experiencing other health inequalities.
- Target Ukrainian children and young people who are fleeing war and conflict in Ukraine.

### **Connected Families Service**

The new Connected Families Service launched in September for families with children aged 11-17 who are on the edge of care. The service aims to enable children to live safely at home, or where care is necessary, to maintain relationships and work to support children to return home when appropriate. Connected Coaches provide proactive, tailored support for families at their point of need. 43 young people have engaged with the service since September 2022.

### **Annual children in care awards 2022**

The East Sussex Children in Care Awards for young people in school years 6 and above was held on 14 October 2022 at Bedes Senior School. The evening included a presentation to celebrate our children's achievements in academic year 2021/22. The guest speaker was Dame Jacqueline Wilson. We received 102 nominations across four categories:

- Educational achievements.
- Personal achievement.
- Skills and talents.
- Positive contribution.

52 of the young people who were nominated were able to join us at the awards ceremony. There were 16 overall winners who all received a trophy.

### **Improving the wellbeing of our Looked After Children (LAC)**

The Corporate Parenting Panel has agreed a new approach to their meetings which will include more of a dialogue with the Children in Care Council. They will also invite representatives from partners agencies, for example the NHS and the Police to attend these meetings for broader discussions about how we work together keep improving the wellbeing of our LAC.

### **East Sussex Foster Carers Association Christmas party**

In December the East Sussex Foster Carers Association held a Christmas party which was attended by around 75 children and their carers. A new award has been developed by the Association which recognises the importance of the contribution of children in families who foster, created in memory of a Trustee of the Association. The award was presented on the night to a young person, who has supported around 150 children and is now a foster carer.

### **The percentage of Care Leavers undertaking a Level 4 – 6 qualification**

12% of care leavers aged 18 – 25 are undertaking level 4 – 6 qualifications. Eleven care leavers gained university places for the 2022/23 academic year and nine have taken up the place.

### **The percentage of LAC participating in education, training or employment with training at academic age 16 (Year 12) and academic age 17 (year 13)**

The Q3 outturn for LAC at academic age 16 is 73% against a target of 80% (**ref i**). The percentage of LAC at academic age 17 is 58% against a target of 70% (**ref ii**). The percentage of LAC who are in Employment, Education or Training (EET), including those in employment rather than those

in employment with training, is higher at 82% for academic age 16 and 73% for academic age 17. From 2023/24 this measure will change to report on EET. We have seen a significant increase in the number of young people opting to enter employment without training. The Virtual School and through care teams continue to work together to support young people into education, employment and training. The post 16 pupil premium money allows us to further embed practice with post 16 providers and put support in place to prevent breakdown in educational placements. We will also be able to fund a small number of bespoke packages for young peoples who are unable to engage with existing providers.

### **The percentage of disadvantaged pupils achieving at least the expected standard in each of reading, writing and maths at Key Stage 2**

In academic year 2021/22 37.6% of disadvantaged pupils achieved at least the expected standard in each of reading, writing and maths at Key Stage 2 (**ref iii**). The national average was 42.8%. The outturn is lower than the target of 45.8%. The target was based on the Council outturn for academic year 2018/19, the last time academic results were published prior to the pandemic. The Primary Board and the council worked together to review the data. Education Improvement Partnerships have focussed on the needs of individual schools, looking at where schools can work together to support improvement. Conversations with academy trusts have continued to focus on outcomes and we provide timely support to schools that would benefit from joining a strong multi academy trust.

### **Average Progress 8 score for state funded schools and the average Attainment 8 score for disadvantaged pupils**

- The average Progress 8 Score for state funded East Sussex schools for academic year 2021/22 is -0.11 compared to the national average is -0.03. This is below our target which was based on the 2018/19 academic year outturn of  $\geq -0.06$  (**ref iv**).
- The average Attainment 8 score for disadvantaged pupils for academic year 2021/22 is 33.2 for East Sussex compared to the national average of 37.6. This is just below our target which was based on the academic year 2018/19 outturn of  $\geq 33.6$  (**ref v**).

We are awaiting the DfE final data but do not expect this target status to change at that time. The targets were based on the Council outturn for academic year 2018/19, the last time academic results were published prior to the pandemic. Working with the Secondary Board, we have analysed the academic year 2021/22 outcomes data. School improvement capacity is being provided by external advisers and is resourced through the Secondary Board. Our maintained schools are being given appropriate support and challenge to improve outcomes. Four academies in the Hastings and Bexhill area significantly underperformed which has impacted on the overall outturn for East Sussex. The young people attending those schools account for approximately one fifth of all secondary pupils in year 11. Meetings with Academy Trusts have continued to focus on outcomes and the DfE Regional Director is aware of our concern about the need to raise standards of attainment of secondary schools in Hastings in particular.

### **Average Progress 8 score for LAC**

The measure for the average Progress 8 score for LAC has been reported as amber at Q3 as the final, validated data for progress 8 scores for LAC will not be published until Q4 (**ref vi**). Provisional data is available, and the results look positive. Further actions we are taking for future cohorts include:

- Early identification of young people who are not making good progress.
- Promoting use of assistive technology for children with literacy difficulties.
- High quality academic intervention for LAC through development of Virtual School intervention teacher provision.
- Coaching intervention to support emotional resilience and development of positive study skills.

- The Youth Employment Service working with all LAC from year 10 and providing intensive input for young people unclear of future pathways.
- Further links with further education colleges and higher education providers to ensure high aspirations and support transitions

### **Rate of LAC (per 10,000 children)**

The rate of LAC at Q3 is 61.6 per 10,000 children (656 children) **(ref vii)**. Of the 656 children, 72 are Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children (UASC). As reported in Q2, higher numbers of children are staying as LAC due to significant delays in the court system due to problems with scheduling hearings. The time taken to complete care proceedings has a significant impact for vulnerable children as it results in delays in moving children, for example from a Special Guardianship Order or for very young children to adoptive families. The change in the national transfer scheme from 0.07% of child population (63 children) to 0.1% (106 children) will result in an increase in the number of UASC. We are also experiencing an increase in asylum seeking young people, placed in adult hotels in the area requiring age assessment and placements. There continues to be an increase in the number of adolescents with complex needs entering care.

### **Revenue Budget Summary**

The net budget of £103.610m is forecast to be overspent by £11.550m by the year end **(ref xi)**, an increase of £3.112m since Q2. Within the forecast there are £3.806m of COVID-19 costs and lost income which will be offset with COVID-19 tranche funding.

### **Early Help and Social Care**

The forecast overspends relating to Early Help and Social Care **(ref ix)** have increased by £3.560m since Q2, to £10.379m. This includes significant pressure resulting in an overspend of £4.443m against LAC Agency Placements budgets. Analysis of actual spend, data recorded within Controcc and the model as at Q3, has supported the significant increases in cost of LAC within Agency Placements. The projected actual spend reflects both increased numbers of LAC (an additional 15 at the end of Q3) and particularly increased unit costs. In common with many other local authorities, the needs of children in care are increasing in complexity and the price of care is rising on a weekly basis. The average weekly costs for Agency Placements arranged in Q3 have increased to £4,980 from £3,630 for those arranged in Q2, an increase of 37%.

The decision to temporarily close Lansdowne while the future business model is considered and reset, plus further application of COVID-19 funding and other small changes, has improved its forecast overspend position by £1.209m, reducing the forecast overspend for Lansdowne to £1.262m. The draft new business model has been factored into the 2023/24 budget.

The remainder of the forecast overspends within this area, relating to budgets including Children's Homes and Locality (the 'front door' social work service which provides support to children and young people when there are concerns about welfare or safety) have not significantly changed since Q2, making up the balance of the remaining £0.3m movement since Q2, to £4.774m.

### **Communication, Planning and Performance**

For Communication, Planning and Performance **(ref x)** we are forecasting a reduction in the forecast overspend of £0.854m from Q2 to £2.422m. Within this, the forecast overspend on Home to School Transport has reduced by £0.874m from Q2 to £2.330m (net of COVID-19 funding of £0.991m for ongoing related pressures) as growth in solo provisions for some children has slowed slightly. The department is continuing to work together with CET to identify further mitigations during Q4 against the backdrop of price pressures arising from current market conditions (operators' staff wages and the increasing costs of overheads).

## Central Resources

Central Resources, where the department records any efficiencies and staff vacancies from across a number of areas in the department, is now forecasting an underspend of £1.295m (**ref viii**).

## Next steps

The department is continuing to look for further mitigations, with senior managers leading in taking every opportunity to save costs where possible. However, containing costs in Children's Services continues to be a significant challenge across the country, against the background of increased demand and complexity of needs emerging from the pandemic and acute supply side shortages in both care and education provision.

Actions continue to include:

- Further engagement with regional local authority commissioning groups to drive down costs and increase purchasing power for commissioned placements.
- Head of Service and Assistant Director sign off required for all external placements, including continuing to seek contributions from health partners wherever possible.
- Monthly Head of Service and Assistant Director review of top 20 high-cost placements including scrutiny of move on/ exit plans.

The department has continued looking at any longer-term impact from the 2022/23 forecast on the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). The MTFP includes significant investments totalling some £7.2m for Home to School Transport, LAC, Locality and Care leavers from 2023/24, which is included in the 2023/24 budget proposals.

Further to the risk from the demand-led nature of budgets, turnover, recruitment challenges, and the knock-on effect of costly agency staff also remain a risk to cost control across the department.

There are no planned savings for 2022/23.

## Capital Programme Summary

The Capital Programme for Children's Services for 2022/23 is £1.450m, and we are forecasting spend to be in line with this (**ref xii**).

**Performance exceptions (See How to read this report for definition)****Priority – Driving sustainable economic growth**

Performance measure	Outturn 21/22	Target 22/23	RAG Q1 22/23	RAG Q2 22/23	RAG Q3 22/23	RAG Q4 22/23	Q3 22/23 outturn	Note ref
% of Looked After Children participating in education, training or employment with training at academic age 16 (Year 12)	76% RPA (78% EET)	80%	G	A	R		73% RPA (82% EET)	i
% of Looked After Children participating in education, training or employment with training at academic age 17 (year 13)	82% EET	70%	G	A	R		58% RPA 73%(EET)	ii
% of disadvantaged pupils achieving at least the expected standard in each of reading, writing and maths at Key Stage 2	N/A Results not published	Ac Year 21/22 ≥ 45.8%	A	A	R		Ac Year 2021/22 ESCC: 37.6% Nat Av: 42.8%	iii
Average Progress 8 Score for state funded schools	N/A Results not published	Ac Year 21/22 ≥ -0.06 (ESCC outturn for academic year 18/19)	G	A	R		Ac Year 2021/22 ESCC: -0.11 Nat Av: -0.03	iv
The average Attainment 8 score for disadvantaged pupils	N/A Results not published	Ac Year 21/22 ≥ 33.6 (ESCC outturn for academic year 18/19)	G	A	R		Ac Year 2021/22 ESCC: 33.2 Nat Av: 37.6	v
Average Progress 8 score for LAC	N/A Results not published	Ac Year 21/22 No more than 0.5 points below the national average for looked after children	G	G	A		To be reported at Q4	vi

## Priority – Keeping vulnerable people safe

Performance measure	Outturn 21/22	Target 22/23	RAG Q1 22/23	RAG Q2 22/23	RAG Q3 22/23	RAG Q4 22/23	Q3 22/23 outturn	Note ref
Rate of Looked After Children (per 10,000 children)	58.9 (628 children)	59.8 (637 children)	A	A	R		61.6 (656 children)	vii

**Savings exceptions 2022/23 (£'000)**

Service description	Original Target For 2022/23	Target including items c/f from previous year(s)	Achieved in-year	Will be achieved, but in future years	Cannot be achieved	Note ref
	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Total Savings</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
			-	-	-	
			-	-	-	
<b>Subtotal Permanent Changes <sup>1</sup></b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Total Savings and Permanent Changes</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

Memo: treatment of savings not achieved in the year (£'000)	Temporary Funding <sup>2</sup>	Part of reported variance <sup>3</sup>	Total	Note Ref
	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Where agreed savings are reasonably unable to be achieved other permanent savings are required to be identified and approved via quarterly monitoring.

<sup>2</sup> Temporary funding will only replace a slipped or unachieved saving for one year; the saving will still need to be made in future years (or be replaced with something else).

<sup>3</sup> The slipped or unachieved saving will form part of the department's overall variance - it will either increase an overspend or decrease an underspend. The saving will still need to be made in future years (or be replaced with something else).

**Revenue Budget 2022/23 (£'000)**

Divisions	Planned Gross	Planned Income	Planned Net	Projected Gross	Projected Income	Projected Net	(Over)/ under spend Gross	(Over)/ under spend Income	(Over)/ under spend Net	Note ref
Central Resources	2,785	(1,448)	1,337	1,490	(1,448)	42	1,295	-	1,295	viii
Early Help and Social Care	89,758	(14,859)	74,899	99,931	(14,653)	85,278	(10,173)	(206)	(10,379)	ix
Education and ISEND	109,502	(13,750)	95,752	108,874	(13,078)	95,796	628	(672)	(44)	
Communication, Planning and Performance	24,947	(4,597)	20,350	31,387	(8,615)	22,772	(6,440)	4,018	(2,422)	x
DSG non Schools	-	(88,728)	(88,728)	-	(88,728)	(88,728)	-	-	-	
Schools	155,126	(155,126)	-	155,126	(155,126)	-	-	-	-	
<b>Total CSD</b>	<b>382,118</b>	<b>(278,508)</b>	<b>103,610</b>	<b>396,808</b>	<b>(281,648)</b>	<b>115,160</b>	<b>(14,690)</b>	<b>3,140</b>	<b>(11,550)</b>	<b>xi</b>

**Capital programme 2022/23 (£'000)**

Approved project	Budget: total project all years	Projected: total project all years	Budget Q3	Actual to date Q3	Projected 2022/23	Variation (Over) / under Q3 budget	Variation analysis: (Over) / under spend	Variation analysis: Slippage to future year	Variation analysis: Spend in advance	Note ref
House Adaptations for Disabled Children's Carers	1,053	1,053	50	18	50	-	-	-	-	
Schools Delegated Capital	27,811	27,811	1,385	1,203	1,385	-	-	-	-	
Conquest Centre redevelopment	356	356	15	-	15	-	-	-	-	
<b>Total CSD Gross</b>	<b>29,220</b>	<b>29,220</b>	<b>1,450</b>	<b>1,221</b>	<b>1,450</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>xii</b>

## **Communities, Economy & Transport – Q3 2022/23**

### **Summary of progress on Council Priorities, issues arising, and achievements**

#### **Summary of successes and achievements**

Highways works, utilising the one-off investment agreed by Cabinet in November 2021, have continued in Q3. Using the extra investment, we have completed has enabled an extra 752 schemes at the end of Q3, totalling 44,880m<sup>2</sup> over 398 sites. We are expecting to complete approximately a further 100 sites by the end of Q4. We have also completed 328 small footway patching schemes have covering 15,617m<sup>2</sup>. We are expecting to complete the extra carriageway patching and pavement works by the end of Q4. We installed £0.1m worth of new signs, to replace worn out signs, in Q3. We also completed £0.1m worth of refreshed road marking works. Further road marking and signage works are scheduled for Q4.

We completed 37 road maintenance projects to improve the condition of the county's roads in Q3. We also repaired 6,389 potholes. 3,981 were potholes in the road; the remainder were potholes on the pavement. Amongst the potholes in the road, we completed 96% within the required timescales. This is a decrease on the Q2 outturn of 99%. This decrease was primarily due to a significant increase in reported potholes following the wettest November on record and one of the coldest starts to December on record with snow followed by 10 days of frost and ice. By the end of January, we had more than doubled the number of pothole repair gangs from 10 to 23 and extended working hours because of the number of potholes.

In 2021/22 we developed a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), in partnership with bus companies, in response to the Government's bus strategy. The statutory process to agree the Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme, which included a four-week operator objection period and a four-week stakeholder consultation, is now complete. The Lead Member approved the final plan and scheme on 21 November 2022. The new Bus Team have started work to deliver the BSIP and the Enhanced Partnership.

We developed plans in Q3 to improve the temporary bus stops at the bottom of School Hill in Lewes, due to the owners of Lewes Bus Station stopping buses using the town's bus station earlier in the year. We expect to complete the works to widen the footways and install bus shelters, which started on 9 January, in Q4.

So far in 2022/23 Trading Standards have obtained Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) confiscation orders against convicted individuals totalling nearly £100,000. The POCA ensures that criminals do not profit from their crimes. A proportion of any payment received against those orders is retained by the authority to invest in future enforcement activity.

The registration team saw a 14% increase in ceremony bookings during Q3, when compared to the same period in 2019/20 (the last full financial year before COVID-19).

#### **Employability and Skills**

The Careers Hub has supported schools to achieve an average of 5.4 national benchmarks in December 2022, above the target of 5.0. We recruited 15 further Industry Champions in Q3. This brings the total number of champions supporting schools and colleges to 190. The new employers recruited include the East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust, the British Army, the Southeast Communities Rail Partnership and National Highways. We held an online information session to recruit new Industry Champions in December. There were 10 attendees and guest speakers, which included current Industry Champions and a representative from a local secondary school, who talked about the impact of Industry Champions on young people.

In March 2022 the Government announced that as part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund the new 'Multiply' programme would seek to improve adults' numeracy skills over the next three years. In support of the Levelling Up agenda, the programme aims to help people improve their ability to understand and use maths in their daily lives and achieve a mix of formal and non-formal



qualifications. The Council's allocation of £2.5m was approved in September 2022. A project manager was recruited to oversee the programme in Q3, and contracts were awarded for services to improve numeracy skills of those aged 19+. Project delivery will start in Q4.

### **Apprenticeships**

The Department for Education published the performance tables for the number of staff undertaking an apprenticeship in public sector organisations at the end of Q3. Of the 24 County Councils in England, ESCC was placed 13th, compared with 9th last year. Notwithstanding this, within the Council, apprenticeship starts and spend continue to grow with 2.2% of all Council staff now undertaking an apprenticeship.

To continue to grow apprenticeships within the Council and schools, we are engaging with outside agencies such as the Department for Work and Pensions to promote the Council as an employer of choice. This includes attendance at careers fairs, training for prospective job candidates and, in the longer term, providing placements for those interested in roles with the Council. In support of this work, a new role of Pre-Employment Co-ordinator has been created.

64 apprentice graduates and their friends and families attended the East Sussex Apprenticeship Graduation on the 19 October 2022. This ceremony was the first to take place since the pandemic. Speakers included Councillor Rupert Simmons, Councillor Bob Standley, Ian Moore (Production Manager at Rampion Offshore Windfarm) and Donna Harfield (Vice Principal at East Sussex College). Four special awards were announced on the day:

- Outstanding contribution to the workplace during their apprenticeship.
- Tutor of the year.
- Amazing colleague/apprenticeship employer.
- Best progression.

### **Cultural investment and recovery**

A second Sussex Visitor Economy Industry Group meeting took place in Q3. Work on the Sussex Story, which will set out the unique attractions of Sussex for visitors, is now underway. The Sussex Visitor Economy Industry Group are also contributing to the draft Sussex Wine Tourism prospectus funded by the UK Community Renewal Fund and led by Sussex Modern.

### **Broadband**

The Broadband Project is completing the connections to the final remaining properties identified as part of the scheme. The project is moving towards contract closure having delivered all targets. The Broadband Team is continuing to work with the Department for Digital, Culture Media & Sport (DCMS) on shaping their centrally run and managed Project Gigabit programme, in particular by improving the data held by DCMS. The procurement process has now started, with the Invitation to Tender which includes East Sussex expected to be issued by the DCMS in Q4. The DCMS has put the Gigabit Voucher scheme, including the East Sussex top up, on hold during the start of the procurement process.

### **Business Support and job creation**

Business support programmes helped businesses to create or safeguard 58 jobs in Q3. Local East Sussex helped nine businesses to remain within, or relocate to, East Sussex in Q3.

### **Road Safety**

We completed five infrastructure schemes to improve road safety in Q3. These schemes were in Duddleswell, Bexhill, St Leonards, Eastbourne and Hadlow Down.

We delivered 142 'Bikeability' courses to 1,131 individuals at participating schools and the Cycle Centre at Eastbourne Sports Park during Q3. 47 'Wheels for All' sessions were also delivered at the Sports Park to 704 attendees.

### **Trading Standards**

31 businesses and individuals received advice and support from Trading Standards through training and bespoke advice in Q3 (**ref i**). There have been some capacity issues which have resulted in fewer business delegates being trained or provided with advice. However, the expectation is that this will improve in Q4. There have also been fewer requests for advice in Q3. There is usually a downturn in requests for advice during Christmas, as businesses focus on maximising revenues.

Trading Standards made 274 positive interventions to protect vulnerable people in Q3. This total has increased significantly on previous quarters due to engagement with the financial inclusion group and talks to various groups. 262 interventions were support sessions and training delivered to vulnerable groups. 12 direct interventions to protect vulnerable people also took place in Q3. There included six where money was returned to the victims of scams. We also installed CCTV and call blockers at the homes of vulnerable people.

### **Environment and climate change**

Alongside our colleagues in BSD, we are working with partners to develop and deliver carbon reduction and climate change adaptation work. This has included:

- Carrying out climate change needs assessments for 30 local businesses and providing grants, totalling £75,000, to 15 businesses to cut their carbon emissions and energy bills.
- Delivering an online engagement event for over 200 Council staff. Feedback from staff is being used to guide future communications with staff and Members.
- Carrying out two assessments of the risks and challenges to delivering the Council's climate change programme, one by the Council's Audit team and one by Zurich Insurance.
- Developing the evidence base for our Local Transport Plan 4 and beginning planning the development of the strategy.

### **Waste**

55.9% of Household waste was re-used, recycled or composted, or used beneficially in Q2 (reported a quarter in arrears). 61,031 tonnes of waste were collected in Q2, compared to 66,572 tonnes in Q2 2020/21, in the early part of the pandemic. Compared to pre/early pandemic levels there has continued to be a reduction in waste collected. The reduction in waste has continued to be driven by reductions in garden waste due to the dry summer, declining levels of home working following the pandemic and the impact of cost-of-living pressures.

### **Planning**

100% of County Council development applications were determined within eight weeks or within an agreed extension of time during Q3.

### **Rights of Way (RoW) and Countryside Sites**

89% of high priority maintenance work has been completed on schedule so far in 2022/23. Work in Q3 has been a combination of reactive work as a result of the wet/stormy weather and planned work, when access has been possible.

### **Libraries**

254 people enrolled on Family Learning Programmes at East Sussex libraries in Q3. 41 of these were in Family Learning, English, Maths and Language programmes, while 213 were in Wider Family Learning programmes. 29 people passed online learning courses, including IT, English and Maths in

our libraries in Q3. We have also been working with an in-year funded English for Speakers of Other Languages Tutor to support refugees to undertake courses.

Library teams promoted Christmas events and activities to encourage visitors throughout December, which traditionally sees a lower number of people using libraries. We held activities for children and adults to support the Library Strategic Commissioning Strategy aims of reducing loneliness and isolation. There was an average of 60,000 visitors a month to libraries in Q3. This mirrors a seasonal historic dip at this time of year linked to planned closures around Christmas.

### **Revenue Budget Summary**

The CET revenue budget is £63.979m and is forecast to underspend by £0.656m. There are £1.107m of COVID-19 costs and lost income which will be offset with COVID-19 tranche funding. The underspend would have been higher, but the £1m Parking savings target will not be met this year **(ref ii)**. The Parking savings have been significantly impacted by changes to driving and parking habits following COVID-19. High street activity has not returned to pre-covid levels and consequently we have yet to see the level of revenue that the increased parking charges were expected to yield. The £0.06m Environmental Service saving is unachievable and the department will look to find alternative savings next year **(ref iii)**. The largest area of underspend is in Transport and Operational Services. This is mostly made up of Waste Service underspends due to increased income from recycling, electricity sales, and reduced disposal costs. As agreed, £2.5m of this windfall Waste income has been transferred to the Waste Reserve to cover future budget pressures and a further £1.37m will be used to cover the cost of the Record Service move from Ropemaker Park **(ref iv)**. There is a net overspend on the Highways budget due to inflation-based compensation events and additional tree work due to Ash Die Back **(ref v)**. There are a number of variances across other services consisting mainly of staff vacancies, project slippage and additional income from developer contributions.

### **Capital Programme Summary**

The CET capital programme has a gross budget of £54.345m and there is forecast slippage of £3,049m, overspend of £1.392m, spend in advance of £1.058m, and underspend of £0.608m. Schemes with the largest slippage include the Hastings and Bexhill Movement and Access Package, where elements of the scheme will now be undertaken by the new Highways contractor in May 2023 **(ref viii)**. The Street Lighting Core programme is slipping due to long lead times and reduced resources to install columns **(ref xi)**. Bus Service Improvement Plan works are delayed pending a consultant's report **(ref vii)**. The overspend is mostly due to Bexhill to Hastings Link Road compensation claims and other ongoing costs such as archaeology, ecological monitoring and landscaping **(ref vi)**. The main underspend is on the Emergency Active Travel scheme, where the grant was larger than expected and a number of schemes bid for turned out to not be feasible **(ref ix)**. The opportunity to bring forward additional patching works has resulted in the spend in advance on the Highways Structural Maintenance programme **(ref x)**.

There are several schemes that are forecasting smaller variances.

**Performance exceptions (See How to read this report for definition)****Priority – Driving sustainable economic growth**

Performance measure	Outturn 21/22	Target 22/23	RAG Q1 22/23	RAG Q2 22/23	RAG Q3 22/23	RAG Q4 22/23	Q3 22/23 outturn	Note ref
The number of businesses and professionals receiving advice and support through training and bespoke advice provided by Trading Standards	126 individual delegates trained 204 businesses received bespoke advice	350	G	G	R		Q3: 31 YTD: 185	i

**Savings exceptions 2022/23 (£'000)**

Service description	Original Target For 2022/23	Target including items c/f from previous year(s)	Achieved in-year	Will be achieved, but in future years	Cannot be achieved	Note ref
Parking	1,000	1,000	-	1,000	-	ii
Libraries	183	183	183	-	-	
Environmental Services	60	60	-	-	60	iii
Archives	14	14	14	-	-	
<b>Total Savings</b>	<b>1,257</b>	<b>1,257</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>60</b>	
			-	-	-	
			-	-	-	
<b>Subtotal Permanent Changes <sup>1</sup></b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Total Savings and Permanent Changes</b>	<b>1,257</b>	<b>1,257</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>60</b>	

Memo: treatment of savings not achieved in the year (£'000)	Temporary Funding <sup>2</sup>	Part of reported variance <sup>3</sup>	Total	Note Ref
Parking	1,000	-	1,000	
Environmental Services	-	60	60	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>1,060</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Where agreed savings are reasonably unable to be achieved other permanent savings are required to be identified and approved via quarterly monitoring.

<sup>2</sup> Temporary funding will only replace a slipped or unachieved saving for one year; the saving will still need to be made in future years (or be replaced with something else).

<sup>3</sup> The slipped or unachieved saving will form part of the department's overall variance - it will either increase an overspend or decrease an underspend. The saving will still need to be made in future years (or be replaced with something else).

**Revenue Budget 2022/23 (£'000)**

Divisions	Planned Gross	Planned Income	Planned Net	Projected Gross	Projected Income	Projected Net	(Over)/ under spend Gross	(Over)/ under spend Income	(Over)/ under spend Net	Note ref
Management and Support	7,315	(4,456)	2,859	7,406	(4,559)	2,847	(91)	103	12	
Customer and Library Services	7,621	(3,299)	4,322	6,856	(2,506)	4,350	765	(793)	(28)	
Communities	4,707	(1,865)	2,842	5,212	(2,603)	2,609	(505)	738	233	
Transport & Operational Services	92,409	(53,972)	38,437	98,034	(60,743)	37,291	(5,625)	6,771	1,146	iv
Highways	15,597	(2,653)	12,944	18,320	(4,504)	13,816	(2,723)	1,851	(872)	v
Economy	5,360	(3,751)	1,609	5,086	(3,558)	1,528	274	(193)	81	
Planning and Environment	3,919	(2,953)	966	4,840	(3,958)	882	(921)	1,005	84	
<b>Total CET</b>	<b>136,928</b>	<b>(72,949)</b>	<b>63,979</b>	<b>145,754</b>	<b>(82,431)</b>	<b>63,323</b>	<b>(8,826)</b>	<b>9,482</b>	<b>656</b>	

**Capital programme 2022/23 (£'000)**

Approved project	Budget: total project all years	Projected: total project all years	Budget Q3	Actual to date Q3	Projected 2022/23	Variation (Over) / under Q3 budget	Variation analysis: (Over) / under spend	Variation analysis: Slippage to future year	Variation analysis: Spend in advance	Note ref
The Keep	1,096	1,096	26	-	26	-	-	-	-	
Covid-19 Recovery - Libraries Targeted Support	250	142	211	70	103	108	108	-	-	
Peacehaven Library	70	70	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	
Libraries	5,139	5,139	497	113	550	(53)	-	-	(53)	
Broadband	33,800	33,800	911	(542)	911	-	-	-	-	
Bexhill and Hastings Link Road	126,247	127,639	318	1,140	1,710	(1,392)	(1,392)	-	-	vi
BHLR Complementary Measures	1,800	1,800	167	51	167	-	-	-	-	
Economic Intervention Fund	8,884	8,884	242	183	242	-	-	-	-	
Economic Intervention Fund - Loans	3,000	3,000	347	220	347	-	-	-	-	
Stalled Sites Fund	916	916	35	9	9	26	-	26	-	
EDS Upgrading Empty Commercial Properties	500	500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
UTC Maritime & Sustainable Technology Hub GBF	1,300	1,300	1,300	555	1,300	-	-	-	-	
Food Street GBF	100	100	100	100	100	-	-	-	-	
Seven Sisters Country Park Visitor Infrastructure Uplift GBF	200	200	200	200	200	-	-	-	-	
Skills for Rural Businesses - Post Brexit	4,413	4,413	915	915	915	-	-	-	-	
Community Focused Road Safety Interventions	750	750	-	-	47	(47)	-	-	(47)	
Climate Emergency Works	9,794	9,794	2,297	599	2,297	-	-	-	-	
Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme	445	445	641	321	625	16	-	16	-	

## APPENDIX 5

Approved project	Budget: total project all years	Projected: total project all years	Budget Q3	Actual to date Q3	Projected 2022/23	Variation (Over) / under Q3 budget	Variation analysis: (Over) / under spend	Variation analysis: Slippage to future year	Variation analysis: Spend in advance	Note ref
SALIX Decarbonisation - Ninfield School	145	145	-	309	-	-	-	-	-	
SALIX Decarbonisation	369	369	77	137	77	-	-	-	-	
Newhaven Port Access Road	23,271	23,271	257	184	257	-	-	-	-	
Real Time Passenger Information	2,963	2,963	74	22	49	25	-	25	-	
Bus Service Improvement Plan	22,315	22,315	1,125	66	515	610	-	610	-	vii
Hastings & Bexhill Movement & Access Package	9,534	9,534	2,265	378	1,139	1,126	-	1,126	-	viii
Eastbourne/South Wealden Walking & Cycling Package	6,936	6,936	540	129	579	(39)	-	-	(39)	
Hailsham / Polegate / Eastbourne Movement & Access Corridor	2,251	2,251	684	194	450	234	-	234	-	
Eastbourne Town Centre Movement and Access Package	4,286	4,286	532	52	532	-	-	-	-	
Other Integrated Transport Schemes	65,690	65,690	3,260	1,668	3,601	(341)	-	-	(341)	
A22 Corridor Package	962	962	533	515	533	-	-	-	-	
Community Match Fund	750	750	69	15	69	-	-	-	-	
Emergency Active Travel Fund Tranche 2	1,456	956	756	202	256	500	500	-	-	ix
Exceat Bridge	10,591	10,591	1,955	1,219	2,005	(50)	-	-	(50)	
Exceat Bridge (Blight notice)	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-	-	
Queensway Depot Development	1,956	1,956	175	103	175	-	-	-	-	
Hailsham HWRS	175	175	171	4	171	-	-	-	-	
Core Highways Structural Maintenance	456,327	456,327	21,686	13,967	22,186	(500)	-	-	(500)	x
Visually Better Roads	5,800	5,800	4,809	3,116	4,809	-	-	-	-	
Core Programme - Bridge Assessment Strengthening	36,663	36,663	1,981	858	1,981	-	-	-	-	
Core Programme - Street Lighting - Life Expired	33,001	33,001	2,973	1,411	1,961	1,012	-	1,012	-	xi
Core Programme - Street Lighting - SALIX scheme	2,961	2,961	650	106	650	-	-	-	-	
Core Programme - Rights of Way Surface Repairs and Bridge Replacement	9,844	9,844	565	499	593	(28)	-	-	(28)	
<b>Total CET Gross (Planned Programme)</b>	<b>897,950</b>	<b>898,734</b>	<b>54,345</b>	<b>29,089</b>	<b>53,138</b>	<b>1,207</b>	<b>(784)</b>	<b>3,049</b>	<b>(1,058)</b>	

## **Governance Services – Q3 2022/23**

### **Summary of progress on Council Priorities, issues arising, and achievements**

#### **Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)**

The Government's Autumn Budget Statement in Q3 included several announcements which impacted on the Council. These included a delay to the implementation of adult social care charging reforms, additional grant funding for social care, and increased flexibility on Council Tax increases and the adult social care precept. Council lobbying of Government, with partners across the sector, contributed to securing this additional short-term support. Confirmed in December's provisional Local Government Finance Settlement, the support will enable us to maintain stability in our services for the coming year, despite the challenges we face. However, further ahead, demand and costs will continue to grow, and there will be additional expectations arising from national reforms. This means we are likely to face a much more challenging position in future years. The final settlement from Government is due in March 2023.

We continued to develop the draft Council Plan and Portfolio Plans during Q3. The Council Plan sets out our ambitions; what we aim to achieve; how we're helping the local economy to recover from the pandemic; work to deal with cost-of-living pressures; and work to address the climate emergency. We ran consultation and engagement events on our budget and business plans for 2023/24 with youth voice groups, wider strategic partners, Trade Unions, and business representatives in January.

#### **Transport for the South East (TfSE)**

The TfSE Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) is the blueprint for future investment in strategic transport infrastructure in the South East for the next thirty years, and builds on the Transport Strategy published in 2020. The draft SIP was approved by the Partnership Board in Q3, with the Board scheduled to review the final version in Q4. Work is also underway on the development of the Business Plan for 2023/24 and the Annual Report.

Work continues on a number of key themes:

- **Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging:** Existing charging provision across the TfSE area has been reviewed, alongside the progress local transport authorities have made on their local EV charging infrastructure strategies. We will publish our EV Charging Infrastructure Strategy in Q1 2023/24.
- **Bus Back Better:** Working with consultants Mott MacDonald and supported by Arup we have now launched 11 packages of support covering the TfSE region, Transport East and England's Economic Heartland. Delivery of the support packages will be complete in Q1 2023/24.
- **Decarbonisation:** The Decarbonisation Pathways Report has now been published. The report sets out the scale of the challenge in decarbonising transport in the TfSE area. It also assesses the impact of different measures available to national, regional and local Government. This is now being fed into a decarbonisation toolkit, which will be available in Q1 2023/24, and will help local transport authorities assess the carbon reduction potential of their local transport plans.
- **Local Capability:** £250,000 of funding has been approved for five proposals, which are scheduled to be complete in Q4, and will help local transport authorities to deliver their local transport plans.

#### **Corporate Lobbying**

Corporate lobbying in Q3 focused on monitoring changes in national Government, with the appointment of Rishi Sunak MP as the new Prime Minister and a new Cabinet. We sought to understand the Government's future policy direction and implications for local government and the Council.



During Q3, the Leader wrote to the new Prime Minister; Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities; and East Sussex MPs to call for action to enable remote council meetings to take place. The Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability also wrote to the Minister for Schools. His letter outlined the Council's support for proposed initiatives, previously expected to be legislated for in the Schools Bill, to assist the Council with safeguarding Electively Home Educated children. We have also corresponded with Government on actions needed to improve the current approach to the placement of asylum seekers in the county.

We continue to draw on broader partnerships and networks to lobby effectively. Chief Officers continued to input to national lobbying and policy development on service-specific issues and reforms through professional associations and networks. In Q3, we contributed to research by the County Councils Network (CCN) on the impact of inflation and other pressures on county authorities' budgets. This fed into CCN's national lobbying ahead of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement. The Chief Executive continues to be involved in national policy development as representative for the South East region on a national grouping of local authority Chief Executives. In Q3, the Chief Executive represented South East local authorities in engagement on the Government's response to the rising cost of living and migration and asylum dispersal.

### **Supporting democracy**

During Q3 we supported 47 meetings including: two County Council meetings; one Cabinet meeting; 11 Lead Member meetings; 19 scrutiny committee and review board meetings; and 14 other committees and panels. We also published agendas for a further 32 meetings. The webcasts of meetings were viewed 1,574 times in Q3. The most viewed meeting was the Full Council meeting on 11 October 2022, which received 244 views.

In Q3 the Member Training and Development programme continued to deliver a range of courses in support of Members and the roles they hold. Courses were delivered on the Council's Wellbeing offer to members, a briefing on the Armed Forces Covenant, Flood Risk Management in relation to Planning and the Local Transport Plan. A session on East Sussex as a Place was also delivered. This provided Members with an overview of the history of the county as documented in the county archives at The Keep.

During Q3 the Council's scrutiny committees progressed a range of scrutiny review and reference group work, as well as holding formal committee meetings. A full update on scrutiny and Audit Committee activity was considered by Scrutiny and Audit Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group and Governance Committee. People and Place Scrutiny Committees held their RPPR Boards in December to consider the draft Portfolio Plans and the emerging financial outlook; and to agree comments to put forward on behalf of the committees to Cabinet in January and County Council in February as part of the budget setting process. The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee concluded its reviews of two NHS substantial service changes, considering and endorsing NHS Sussex decisions to reconfigure ophthalmology and cardiology services provided by East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust. Chairs and Vice Chairs of scrutiny committees attended a scrutiny leadership workshop during the quarter to support their roles in leading effective scrutiny processes.

The Health and Wellbeing Board met on the 13 December 2022. The Board considered and endorsed the draft Sussex Integrated Care Strategy, which was subsequently approved by the Sussex Health and Care Assembly. The next stage in the process will be the development of a Delivery Plan, which will be included in the East Sussex Health and Social Care Programme update report due to be presented at the March 2023 meeting. The Health and Wellbeing Board also considered the East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership (ESSCP) Annual Report and an update report on the refresh of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).

A total of 37 school admission appeals were received during Q3 and ten hybrid appeal hearing sessions took place. A project to deliver further enhancements to the Appeals Management

System and the school appeals processes was initiated, with work scheduled to be completed in Q4. This work will help encourage greater parent participation in the school appeal process, enhance customer experience and strengthen our information governance practices. Other key developments include a further drive to recruit new volunteers to sit as independent appeal panel members, with training scheduled to be delivered early in Q4.

### **Legal Services**

During Q3, Legal Services assisted Trading Standards to obtain confiscation orders totalling £79,168 against two fraudulent traders. The Court ordered the traders to pay within three months or to each receive 15-month custodial sentences. Legal Services also secured a conviction against an individual for fraudulent use of a blue disabled parking badge. The individual received a 12-month suspended custodial sentence.

The Service assisted Children's Services to secure fixed penalty fines and prosecution costs totalling £1,700 against six parents for knowingly failing to ensure the regular attendance of their children at school. In Q3, the Service assisted Income Recovery in securing the recovery and repayment of debts totalling £66,806.

During Q3 the Service advised in relation to 62 Court of Protection cases and 13 matters involving safeguarding vulnerable adults (compared to 77 and 21 in Q2). The Service also advised on 45 Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards applications in the Court of Protection (compared to 41 in Q2).

In Q3, the Service worked closely with Children's Services, providing advice and representation, including in pre-proceedings and court applications for care proceedings. Our priority is to keep children within their family when it is safe to do so, and for public law applications to be a necessary and proportionate response to achieve the best outcome for the child. In Q3 the Service advised in relation to 45 families in pre-proceedings compared to 52 in Q2. In Q3 the Service applied for care proceedings in respect of 22 families compared to 19 in Q2. At the end of Q3, there were a total of 72 ongoing care proceedings for 130 children, compared to 62 proceedings in Q2. The rollout of the HM Courts & Tribunals Service Family Public Law admin system for applications and case management is now well established. The current average duration in proceedings per child in East Sussex is still above the requirement from the 2014 Children and Families Act of 26 weeks, due largely to ongoing issues with capacity in the court system. The Service continues to work collaboratively with the courts and Children's Services with the aim of continuing to reduce this figure.

During Q3, the Service completed agreements to secure financial contributions to the Council of £709,550. The Service also worked on the delivery of additions and improvements to the highway network across the county through seven substantial highways agreements. The contributions included over £490,000 for the improvement of bus services in the County together with substantial funds for school transport services and the improvement of rights of way in the county. The Service also advised on 33 new property matters (compared to 29 in Q2) and on 63 new contract and procurement matters (compared to 58 in Q2).

### **Coroner Services**

660 deaths were reported to the Coroner in Q3, averaging 220 deaths per month. This is higher than the average monthly figure of 198 deaths reported in Q2. Of the 660 deaths reported, 84 went to inquest in Q3 compared to 96 in Q2. 66 inquests were closed in Q3 compared to 72 in Q2. Inquests, including jury inquests, are held in court with the option for family, interested persons and witnesses to attend court in person or remotely.

### **Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA)**

No applications were submitted under RIPA or IPA during Q3. In November, the Council participated in an Investigatory Powers (RIPA/IPA) update training session, together with colleagues from West Sussex County Council, delivered by specialist external provider, Lafoje Limited. Representatives of all departments within the Council were invited to attend.

### **Local Government Ombudsman complaints**

The Ombudsman issued 19 decisions in Q3. 12 cases were closed before a full investigation for a variety of reasons. These reasons included insufficient evidence of fault, complaints being out of the Ombudsman's jurisdiction, and because the complaint had not been through our internal complaint processes. Of the seven fully investigated, three cases related to Adult Social Care (ASC), three to Children's Services (CS) and one to Communities, Economy & Transport (CET). Six of the cases investigated were closed with the complaint partly or fully upheld as follows:

ASC – The client's children complained that the Council did not provide sufficient information about care charges. If they had received earlier information about charges, they would have acted differently in respect of the care needed by their parent. The Council had already acknowledged there was a failure of communication and had amended systems. The Ombudsman also recommended that the Council apologise to the client and waive the invoice for care charges.

ASC – The client complained that the Council reduced her indicative personal budget and support hours without doing an assessment, did not explain the reasons for the reduction, told her she had to use a particular organisation to hire personal assistants (PAs), and that a social worker behaved unprofessionally. The Ombudsman found that the Council failed to take into account the guidance from government in force during the pandemic, which allowed all councils to act flexibly and outside the usual formal stages for assessing needs, reviewing care and support plans and seeking funding approval. The Council's failure to act flexibly meant the client was denied a direct payment, which she could have used much sooner to arrange care. The Council offered a payment of £7,200 to reimburse the client the cost of the PA fees, which the Ombudsman accepted as a suitable remedy. The Council also agreed to apologise and pay £250 to the client for her avoidable inconvenience.

CET – The client complained that the Council had not installed noise reducing measures at her home, caused damage to her property through ventilation work and did not properly deal with a grant request for replacement windows. The Ombudsman did not find fault with the way the Council dealt with an offer of a grant, nor with the way the Council explained that secondary glazing would provide a higher level of noise reduction for the client. The Ombudsman found that the Council could have visited the property sooner to inspect the ventilation units, but when the Council did visit the Ombudsman was satisfied that the Council made a prompt and reasonable offer to repair the units and make good any damage. An original decision on this case was made in Q2, however the Ombudsman subsequently reopened the case and issued a second decision in Q3, following additional comments made by the complainant.

CS – The client complained that the Council issued her daughter's Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) several months late, that it failed to include provision she believed was necessary and failed to provide the funding the Council said it would for gym membership to help her daughter manage her mental health issues. The Ombudsman found that the Council failed to make sufficient and prompt efforts to find the client's daughter a suitable educational placement, when her school could no longer meet her needs. The Council was also more than seventeen weeks late in finalising the EHCP. The Council agreed to pay £1,750 in recognition of the injustice caused and to make several service improvements. The Council was not at fault for refusing to provide a personal budget for a gym membership.

CS – The client complained that the Council failed to secure suitable education for his daughter, who has special educational needs (SEN), when they moved into the area, from Wales. The Ombudsman found fault as the Council failed to secure, or make sufficient efforts to secure, temporary education while it assessed her needs. The Council agreed to apologise for the delays and to pay the client £2,400 for the loss of service and £300 to recognise the distress caused. The Council had already made some services changes as a result of this complaint, particularly its referral process to the Individual Pupil Support (IPS) service. The Council also agreed to arrange a briefing for frontline SEN staff to cover:

- the triaging of cases where pupils with SEN move here from other parts of the UK;
- a reminder of the expectation that where the SEN Code of Practice places a requirement on the Council to act, that it should be able to demonstrate it has done all that might be reasonably expected to fulfil that expectation; and
- the circumstances when it is appropriate to refer complainants to the unreasonable customer behaviour policy.

In addition, the Council agreed to review its current policy to support pupils with SEN, who are not enrolled in school through its IPS service.

CS – The client complained that the Council failed to properly consider a home to school transport application for her son to attend the special needs school named on his EHCP by failing to take into account a change of circumstances and wrongly raised expectations that her request would be re-considered, when it completed a risk assessment for taxi provision. The Ombudsman upheld the complaint, and the Council has agreed to apologise, pay £250 to recognise the fault and to consider the application again. The Council has also agreed to revise procedures and guidance around requests for transport, where a decision has previously been provided by the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal or Panel, including where there has been a change in circumstance.

### **Web activity**

The main council website had nearly 1.75 million page views during Q3 and the intranet had over 1.6 million page views. Customer satisfaction on the website was 68%.

There have been more than 9,000 views of our cost of living advice pages online and at least 68,000 people have read newsletters about cost of living support.

### **Media and information work**

There were 429 media stories about the Council in Q3. The press office issued 29 press releases, generating 89 stories. 99 media enquiries were handled.

### **Effective publicity and campaigns**

Initial results from our recruitment campaign 'We Choose East Sussex', suggest there was an 11% rise in traffic to our jobs pages during the opening campaign, compared to the same period a year earlier. The number of application documents downloaded rose by more than 17%. Applications from candidates, who identified themselves as belonging to minority ethnic groups, almost doubled from 92 a year ago to 181 in this period.

Marketing to recruit foster carers helped generate as many enquiries from prospective carers (219) by the end of Q3 as in the whole of 2021/22. Campaigns included social media advertising with a video about fostering, which prompted almost 43,000 responses and which directed people to the Council's fostering page.

### **South East 7 (SE7)**

SE7 Leaders met in Q3 to discuss workforce challenges and the skills landscape. The group were joined by Jonathan Shaw, Strategic Director of Kent Further Education to discuss learning from strategic skills work already underway in Kent. Leaders discussed current challenges with funding and commissioning of the Further Education provider market and the opportunities presented in the development of Local Skills Improvement Plans for taking a more strategic approach to ensure skills provision meets local areas' workforce needs. It was agreed that it was important for SE7 members to have consistent messaging on priorities for informing future skills policy, and the partnership would look for ways to influence Government on this. SE7 Leaders also discussed shared challenges related to the current approach to accommodating migrants, as well as the Chancellor's Autumn Statement and its implications for local government funding.

SE7 Chief Executives continue to meet regularly. In Q3 the group further evaluated the partnership's collective lobbying approach following the appointment of Rishi Sunak MP as Prime Minister and agreed that SE7 members would continue to work collectively to ensure Government understands the shared priorities and concerns of local authorities in the region.

### Other partnership working

The Council is continuing to take part in the Partnerships for People and Place programme run by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. The aim of the programme is to develop ways for central and local government to work better together. Our project aims to highlight how different ways of working could better support people to improve the energy efficiency of their homes or rental properties. During Q3 we worked with partners to design the implementation of our two workstreams. One focuses on behaviour change seeks to increase the number of tenants and landlords in the private rented sector taking up the existing support available. The other is aiming to collect data on the current gaps in funding available for improvement works for low-income households, alongside delivering minor improvements to properties. The funding for the project will also be used to support existing schemes working with households in fuel poverty within the target area.

### Revenue Budget Summary

The GS net revenue budget is £7.541m and is expected to underspend by £80k. There is additional spend on both Legal and Coroner Services. This is offset with underspending across other services.

### Performance exceptions (See How to read this report for definition)

Performance measure	Outturn 21/22	Target 22/23	RAG Q1 22/23	RAG Q2 22/23	RAG Q3 22/23	RAG Q4 22/23	2022/23 outturn	Note ref
There are no Council Plan targets								

### Savings exceptions 2022/23 (£'000)

Service description	Original Target For 2022/23	Target including items c/f from previous year(s)	Achieved in-year	Will be achieved, but in future years	Cannot be achieved	Note ref
There are no targeted savings in 2022/23	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Total Savings</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
			-	-	-	
			-	-	-	
<b>Subtotal Permanent Changes <sup>1</sup></b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Total Savings and Permanent Changes</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

<b>Memo: treatment of savings not achieved in the year (£'000)</b>	<b>Temporary Funding <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Part of reported variance <sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Note Ref</b>
	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Where agreed savings are reasonably unable to be achieved other permanent savings are required to be identified and approved via quarterly monitoring.

<sup>2</sup> Temporary funding will only replace a slipped or unachieved saving for one year; the saving will still need to be made in future years (or be replaced with something else).

<sup>3</sup> The slipped or unachieved saving will form part of the department's overall variance - it will either increase an overspend or decrease an underspend. The saving will still need to be made in future years (or be replaced with something else).

### **Revenue Budget 2022/23 (£'000)**

<b>Divisions</b>	<b>Planned Gross</b>	<b>Planned Income</b>	<b>Planned Net</b>	<b>Projected Gross</b>	<b>Projected Income</b>	<b>Projected Net</b>	<b>(Over)/ under spend Gross</b>	<b>(Over)/ under spend Income</b>	<b>(Over)/ under spend Net</b>	<b>Note ref</b>
Corporate Governance	4,664	(255)	4,409	4,514	(267)	4,247	150	12	162	
Corporate Support	3,520	(388)	3,132	3,615	(401)	3,214	(95)	13	(82)	
<b>Total Governance</b>	<b>8,184</b>	<b>(643)</b>	<b>7,541</b>	<b>8,129</b>	<b>(668)</b>	<b>7,461</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>80</b>	

### **Capital programme 2022/23 (£'000)**

<b>Approved project</b>	<b>Budget: total project all years</b>	<b>Projected: total project all years</b>	<b>Budget Q3</b>	<b>Actual to date Q3</b>	<b>Projected 2022/23</b>	<b>Variation (Over) / under Q3 budget</b>	<b>Variation analysis: (Over) / under spend</b>	<b>Variation analysis: Slippage to future year</b>	<b>Variation analysis: Spend in advance</b>	<b>Note ref</b>
No current programme for Governance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Total GS Gross (Planned Programme)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

## Strategic Risk Register – Q3 2022/23

Ref	Strategic Risks	Risk Control / Response and Post Mitigation RAG score	RAG
12	<p><b>CYBER ATTACK</b></p> <p>The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) has highlighted the substantial risk to British web infrastructure, with elevated levels of Cyber Crime being reported against all areas of government, particularly in light of the current Ukrainian situation. Cyber attacks are growing more frequent, sophisticated, and damaging when they succeed. The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the need to carry out many additional functions virtually and remotely. Changes in working practice give rise to more requests to relax security controls, with services more likely to take risks on the technology they procure and how they use it. Controls have been enhanced to manage these requests.</p> <p>The impacts of a cyber attack are far reaching and it is difficult to put a figure on the cost, but authorities that have been subject to major attacks have calculated the disruption to have cost between £10m and £12m.</p>	<p>Most attacks leverage software flaws and gaps in boundary defences. IT&amp;D use modern security tools to assure our security posture: Monitoring network activity and identifying security threats; Keeping software up to date with regular patching regimes; Continually monitoring evolving threats and re-evaluating the ability of our toolset to provide adequate defence against them; Ongoing communication with the Security industry to find the most suitable tools and systems to secure our infrastructure. IT&amp;D continues to invest in new tools, which use pre-emptive technology to identify threats and patterns of abnormal behaviour.</p> <p>Enhancing user awareness: Expanding E-Learning and policy delivery mechanisms to cover Cyber threat; educating staff around the techniques and methods used by active threats; and providing General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) training and workshops to cascade vital skills and increase awareness of responsibilities under GDPR legislation. Business Continuity Scenario testing is currently being cascaded through Departmental Management Teams.</p> <p>Services hosted in ISO 27001 accredited Orbis Data Centres.</p>	Red
5	<p><b>RECONCILING POLICY, PERFORMANCE &amp; RESOURCE</b></p> <p>There is ongoing uncertainty in relation to future funding levels, the longer-term local government funding regime and the impact of national reforms, particularly to Adult Social Care. Rising inflation and cost of living are likely to lead to higher demand for Council services and increase the direct cost of providing services. Together these create a risk of insufficient resources being available to sustain service delivery at the agreed Core Offer level to meet the changing needs of the local community.</p>	<p>We employ a robust Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) process for business planning, which ensures a strategic corporate response to resource reductions, demographic change and regional and national economic challenges; and directs resources to priority areas. We take a commissioning approach to evaluating need and we consider all methods of service delivery. We work with partner organisations to deliver services and manage demand, making best use of our collective resources. We take a 'One Council' approach to delivering our priorities and set out our targets and objectives in the Council Plan. We monitor our progress and report it quarterly.</p> <p>Our plans take account of known risks and pressures, including social, economic, policy and demographic changes and financial risks. The Coronavirus pandemic has had, and will continue to have for a long time, profound impacts on our communities and services. However, we continue to operate in changing and uncertain contexts. Current and forecast economic conditions continue to shape a very challenging financial outlook both for the Council itself and many of the county's residents and businesses. Alongside this we continue to face fresh challenges as a result of the conflict in Ukraine, and national service reforms. We will continue to use the latest information available on these challenges to inform our business planning. We will also continually review our performance targets, priorities, service offers and financial plans, and will update these as required.</p>	Red

Ref	Strategic Risks	Risk Control / Response and Post Mitigation RAG score	RAG
		We lobby, individually and in conjunction with our networks and partners, for a sustainable funding regime for local government in general and for children's social care and adult social care specifically, to meet the needs of the residents of East Sussex.	
9	<b>WORKFORCE</b> An inability to attract and retain the high calibre staff needed in the most competitive job market for 50 years could lead to a reduction in the expertise and capacity required to deliver services to our residents at the required level and standards.	<p>In September 2022 Cabinet agreed an investment of £270k across 2022/23 and 2023/24 to put in place a number of strategies to respond to the significant current recruitment and retention challenges. Current work includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- further work on the development of an employer brand and updated recruitment materials to identify the Council as an employer of choice</li> <li>- on-going attendance at events such as careers fairs and shows to maximise our presence with job seekers</li> <li>- use of apprenticeships, traineeships, intern arrangements and more flexible work arrangements etc as a way of bringing in new talent to the Council</li> <li>- ensuring our workforce policies and approaches support individuals to remain in work, e.g., Wellbeing offer, occupational health and absence management services</li> <li>- completion of the workforce specific actions within the Corporate Equality action plan.</li> <li>- implementation of mental health first aiders in the workplace. We now have a network of over 100 trained individuals</li> </ul> <p>New approaches being developed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- linking in with organisations that support people back into employment to extend our reach into sections of the labour market that are underrepresented or face significant barriers to employment. A new post of 'Pre-Employment Coordinator' has been established to lead on this work and will be recruited to early in the New Year.</li> <li>- launching the refreshed 'financial wellbeing' resource to support our staff, particularly given the rising cost of living pressures</li> <li>- provision of a leadership development programme aimed at LMG3/4 managers, along with the continued delivery of our two leadership development programmes to support our talent management strategies: the 'Ladder to Leadership' programme and 'Head of Service Masterclasses'</li> <li>- forecasting of workforce 'gaps' and future need to enable bespoke approaches to be designed – engagements with departments are currently taking place to ensure a One-Council approach to this area of work.</li> </ul>	Red
15	<b>CLIMATE</b> Failure to limit global warming to below 1.5°C above pre-industrialisation levels, which requires global net human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide (CO2) to be reduced by about 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching 'net zero' by 2050 at the latest. The predicted impacts of climate change in East Sussex include more frequent and intense flooding, drought	<p><b>Climate change mitigation:</b> the science-based target is to reduce scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions by 50% every 5 years. The focus is on buildings, as they made up 79% of carbon emissions in 2020/21. Internal oversight of progress is by the corporate Climate Emergency Board.</p> <p><b>Climate change adaptation:</b> we work with partners on flood risk management plans and deliver a Heat Alert service during the summer months.</p> <p>In Quarter 3:</p>	Red



Ref	Strategic Risks	Risk Control / Response and Post Mitigation RAG score	RAG
	and episodes of extreme heat, as well as impacts from the effects of climate change overseas, such as on food supply. This will lead to an increase in heat-related deaths, particularly amongst the elderly, damage to essential infrastructure, increased cost of food, disruption to supply chains and service provision, and greater coastal erosion.	<p>1. <b>Carbon Reduction Target:</b> ESCC achieved a 7% carbon reduction in 2021/22. This was less than the 13% annual target due to increased energy use, as buildings began to resume normal operations alongside Covid-19 ventilation requirements, and colder than usual weather in Spring 2021.</p> <p>2. <b>10 solar PV projects:</b> 3 sites have been completed. 4 further orders have been placed. The forecast outturn is for 9 sites to be completed.</p> <p>3. <b>Delivery of two Decarbonisation of Heat Projects:</b> Ninfield school has been completed. Herstmonceux school will complete in Q4.</p> <p>4. <b>Delivery of ten LED lighting projects:</b> 9 schemes have been completed. The remaining scheme to be completed in Q4.</p> <p>5. <b>Climate Awareness Training:</b> 140 staff have had general climate awareness training and a further 3 sessions are available during 2022/23. Two Energy Saving Workshops provided training to 34 school site managers in November 2022. A further workshop for school and corporate building managers was run on 26 January and another is scheduled for 23 February 2023.</p> <p>6. <b>Electric vehicle (EV) charge points:</b> A paper went to the Chief Management Team (CMT) in January 2023 on EV provision at County Hall and on-street. Further discussions are being held as to the most appropriate procurement route.</p> <p>7. <b>Progress report to Members:</b> the annual report went to full Council in October 2022. An updated corporate Climate Emergency Plan up to March 2025 has been developed with a working group of the Scrutiny Place Committee. This went to Cabinet in January and will be going to full Council in February</p>	
17	<p><b>SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE</b></p> <p>Failure to recruit and retain an effective children's social care workforce. This leads to poor quality safeguarding practice, failing to prevent harm to children and young people, impacting on the Council's strategic objective of keeping vulnerable people safe.</p>	<p>Recruitment and Retention Strategy in place</p> <p>Streamlined recruitment process with removal of application and replacing with CV and interview as soon as application received</p> <p>Updated social work recruitment videos to be put on recruitment website</p> <p>Market Supplement implemented 2020 and will be reviewed annually. Job re-evaluation for Secure Residential posts</p> <p>Recruitment Manager and Comms officer posts recruited to (start date Sept 2022)</p> <p>High quality and regular managerial support and supervision of practitioners</p> <p>Delivery of high quality workforce development programme</p> <p>Senior management oversight of caseloads, mitigating actions undertaken to address high caseloads</p> <p>Wellbeing strategy-promoted to staff through dept events/SW toolkit/newsletters</p> <p>Updated advertising and recruitment materials</p> <p>Development of career pathways / recruitment pipeline</p> <p>Department Management Training Group tasked with looking at career pathways for hard to recruit posts. Organisational Development to report to the Senior Management Team (SMT) in November</p>	Red

Ref	Strategic Risks	Risk Control / Response and Post Mitigation RAG score	RAG
19	<b>SCHOOLS AND ISEND</b> For Children with Special Educational Needs. Inability to secure statutory provision.	Effective use of forecasting data to pre-empt issues Work with statutory partners to develop contingency plans Work with the market to increase provision where needed Expanding internal interim offer for children	Red
1	<b>ROADS</b> Extreme weather events over recent years have caused significant damage to many of the county's roads, adding to the backlog of maintenance in the County Council's Asset Plan: and increasing the risk to the Council's ability to stem the rate of deterioration and maintain road condition. Post pandemic and recent events in Ukraine, and the economic impact of these, have had some effects on service delivery during this year, particularly with increased costs, shortages of suitable contractors and materials.	While additional funding over the last few years has helped maintain road condition, the latest condition and funding modelling showed the potential for renewed deterioration over the next 10 years, if further investment was not introduced into road maintenance. This reflects the changing climate with more extreme events such as warmer wetter winters, drier summers (drying and shrinking the substructure of roads) punctuated by unseasonal heavy downpours, all now influencing the rate of road deterioration. However, further investment was approved by Cabinet in November 2021 and through the Reconciling Policy, Performance & Resources (RPPR) process in February 2022 to maintain condition at current levels; and to help mitigate these factors over the next 10 years by increasing the capital budget for road maintenance by an additional £3.1m per year. In addition, a one-off investment of £5.8million to be spent on highway maintenance (roads, footways, lines, and signs) in 2022/23 was also agreed. The wettest November on record, followed by one of the coldest starts to December and then further heavy rain, have led to a significant increase in the number of potholes appearing on our roads. This will also likely be reflected in a wider deterioration in road surfaces, which may manifest in our Road Condition Indicator (RCI) scores for this year, when survey works are undertaken later in the summer. We closely monitor the national economic situation; evaluate all options for service delivery; manage delays to materials with long lead in times; and allow for increased costs within the new Highways contract.	Red
18	<b>DATA BREACH</b> A breach of security/confidentiality leading to destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure of, or access to, personal data. This includes breaches that are the result of both accidental and deliberate causes. A personal data breach is a security incident that has affected the confidentiality, integrity or availability of personal data regardless of whether information has been accessed, altered or disclosed via electronic or manual means. Risks to individuals, reputational damage, fines from the Information Commissioner's Officer (ICO), compensation claims.	Policy and guidance procedures in place to support practice. Data Protection Officer (DPO), Caldicott Guardians and Information Governance Officers monitor breach reporting and put in place mechanisms to minimise recurrence. Staff training to develop awareness. Technical security measures operated by Information Technology and Digital (IT&D), including access control.	Amber

Ref	Strategic Risks	Risk Control / Response and Post Mitigation RAG score	RAG
8	<p><b>CAPITAL PROGRAMME</b></p> <p>There are a number of risks and uncertainties regarding the capital programme over the current Medium Term Financial Plan period and beyond, which could impact on the ability to deliver the Council's priorities.</p> <p>The volatile national economic situation has increased uncertainties within the construction industry around supply chain issues and high-cost inflation, which are likely to impact project deliverability and affordability. This has been exacerbated by the invasion of Ukraine by Russia and the resultant global sanctions imposed on Russia.</p> <p>Additionally, there is a risk that, due to the complexity of factors and uncertainties impacting them, the level of government grants and other sources of capital programme funding such as developer contributions could be significantly reduced.</p>	<p>The Council reviews and updates its 20-year Capital Strategy annually as part of the Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) process, which sets the framework in which the capital programme is planned and allows the Council to prioritise investment to support its objectives. The development and delivery of the capital programme is overseen by a Capital Strategic Asset Board (CSAB), which is a cross departmental group, who also hear from Departmental Capital Board/Sub Boards who oversee priority areas.</p> <p>The capital programme includes an element of 'normal' level of inflation for ongoing target-based core programmes (as opposed to programmes that have cash limited envelopes). Additionally, a capital risk provision in the form of additional borrowing flexibility is in place to provide the ability to react to emerging risks such as supply chain issues and inflationary pressures. The level of provision is reviewed and approved on an annual basis as part of the RPPR process and is maintained by the CSAB in adherence to financial regulations.</p> <p>The CSAB have oversight of all sources of capital funding, including grants, capital receipts and developer contributions, to ensure that resources are used effectively and to minimise the need to borrow. Funding announcements are actively monitored, and funding targets reviewed to minimise the impact on delivery of the capital programme, ensuring that there is sufficient liquidity to meet funding requirements.</p>	Amber
4	<p><b>HEALTH</b></p> <p>Failure to secure maximum value from partnership working with the National Health Service (NHS). If not achieved, there will be impact on social care, public health and health outcomes and increased social care operational and cost pressures. This would add pressures on the Council's budget and/or risks to other Council objectives, as well as shared system objectives in the context of our Integrated Care System across workforce and patients who are medically ready for discharge (MRD) from hospital or community beds.</p>	<p>Winter plans were agreed and signed off by the Sussex Integrated Care Board with strong involvement and leadership from East Sussex Council (ESCC) Adult Social Care and Health leads, and local East Sussex plans to implement improvements to hospital discharge pathways have been put in place to complement Sussex-wide winter surge plans. Intensive operational planning has also been undertaken over the festive and New Year period to support the NHS during the industrial action taken by Ambulance workers and Nurses during January 2023. Joint planning has also been taking place at pace to ensure the Sussex system and ESCC share of the national £500m Winter Discharge Fund is best deployed in our system, focussing on additional care sector capacity and workforce schemes to support people, who are medically ready to leave hospital into the appropriate onward care setting. System discussions have also started on the potential deployment of the recently announced further £200m nationally to support hospital discharge, as part of alleviating the current challenges being experienced by the urgent and emergency care system.</p> <p>The Sussex Integrated Care Strategy was developed and finalised for endorsement and approval by the East Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) and Sussex Health and Care Assembly respectively on 13th and 14th December, with a framework to support collaboration on shared priorities for workforce, digital and implementing integrated care in neighbourhoods and communities. The strategy is built on and aligns with the East Sussex Joint Strategic Needs Analysis and HWB Strategy, and children and young people, loneliness and social isolation (all ages) will also be a focus throughout the strategy as part of a life course approach taking in improving population health, prevention and early intervention.</p>	Amber

Ref	Strategic Risks	Risk Control / Response and Post Mitigation RAG score	RAG
6	<p><b>LOCAL ECONOMIC GROWTH</b></p> <p>Failure to deliver local economic growth, and failure to maximise opportunities afforded by Government proposal to allocate Local Growth Funding to South East Local Enterprise Partnership, creating adverse reputational and financial impacts.</p>	<p>The Council and its partners have been successful in securing significant amounts of growth funding totalling £129m, via both the South East and Coast 2 Capital Local Enterprise Partnerships, to deliver a wide range of infrastructure projects in East Sussex. We have also secured outgoing European Funding (EU) for complementary economic development programmes supporting businesses to grow, including: South East Business Boost (SEBB); Low Carbon across the South East (LoCASE); TRANSFORM Apprenticeships; South East Creative, Cultural &amp; Digital Support Programme (SECCADS); and inward investment services for the county. We have continued to bid for further EU funding on the above projects and have secured over £4m of investments to be delivered from April 2020 for a further three years.</p> <p>Government issued a funding call in mid-June 2020 through the Getting Building Fund programme for pipeline projects to create jobs and deliver over the next 18 months, with East Sussex securing £11.2m on eight projects in late July. All eight projects were approved by SELEP. Unfortunately, the Fast Track business solutions, Hastings and the Riding Sunbeams powering the railways with solar energy have had to return the monies allocated to SELEP. However, we have been able to secure two further projects allocated to the pipeline and further monies to an existing approved project amounting to £615k, with East Sussex now delivering on circa £6.3m on eight projects.</p> <p>We have been actively working with partners in developing projects and submitting proposals to a number of recent funds, including: the Green Homes Fund (secured a further £1m); Future High Streets (secured £5m); Stronger Towns Fund (Hastings awarded £24.3m and Lewes awarded £19.3m); Levelling Up Fund bids (awarded £40m see below); the SELEP COVID-19 Skills and Business Support Fund (secured £500k), the UK Community Renewal Fund pilot programme (secured £2.5m), the Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) for Sussex and the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) awarded £41.4m.</p> <p>The COVID-19 outbreak in early March 2020 is seemingly changing the funding landscape, and alongside the impacts of leaving the European Union, is having an impact on major funding decisions from Government.</p> <p>We officially launched in September 2020 the East Sussex Economy Recovery Plan, called 'East Sussex Reset'. The plan identifies deliverable actions in the short term, alongside more aspirational asks, and has already aligned and secured new monies totalling £220m investment into East Sussex. It has and will continue to be an important bidding document to Government and into the SELEP, with the new SELEP Recovery and Renewal Strategy approved in March 2021. Both documents will look at ways to address the Government's policy and Budget announcements that have a clear focus on the green revolution (net zero carbon reduction); the allocation of the new £4bn Levelling Up Fund (LUF); and the delivery of the new £1.5bn UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) programme initially to 2025.</p> <p>On the LUF, the County Council submitted a transport package for Exceat Bridge of £8m, while four of the local Borough and District Councils (except Hastings) submitted in June 2021 major capital funding bids under this first round for town centre/regeneration and cultural investment. Outcomes were announced on 27 October 2021, with the following awarded monies: Exceat Bridge (£8m), Eastbourne (£19.8m) and Lewes (£12.6m) all to be delivered by March 2024. The other Borough and</p>	Green

Ref	Strategic Risks	Risk Control / Response and Post Mitigation RAG score	RAG
		<p>Districts were unsuccessful but have applied under Round 2 in July 2022 with bid outcomes expected to be known in Q3/Q4. Business cases now need to be worked on for the implementation of projects.</p> <p>On the UKSPF this had the pre-launch guidance officially released in February 2022 following the same day launch of the long-awaited Levelling Up White Paper. The UKSPF main prospectus was released mid-April 2022 with the award of allocations known to each Borough and District Authority, who are now the responsible accountable bodies for the delivery of the programme – with investment plans having been submitted to Government by 1 August 2022. The County Council has made the case with regards to pan East Sussex projects, which can continue to deliver against the main themes of the programmes and the Council's priorities. We await the outcome of the bids submitted by each Borough and District Council which is expected to be known in Q3/Q4. In addition, as part of the UKSPF, the Multiply programme was announced in late March 2022 to help adults to improve their numeracy skills up to Level 2. The responsibility for managing this programme from 2022-2025 has been awarded directly to the County Council with up to £2.5m available. We prepared an investment plan working with partners and submitted this by 30 June 2022 to the Department for Education and our plan has been approved for the full allocation. As a result, contracts for tenders have been circulated and assessments are being undertaken with award of contracts to be made late in Q3.</p>	

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**Report to:** Cabinet

**Date of meeting:** 7 March 2023

**By:** Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

**Title:** Transport for the South East's final Strategic Investment Plan

**Purpose:** To seek Cabinet's approval of the final Transport for the South East Strategic Investment Plan prior to its adoption in March 2023

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Cabinet is recommended to agree:

- 1) to support Transport for the South East's (TfSE) final draft Strategic Investment Plan (SIP); and
  - 2) as a constituent authority, to TfSE's Partnership Board signing off the final SIP in March 2023 and submitting to Government in Spring 2023
- 

## 1 Background

1.1 Transport for the South East (TfSE) is the Sub-national Transport Body (STB) for the South East of England. Established in 2017, TfSE is made up of 16 local transport authorities (including Brighton and Hove, East Sussex, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Medway, Portsmouth, Southampton, Surrey, and West Sussex and the six unitary authorities of Berkshire) five local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) plus representatives of district & borough authorities, protected landscapes, and national delivery agencies such as Network Rail and National Highways (formerly Highways England).

1.2 Its purpose is to determine the transport infrastructure needs required to boost the region's economy and to communicate these priorities and the case for investment in the South East with 'one voice' to Government.

### TfSE Transport Strategy

1.3 The work of TfSE was launched with an initial focus on the development of an ambitious Transport Strategy. The County Council alongside other local authorities and key partners were critical in providing input into the development of this and it was published in summer 2020 - [TfSE-transport-strategy-Summary-Document.pdf \(transportforthesoutheast.org.uk\)](https://transportforthesoutheast.org.uk/TfSE-transport-strategy-Summary-Document.pdf).

1.4 The Strategy sets out a shared vision for a 'better connected, more prosperous and a more sustainable South East by 2050'. The vision is underpinned by three strategic goals:

- Environment – protect and enhance the South East's unique natural and historic environment including reducing carbon emission to net zero by 2050 at the latest,
- Social – improve health, safety, wellbeing, quality of life and access to opportunities for everyone; and
- Economic – improve productivity and attract investment to grow our economy and better compete in the global marketplace.

### Development of draft Strategic Investment Plan

1.5 Following the adoption of their Transport Strategy, TfSE undertook a series of geographic based studies focussed on the most important economic corridors in the region alongside several thematic studies relating to Decarbonisation, Levelling Up, Rail, Bus Mass Transit & Shared Mobility, Strategic Active Travel & Micromobility and Highways.

1.6 The outcome of the area studies and thematic studies supported the identification of the transport interventions in specific areas of the TfSE geography and global policy initiatives formed the basis for the TfSE Strategic Investment Plan (SIP). The SIP provides a framework for delivering the TfSE Transport Strategy by outlining the structure for investment in strategic transport infrastructure, services and regulatory interventions to 2050. Once adopted the SIP, underpinned by a robust evidence base, will provide advice to the Secretary of State for Transport on the investment priorities across the TfSE geography.



1.7 The draft SIP is supported by eight investment priorities. These comprise four high level 'policy-based investment priorities – 'Decarbonisation & Environment; Adapting to a new normal; Levelling up left behind communities, and Regeneration & Growth' - alongside four 'transport related investment priorities - World class urban transport systems; Transforming east- west connectivity; Resilient radial corridors and Global gateways and freight'.

1.8 The draft SIP outlines two types of investment packages. Firstly, the global policy interventions package which consist of national regulatory and policy activity which will be delivered across the South East and secondly place-based packages of multi modal (highways, rail, mass transit/bus, active travel) interventions. A summary of the SIP in relation to East Sussex is at Appendix 1.

#### SIP's Strategic Fit with Council Priorities

1.9 The SIP will be at the forefront of taking positive action to support several current and long-term challenges and opportunities including climate change, economic recovery and growth alongside supporting improvements to quality of life, health and wellbeing. This will provide opportunities and benefits to businesses and residents in East Sussex and the south-east, both immediately and in medium / long term future.

1.10 It will align with the County Councils' four core priorities alongside the emerging Local Transport Plan (LTP4), the Environment Plan, the East Sussex Climate Emergency Plan, the East Sussex Whole System Healthy Weight Plan, the Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan, the Bus Service Improvement Plan, the East Sussex Economic Strategy, as well as the District & Borough Local Plans.

## **2 Supporting information**

2.1 TfSE undertook a 12-week public consultation on their draft SIP between 20 June and 12 September 2022. As a constituent authority, the County Council's formal response to the consultation was approved by Cabinet on 27 September 2022. A copy of the September 2022 Cabinet report, including our response to the formal consultation on the draft SIP, is at Appendix 2.

#### TfSE's revised Strategic Investment Plan

2.2 Following the consultation, TfSE have updated and amended the draft SIP which was approved by their Partnership Board on 14 November 2022. The changes to the draft SIP, a number of which reflect our consultation response, include:

- providing more context on the purpose of the SIP and importantly, what the SIP won't do;
- providing clarity that the financial ask of the SIP is above and beyond the funding that Local Transport Authorities already receive;
- asserting the need to ensure that public transport provision returns to the quality of provision prior to the covid pandemic;
- updating the investment priorities section to reflect feedback on the priorities;
- strengthening the focus on decarbonisation and the environment throughout the document, including making it clearer that addressing climate change is a main aim of the SIP;
- providing greater recognition of the importance of strategic active travel and mass transit;
- clarifying that highways are multi-modal assets, supporting active travel and mass transit interventions as well as freight movements;
- amending the narrative regarding coastal areas to reflect the challenges that transport can help address and the opportunities that it can unlock;
- strengthening the narrative around key priorities that support health and wellbeing;
- recognising the current financial situation, the funding and finance section has been updated to reflect that the SIP is a live document and costs will need to be updated as individual schemes are taken forward;
- clarifying that transition of freight to rail will not be of detriment to passenger services;
- changing and clarifying information on proposed interventions to reflect comments received; and
- updating the delivery stages and next steps of the SIP to set out how the SIP will be implemented, delivered and monitored.



2.3 In addition, some comments received by TfSE in response to the consultation related to the evidence base documentation. These documents will be updated to reflect key comments and included on the TfSE website alongside the publication of the final SIP in March 2023.

### Support for TfSE's draft final Strategic Investment Plan

2.4 At its meeting on 14 November 2022, TfSE's Partnership Board resolved that constituent authorities be asked to agree the final SIP prior to its final consideration by the Partnership Board in March 2023 and submission to Government in spring 2023.

2.5 Overall we continue to be supportive of TfSE's SIP which has been developed utilising a robust technical evidence base. As one of TfSE's constituent authorities, we have had a key role in supporting its development from the outset providing input into the development of their Transport Strategy and more recently the various area and modal studies that have informed the SIP's development. In doing so, we have made the case for the inclusion of multi-modal interventions which will provide significant economic and regeneration benefits to our communities and places, and our East Sussex residents, businesses, and visitors.

2.6 Therefore, we agree that the draft final SIP makes the best case possible for investing in multi-modal transport infrastructure in the respective area packages covering East Sussex and the wider South East. The SIP's evidence base will be used to help shape the current review of our Local Transport Plan (LTP) and the draft final SIP's interventions will need to be reflected in the LTP4 Strategy and Implementation Plan.

2.7 We continue to agree that the eight SIP's investment priorities are all important either combined or individually. In addition, we agree that the four policy-based investment priorities will be critical for both the region and East Sussex in supporting the delivery of sustainable economic growth, and the greater urgency and emphasis of the 'Decarbonisation & Environment and Levelling Up' priorities from the outset.

2.8 We are fully supportive of the three place-based packages of multi-modal interventions for the Solent and Sussex Coast, London to Sussex and Kent, Medway & East Sussex areas, which reflect the individual long term transport infrastructure requirements of each area. We agree that the proposed interventions in the county, which remain unchanged following the consultation, will deliver the priorities of the SIP. We also welcome the benefits that each package will provide to the given area, and East Sussex as a whole, in terms of:

- unlocking opportunities for active travel to support greater social inclusion, health, and wellbeing
- enabling multi-modal improvements across our bus and rail networks;
- strengthening local connections within and between our communities and strategic connectivity to the wider region taking account of the different journey types undertaken (e.g. rural – urban; rural – rural; intra-urban, inter-urban, local)
- supporting wider strategies to level up and address the multiple deprivation issues especially in our coastal communities; and
- the resilience of the strategic and local highway network.

2.9 We also continue to agree with the global interventions identified in the SIP. These possess a level of importance which cuts across the eight investment priorities, and that these will be critical in enabling change in order to potentially support a faster pace of delivery in achieving the strategy's vision and the SIP's potential outcomes.

## **3 Conclusion and Recommendations**

3.1 The transport and global policy interventions identified in the TfSE Strategic Investment Plan will deliver significant change in the County and support our key priorities specifically the levelling up of our communities who are most at need and importantly accelerate the delivery of the decarbonisation of transport. This will support greater strategic connectivity and resilience of our networks across the county and unlock opportunities for localised transport measures for public transport and active travel to support greater social inclusion, health, and wellbeing. The TfSE Strategy and SIP will also support policy development and the identification of strategic transport interventions as part of the current review of our Local Transport Plan, which is currently underway.

3.2 Following consultation in summer 2022, TfSE have revised their draft SIP and are seeking the constituent authorities consent to sign off the SIP in March 2023. Overall, the County Council is supportive of TfSE's draft final SIP which has been amended to reflect some of the comments we made in our consultation response and makes the best case possible for long term investment in multi-modal transport infrastructure in East Sussex to support our local and TfSE's priorities. Therefore, it is recommended that the County Council agree to support TfSE's draft final SIP and, as

a constituent authority, agree to TfSE's Partnership Board signing off the final SIP at its March 2023 meeting prior to submission to Government in Spring 2023.

**RUPERT CLUBB**

**Director Communities Economy and Transport**

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LOCAL MEMBERS

All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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## Appendix 1 – TfSE SIP Investment Packages

### Global Policy Interventions

The following global policy interventions are designed to address the challenges and opportunities that affect the whole of the south east and the wider UK. These include existential challenges such as global warming and opportunities such as new mobility technologies.

The key global policy interventions that would help deliver the investment priorities in the south east are:

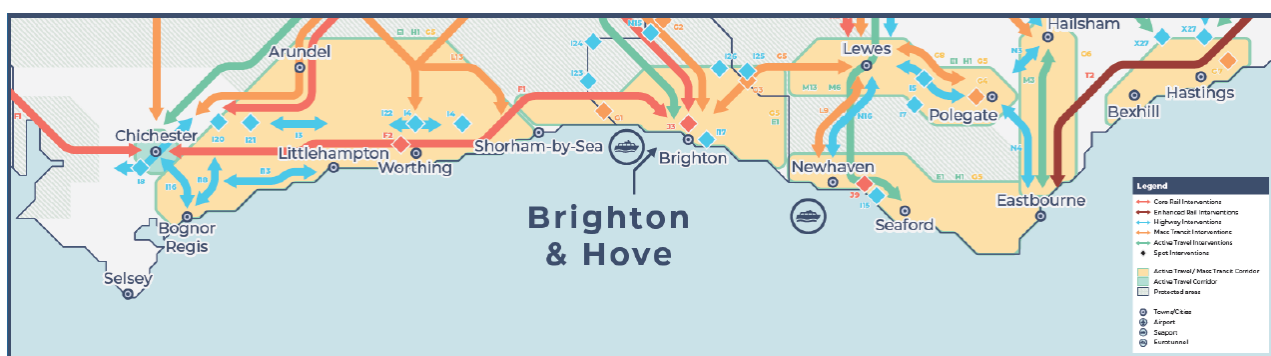
Intervention	Measures
<b>Decarbonisation</b>	Involving rapid adoption of zero emission technologies to decarbonise transport
<b>Public Transport Fares</b>	Making the cost of public transport attractive compared to motoring
<b>New Mobility</b>	The use and promotion of technologies such as electric bikes and scooters to boost active travel
<b>Road User Charging</b>	Encourage the UK government to develop a national road user charging system. To provide an alternative source of funding to fuel duty.
<b>Virtual Access</b>	Provision for virtual working to reduce travel demand
<b>Integration</b>	Across and between all modes of transport - infrastructure, services, ticketing and accessibility.

## Area based SIP Investment packages

### *Solent and Sussex Coast*

The geographic extent of this package is from the New Forest in the west to Hastings in the east. For East Sussex it will strengthen east-west connectivity and resilience of the strategic and local highway network with the inclusion of the A27 Lewes – Polegate, improvements to the A259 South Coast Road Corridor – Eastbourne – Brighton. It will extend Mass Transit along the Sussex Coast alongside local cycling and walking infrastructure to support strategic active travel.

Solent and Sussex Coast	
Type of measure	Scheme & Location
Mass Transit	Falmer Strategic Mobility Hub
	Eastbourne/Polegate Strategic Mobility Hub
	Sussex Coast Mass Rapid Transit
	Eastbourne/ South Wealden Mass Rapid Transit
	Hastings/Bexhill Mass Rapid Transit
	A27 Falmer – Polegate Lay Bus Stop & Layby improvements
Active Travel	Sussex Coast Active Travel Enhancements – including Local Cycling Walking Infrastructure Plans)
Highways	A27 East of Lewes – smaller interventions package (Roads Investment Strategy 1/2 scheme)
	A27 Lewes – Polegate (Roads Investment Strategy 3 pipeline scheme)
	A259 South Coast Road Corridor – Eastbourne to Brighton (existing Major Road Network scheme)
	A27 Falmer Junction Enhancements



## London - Sussex Coast

This package covers the key corridors between London and the Sussex Coast (from Chichester to Eastbourne) and includes five packages of interventions for this area. In East Sussex it will provide multi modal improvements across the network, supporting both greater connectivity, particularly inter urban, and crucially resilience.

Key schemes included for rail include Lewes – Uckfield reinstatement, the electrification (or other alternatives) of the Uckfield line between Uckfield and Hurst Green, and a potential strategic transport hub intercepting and linking road with rail, bus and active travel movements near Eastbourne. Highway improvements include the A22 corridor improvements in South Wealden and from Hailsham to Uckfield, and mass transit schemes on key corridors of movement. This is alongside improvements to strategic cycleways.

London – Sussex Coast	
Type of measure	Scheme & Location
<b>Rail Package</b>	Brighton Mainline Improvements
	East Sussex Coastway Line – faster services
	Newhaven Port – Rail freight access
	Newhaven Port Capacity and Rail Freight Interchange
	Uckfield – Hurst Green Electrification
	Uckfield – Lewes Line Re-opening – Traction and Capacity Enhancements
	Uckfield – Lewes Line Re-opening – Reconfiguration at Lewes
	Eridge – Tunbridge Wells – re-opening of railway line – commercial service
<b>Active Travel</b>	Eastbourne/Hailsham Local cycleways
	Lewes/Newhaven Local cycleways
	East Sussex Inter urban cycleways
<b>Mass Transit</b>	A26 Corridor Lewes – Tunbridge Wells (Rural bus service enhancements)
	A26 Corridor – Newhaven area rural bus service enhancements
<b>Highways</b>	A22 Corridor package (existing Major Road Network scheme – Hailsham & Stone Cross)
	A22 Corridor Hailsham – Uckfield
	A22 Uckfield Bypass dualling
	A2270 – A2101 Corridor Movement and Access package
	A26 Lewes – Newhaven re-alignment and junction improvements
	A26 Lewes -Uckfield enhancements

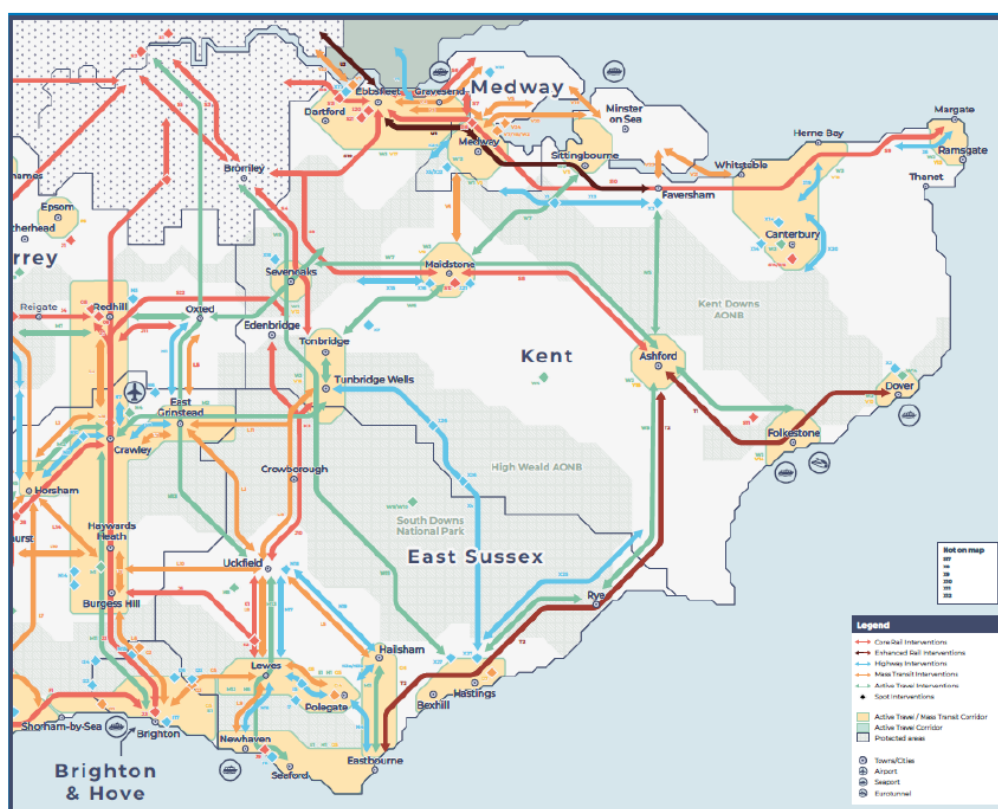




## Kent, Medway and East Sussex

This area covers Kent and Medway and the Hastings and Rother areas of East Sussex. For East Sussex it sets out a multi modal approach which supports regeneration and growth and levelling up, with the inclusion of the High Speed 1 'Marshlink' Hastings, mass transit options for Bexhill and Hastings to encourage greater public transport usage. The package includes safety improvements on the A21 corridor as well as the dualling of the road between Kippings Cross and Lamberhurst and the Flimwell and Hurst Green bypasses.

Kent, Medway and East Sussex	
Type of measure	Scheme & Location
High Speed Rail	High Speed 1/Marshlink' Hastings, Bexhill & Eastbourne upgrade
Active Travel	Faversham – Canterbury – Ashford – Hastings – NCN enhancement
	East Sussex Local Cycleways
	East Sussex Inter urban cycle ways
	Tunbridge Wells - Hastings NCN enhancement
Highways	A21 Pembury – Hastings Safety enhancements (RIS2 scheme)
	A259 level crossing removal – east of Rye (Star and Guldeford level crossings)
	A21 Kippings Cross – Lamberhurst – dualling and Flimwell and Hurst Green Bypasses
	Hastings and Bexhill distributor roads



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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>29 September 2022</b>
<b>By:</b>	<b>Director of Communities, Economy and Transport</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Draft response to Transport for the South East's (TfSE) Strategic Investment Plan (SIP)</b>
<b>Purpose:</b>	<b>To advise Cabinet of the County Council's response to TfSE's consultation on their draft SIP.</b>

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### ***RECOMMENDATION:***

**Cabinet is requested to consider and approve the County Council's draft proposed response to the TfSE consultation on their draft SIP as out in paragraphs 2.11 – 2.28.**

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## **1 Background Information**

### Establishment of TfSE

1.1 Transport for the South East (TfSE) is the Sub-national Transport Body (STB) for the South East of England. Established in 2017, TfSE is made up of 16 local transport authorities (including Brighton and Hove, East Sussex, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Medway, Portsmouth, Southampton, Surrey, and West Sussex and the six unitary authorities of Berkshire) five local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) plus representatives of district & borough authorities, protected landscapes, and national delivery agencies such as Network Rail and National Highways (formerly Highways England).

1.2 Its purpose is to determine the transport infrastructure needs required to boost the region's economy and to communicate these priorities and the case for investment in the South East with 'one voice' to government.

### TfSE Transport Strategy

1.3 The work of TfSE was launched with an initial focus on the development of an ambitious Transport Strategy. The County Council alongside other local authorities and key partners were critical in providing input into the development of this and it was published in summer 2020 - [TfSE-transport-strategy-Summary-Document.pdf \(transportforthesoutheast.org.uk\)](https://transportforthesoutheast.org.uk/tfse-transport-strategy-summary-document.pdf).

1.4 The Strategy sets out a shared vision for a 'better connected, more prosperous and a more sustainable South East by 2050'. The vision is underpinned by three strategic goals:

- Environment – protect and enhance the South East's unique natural and historic environment including reducing carbon emission to net zero by 2050 at the latest
- Social – improve health, safety, wellbeing, quality of life and access to opportunities for everyone
- Economic – improve productivity and attract investment to grow our economy and better compete in the global marketplace

### Area and thematic based studies

1.5 Following the adoption of their Transport Strategy, TfSE have undertaken a series of geographic based studies focussed on the most important economic corridors in the region alongside several thematic studies relating to Decarbonisation, Levelling Up, Rail, Bus Mass Transit & Shared Mobility, Strategic Active Travel & Micromobility and Highways. Fundamentally the outcome of the area studies and thematic studies have supported the identification of the

transport interventions in specific areas of the TfSE geography and global policy initiatives which has formed the basis for the TfSE Strategic Investment Plan (SIP).

### SIP's Strategic Fit with Council Priorities

1.6 The SIP will be at the forefront of taking positive action to support several current and long-term challenges and opportunities including climate change, economic recovery and growth alongside supporting improvements to quality of life, health and wellbeing. This will provide opportunities and benefits to businesses and residents in East Sussex and the south-east, both immediately and in medium / long term future.

1.7 It will align with the County Councils' four core priorities and will influence the emerging Local Transport Plan (LTP4). It also has good synergy with the Environment Plan, the East Sussex Climate Emergency Plan, the East Sussex Whole System Healthy Weight Plan, the Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan, the Bus Service Improvement Plan, the East Sussex Growth Strategy, as well as the District & Borough Local Plans.

## **2 Supporting Information**

### Introduction

2.1 TfSE's SIP provides a framework for delivering their Transport Strategy by outlining the structure for investment in strategic transport infrastructure, services, and regulatory interventions to 2050. As set out in the legislation to establish STBs, the SIP as a regional plan is intended to provide advice to the Secretary of State for Transport on the investment priorities across the TfSE geography. This is underpinned by a robust evidence base which will also support and link to partner's own local strategies and plans such as Local Transport Plans.

2.2 The SIP is supported by eight investment priorities. These comprise of four high level 'policy-based investment priorities – 'Decarbonisation & Environment; Adapting to a new normal; Levelling up left behind communities, and Regeneration & Growth' - alongside four 'transport related investment priorities - World class urban transport systems; Transforming east- west connectivity; Resilient radial corridors and Global gateways and freight'.

### Investment Packages

2.3 The draft SIP outlines two types of investment packages. Firstly, the global policy interventions package which consist of national regulatory and policy activity which will be delivered across the South East such as:

- **decarbonising transport** to deliver a faster trajectory towards net-zero than current trends
- **making the cost of public transport fares more attractive** alongside ticketing integration between modes and providers
- **new mobility** such as electric bikes/scooter hire schemes in key towns and communities which are integrated with other modes
- **virtual access** to help reduce demand for transport services
- **integration across and between all modes of transport** in terms of infrastructure, services, ticketing, and accessibility
- **road user charging** as an alternative source of funding to fuel duty which will reduce from 2030 with the proposed ban on petrol/diesel vehicles being sold

2.4 Secondly there are the place-based packages of multi modal (highways, rail, mass transit/bus, active travel) interventions with three of the four area packages covering parts of East Sussex:

- **Solent and Sussex Coast** – A27/A259 and Coastway rail corridors
- **London - Sussex Coast** – M23/A23, A22, A26 and A272, and Brighton Mainline, Uckfield rail corridors
- **Kent, Medway and East Sussex** – A21, A259 east of Hastings and Marshlink rail corridors

2.5 The content of each of these packages is set out in **Appendix 1**.

2.6 The SIP highlights that the estimated total capital cost of the overall investment packages for the South East is £45 billion over 27 years. This equates to about £1.5bn a year, which is broadly in alignment with current investment levels in transport in the south east. This would deliver 21,000 additional new jobs; an additional £4bn in GVA each year by 2050 and result in a reduction of 1.4 mega tonnes of CO2 being emitted.

### Funding and Financing

2.7 The TfSE SIP outlines the importance of setting out the options for funding and financing the proposed interventions over time and ensuring value for money. It recognises that this will need to be through a combination of government funds and identifying new and potentially innovative approaches.

2.8 Interventions which support strategic connectivity are largely funded through use of farebox revenues and government grants or competitive bids. These funders are facing competing priorities, national challenges, and technological change in transport which will have an impact on their ability to provide future funding. However, the SIP recognises that an element of this funding is likely to remain, especially government funding for both rail (Network Rail) and road (National Highways) and local authority grant programmes for public transport and active travel.

2.9 Considering the likely funding challenges outlined above which the SIP is recommending more innovative funding solutions will need to be explored, A wide range of beneficiaries including the business sector, education sector, and local communities across the South East will benefit from a significant uplift across the South East in productivity and employment, a reduction in environmental impacts and improvements to quality of place as referred to in section 2.6.

2.10. Therefore, TfSE is recommending that the case be explored for developing a fair and proportionate contribution from the beneficiary groups identified above. However, this will require significant partnership working with the full spectrum of these beneficiaries alongside the likely need for nationwide reform of local funding powers. This would need to involve tools to enable the monetisation of the share of the specific value that a project would deliver to beneficiary groups to either supplement government funding or eventually replace this.

### County Council response to TfSE SIP consultation

2.11 TfSE's public consultation on its SIP commenced on 20 June 2022 and runs to 12 September 2022. A report will be presented to the County Council's Cabinet on 29 September with the County Council's proposed response. Given this is after the end of the consultation, the County Council's proposed consultation response will be submitted by 12 September 2022 to TfSE as an interim response which will be updated as necessary following consideration by Cabinet. TfSE have been notified of this.

2.12 The County Council response to the TfSE SIP consultation is outlined in Appendix 2. The response is summarised below:

#### *SIP making best case possible for investing in transport infrastructure*

2.13 Overall we are supportive of TfSE's SIP and we will not be suggesting any major amendments to the proposed interventions identified in the various package areas. The SIP has been developed utilising a robust technical evidence base and as one of the constituent authorities, we have had a key role in supporting its development from the outset providing input and making the case for the inclusion of interventions which will provide significant economic and regeneration benefits to our communities and places and our East Sussex residents, businesses, and visitors. Therefore, we agree that that the SIP makes the best case possible for investing in transport infrastructure in East Sussex and the wider South East.

2.14 It is important to note that the TfSE Strategy and SIP will be reflected in the forthcoming review of our Local Transport Plan and will be used to help shape our transport policies and the inclusion of strategic interventions identified within the SIP investment packages.

## *SIP Investment Priorities*

2.15 In relation to the eight SIP's investment priorities as set out in section 2.2, we agree that they are all important either combined or individually. The four policy-based investment priorities will be critical for both the region and East Sussex in supporting the delivery of sustainable economic growth. We also recognise that there will be a need for greater urgency and emphasis on these four priorities, especially 'Decarbonisation & Environment and Levelling Up' from the outset.

2.16 Regarding the outcome-based transport priorities, our proposed response highlights the importance of these in support of the integration between transport and land use planning across the county. Whilst we agree with the priorities, we do suggest that clarification is included in the SIP in relation to the differences and inter-relationship between the initial four policy-based priorities and the four transport related investment priorities.

## *SIP Place Based intervention packages*

2.17 We are fully supportive of the place-based packages of interventions for the Solent and Sussex Coast area and agree that the proposed interventions will deliver the priorities of the SIP. We welcome the benefits that this package will provide for East Sussex in terms of strengthening east-west connectivity, the resilience of the strategic and local highway network, supporting wider strategies to level up our coastal communities and unlock opportunities for active travel to support greater social inclusion, health, and wellbeing.

2.18 For East Sussex, we welcome the inclusion of a comprehensive solution for the A27 Lewes – Polegate alongside multi modal measures for the A259 South Coast Corridor. We also support the inclusion of Sussex Coast Mass transit from Brighton through to Newhaven alongside active travel measures. This will align with the County Councils investment plans for Bus Service Improvement Plan, which recently secured over £41m of government funding and the East Sussex Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan.

2.19 Likewise we fully support the place-based packages of interventions for the London - Sussex Coast area and agree these will deliver the priorities in the SIP. We strongly support the benefits that this will bring in providing multi modal improvements across our networks especially for rail, supporting both greater connectivity, particularly for inter urban journeys and crucially providing greater resilience. For East Sussex we welcome the measures to provide an appropriate alternative option to the Brighton mainline.

2.20 We welcome the inclusion of the Lewes-Uckfield reinstatement and the potential strategic transport hub, linking rail, bus and road, near Eastbourne in this package. Highway improvements on the A22 corridor, which forms part of the Major Road Network, and mass transit improvements combined with measures for active travel on the key corridors of movement in the Eastbourne/South Wealden area will support housing and employment growth coming forward within these areas alongside improving access and safety for more rural settlements.

2.21 We also support the place-based packages of interventions for the Kent, Medway and East Sussex area, which will especially support the SIP priority of levelling up and addressing the multiple deprivation issues of our coastal communities. Therefore, we strongly agree with the inclusion of High Speed 1 'Marshlink' Hastings, Bexhill & Eastbourne upgrade which will support levelling up the economy of these communities compared to our parts of the TfSE geography.

2.22 We also welcome the safety, community and economic benefits that this package will provide with the inclusion of the A21 safety improvements, the dualling of between Kippings Cross and Lamberhurst and the Flimwell and Hurst Green bypasses, which will remove strategic traffic away from local services, including a primary school, and reduce community severance.

2.23 The proposed inclusion of new highway interventions north of the Bexhill and Hastings area will open up place making opportunities, the promotion of active travel measures and reduce existing severance issues along the A259 coast road which traverses both settlements. Therefore, our response suggests that the active travel intervention packages for Bexhill, Hastings and

Eastbourne also includes reference to place making as well in a similar vein to settlements (Dover, Medway, Canterbury) in Kent.

2.24 We have also included an overarching comment, applicable to all packages, to request greater consideration of equalities and inclusion for people with protected characteristics during the development and delivery of infrastructure measures and interventions.

#### *SIP Global Policy intervention package*

2.25 We agree that all the global interventions possess a level of importance as they cut across the eight investment priorities. The proposed response highlights that these will be critical in enabling change, adding greater value to the delivery of the investment priorities, and potentially supporting a faster pace of delivery in achieving the strategy's vision and the SIP's potential outcomes. We also recognise that the introduction of these global policy interventions may be required at different times throughout the plan period. However, we do note these interventions may require innovative funding solutions.

2.26 Whilst the SIP is a strategic document, we have also highlighted that ongoing revenue funding will be required to incentivise and enable travel behaviour change. We have suggested that travel behaviour change is given greater prominence throughout the SIP in order to fully realise and complement the benefits of the infrastructure, service improvements and regulatory interventions.

#### *Costs and benefits of proposed packages*

2.27 The SIP sets out the costs and benefits of the proposed packages. We agree that this has been captured adequately considering the current stage of design of the packages of interventions. However, the proposed response asks whether the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic has been factored into the assessments, that this is referenced in the SIP and suggesting that this is factored into future assessments. We also suggest that a caveat should be included within the SIP that the estimated costs are indicative and treated with caution, given the current economic conditions and the impact that this is having on the costs of scheme development and delivery.

#### *Integrated Sustainability Appraisal*

2.28 An Integrated Sustainability Appraisal has been undertaken as part of the development of the SIP, including a Strategic Environmental Assessment, Health Impact Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment. In the proposed response, we agree that the level of assessment undertaken is appropriate at this stage. We also welcome that this has been initiated from the outset and recognise the need for Local Transport Authorities, who are promoting schemes identified in the draft SIP, to undertake further and appropriate assessments on environment impact and equalities as they come forward. The response recognises the importance of this for East Sussex with its landscape and environmental designations, of both national and international significance.

### **3 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations**

3.1 The transport and global policy interventions identified in the TfSE Strategic Investment Plan will deliver significant change in the county and support our key priorities specifically the levelling up of our communities who are most at need and importantly accelerate the delivery of the decarbonisation of transport. This will support greater strategic connectivity and resilience of our networks across the county and unlock opportunities for localised transport measures for public transport and active travel to support greater social inclusion, health, and wellbeing. As outlined in paragraph 2.13, the TfSE Strategy and SIP will also support policy development and the identification of strategic transport interventions as part of the current review of our Local Transport Plan, which will be undertaken during the next eighteen months.

3.2 Overall, the County Council is supportive of TfSE's SIP as outlined in our draft response in Appendix 2 and summarised in paragraphs 2.11 – 2.28 Cabinet is recommended to consider and

approve the County Council's draft proposed response which broadly supports the content of TfSE's SIP.

**RUPERT CLUBB**

**Director of Communities, Economy and Transport**

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Email: [jon.wheeler@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:jon.wheeler@eastsussex.gov.uk)

LOCAL MEMBERS

All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None



## Appendix 1 – TfSE SIP Investment Packages

### Global Policy Interventions

The following global policy interventions are designed to address the challenges and opportunities that affect the whole of the south east and the wider UK. These include existential challenges such as global warming and opportunities such as new mobility technologies.

The key global policy interventions that would help deliver the investment priorities in the south east are:

Intervention	Measures
<b>Decarbonisation</b>	Involving rapid adoption of zero emission technologies to decarbonise transport
<b>Public Transport Fares</b>	Making the cost of public transport attractive compared to motoring
<b>New Mobility</b>	The use and promotion of technologies such as electric bikes and scooters to boost active travel
<b>Road User Charging</b>	Encourage the UK government to develop a national road user charging system. To provide an alternative source of funding to fuel duty.
<b>Virtual Access</b>	Provision for virtual working to reduce travel demand
<b>Integration</b>	Across and between all modes of transport - infrastructure, services, ticketing and accessibility.

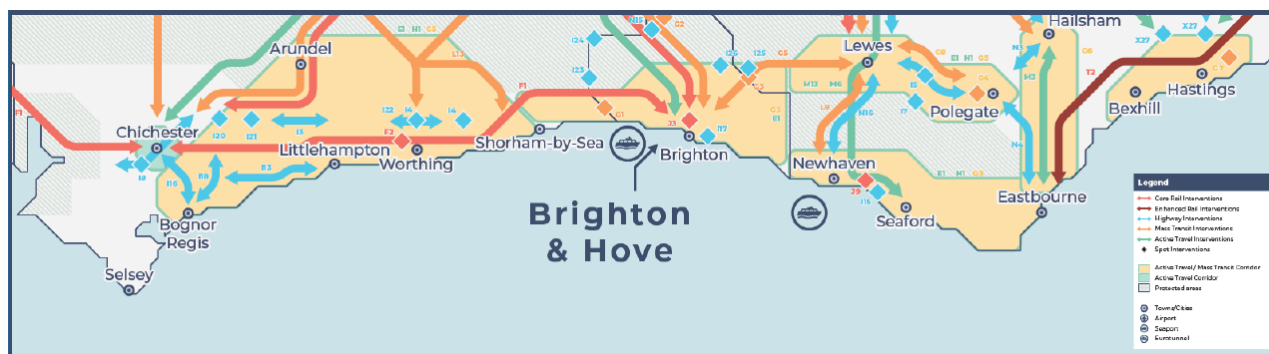
### Area based SIP Investment packages

#### *Solent and Sussex Coast*

The geographic extent of this package is from the New Forest in the west to Hastings in the east. For East Sussex it will strengthen east-west connectivity and resilience of the strategic and local highway network with the inclusion of the A27 Lewes – Polegate, improvements to the A259 South Coast Road Corridor – Eastbourne – Brighton. It will extend Mass Transit along the Sussex Coast alongside local cycling and walking infrastructure to support strategic active travel.

<b>Solent and Sussex Coast</b>	
Type of measure	Scheme & Location
Mass Transit	Falmer Strategic Mobility Hub
	Eastbourne/Polegate Strategic Mobility Hub
	Sussex Coast Mass Rapid Transit
	Eastbourne/ South Wealden Mass Rapid Transit
	Hastings/Bexhill Mass Rapid Transit
	A27 Falmer – Polegate Lay Bus Stop & Layby improvements

Solent and Sussex Coast	
Type of measure	Scheme & Location
Active Travel	Sussex Coast Active Travel Enhancements – including LCWIPs
Highways	A27 East of Lewes – smaller interventions package (Roads Investment Strategy 1/2 scheme)
	A27 Lewes – Polegate (Roads Investment Strategy 3 pipeline scheme)
	A259 South Coast Road Corridor – Eastbourne to Brighton (existing Major Road Network scheme)
	A27 Falmer Junction Enhancements



### London - Sussex Coast

This package covers the key corridors between London and the Sussex Coast (from Chichester to Eastbourne) and includes five packages of interventions for this area. In East Sussex it will provide multi modal improvements across the network, supporting both greater connectivity, particularly inter urban, and crucially resilience.

Key schemes included for rail include Lewes – Uckfield reinstatement, the electrification (or other alternatives) of the Uckfield line between Uckfield and Hurst Green, and a potential strategic transport hub intercepting and linking road with rail, bus and active travel movements near Eastbourne. Highway improvements include the A22 corridor improvements in South Wealden and from Hailsham to Uckfield, and mass transit schemes on key corridors of movement. This is alongside improvements to strategic cycleways.

London – Sussex Coast	
Type of measure	Scheme & Location
Rail Package	Brighton Mainline Improvements
	East Sussex Coastway Line – faster services
	Newhaven Port – Rail freight access
	Newhaven Port Capacity and Rail Freight Interchange
	Uckfield – Hurst Green Electrification

London – Sussex Coast	
Type of measure	Scheme & Location
	Uckfield – Lewes Line Re-opening – Traction and Capacity Enhancements
	Uckfield – Lewes Line Re-opening – Reconfiguration at Lewes
	Eridge – Tunbridge Wells – re-opening of railway line – commercial service
<b>Active Travel</b>	Eastbourne/Hailsham Local cycleways
	Lewes/Newhaven Local cycleways
	East Sussex Inter urban cycleways
<b>Mass Transit</b>	A26 Corridor Lewes – Tunbridge Wells (Rural bus service enhancements)
	A26 Corridor – Newhaven area rural bus service enhancements
<b>Highways</b>	A22 Corridor package (existing Major Road Network scheme)
	A22 Corridor Hailsham – Uckfield
	A22 Uckfield Bypass dualling
	A2270 – A2101 Corridor Movement and access package
	A26 Lewes – Newhaven re-alignment and junction improvements
	A26 Lewes -Uckfield enhancements

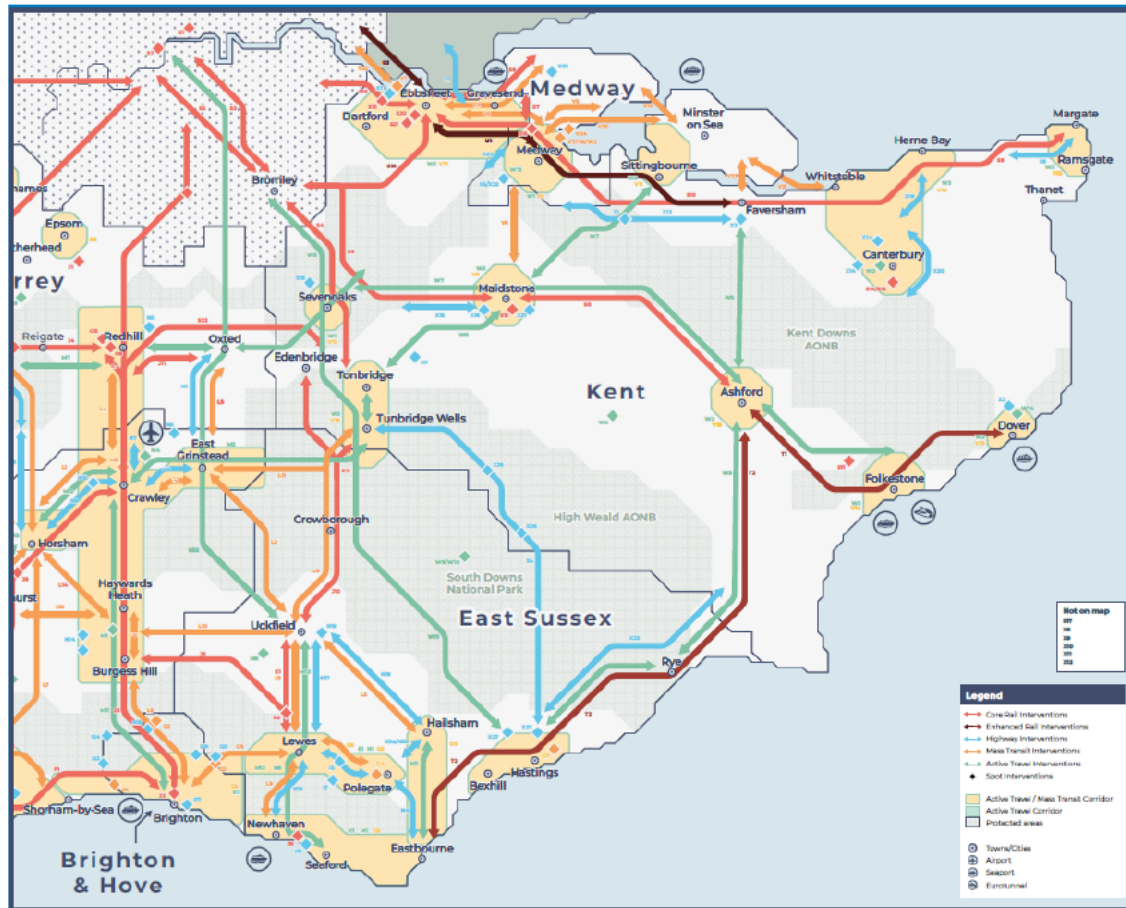


## Kent, Medway and East Sussex

This area covers Kent and Medway and the Hastings and Rother areas of East Sussex. For East Sussex it sets out a multi modal approach which supports regeneration and growth and levelling up, with the inclusion of the High Speed 1 'Marshlink' Hastings, mass transit options for Bexhill and Hastings to encourage greater public transport usage. The package includes safety improvements on the A21 corridor as well as the dualling of the road between Kippings Cross and Lamberhurst and the Flimwell and Hurst Green bypasses.

Kent, Medway and East Sussex	
Type of measure	Scheme & Location
High Speed Rail	High Speed 1/Marshlink' Hastings, Bexhill & Eastbourne upgrade
Active Travel	Faversham – Canterbury – Ashford – Hastings – NCN enhancement
	East Sussex Local Cycleways
	East Sussex Inter urban cycle ways
	Tunbridge Wells - Hastings NCN enhancement
Highways	A21 Pembury – Hastings Safety enhancements (RIS2 scheme)

Kent, Medway and East Sussex	
Type of measure	Scheme & Location
	A259 Level crossing removal – east of Rye
	A21 Kippings Cross – Lamberhurst – dualling and Flimwell and Hurst Green Bypasses
	Hastings and Bexhill distributor roads



## East Sussex County Council (ESCC)

### (Draft) Response to the Transport for the South East (TfSE) Strategic Investment Plan (SIP)

12 September 2022

**Contact Officer:** Jon Wheeler, Team Manager - Infrastructure Planning & Place  
(jon.wheeler@eastsussex.gov.uk)

The following response to these consultation questions will be presented to ESCC Cabinet on 29 September 2022. Therefore, subject to the outcome to Cabinet approval of our draft response, we may be required to provide further updates to our responses below.

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### *Consultation Questions*

#### Section 2: Investment Priorities

- a) Which of the above investment priorities do you feel are important for the SIP to deliver? (Tick all that apply)
- Decarbonisation & Environment ✓
  - Adapting to a New Normal ✓
  - Levelling Up Left Behind Communities ✓
  - Regeneration and Growth ✓
  - World Class Urban Transit System ✓
  - East - West Connectivity ✓
  - Resilient Radial Corridor ✓
  - Global Gateways and Freight ✓
- b) Do you have any further comments on the SIP's investment priorities?

We agree with the inclusion of the eight investment priorities. The initial four high level 'policy-based investment priorities' are critical for the region and also East Sussex. We recognise that these provide the 'golden thread' between national, regional, and local policies and priorities and which are associated with national funding streams. We will look to incorporate these as part of the imminent update to their Local Transport Plan (LTP).

We also recognise that these investment priorities will support delivery which is aligned with a move towards an approach for 'planning for people and places' which underpins both the TfSE Transport Strategy, the SIP and future iterations of LTP's within the region. In terms of their importance, we recognise that there will be a need for greater urgency and emphasis on these four investment priorities from the outset to support the overall delivery of the SIP.

Regarding the more 'transport related investment priorities' we recognise that these are also important as they will support more outcome-based strategic investment for transport. We agree that they will significantly support the integration between transport and land use planning across the County, providing both strategic and more localised multi modal benefits particularly within our key growth areas where considerable housing and employment growth is coming forward.

### Section 3: Packages of Interventions

For the purposes of data gathering and analysis, the TfSE region has been split into four geographies. Which of the following geographic areas are you most interested in? Please be aware that some local authority areas appear in more than one of the geographies and you may need to select more than one of the geographies if this is the case for your specific area of interest. Choose all that apply.

- Solent and Sussex Coast (Hampshire, Southampton, Portsmouth, Littlehampton, Worthing, Brighton, Isle of Wight) ✓
- London - Sussex Coast (Chichester to Eastbourne, Surrey, West Sussex and East Sussex excluding the Hasting Area) ✓
- Wessex Thames (Berkshire, Hampshire and Surrey)
- Kent, Medway and East Sussex (Kent, Medway, Hastings and Rother areas of East Sussex) ✓

#### Solent and Sussex Coast

a) To what extent do you agree that the packages of interventions for the Solent and Sussex Coast area will deliver on the priorities of the SIP?

- Definitely agree ✓
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Definitely disagree
- I'm not sure

b) Please select all of the packages for the Solent & Sussex Coast area that you feel are important in achieving the priorities of the SIP. Tick all that apply.

- South Hampshire Rail (Core)
- South Hampshire Rail (Enhanced)
- South Hampshire Mass Transit
- Isle of Wight (two Packages)
- Sussex Coast Rail ✓
- Sussex Coast Mass Transit ✓
- Sussex Coast Active Travel ✓
- Solent and Sussex Coast Highways ✓

c) Do you have any further comments on the Packages of Interventions for the Solent and Sussex Coast area?

We are fully supportive of the Solent and Sussex Coast Package as this will strengthen east-west connectivity and resilience of the strategic and local highway network from Southampton across to Eastbourne.

The inclusion of the A27 Lewes - Polegate is critical. We continue to lobby for a more comprehensive solution to come forward for this part of the strategic road network between the two towns which would support the levelling up of our coastal communities compared to our neighbours and enabling the unlocking of opportunities for sustainable transport and reducing severance for communities along the existing A27. Equally we are supportive of improvements identified for the A259 South Coast Road Corridor - Eastbourne - Brighton, which requires a multi modal approach. This will build upon the current business case being

developed for the corridor for Major Route Network funding from DfT to kickstart this approach.

We welcome the evidence at this stage to extend Sussex Coast Mass transit into East Sussex alongside Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure (LCWIP) active travel measures. These measures will be a critical element of supporting the housing and employment growth coming forward in areas such as Eastbourne and South Wealden and provide a sensible and attractive approach towards supporting travel behaviour change towards public transport and active travel.

This will also align with the investment plans in bus priority and bus services coming forward as part of the ESCC Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), which successfully secured over £41m of funding alongside a pipeline of schemes coming forward from the East Sussex LCWIP, which was approved by the County Council in September 2021.

We strongly support improvements to the urban public realm which will remove barriers to active travel, increase social inclusion, accessibility and health and wellbeing benefits. To that end, it is suggested the reference to Sussex Coast active travel enhancements (H1) is widened to include 'Placemaking' as well.

#### *London - Sussex Coast*

**a) To what extent do you agree that the packages of interventions for the London - Sussex Coast area will deliver on the priorities of the SIP?**

- **Definitely agree ✓**
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Definitely disagree
- I'm not sure

**b) Please select all the packages for the London - Sussex Coast area that you feel are important in achieving the priorities of the SIP. Tick all that apply**

- **London - Sussex Coast Rail (2 Packages) ✓**
- **London - Sussex Coast Mass Transit ✓**
- **London - Sussex Coast Active Travel ✓**
- **London - Sussex Coast Highways ✓**

**c) Do you have any further comments on the Packages of Interventions for the London - Sussex Coast area?**

We support the comprehensive London - Sussex Coast package. This provides multi modal improvements across our networks within this area of the county, supporting both greater connectivity, particularly inter urban, and crucially resilience.

We strongly support the improvements to the rail network both in and outside the county - such as improvements at East Croydon - which will benefit passengers and freight travelling within, and to/from East Sussex. We also welcome the inclusion of the Lewes - Uckfield reinstatement in the draft SIP, which would significantly increase resilience and provide an appropriate alternative option to the Brighton mainline, as well as the electrification of the Hurst Green - Uckfield section of the line. We also support the proposal for a potential strategic transport hub near Eastbourne, which opens up opportunities for intercepting journeys into Eastbourne and its hinterland, which otherwise would be undertaken by car and moving them into either bus or rail.



Similar to the Sussex and Solent Coast package, we welcome the evidence to include both highway improvements, such as the A22 corridor improvements in South Wealden and from Hailsham to Uckfield, and mass transit schemes on key corridors of movement in the county. This will support housing and employment growth coming forward within these areas alongside improving access and safety for more rural settlements. This aligns with the bus infrastructure and service improvements coming forward as part of our BSIP.

We recognise the importance of improving the strategic cycleways within these areas of the county, which includes the 'Avenue Verte' and existing routes such as the Forest Way and Cuckoo Trail. This closely aligns with our LCWIP and the partnership with Sustrans to support improvements to the National Cycle Network which will be important to delivering this. This would provide direct safer cycling options for local journeys but also support a better-quality leisure cycling network within the region providing benefits to the local economy.

We also support improvements to the urban public realm and placemaking in the likes of Eastbourne and Newhaven which will remove barriers to active travel, increase social inclusion, accessibility reducing health inequalities and providing health and wellbeing benefits. This would build on recent and planned investment in placemaking in Eastbourne, Hailsham and Newhaven town centres through transport or economic regeneration projects. To that end, it is suggested the reference to Eastbourne/Hailsham Local Cycleways (M3) and Lewes/Newhaven Local Cycleways (M6) are widened to include 'Active Travel and Placemaking' as well.

#### *Kent, Medway and East Sussex*

a) To what extent do you agree that the packages of interventions for the Kent, Medway and East Sussex area will deliver on the priorities of the SIP?

- Definitely agree ✓
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Definitely disagree
- I'm not sure

b) Please select all of the packages for the Kent, Medway and East Sussex area that you feel are important in achieving the priorities of the SIP. Tick all that apply.

- Kent, Medway, and East Sussex Classic Rail ✓
- Kent, Medway, and East Sussex High Speed Rail (two Packages) ✓
- Kent, Medway, and East Sussex Mass Transit ✓
- Kent, Medway, and East Sussex Active Travel ✓
- Lower Thames Crossing
- Kent, Medway, and East Sussex Highways ✓

**c) Do you have any further comments on the Packages of Interventions for the Kent, Medway and East Sussex area?**

We are supportive of the Kent, Medway, and East Sussex area package as it sets out a multi modal approach which supports regeneration and growth and levelling up within this area of the county.

The inclusion of the High Speed 1 'Marshlink' Hastings, Bexhill & Eastbourne upgrade will provide considerable economic benefits to this area of the county, levelling up these coastal communities compared to our neighbouring authorities, with a significant reduction in journey times between Bexhill / Hastings and London which will increase the attractiveness of this part of the county to both live, work and visit. We also support the inclusion of considering mass transit options for Bexhill and Hastings to encourage greater public transport usage in and between the two towns.

From a safety perspective and to enable localised active travel measures to be brought forward we welcome the inclusion of the highway's element of the package, particularly the A21 safety improvements, the dualling of between Kippings Cross and Lamberhurst and the Flimwell and Hurst Green bypasses, which will remove strategic traffic away from local services, including schools, and reduce community severance.

We recognise the importance of improving the strategic cycleways alongside local and inter urban cycleways to provide a cohesive and accessible network within this area of the county. Therefore, we are supportive of this element of the package as it is in alignment with the East Sussex LCWIP and the partnership with Sustrans to support improvements to the National Cycle Network.

We also support improvements to the urban public realm and placemaking in the likes of Hastings and Bexhill which will remove barriers to active travel, increase social inclusion, accessibility reducing health inequalities and providing health and wellbeing benefits. Schemes to reduce traffic on the A259 through Bexhill and Hastings enable greater placemaking opportunities to come forward in these two settlements.

*Global Policy Package of Interventions*

**a) Which of the above Global Policy Interventions do you feel are important for the SIP to support? (Tick all that apply)**

- Decarbonisation ✓
- Public Transport Fares ✓
- New Mobility ✓
- Road User Charging ✓
- Virtual Access ✓
- Integration ✓

**b) Do you have any further comments on the SIP's Global Policy Interventions?**

We agree with the inclusion of the Global Policy Interventions as they cut across the eight key investment priorities, enabling change, adding greater value to the delivery of the priorities, and potentially supporting a faster pace of delivery. We appreciate that the level of impact of these may vary across the south east, depending upon whether they are delivered individually or in combination, or they may be required at different times throughout the plan period. Therefore, they all possess a level of importance to the overall delivery of the SIP.

We particularly welcome the benefits that these interventions will provide in reducing carbon emissions, but note that many of these interventions will require, particularly local authorities, to adopt a policy of travel demand management. They may also require innovative funding solutions and certainly ongoing revenue funding to incentivise travel behaviour change. Therefore, it is suggested that this is identified more clearly in the SIP.

#### **Section 4: Benefits and Costs**

a) Do you think that the SIP captures the benefits and costs of the proposed packages of interventions adequately? Choose any one option.

- Yes ✓
- No

b) Please explain your answer to the above question here.

We agree that the SIP demonstrates that robust assessments have been undertaken to capture an appropriate level of benefits and costs, when considering the current stage of design of the packages of interventions. Notably the assessments to determine the costs and benefits have been developed through the utilisation of a transport and land use model which has specifically been developed for TfSE's Strategy and SIP.

This model does appear to be both comprehensive and robust. However, it would be helpful to understand whether the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic has been factored into the reports including changes to travel patterns, volumes of movement, and mode share. If not, we would suggest that the SIP considers including a statement that requires the respective scheme promoters - local authorities, key strategic partners such as Network Rail and National Highways, or other partners such as Sustrans and potentially TfSE itself -to consider this as part of any further modelling or assessments as schemes come forward and developed in further detail.

It is also noted that the costs of interventions have been estimated using historic project data/industry standard data and adjustments to input costs. In view of the current economic conditions and the impact that this is having on materials, scheme delivery costs, labour costs and availability and the ongoing maintenance of schemes, it is suggested that the SIP should include a much clearer caveat that partners and stakeholders should consider these estimated costs with caution and that further work would be required to refine these cost estimates (up or down) as schemes come forward and are developed in more detail.

#### **Section 5: Delivery of the SIP**

a) To what extent do you agree that, as a whole, the packages of interventions will deliver on the priorities of the SIP?

- Definitely agree ✓
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Definitely disagree
- I'm not sure

#### **Section 6: Integrated Sustainability Appraisal and Conclusion**

**a) Do you have any comments on the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal?**

The ISA combines several assessment processes including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, and the Habitats Regulation Assessment. Taking into consideration the stage of the interventions identified in the SIP, we would agree that the level of assessment undertaken is appropriate.

The integrated Sustainability Appraisal is comprehensive and importantly it demonstrates that it was initiated at an early stage of the development of the SIP during the evidence base review to enable areas of concern to be identified early in the ISA process.

It clearly demonstrates that an appropriate methodology has been utilised where relevant local environmental policy was identified for each Area Study alongside relevant social, economic and transport data. We agree how this information has been used as part of a Multi-Criteria Assessment Framework (MCAF) to determine how well national and regional sustainability policies aligned with each of the interventions, and how this has supported further appraisal to inform mitigation.

We welcome the recognition, alongside the mitigation of the mechanisms required, for undertaking further assessments and appraisals as individual or packages of schemes come forward. East Sussex is covered by landscape and environmental designations, of both national and international significance, and we recognise the necessity of undertaking further assessments to either remove or reduce impacts to these environments and on our population's health as and when transport interventions identified in the SIP are developed in the county. It is acknowledged that as a high-level plan the overall SIP will have generally positive impacts on health and wellbeing.

**b) Overall, to what extent do you agree that the SIP makes the best case possible for investing in transport infrastructure in the South East?**

- **Definitely agree ✓**
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Definitely disagree
- I'm not sure

**Additional comments**

**Equalities and Inclusion**

We request greater reference to equalities and inclusion for people with protected characteristics during the development and delivery of infrastructure measures and interventions. It is recommended that this is referred to as early as possible within the document, but certainly in relation to the investment packages.

**Travel Behaviour Change**

The SIP does mention the ongoing revenue funding which will be required to incentivise and enable travel behaviour change specifically within the Global Policy Package of Interventions section. However, whilst we realise that this is a strategic document with travel behaviour change being critical to the success of several of the interventions, it is recommended that the need for travel behaviour change is mentioned earlier in the document within the introductory section.

**Consultation**

Just a brief comment in regard to consultation and the opportunities to consult with young people, particularly in regard to interventions within the Global Policy Package of Interventions, focussed on smarter mobility and the influence of this on future travel and transport.