



**PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**FRIDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2022**

**11.00 am COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, LEWES**

MEMBERSHIP - Councillor Matthew Beaver (Chair)  
Councillors Chris Collier, Alan Hay, Julia Hilton (Vice Chair), Ian Hollidge,  
Stephen Holt, Eleanor Kirby-Green, Philip Lunn, Steve Murphy,  
Paul Redstone and Stephen Shing

**A G E N D A**

1. Minutes of the previous meeting 18 July 2022 (*Pages 3 - 14*)
2. Apologies for absence
3. Disclosures of interests  
Disclosures by all members present of personal interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the member regards the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct.
4. Urgent items  
Notification of items which the Chair considers to be urgent and proposes to take at the appropriate part of the agenda. Any members who wish to raise urgent items are asked, wherever possible, to notify the Chair before the start of the meeting. In so doing, they must state the special circumstances which they consider justify the matter being considered urgent.
5. Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) 2023/24 (*Pages 15 - 40*)  
Report by the Chief Executive.
6. Project Development to Support Economic Growth and Regeneration Activity in East Sussex (*Pages 41 - 46*)  
Report by the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport.
7. Work programme (*Pages 47 - 72*)
8. Any other items previously notified under agenda item 4

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Assistant Chief Executive  
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22 September 2022

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## PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Place Scrutiny Committee held at Council Chamber, County Hall, Lewes on 18 July 2022.

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PRESENT	Councillors Matthew Beaver (Chair) Councillors Chris Collier, Alan Hay, Julia Hilton (Vice Chair), Ian Hollidge, Eleanor Kirby-Green, Philip Lunn, Steve Murphy, Paul Redstone, Stephen Shing and Colin Swansborough (substituting for Councillor Holt).
LEAD MEMBERS	Councillors Nick Bennett, Claire Dowling and Rupert Simmons
ALSO PRESENT	Philip Baker, Assistant Chief Executive Ros Parker, Chief Operating Officer Ian Gutsell, Chief Finance Officer Rupert Clubb, Director of Communities, Economy and Transport Nick Skelton, Assistant Director Communities Andy Arnold, Environment Team Manager Katy Thomas, Team Manager Economic Development Richard Strawson, Team Manager Trading Standards

### 1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 23 MARCH 2022

1.1 The Committee RESOLVED to agree the minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2022 as a correct record with the following amendments:

- The first sentence of paragraph 30.5 to read: The Committee noted that the provision of gigabit services in larger towns in the County (e.g. Bexhill, Eastbourne, Hasting, Lewes) are covered by commercial providers, but the smaller towns are also important such as Hailsham, Uckfield, etc.
- The first sentence of paragraph 31.3 to read: It was agreed that the Committee should invite representatives from Southern Water, the Environment Agency and OFWAT (the Water Services Regulation Authority) to a future meeting to discuss what actions Southern Water are taking to reduce the amount of untreated sewage discharged into water courses and the sea following a number of recent incidents.

## 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Stephen Holt (Councillor Colin Swansborough substituted for Councillor Holt). Apologies were also received from James Harris Assistant Director, Economy.

## 3. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

3.1 Councillor Julia Hilton declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest under item 6, Scrutiny Review of Becoming and Carbon Neutral Council update report, as she is a voluntary director of a local community energy co-operative.

3.2 Councillor Paul Redstone declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest under item 6, Scrutiny Review of Becoming and Carbon Neutral Council update report, as he has participated in the Solar Together Sussex scheme.

3.3 Cllr Alan Hay declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest under item 9, Work Programme under the discussion about electric vehicle charge points as he is an employee of the National Grid.

## 4. URGENT ITEMS

4.1 There were none.

## 5. RECONCILING POLICY, PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES (RPPR)

5.1 The Assistant Chief Executive introduced the report which provides a broad stock take of the Council's position as it enters into the Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) process for 2023/24. It brings together two key items which are the Council's end of year Monitoring report and the State of the County (SoC) report. They set out the Council's performance, challenges, and reflects the high levels of uncertainty both over the last financial year and the coming year in 2023/24. The Committee is invited to consider the information contained in the report and identify any further information or items it wishes to consider as part of its RPPR work or the wider work programme. The Committee is also invited to comment on the criteria for assessing one off investment outlined in paragraph 1.6 of the report.

5.2 The Committee discussed the report, making a number of comments and raising a number of questions which are summarised below.

### Monitoring Report

5.3 The Committee asked for clarification of what is meant by the term 'eligible' as part of the Council's performance measure "The percentage of eligible 2 year olds who take up a place with an eligible early years provider" (page 26 of the report). The Assistant Chief Executive responded that he would report back separately on what constitutes 'eligible' as part of the definition of the performance measure.

5.4 A Committee member observed that the Monitoring report section on Legal Services contains information on the number of Local Government Ombudsman complaints but there is no information on the number Judicial Review cases the Council is involved in or other litigation

work where the Council may be required to make a payment. The Assistant Chief Executive outlined that it is not normal practice to report back on the litigation work of Legal Services as part of Council Monitoring, which includes Judicial Reviews, contracts, insurance claims, Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) tribunals and child protection proceedings etc.. Any payments made will be dependent on the case involved and does not necessarily mean the Council has been found to be at fault. The annual reporting of Local Government Ombudsman cases is a legal requirement, and the Governance Committee has requested that they are included in quarterly Council Monitoring reports. The Assistant Chief Executive offered provide the number of Judicial review cases for the last year.

5.5 The Committee asked for clarification of the Covid funding carried forward figures contained in the report (page 16, paragraph 3.4 of the report). The Chief Finance Officer outlined that the figures in the table represents the Covid funding (both specific and general) available in 2021/22, being £30.2m carried forward from 2020/21 plus £43m received in 2021/22, less that allocated in year of £50.1m and £5.2m allocated for specific use in future years, resulting in £17.9m being available to be carried forward to 2022/23. The £17.9m represents £8.9m of general Covid funding and £9m of specific funding as determined by the grant terms of condition. The total carry forward is less than the previous year and will reduce as the Council either spends the money or has to return it where specific grant conditions cannot be met. The Council has been successful in maximising the use of Covid grant funding where possible. Some work will continue on the impact of Covid and clarity is being sought on funding that can continue to be carried forward.

5.6 The Committee noted that over the last year the number of Killed and Seriously Injured (KSI) collisions had risen 15% despite the behaviour change project work that has been undertaken and the total number of collisions reported to the Police and Crime Panel had risen 27% from around 11,000 to 16,000. The Committee commented that the £170,000 one off investment earmarked for highway safety measures for the next two years could be allocated to the School Streets project to help keep people safe.

5.7 The Committee asked a number of further questions about the report, which are summarised below:

- Percentage of Young People not in Education, Employment or Training – The Committee asked what the Council is doing about the 7% of young people not in education, employment or training. The Assistant Chief Executive offered to get a briefing on what the Council is doing and respond after the meeting. The Director for Communities, Economy and Transport (CET) added that the CET department does work with Children's Services on this including initiatives such as the Multiply programme to improve numeracy; work with Skills East Sussex to identify how young people can get the right attainment; and getting employers involved with educational establishments to ensure young people have the right skills for the employment market.
- Careers East Sussex Web Site – The Committee asked about the new Careers East Sussex web site and if we know how many hits the site is having and what the target reach is for this site. The Assistant Chief Executive outlined that he would ask for the relevant information to be sent to Councillor Hilton after the meeting.
- Social Value Market Place – The Chief Operating Officer outlined that the Social Value Market Place is a web-based platform that provides a number of options for contractors (particularly smaller ones) to meet the Social Value requirements of bidding for contracts as part of the procurement process. It provides the opportunity for community and voluntary sector organisations to post requests for Social Value contributions that would meet identified local community needs.

- CO<sub>2</sub> Reduction Target – Actions are being taken to model different scenarios and choices to reduce the Council’s carbon emissions (e.g. from the maintained schools estate) to catch up on the missed reduction target.
- Asset Disposal for Capital Receipt vs Retaining an Asset to Generate Income– The process for determining whether to sell an asset for a capital receipt or whether to retain it for income generation purposes is carried out through strategic asset reviews which are undertaken to establish the best option for each asset. Every potential disposal is considered for other uses, and to maximise income or a capital receipt for the Council. Capital receipts are used to fund the capital programme which has an assumed level of capital receipts.
- SEND Home school transport contract– The Transport Hub team is working with Children’s Services on the lessons learnt from the withdrawal of one contractor at the beginning of the contract last year. This work involves developing a better understanding of the needs of the children as the number that need the specialist transport service and distance travelled has grown, and particular needs have changed (e.g. some children need to be transported on their own with an escort rather than travelling with a group of other children). This work will ensure the right transport is in place to meet the needs of children for the start of the school year in September.
- Debt and Aged Debt – The Committee commented that the paragraphs in the report on debt were not easy to understand and to get a view of what action is being taken. The Chief Finance Officer clarified that the amount of debt overall had fallen, which is positive given the economic picture. Most debt is related to Adult Social Care, and the amount of aged debt is within acceptable tolerances which is lower over the year. New systems and processes will be introduced to help reduce debt as the Managing Back Office Systems project is implemented. The Chief Finance Officer agreed to take away the Committee’s comments about the readability and clarity of the paragraphs in the report.
- Waste – The Committee asked for figures on the amount of plastic waste recycled and whether the Council could do more to increase the amount recycled. The Committee also asked about the proportion of recyclable plastic in ‘black bag’ general waste. The Director for Communities, Economy and Transport outlined that there had been a lot of campaigning to reduce the amount and types of plastic waste. Some plastics are challenging to recycle, and the transport and processing costs can be high. There are conversations taking place at Government level with manufacturers and retailers to reduce the amount and type of plastic waste (e.g. the Department for Food and Rural Affairs works with the Food Standards Agency and retailers to reduce plastic waste). The department also undertakes composition analysis of black bag waste from time to time to find out the proportion of recyclable plastic in general waste. The Director for Communities, Economy and Transport agreed to provide some figures on the amount of plastic waste.
- Trading Standards service performance - The number of positive interventions for vulnerable people who have been the target of rogue trading or financial abuse is provided in the report. The Committee asked how many non-positive interventions there were. The Assistant Chief Executive offered to find an answer to the question after the meeting.

#### Performance Targets and Direction of Travel

5.8 The Committee commented that some performance targets appeared to be lower than last years outturn. Also, the direction of travel arrows in the table indicating the trend in performance appeared to be misleading, as some showed a negative direction of travel when performance targets were being met and in some cases exceeded. The Committee suggested

that it might be helpful to add a narrative to explain the direction of travel indicators. The Assistant Chief Executive outlined that performance targets are revised in the light of previous years targets and trends, in addition to what is reasonable for the Council to achieve. Many targets were also impacted by Covid. The Assistant Chief Executive added that he would be happy to look at the direction of travel indicators and the suggestion of adding narrative to explain the direction of travel.

#### State of the County report

5.9 The Committee discussed the Council Priority Outcomes and some Committee members commented that the word 'vulnerable' should be removed from the outcome of "Keeping vulnerable people safe" and that this should instead read "Keeping people safe" as the council's services are there to keep everyone in the community safe. It was also suggested the word 'well' was not needed in the definition of delivery outcomes (e.g. People feel safe at home and well supported by their networks) as this does not need stating.

#### Criteria for One-off investment opportunities

5.10 The Committee supported the criteria for one-off investments as outlined in the report. Councillor Hilton commented that she would like to see opportunities for identifying ideas or approaches to support new ways of problem solving in areas such as the Council's work on climate change, added to the criteria. Councillor Collier commented that he particularly supported the use of the investment money to help reduce service demand. He suggested that if Cabinet is looking for 'oven ready' projects, the spending ideas for Children's Services contained in the Opposition's budget amendment could be considered.

#### RPPR Board

5.11 The Committee noted the recommendation contained in the report and agreed to establish a RPPR Board to consider the Portfolio Plans, Medium Term Financial Plan, and submit comments on them to Cabinet on behalf of the Committee. (*Post Meeting note: the membership of the RPPR Board will be all Committee members*).

5.12 The Committee RESOLVED to:

- (1) Note the information within the 2021/22 end of year Council monitoring report and State of the County 2022 report relevant to the remit of the Committee;
- (2) Endorse the proposed criteria for assessing one-off investment proposals as set out in paragraph 1.6; and
- (3) Agreed to establish a RPPR scrutiny board to consider the developing Portfolio Plans and Medium Term Financial Plan and to submit scrutiny's final comments on them to Cabinet in January 2022.

## 6. SCRUTINY REVIEW OF BECOMING A CARBON NEUTRAL COUNCIL - SECOND UPDATE REPORT

6.1 The Environment Team Manager introduced the report. This is the second progress report on the implementation of the recommendations from the Scrutiny Review of Becoming a Carbon Neutral Council. The review focussed on the council's scope 1 and scope 2 carbon emissions where the Council has better data and more control over emissions. Work is also underway to tackle scope 3 emissions, including from the Council's supply chain (e.g. targets to reduce emissions have been included in the Highways maintenance contract, and free energy audits and grants are being offered to some smaller suppliers). Around one fifth of the recommendations have been completed with others ongoing due to the length of time needed to implement them. The updated corporate climate emergency action plan will inform how the

additional resource of £3m per year up to 2024-25 to address the County Council's carbon footprint will be spent.

6.2 The Committee discussed the report and a summary of the discussion and issues raised is given below.

#### Carbon Savings vs Costs

6.3 The Committee asked if there is a good understanding of carbon savings versus costs. The Environment Teams Manager outlined that there is a good understanding of the carbon savings of the proposals to reduce carbon emissions, however the costs are changing due to the economic climate. These can be reported back to the Place Scrutiny Committee Working Group and the costs per tonne will be included in the updated corporate climate emergency action plan.

#### De-carbonisation of heating

6.4 The Committee noted the two pilot projects to install heat pumps and carry out other energy efficiency measures at two schools in Herstmonceux and Ninfield. The Committee commented that heat pumps are generally good at maintaining an even temperature but not so good at rapid heating of spaces. Schools heating needs may require a boost to respond to when pupils arrive in the morning or later in the day. It asked if the heating systems being designed in the pilot projects could respond to this requirement (e.g. two phase heat pumps). It was clarified the pilots will consider this point and any lessons learnt. It was also outlined that the use of hydrogen ready boilers will be kept under review.

#### Carbon Offsetting and renewables

6.5 The carbon reduction hierarchy suggests taking steps to reduce emissions first and using offsetting last. However, if the Council wants to use offsetting then it would need to be involved early to achieve the benefits from things such as tree planting. It is probably best to take a multiple approach across all aspects of the carbon hierarchy, which includes carbon reduction measures and offsetting in order to achieve the Council's climate change goals. It would be good to get a view from the Working Group on the approach to take to offsetting.

6.6 There is a fledgeling voluntary natural capital carbon offsetting market. This is a new type of market where landowners are encouraged to undertake tree planting, for example, and then offer the carbon offset on the market. There is currently a South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) funded project to look at brokerage hubs for the voluntary carbon offset market, which is separate to regulated carbon trading schemes.

#### Climate Change Communications Plan

6.7 The Committee observed that the web site information on climate change is not very interactive. The Environment Team Manager outlined that the web pages are in the process of being updated, but there were technology constraints on how interactive the web pages could be. The communications plan is also in the process of being updated. It was clarified that the Environment Board consisted of representatives from a number of external organisations including representatives from Eastbourne Borough Council, Lewes District Council and Wealden District Council.

#### Solar Panels

6.8 The Council has surveyed many of its buildings for suitability to install solar (PV) panels. The target is to complete ten building installations this year and ten in the next year. Other finance and delivery opportunities are currently being discussed with the Procurement team, such as working with local energy co-operatives.

## Electric Vehicle (EV) Charge Points

6.9 The Committee asked whether the Council has looked at different sub-groups of users in devising the EV charging point strategy. The Environment Teams Manager responded that different users are considered (e.g. the charge point at County Hall will also cater for local residents who can access the site). Most charge points will likely be in the 7 Kilowatt range as this meets a number of user needs and is eligible for grant funding.

## Carbon Reduction Target

6.10 The Committee commented that it would be useful to have the impact of each measure in the corporate climate emergency action plan on the Council's 13% per year reduction target when it is updated. The Environment Team Manager responded that where it is possible to measure the amount of carbon reduction for an intervention this can be included in the action plan. Some interventions, such as behaviour change, are difficult to measure so it will not be possible to list the carbon reduction contribution of all interventions.

## School Emissions

6.11 The Committee noted the Government plans to include all schools in multi-academy trusts and asked if it would be possible to include carbon transition plans in trust documents (e.g. the leasing or transfer of school buildings). The Environment Team Manager commented that if a maintained school becomes an academy its emissions will no longer be counted as part of the Council's carbon emissions. Some multi-academy trusts may be large enough to be covered by the Government requirement to report carbon emissions. It is not clear whether the Council would be able to include the requirement to report or have carbon transition plans in academy transfer documents.

## Local Food Partnerships

6.12 The Committee asked if Local Food Partnerships were an area that could be explored in the Council's wider work on climate change. The Environment Team Manager outlined that the Public Health team funds food partnership co-ordinators in all the Borough and Districts in East Sussex.

6.13 The Committee RESOLVED to:

- 1) Note the progress report on the implementation of the recommendations of the review; and
- 2) Note the agreed additional spend on corporate climate change of £3m per year up to 2024-25.

## 7. SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND ECONOMIC REGENERATION

7.1 The Team Manager Economic Development introduced the report. The East Sussex Economy Recovery Plan (ERP) consisted of six missions with a focus on the health of businesses and supporting jobs. The report outlines the Economic Development Team's work on business support throughout the Covid pandemic and the extensive partnership working that was undertaken. The Lead Member for Economy commented that a great deal of progress has been achieved in supporting businesses. He highlighted that future funding opportunities to support business may be reduced and this may also affect the work of the Skills Board.

7.2 The Committee discussed the report and a summary of the points raised is given below.

## Funding

7.3 The Committee discussed the reduction in funding sources available to support business as the European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) comes to an end and is replaced by the less generous UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF). The Committee asked what alternative funding may be available to support businesses in future. The Team Manager Economic Development explained that each of the Borough and District councils has been allocated around £1 million in total from the SPF for the next 3 years. The Team is in discussion with these councils about the use of the SPF fund, and Rother and Wealden District Councils have committed to funding some business support. A proposal for countywide business support is being developed with the Borough and District councils. The Team is unaware of any other funding sources available for business support and any future sources are unlikely to be on the same scale as the former EU funding. The Director of Communities, Economy and Transport added that the grants and loans fund is still available to support small and medium sized businesses.

## Manufacturing Support and TfSE

7.4 The Committee asked if there was support for the manufacturing and construction sectors during the pandemic (e.g. through mission 3) and how the work of Transport for the South East (TfSE) has helped support businesses. The Team Manager Economic Development commented that much of the work to support businesses has been sector specific on sectors such as on tourism. However, the Team has looked at manufacturing and will look at this sector in the future. The Director of Communities, Economy and Transport commented that the TfSE work is part of broader work on economic regeneration and growth.

## Digital Connectivity

7.5 The Committee observed that mission 6 which is activity aimed at capitalising and growing digital connectivity would include the rollout of 5G technology, which has been a divisive issue in some communities. It was clarified that the siting of 5G masts comes under the planning responsibilities of the Borough and District councils. Although the East Sussex County Council is a statutory consultee in the planning process, the Borough and District councils will make final decisions after taking advice from the Health Security Agency. The Council is undertaking work to address connectivity through the Broadband Project and Project Gigabit rollout.

## Locate East Sussex and Businesses Saved

7.6 The Committee asked what the measurable impact had been of the support provided for businesses in terms of businesses saved or business growth. The Team Manager Economic Development responded that the Team does have some impact analysis that can be supplied to the Committee, but the Team does not have any information on the impact of the Covid grants which were administered by the District and Borough councils.

7.7 The Committee noted the information on the success of Locate East Sussex and asked if there is any information on the reasons why business did not locate in East Sussex (e.g. lack of office space or faster connectivity). The Team Manager Economic Development outlined that the lack of land supply and office space tends to be a factor. Businesses more commonly stay and move around in East Sussex rather than new businesses locating here. Some scoping work is being carried out to examine the reasons why businesses locate here (e.g. quality of life factors) and why they do not. Feedback can be gained from enquiries to Locate East Sussex, but there is no information available from commercial property agents at present.

7.8 The Director of Communities, Economy and Transport commented that land and office supply has been an issue which is why infrastructure decisions have been taken to build new office and industrial space to address the market failure in this area. The workforce is also a challenge and work has been undertaken with schools and colleges to ensure the right training courses are available for the skills that employers need. The Employment and Skills team works

with schools to ensure young people have the skills they need to get into employment and supports young people to help them get jobs.

7.9 The Committee RESOLVED to:

- (1) Note the success of the Team East Sussex Economy Recovery Plan;
- (2) Note the ongoing importance of supporting businesses to the economy of East Sussex (paragraph 2.7) and the impact that a current lack of funding for future years will have in providing support to Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs); and
- (3) Note current and ongoing work to support businesses and the economy in the context of much reduced funding levels.

## 8. TRADING STANDARDS SERVICE - UPDATE REPORT

8.1 The Team Manager Trading Standards introduced the report which highlights the changing nature of the pressures on the Service including the new European Union (EU) Exit duties. The report also summarises the Team's work on the response to the Covid pandemic which had a considerable impact on the Team.

8.2 The Committee thanked the Trading Standards Team for their work to protect all residents in East Sussex, including those who may be vulnerable to scams, and welcomed the take up of apprentices within the Team. The Lead Member for Economy commented on the exemplary work of the Team to protect all citizens within East Sussex, and the progress being made to protect those living on their own or who are elderly who have increasingly been targeted by scammers. The Team has also provided advice and guidance to local businesses on exports post EU exit, and will continue to innovate to meet the requirement to carry out checks at the port of Newhaven.

### Work on Scams

8.3 The Committee discussed the Team's work on scams and the impact that it has on victims financially and also on their mental health. The Committee asked what more can be done in this area and how much partnership working is undertaken. The Team Manager Trading Standards outlined that the Team work closely with Sussex Police and on intervention points to help residents. For example, the National Banking Protocol ensures a 999 incident response when large sums of money are withdrawn which can make the difference between preventing a scam succeeding and someone becoming a victim. The Team also works very closely with Borough and District councils and their Environmental Health teams. The close working relationships developed during Covid with the Police and Borough and District councils is being maintained with regular meetings with a lot of joint working on things like messaging and communications. There is a single point of access for services through the Trading Standards Team with a memorandum of understanding in place to exchange information with the Police.

8.4 It was noted that younger people are also being targeted by scams. Recent statistics show that people in the 18-30 age group are more likely to be scammed, but the amount lost per victim is likely to be larger for older people. Face to face work with people who fall victim to scams enables an assessment to be made of the financial and mental health impact on victims. Where appropriate a referral to Adult Social Care can be made for additional support.

8.5 It is thought younger people fall victim to scams due to the amount of on line scams and use of new technology. The Team is developing some training for schools to help young people be aware of the risk, but the amount of work in this area is limited by resources. The messaging around scams is being adjusted to include on line scams that young people may fall victim to. It was clarified that the Team does not have a direct input into national work on in app purchases and gaming. This work is undertaken by the Competition and Markets Authority who will

investigate and make recommendations to protect users who may not be able to protect themselves.

8.6 The Committee RESOLVED to note the activities undertaken by Trading Standards and be aware of current workloads and commitments.

## 9. WORK PROGRAMME

9.1 The committee discussed the work programme and the following points were made.

### Highways Maintenance Issues

9.2 It was agreed to set up a scoping board to examine the previous scrutiny work and Highways maintenance issues raised at the last meeting.

### Hailsham East Community Centre

9.3 Councillor Murphy outlined that he had not received responses to all the questions he had raised at the last meeting about the Hailsham East Community Centre. It was agreed that the Chief Operating Officer and the Director of Children's Services, as appropriate, would follow this up with Councillor Murphy after the meeting.

### LTP4 Reference Group and TfSE – Strategic Infrastructure Plan

9.4 The Committee noted that the new Department for Transport (DfT) guidance on Local Transport Plans (LTP) is due to be issued in September/October this year and that Transport for the South East (TfSE) is currently consulting on their Strategic Infrastructure Plan which has links to the LTP. The Chair of the LTP4 Reference Group suggested that members of the Group be canvassed about arranging another meeting to have a briefing on the TfSE Strategy and to progress issues. It was agreed that the Chair of the LTP4 Reference Group would canvas members about having a briefing on the Strategy.

### Review Board on Countywide Climate Change Work

9.5 The Committee discussed establishing a review board to review the Council's Countywide work on climate change, which could look at countywide actions and how the Council works with other organisations (e.g. District and Borough councils) on this issue. It was agreed to add this as a potential scrutiny review topic to the Committee's work programme and develop a draft terms of reference through a scoping meeting.

### EV Charging

9.6 The Committee asked about the progress on work to implement an Electric Vehicle (EV) charging strategy for the County. The Environment Team Manager outlined that work was underway to establish what sort of EV charging network would be right for East Sussex to meet the County's needs and was confident that the Council will be able to have a good charging network in place in time for the transition to Electric Vehicles. The Committee noted that there may be a National Grid capacity issue in implementing a network of charge points, and supported a cautious approach to implementation which meets the needs of the County.

### Asset Transfer/Disposal Process

9.7 The Committee discussed a potential scrutiny review topic of examining how the Council makes decisions about the disposal or retention for income generation or asset transfer to community groups, of assets that have been declared surplus to the Council's operational needs. The Chair asked Committee members to contact either himself or the Senior Scrutiny Adviser after the meeting if they would be interested in examining the potential scope for a review on this topic.

9.8 The Committee RESOLVED to:

- 1) Note agenda items for the future Committee meetings, including items listed in the work programme in appendix 1;
- 2) Note the upcoming items on East Sussex County Council's (ESCC) Forward Plan in appendix 2 to identify any issues that may require more detailed scrutiny; and.
- 3) Agree to amend the Committee's work programme in line with paragraphs 9.2, 9.4, 9.5 and 9.7 above.

The meeting ended at 12.27 pm.

Councillor Matthew Beaver (Chair)

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**Report to:** Place Scrutiny Committee

**Date of meeting:** 30 September 2022

**By:** Chief Executive

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

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

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**The Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:**

- (1) consider the information in the attached RPPR Cabinet report of 29 September 2022 (appendix 1), including the updated Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and approach to one-off investments; and**
  - (2) identify any further work or information needed to aid the Scrutiny Committee's contribution to the RPPR process for consideration at the November meeting, or as part of the Committee's ongoing work programme.**
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## **1. Background**

1.1 On 29 September Cabinet will consider a Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) update report. Following on from the State of the County report in June, the report sets out an updated picture of how the Council will need to refresh its service and financial plans to deal with the high level of financial uncertainty and the changing national policy agenda.

1.2 The report outlines that, since June, the instability in our planning context has persisted, with significant further national economic and political developments. A new Prime Minister took office on 6 September and, although the new Government's policy agenda and priorities are beginning to emerge, there remains uncertainty over whether, or how, national policy proposals brought forward by the previous administration will be progressed. The new Government takes over at a time when 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. The national economic conditions are impacting on our projected future financial position, alongside pre-existing pressures and uncertainties.

1.3 The report (attached at Appendix 1) provides an update on the rapidly evolving context that will continue to inform planning for 2023/24, and includes:

- updates on key policy context developments since June;
- updates on the financial context and an updated Medium Term Financial Plan for 2023/24-2025/26;
- an update on the capital programme and next steps; and
- a proposed approach to the use of the one-off Services Grant of £5.175m received as part of the Finance Settlement for 2022/23, which was set aside for potential one-off investments, in light of the increasingly challenging financial outlook and taking account of feedback from Scrutiny Committees.

1.4 The report highlights that the RPPR process, which brings together our policy, business and financial planning and risk management, continues to provide the robust mechanism to help us navigate this uncertain environment, supporting planning for 2023/24 and beyond and maintaining focus on our priority outcomes.

## **2. Overview of Scrutiny engagement in RPPR**

2.1 At their **July** meetings the People and Place Scrutiny Committees discussed relevant parts of the 2021/22 year end monitoring report and the State of the County 2022 report, both of which had been considered by Cabinet in June. These reports enabled the Committees to review current service and financial performance information, as well as considering new developments which will impact on services, to ensure a full understanding of the current context and future pressures for the areas within the remit of the Committee. Scrutiny work planning awaydays held in early September provided a further opportunity to consider issues raised and whether, or how, these should be reflected in the Committees' ongoing work programmes.

2.2 The **September** meetings provide an opportunity to consider further developments in the policy and financial context and how these will impact on planning for 2023/24 and beyond. The attached Cabinet report provides an update on the significant developments that have occurred since June, together with an updated Medium Term Financial Plan. Members are invited to:

- consider and comment on the developments in the planning context, particularly as they impact on services within the Committee's remit;
- review the updated MTFP (appendix 1 to the Cabinet report); and
- to consider whether any further information is required for the November meeting to inform scrutiny's ongoing input to the RPPR process.

2.3 The **November** Committee meetings provide an opportunity to consider or request any further information required by scrutiny to inform engagement with RPPR, and to further fine tune the scrutiny work programme to ensure the committee is in the best position to contribute to the ongoing RPPR process.

2.4 The committee's **RPPR Board** will meet on 22 December 2022 to agree detailed comments and any recommendations on the budget and emerging portfolio plans to be put to Cabinet on behalf of the committee in January 2023. The Chairs of the People and Place Scrutiny Committees are invited to attend the RPPR boards of both committees.

2.5 The **March 2023 Scrutiny Committees** will review the process and their input into the RPPR process and receive feedback on how scrutiny input has been reflected in final plans. Any issues arising can be reflected in the future committee work programme.

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

## **3. Conclusion and reason for recommendations**

3.1 As part of its ongoing input to the RPPR process, the Committee is recommended to consider the updated information provided by this report and identify any further information it requires to support further engagement in the planning process. The Committee is also recommended to consider any amendments to its work programme to aid its contribution to the ongoing RPPR process.

**BECKY SHAW**  
**Chief Executive**

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**Report to:** Cabinet  
**Date:** 29 September 2022  
**By:** Chief Executive  
**Title of report:** Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) – Update  
**Purpose of report:** To update Members on the latest policy context, Medium Term Financial Plan and capital programme and proposed approach to one-off investments.

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**Cabinet is recommended to:**

- i. note the updated policy and demographic context as set out in paragraph 2;
  - ii. note the updated Medium Term Financial Plan as set out in paragraph 3 and appendix 1;
  - iii. approve the allocation of £270,000 from the £5.175m Services Grant funding to support staff recruitment and retention as set out in paragraph 4.5, and to hold the remainder of the funding in the Priority and Transformation Reserve;
  - iv. note the capital programme update as set out in paragraph 5 and appendix 2; and
  - v. agree to continue lobbying for sustainable funding to meet the needs of the residents of East Sussex.
- 

## **1. Background**

1.1. In June Cabinet considered the State of the County report, a key milestone in the Council's Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) process, its integrated business and financial planning cycle. The report set out the updated demographic, economic and service evidence base; the national and local policy context; and updates on our medium term financial planning position and capital programme. It gave our latest understanding of how we will need to continue to respond to the broad and rapidly evolving range of policy, demographic and financial drivers which influence the outlook for the Council, both in the short and longer-term.

1.2. The report illustrated the high levels of uncertainty and change that continue to dominate the environment within which we are working and planning. Factors such as the volatile national and international economic situation and the undefined impact of national reforms to many of our key service areas, particularly social care, contributed to a highly uncertain financial outlook. As a result of this unclear and evolving picture it was not possible to present an updated Medium Term Financial Plan as part of State of the County.

1.3. Since June, the instability in our planning context has persisted, with significant further national economic and political developments. A new Prime Minister took office on 6 September and although the new Government's policy agenda and priorities are beginning to emerge, there remains uncertainty over whether, or how, national policy proposals brought forward by the previous administration will be progressed. The new Government takes over at a time when 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.

1.4. The RPPR process, which brings together our policy, business and financial planning and risk management, continues to provide the robust mechanism to help us navigate this uncertain environment, supporting planning for 2023/24 and beyond and maintaining focus on our four priority outcomes:

- Driving sustainable economic growth;
- Keeping vulnerable people safe;
- Helping people help themselves; and
- Making best use of resources, now and for the future.

The priority outcome that the Council makes the “best use of resources, now and for the future” is a test that is applied to all activities to ensure sustainability of our resources, both in terms of money and the environment. In June Cabinet also agreed, for planning purposes, a number of changes to the delivery outcomes which underpin these priorities to ensure they remain up to date and appropriately reflect the post-Covid context.

1.5. With our firm foundation of careful management of resources over many years, and with the assistance of Government Covid support during the pandemic, we have been able to maintain stability in service provision in recent years and we are managing current, in-year pressures within our current plans and contingency arrangements. However, the financial outlook in the medium term is increasingly challenging and uncertain with national economic conditions impacting on our projected future position, alongside pre-existing pressures and uncertainties. This report provides our latest assessment of the position.

1.6. As reported in June, the allocation of a single year Services Grant by Government, as part of the finance settlement for 2022/23, presents an opportunity to consider making one-off investments where these could help manage future demand, address future issues or help deliver priorities. However, the difficult economic situation, and resulting additional pressures on Council services and our financial position, form a new backdrop against which to consider the appropriate use of one-off funding.

1.7. This report provides Members with an update on the rapidly evolving context that will continue to inform our planning for 2023/24, and includes:

- updates on key policy context developments since June;
- updates on the financial context and an updated Medium Term Financial Plan for 2023/24-2025/26;
- an update on the capital programme and next steps; and
- a proposed approach to one-off investments.

## 2. Policy context update

2.1 The context the Council is operating within continues to change rapidly. Key areas in which there have been developments since the State of the County report, or in which further developments are expected this autumn, are detailed below.

- **National Government changes** - On 5 September Liz Truss was announced as the new Leader of the Conservative Party and Prime Minister. She indicated that her Government's initial priorities would be growing the economy, addressing energy price rises and energy supply, and access to NHS services. New ministerial appointments were made in early September including Simon Clarke as the new Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. Further detail of the new Government's policy agenda, and how that will impact on local government, is expected to emerge during the autumn, after a pause in parliamentary business during the period of mourning following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

- **National economic context** – since June, national economic conditions have become increasingly challenging with forecasts indicating this is likely to continue for some time. Inflation, as measured by the Consumer Prices Index (CPI), reached 10.1% in the 12 months to July and, despite an unexpected fall to 9.9% in August, is currently forecast by the Bank of England to peak at 13% in the coming few months before reducing to the 2% target over the next two years. The high rate has been driven particularly by significant increases in the cost of energy and food, both linked to the ongoing war in Ukraine amongst other factors, and creates significant cost of living pressures for individuals and families. The Institute for Fiscal Studies has highlighted that lower income households are likely to face higher rates of inflation than the headline figures suggest because they spend a higher proportion of their income on food and energy. In response to rising inflation the Bank of England raised interest rates by 0.5% to 1.75% in August – the largest increase since 1995 - with further rises anticipated.

In late August the energy regulator Ofgem announced an 80% increase in the cap on household energy prices from 1 October to £3,549 (annual cost for dual fuel for an average household). Although Ofgem did not provide specific price cap projections for the new year due to ongoing market volatility, it was indicated that there could be significant further increases through 2023. The regulator's announcement highlighted the significant impact this would have on households and called for further support from Government in addition to measures already introduced to support households with energy bills earlier in the year. Research published by the University of York indicated that, without further action, around two thirds of UK households could be in fuel poverty (spending more than 10% of net income on fuel) by January. Significant concerns have also been raised nationally about the impact of inflated energy prices on the sustainability of some businesses, who are not covered by the price cap.

In response to the significant rise in energy prices, on 8 September the new Government announced a package of measures to ensure that typical households will pay no more than £2,500 a year on gas and electricity bills from 1 October through an Energy Price Guarantee. The Prime Minister confirmed that the new price guarantee will last for two years and will be paired with both the existing Energy Bill Support Scheme, which will provide £400 support to households, and a £150 saving, brought about by a temporary suspension of green levies on energy bills. Households who do not pay direct for mains gas and electricity – such as those living in park homes or on heat networks – will receive support through a new fund. The Government will also support business, charities and public sector organisations with their energy costs this winter, providing an equivalent guarantee for six months. In addition, the Treasury announced a joint scheme, working with the Bank of England, to provide resilience to both energy and financial markets, and the economy, and reduce the eventual cost for businesses and consumers. The Government also announced a new Energy Supply Taskforce to agree long-term contracts that reduce the price charged for energy and increase the security of its supply.

- Even with the additional Government support with energy prices, the impact of the increases in the cost of living on residents, particularly those already experiencing financial hardship, can be expected to result in increased need for public services and voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector support locally. We will continue to work with partners on ways to maximise access for vulnerable residents to the advice and support available. The multi-agency East Sussex Financial Inclusion Steering Group has been re-established, bringing together statutory and VCSE sector organisations to co-ordinate support. The Group's initial work includes using data to help target support effectively, identifying shared priorities and approaches for improving financial inclusion, and maximising funding opportunities and the uptake of benefits and other financial support by vulnerable residents. Partners are also supporting residents to

get access to the right information, including through the development of a local cost of living webpage, to be hosted on the East Sussex County Council (ESCC) website, which will bring sources of help and advice together in one place.

As well as the potential for increased demand on services, high energy prices and inflation also impact directly on our operating costs as set out in more detail in paragraph 3 below. Levels of inflation and cost of living pressures are impacting on pay negotiations across the workforce in both the public and private sectors. Combined with a reduction in the active workforce post-Covid and low rates of unemployment there remains a highly competitive and challenging environment for recruitment and retention of staff. For ESCC this means we are continuing to experience significant challenges in recruiting to posts across the organisation, particularly front line social care roles, which impacts on the capacity in services. Part of our response to this issue has been the launch of a new recruitment brand in September, promoting the Council as an excellent place to work and 'employer of choice'.

- Looking ahead, the outlook for the UK economy over the next 18 months has worsened compared to forecasts earlier in the year. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) fell by 0.1% in the second quarter of 2022, the first fall in GDP since early 2021. The Bank of England forecasts that the economy will go into recession later this year, with output falling from the last quarter of 2022 to the last quarter of 2023. Even when growth resumes, it is forecast to be "very weak".

The Government has indicated that the Chancellor will make a fiscal statement (as opposed to a full Budget statement) on 23 September which will include setting out the cost and funding of the energy support package. The statement may also include details of the new Government's taxation policy and plans to strengthen economic growth. Any implications of the statement for ESCC will be reported verbally at the Cabinet meeting.

- **Adult Social Care charging reform** – In July the Government published updated operational guidance on implementing the cap on care costs, which included a change to the implementation of one aspect of the reforms, the extension of Section 18(3) of the Care Act 2014 which will allow people who are self-funding their care costs to have residential care for eligible needs arranged by their local authority at local authority rates (this provision is already in place for domiciliary care). In response to concerns expressed during consultation about the workability of full implementation of this aspect from October 2023 it will now be phased, with people newly entering residential care from October 2023 initially eligible, and the full roll-out to those already living in residential care to take place by April 2025, or earlier if the market can sustain it. This does not affect people's ability to use the cap on care costs as all care users will be able to meter towards the cap from October 2023.

In August, Government published a technical consultation on proposals for distributing funding to local authorities to support the first year of delivery of charging reform in 2023 to 2024, including funding for undertaking an increased number of financial and needs assessments, and implementing the extension to the means test and the cap on care costs. Our response raised concerns about whether the allocations under any of the methodologies proposed would be sufficient to cover our costs and emphasised the importance of factoring in the existing number of self-funding individuals in an area given the link to the likely impact of the reforms.

To support initial preparations for implementing the reforms we have been allocated £97,792 in 2022/23. The Adult Social Care and Health department has initiated a programme of work to deliver the required changes to systems and processes, linking this to activity already underway to develop an Adult Social Care Strategy to ensure that

the needs and aspirations of local people and other stakeholders are woven into priority projects and programmes going forward. Work continues to analyse the potential impact of charging reforms in East Sussex, with a key next step being the requirement to produce a provisional Market Sustainability Plan to submit to the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) by mid-October. The very significant potential financial impact of the reforms on the County Council is outlined in paragraph 3 below.

Funding linked to charging reforms does not cover existing growth in demand for social care. We will therefore need to continue to lobby with others in the sector for Government to address ongoing social care pressures in a sustainable way that reduces reliance on Council Tax, as well as highlighting the additional impact of reforms, including the significant consequences for the NHS and the care home market, as well as Councils, if reforms are implemented without sufficient time or funding.

- **Health and social care integration** – On 1 July Integrated Care Systems (ICS) came into being on a statutory basis across England. Locally, this saw the replacement of the East Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group with the NHS Sussex Integrated Care Board which took over responsibility for commissioning most local health services across East and West Sussex and Brighton & Hove. In August DHSC issued further guidance on how ICSs are expected to work with Health and Wellbeing Boards, Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees and care providers, as well as statutory guidance for Integrated Care Partnerships on the preparation of Integrated Care Strategies. The guidance will inform local approaches as new arrangements become fully established over the coming months.
- **Levelling Up and devolution** – The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill continues to progress through parliament, reaching Committee stage in the House of Commons before the summer recess. It is expected to continue its progress through the autumn. August saw the announcement of two proposed new devolution deals - one in North Yorkshire and York and another covering the East Midlands. Both deals included a focus on skills, transport and infrastructure and included the adoption of a directly elected mayor for the area covered by the deal. Further devolution announcements from the initial round of County Deal negotiations signalled in the Levelling Up White Paper are anticipated by the end of the year. ESCC will continue to monitor developments closely to understand the detail of new devolution deals and any opportunities presented by the Government's devolution offer.
- **Climate Change** – The impacts of climate change received increased focus over the summer in light of the heat waves experienced locally and nationally which necessitated a multi-agency emergency response. A drought was declared across large parts of England, including East Sussex, during August following a lack of rainfall over the summer. Locally, work is ongoing to update the Council's corporate Climate Emergency Plan which sets out the actions we are taking to work towards becoming a carbon neutral council as soon as possible and by 2050 at the latest.
- **Support for refugees and asylum seekers** – East Sussex households have continued to welcome and host guests from Ukraine over the summer with ongoing support in place through partnership arrangements between the County Council, district and borough councils and the VCSE. The autumn will see many hosting arrangements reach the end of the initial six month period and locally there has been a focus on putting in place 'moving on' arrangements where these may be needed. This includes supporting guests to secure accommodation for the longer term if hosts are not able to continue to offer this, and to find suitable employment. It was announced in July that the national Homes for Ukraine scheme would be extended to allow new applications from those aged under 18 who are not travelling with or joining their parent or legal guardian. The

process for these applications requires the planned sponsor (who should have a pre-existing relationship with the Ukrainian family) to undergo safeguarding checks by their local Council before an eligible child can start their visa application. There is also an expectation that hosts will agree to look after the child for a minimum of three years.

In August, in response to an increasing number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) arriving in the country, the Government announced changes to the National Transfer Scheme (NTS). The ten day transfer deadline has been reduced to five working days for all transfers of UASC not currently in the care of a local authority and the upper threshold for the number of UASC to be received by any local authority under the NTS has been increased from 0.07% to 0.1% of a Council's general child population (for East Sussex this is an increase from 74 to 106). ESCC continues to play a full part in the NTS as well as supporting any additional unaccompanied children arriving under the separate Homes for Ukraine scheme. Increased numbers of arrivals under both schemes will require additional support from local services.

As reported at State of the County, to address pressure on the asylum system, the Home Office announced earlier in the year the move to a 'Full Dispersal' system whereby all local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales will be expected to be asylum dispersal areas and will receive new Government funding to support this. Government has said the change is needed as the asylum system is under enormous and unsustainable pressure due to the challenges of the pandemic and significant increase in small boat crossings in the English Channel which has continued over the summer. Consultation with local authorities has been undertaken to shape the design of the reformed system and how it will be implemented. In the south east local authorities are working with the South East Strategic Partnership for Migration to develop a regional asylum dispersal plan for consideration by the Home Office.

- **Public service reforms** – as set out in the State of the County report, Government is progressing a range of public service reviews and reforms that will have implications for services delivered by the County Council. Key areas in which Government response and future direction are awaited include the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and Alternative Provision Green Paper and the National Review of Children's Social Care services. Announcements and progress in each of these areas is expected in the coming months.

2.2 We expect further detail of policy developments and the resulting implications for the County Council to become clearer in the coming months and will continue to factor these into planning for 2023/24 and beyond.

2.3 Since State of the County we have also received initial headline results from the 2021 Census which add to our understanding of the demographic make-up of the county as set out in the Focus on East Sussex appendix in June. The Census results suggest the East Sussex population was approximately 545,800 in 2021, a growth of 3.6% since 2011. With the exception of Wealden (7.5%), all districts in East Sussex registered population growth below the national average (6.6%); Hastings registered the lowest population growth at just 0.9%. However, the rate of population growth varied across the age bands, for example East Sussex saw an 46.6% increase in 70-74 year olds between 2011 and 2021, compared to a national increase of 36.8%. More detailed statistics from the Census will be released by the Office for National Statistics over the coming months and will be used to inform our business planning processes.

### 3. Medium Term Financial Plan

3.1 It remains difficult to plan for 2023/24 and beyond. The level of Government funding that ESCC will receive between 2023/24 – 2025/26 is yet to be confirmed; Although the Spending Review (SR) 2021 covered three years, the subsequent Local Government Settlement was for a single year only and therefore allocation of funding for this planning period will be announced at the provisional Local Government Settlement for 2023/24, which will be in the late autumn of 2022. The economic context has also changed significantly since SR 2021. The impact of the pandemic, global supply chain issues and levels of inflation not seen for decades, combined with the Ukraine situation, has led to an unprecedented level of financial uncertainty.

3.2 Initial updates to the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for State of the County in July estimated a deficit budget position by 2025/26 of £14.999m, with further work required over the summer on the details, including the budget requirements for services. The MTFP is now updated to reflect service pressures and more detailed analysis.

3.3 The impact of the updates is summarised in the table below and provides a deficit budget position by 2025/26 of £31.5m.

<b>Medium Term Financial Plan</b>	<b>2023/24 £m</b>	<b>2024/25 £m</b>	<b>2025/26 £m</b>
<b>Annual Budget Deficit / (Surplus)</b>	<b>17.544</b>	<b>9.661</b>	<b>4.266</b>
<b>Total Budget Deficit / (Surplus)</b>	<b>17.544</b>	<b>27.205</b>	<b>31.471</b>

3.4 The net impact of delayed funding reform is presented in the MTFP (as modelled by LG Futures) from 2024/25, however this could be subject to further delay and formula changes. Future Ministerial policy decisions on the nature of any further reform and how this will impact the continuation of existing Business Rate and pooling arrangements for 2023/24 and onward, are not clear. This includes the unknown impact of business rates revaluation from 1 April 2023, and the cycle of revaluation reducing from five years to three years.

3.5 As a result of the major national Adult Social Care charging reforms (referenced at 2.1 above and set out in more detail within the State of the County report), local authorities will become responsible for funding care for a larger number of people as more residents become eligible for local authority funded care and support. The rate local authorities will need to pay providers for individual placements will increase. There will also be a significant increase in demand for both Care Act and financial assessments which will increase operational costs. Analysis undertaken nationally by the County Councils Network shows that these reforms will impact most significantly on counties in the south east. This is due to the relatively high number of older people in the population and the higher proportion of people with eligible care needs who currently pay for their own care (self-funders), coupled with the higher cost of care compared to other regions of the country.

3.6 We have undertaken local modelling to estimate the potential impact in East Sussex, taking into account specific local factors in our population and care market. Whilst there are a number of uncertainties, our best estimates show that approximately 3,800 additional people in home care and residential and nursing care may require a Care Act Assessment, of which approximately 3,200 may have eligible needs and require a Care Account, advice and their care being brokered by the Council. There is the potential for a net pressure across the MTFP period of £60.5m after national funding to support reforms (as currently indicated) is taken into account. Our estimates will continue to be refined as more information becomes

available. For information, the estimated pressure is presented in more detail separately to the MTFP at the 'Impact of Adult Social Care' section as part of appendix 1. The estimated pressure is not included within the MTFP as lobbying continues for this new burden to be fully funded by Government. The projected impacts clearly illustrate that it would not be possible for ESCC to bear the costs of the reforms without significant further national support as current levels of Government funding are not sufficient.

3.7 In addition to Adult Social Care reforms, there are a range of other significant policy and legislative changes across services, particularly within Children's Services where the proposed reforms are in the context of, and are in part linked to, ongoing rising demand. In light of these pressures, the Children's Services Department has produced a sustainability plan to improve outcomes for children while reducing costs to the council, primarily through the implementation of the nationally trialled Family Safeguarding model which is also in line with the recommendations of the recently published Independent Review of Children's Social Care. The proposed model has been discussed with the People Scrutiny Committee which expressed strong support for its aim to support adult carers and parents and keep more children with their families. The initial £5.4m cost pressure over three years before full implementation of this plan is included in the MTFP at appendix 1, reflecting the intention that Family Safeguarding forms a key part of a longer term approach to sustainability in Children's Services. Its implementation is expected to lead to cost avoidance/savings of over £11m over that period, given the current trend of rising demand.

3.8 At a local level, the impact the economic downturn and cost of living crisis has had, and will have, on collection rates and base growth for Council Tax and the levels of Business Rates remain unclear, and local Council Tax Reduction Schemes will see a further reduction in the collection of Council Tax.

3.9 A detailed MTFP after normal updates and proposed pressures is shown at appendix 1.

3.10 As set out above, our estimated deficit for 2023/24 is £17.544m. However, as detailed above, we know there is uncertainty about future funding allocations, and in resetting the MTFP and presenting the budget position for 2023/24 and beyond. Additionally, a number of scenarios around inflation could also impact the possible level of budget deficit that will need to be addressed. These are summarised in the table below.

<b>Scenarios to be considered</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>Total</b>
1% on pay 2023/24	1.784	0.054	0.055	1.893
1% inflation in <b>all</b> years on contracts (excluding Waste Private Finance Initiative (PFI))	2.904	3.397	3.705	10.006
1% inflation in all years on Business Rates income	(0.840)	(0.940)	(0.980)	(2.760)

3.11 At this point in the RPPR process it is not possible to present a balanced MTFP due to the considerable level of national funding uncertainty.

3.12 We continue to benchmark our services against other local authorities to ensure these provide best value for money and to learn from others. Over the coming months, we will work to refine the budget to update for the impact of the Local Government Settlement, in whatever form that takes, whilst reflecting updated assessments of budget pressures, including Council Tax and Business Rates. If there is a deficit on the 2023/24 budget, and in line with our robust financial management policies and procedures, one option will be to bring grant funding forward and/or use reserves to mitigate this position until the medium to

longer term funding position is clarified. Given the level of uncertainty about future funding, and pressures currently being experienced by services, it is not proposed to seek new savings at this point.

#### **4. One-off investment**

4.1 As reported at State of the County in June the Local Government Settlement provided the Council with a Services Grant of £5.175m for 2022/23. As this was presented by Government as a one-off grant, which would not be taken into consideration for transitional protection when future changes are made to the local government funding regime, it was agreed that this grant would be held in reserves for potential one-off investment opportunities.

4.2 Opportunities for use of this one-off resource, which can be revenue and/or capital in nature and can be spread across multiple years, have been considered in line with the principles endorsed by Cabinet in June and reviewed by scrutiny in July:

- enabling a significant improvement in delivering to the Council's priorities and/or performance targets
- managing service demands
- avoiding future costs
- proactively addressing known future issues; or
- having a positive impact on the MTFP.

Both People and Place Scrutiny Committees were supportive of the proposed criteria for assessing potential investments. Scrutiny comments focused on how the criteria could be interpreted or applied such as through providing an opportunity to test new approaches, and ensuring that any investments were in line with the Council's priority outcomes and would help prepare for challenges ahead, given the level of change and uncertainty.

4.3 The developments in our financial outlook since State of the County set out above, and increased projected deficit within the MTFP, form a new backdrop to consideration of how the Services Grant funding is best used to support our position going into 2023/24. Potential areas for investment were considered by Scrutiny earlier in September in this context and, although there was support for investments which met the criteria above, both People and Place Scrutiny Committees recommended that the level of financial uncertainty be carefully considered in coming to a view on the best approach.

4.4 In light of the latest MTFP outlook, the significant ongoing uncertainty in the economy and the feedback from Scrutiny, a prudent approach which will reduce the potential requirement for future savings is recommended. It is proposed to continue to hold the majority of the Services Grant funding in reserves for a longer period to provide additional security until the financial outlook is clearer. There remains the option to reconsider investments as part of budget setting in the new year when details of the finance settlement for 2023/24 are known.

4.5 However, given the significant workforce challenges the Council is currently experiencing and the immediacy and impact of these, it is recommended to allocate £270,000 across the remainder of the current financial year and 2023/24 to support ongoing actions to maximise the recruitment and retention of staff. This funding, which was identified as a priority by Place Scrutiny Committee, will enable the continuation of current work on the development of an employer brand and updated recruitment materials to identify the Council as an employer of choice. This includes work to extend 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 funding will also provide for the forecasting of workforce 'gaps' and future need, as well as investment in the continuous professional development of our staff and the promotion of the range of

financial wellbeing services available to staff which provide tangible benefits in response to the current significant financial challenges being faced by many.

4.6 Previous one-off investments in highways and climate change, agreed by Cabinet in November 2021, continue to be delivered. Progress in relation to climate change is reported as part of the annual progress report elsewhere on this agenda. Investment of £5.8m, over and above our existing annual capital maintenance programme, was allocated to additional highway improvement works including further patching, lines and road markings, repairs to pavements and repair and replacement of road signs. These works will have a visible positive impact for all road users.

4.7 The additional carriageway patching and pavement works programmes are underway and on track to be completed by 31 March 2023. The extra investment has enabled an additional 356 carriageway patches to be completed up to the end of June, totalling 10,580m<sup>2</sup> over 209 sites, and a further 300 sites have been identified to be completed by March. Approximately 100 footway resurfacing schemes are targeted to be completed this year in addition to 85 small footway patching schemes already delivered and further small patching works. The road marking/lining and road signs works will be delivered over two financial years in line with the availability of the required resources and seasonal programming of lining works, with forecast completion by 31 March 2024 to enable efficient delivery and ensure value for money.

## **5. Capital Programme**

5.1 The programme has been updated for approved variations since the State of the County in July 2022, increasing the gross programme to £681.2m to 2031/32, details of which can be found at appendix 2.

5.2 The 10 year capital programme to 2031/32 and 20 year Capital Strategy 2022/23 to 2042/43 will be updated as part of the RPPR process over the autumn to add a year and to include consideration of the impact and management of inflation and supply chain issues, alongside any updates relating to funding, programme and project profiles and any other investment basic need.

## **6. Lobbying and Communications**

6.1 The medium term outlook has become increasingly challenging. We face a very significant and growing financial gap linked to the acute impacts of the national economic situation which could not be foreseen and are outside of local control. Coupled with this, the uncertain impact of national reforms in major service areas remains and we await clarity on long-term funding arrangements, particularly for existing pressures and reforms in Adult Social Care, which continues to make planning difficult. Fundamentally, without further Government support or sustainable reform of local government finances we will not have the funding we need for the future.

6.2 In the context of this unprecedented uncertainty, and the new Government formulating its response to current challenges and its ongoing policy programme, our lobbying will be vital. We will call for specific support with the impacts of current economic conditions which we cannot control, alongside recognition of the additional demand these conditions create on services already under pressure as a result of the increases in cost of living driving increased need in our communities, and workforce shortages limiting our capacity to respond. We will also strongly make the case for increased time and resource to deliver much needed reform to Adult Social Care and for longer term sustainability of future funding for local government, which is appropriately reflective of local need. This will be essential to ensuring we secure adequate resources to deliver what will be required to

support East Sussex residents, communities and businesses with the core services they need in the years ahead. We will continue to work individually, with our partners across the region and with the sector nationally to articulate these messages clearly and actively, supported by local evidence of the issues we face.

## **7. Next Steps**

7.1. This report confirms the high level of uncertainty within which planning for 2023/24 is taking place. Much is to be determined around national spending allocations and priorities for 2023/24 onwards, the impact of national reforms, and the medium to longer term impact of current economic conditions.

7.2. Thanks to our sound financial management and clear focus on priorities we are in a position to manage immediate financial pressures but the situation for next financial year and beyond presents considerable challenges and our response will depend on levels of national support. In the short term, this report proposes to use one-off funding to support the recruitment and retention of our essential staff and to provide additional security until the financial outlook is clearer.

7.3. Work will continue throughout the autumn and winter to understand the detailed funding picture as it emerges, the implications of national policy developments and to refine our understanding of the county's needs as new demographic data emerges. This analysis will feed into our ongoing business and financial planning.

7.4. Members will continue to be involved in developing plans through Cabinet, County Council, Scrutiny Committees, and specific engagement sessions throughout the 2022/23 RPPR process.

**BECKY SHAW**  
**Chief Executive**

## 1. Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Update

- 1.1 The MTFP (with the exclusion of Adult Social Care reform – shown separately) has been updated for regular calculated adjustments and the additional year of 2025/26, the movements are summarised below. The full MTFP is provided at Annex 1.

	Ref	Estimate (£m)			
		2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total
<b>Council 8 February 2022 DEFICIT</b>		<b>2.892</b>	<b>6.716</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9.608</b>
<b>Normal Updates</b>					
Council Tax Base Growth uplift plus added year	A	(0.330)	(2.154)	(5.545)	(8.029)
Council Tax Base (Rother District Council error)		0.648	0.036	0.009	0.693
Council Tax Inflation (added year assumed at 1.99%)	B	-	-	(6.984)	(6.984)
Business Rates Retention (inflation and growth)	C	(2.809)	(1.047)	(1.659)	(5.515)
Business Rate Revaluation		tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
Updates to Funding by D&Bs Received Post Budget Setting	D	(5.150)	2.254	0.000	(2.896)
<b>Impact of Delay to Funding Reform – one year roll over</b>					
Revenue Support Grant	E	(3.011)	3.011	-	0.000
Continuation and increase in Services Grant		(4.513)	4.513	-	0.000
New Homes Bonus		(0.888)	0.888	-	0.000
Funding Reform net impact from 2024/25	F	-	(8.549)	(2.476)	(11.025)
<b>Communities, Economy and Transport - Waste considerations</b>					
Contractual inflation – Waste PFI Model	G	2.335	(0.146)	0.920	3.109
Services Growth and Demography: Waste Housing Growth		-	-	0.358	0.358
Household Waste Charging Consultation		tbc	tbc	tbc	Tbc
Inflation for contracts (normal and contract specific)	H	9.117	1.761	11.816	22.694
Highways Contract re-procurement pressure	I	1.794	0.256	0.313	2.363
Highways Contract inflation included in MTFP model		(0.787)	(0.294)	-	(1.081)
Services Growth & Demography (Children's Services only)	J	0.265	0.404	0.808	1.477
<b>Children's Services - Financial Sustainability</b>					
COVID Looked After Children (LAC) pressure	K	-	-	1.758	1.758
COVID LAC funding		-	-	(1.758)	(1.758)
School attendance (new duty)		1.500	-	-	1.500
Home to School Transport		4.021	-	-	4.021
Other incl. Family Safeguarding		2.601	(0.398)	(1.600)	0.603
Treasury Management	L	(1.500)	-	2.400	0.900
Pay Award uplift: impact of final offer for 2022/23 (av. 7%)	M	5.862	-	-	5.862
Pay Award uplift: 4% in 2023/24; 3% thereafter		4.047	2.420	5.764	12.231
Levies Increase	N	-	-	0.012	0.012
General Contingency	O	0.150	(0.010)	0.130	0.270
<b>Pressures added to / (removed from) the MTFP</b>					
Pressures Protocol bid; Energy price increases	P	1.300	-	-	1.300
<b>DEFICIT AFTER NORMAL UPDATES</b>		<b>17.544</b>	<b>9.661</b>	<b>4.266</b>	<b>31.471</b>

Updates to be considered – for local decision		2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total
Proceeds of NNDR Pooling (if continued)	Q	(1.787)	1.787	-	0.000
Employers Pension Contribution: valuation impact	R	(1.800)	(0.020)	-	(1.820)
<b>DEFICIT AFTER LOCAL DECISIONS</b>		<b>13.957</b>	<b>11.428</b>	<b>4.266</b>	<b>29.651</b>

- 1.2 The assumption for Council Tax is an increase of 1.99% in all years; the current limit before referendum is triggered. The Adult Social Care precept assumption is for 1% in 2022/23 and 2023/24 in line with the Spending Review 2021 (SR21) announcement that authorities with social care responsibilities are expected to have flexibility over this period.
- 1.3 A number of scenarios around inflation may then present themselves particularly on pay and contracts. The below table shows the impact of a 1% movement in these areas.

Scenarios to be considered	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total
1% on pay 2023/24	1.784	0.054	0.055	1.893
1% inflation in <b>all</b> years on contracts (ex. Waste PFI)	2.904	3.397	3.705	10.006
1% inflation in all years on Business Rates income	(0.840)	(0.940)	(0.980)	(2.760)

### Normal Updates:

#### A Council Tax Base

The base position of normal growth was estimated at 0.9% for 2023/24 and 2024/25 in line with the average annual growth at budget setting in February 2022. It is clear the collection system needs to be reset post Covid-19 pandemic and through in the Autumn we will continue to work to improve tax base estimates. The growth assumption has been amended to 1.0% in 2023/24 and 1.5% in 2024/25 to 2025/26 to reflect the housing developments across the region and Collection Fund uplifts being reported by District and Borough councils (D&Bs).

The tax base forecast has been reduced following a specific error in growth estimates provided by Rother District Council (DC). Notification of this error was provided after the council tax base assumptions were set for the 2022/23 financial year and precept notices agreed and signed. The impact is to reduce income from council tax receipts by approximately £0.650m per annum.

#### B Council Tax Inflation

The assumption is for a council tax increase remains at 1.99% for the added year; the current limit before referendum is triggered.

#### C Business Rates Retention, Growth and Revaluation

Business Rates have been updated for the additional year and to reflect the latest inflation. In setting the budget annually we take the March Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) forecasts, ahead of the publication of September's OBR forecasts in October. With the current levels of inflation we have reviewed this for reasonableness. It is, however considered that to some extent business rate inflationary uplifts and contract inflation (excluding Adult Social Care (ASC), Highways and Waste contracts which are being considered separately) will offset, therefore we have continued to use March 2022 OBR forecasts.

Since Full Council, updated estimates on Business Rates income from D&Bs (NNDR1 forecasts) have been received and show a slight improvement in overall income. There remains uncertainty around medium to longer-term growth, given the economic downturn. Growth is therefore estimated at a zero increase in 2022/23, 0.4% in 2024/25 and recovering to 0.7% in 2025/26 (noting that the average in a normal year is 0.7%).

Revaluations will become 3-yearly starting from 1 April 2023. Although the revaluation will be fiscally neutral country wide, there may be regional variations which could result in reduced business rates for some local authorities. An equalisation/damping mechanism is applied to minimise the impact. Ahead of information being released it is difficult to forecast the position. The last revaluation in 2017 saw a reduction of £0.5m of Business Rate mainly due to the appeals provisions made by D&Bs. Appeals, however, should reduce with the reduced cycle of revaluation.

## **D Updates to Funding from District and Borough Councils (D&Bs) Received Post Budget Setting**

As noted at budget setting in February additional **Collection Fund surpluses** identified in January 2022 by D&Bs of £2.896m have now been included in the MTFP.

Anticipated receipts relating to 2021/22 **Council Tax Collection Fund** surplus/deficits (that will be received in 2023/24) have been updated based on information from the D&Bs' Statement of Accounts. Providing a total increased surplus of £2.735m as a one-off receipt in 2023/24. Through the Autumn we will continue to work with D&Bs to improve certainty of receipts (given the ongoing complexities) and as normal update for the council tax base estimates.

The **Business Rates Collection Fund** deficit position of D&Bs has increased by £1.098m to £2.735m from January estimates, largely as a result of the Covid-19 reliefs not being included in original forecasts.

## **E Impact of Delay to Funding Reform – one year roll over:**

Although government have given a strong commitment to update the current local government funding regime, it is becoming increasingly unlikely that reforms will be implemented in 2023/24 due to the lack of time available to undertake a full consultation and implement major funding changes. The MTFP has therefore been updated to reflect the impact of a delay to funding reform to 2024/25 on current grant funding and future implementation.

The current planning assumptions on **Revenue Support Grant (RSG)** reflect actual inflation reported in September and Spending Review (SR)21 announcements. Ahead of funding reform and a multiyear settlement, the government has compensated for the mechanism which creates negative RSG in some authorities. The current assumption is that government will continue to compensate for negative RSG in the same way it has done in the recent years, before the RSG is reviewed as part of funding reform.

As part of the £1.6bn new Government Grant funding announced at SR21, the Council was allocated a one year **Services Grant** of £5.175m. The MTFP has been updated to reflect LG Futures consideration that in the event of no funding reform this grant will continue in full plus an uplift for inflation in 2023/24 and be in the region of £7.1m.

New Homes Bonus (NHB) was due to end in 2021/22. However, in line with funding reform being delayed the cessation of NHB has also been delayed. The MTFP has therefore been updated to assume an additional year in advance of the implementation of funding reform. The forecast is based on a combination of historic average and share of the total anticipated national pot.

## **F Funding Reform net impact from 2024/25**

A number of the current grants and funding mechanisms will cease as and when the delayed **Business Rates Reset/Reform** is implemented. The MTFP assumes this will happen from 2024/25 and the net impact is taken from the LG Futures model of what this reform may look like although the exact mechanism and impact remain unknown this includes how 2021 census figures will be used.

## **G Communities, Economy and Transport (CET) Waste Considerations**

A review of all the elements of waste will be carried out during the RPPR process and a holistic approach taken on the overall position on waste budgets.

The figures currently reflect the update of the Waste Private Finance Initiative (PFI) model for the latest inflation estimates by the OBR published in March 2022. These figures would then be updated for the September rates. In addition, 2025/26 has been added to the current plan. Further review and update will be required to reflect the latest modelling and reflect any offset, such as increased recycling prices.

In addition, consideration will need to be given to any pressure resulting from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) consultation (consultation closed in July 2022) on preventing local authorities to charge for DIY waste at household waste and recycling centres.

ESCC currently charges for certain types of waste such as hardcore, soil, plasterboard, bonded asbestos, and tyres. Any potential pressure will be confirmed as the outcome of the consultation and timing of any implementation is announced, the impact being within the contract with Veolia who collect this income.

#### **H Inflation for Contracts (normal inflation and contract specific)**

The normal update includes inflation at the OBR's March 2022, as it is considered that to some extent business rate inflationary uplifts and contract inflation (excluding contracts which are being considered separately, such as Highways and Waste) will offset, therefore we have continued to use these forecasts. If inflation were not passed onto businesses, legally Government would need to provide this increase via compensation grant. It remains difficult to see government being able to do this if the September inflation is as high as 12.6%, however, we will understand more as announcements regarding this are made in the coming months.

In addition, a risk review has been carried out on all significant contracts with the exclusion of those that are subject to separate consideration given the unprecedented nature of the current years inflation uplift, this review is ongoing. With the exception of energy contracts, (that are subject to pressures bid at Q below) currently no contracts have been identified that would pose significant financial risk.

As is normal practice these figures will be updated for the October OBR rates to inform the final proposed budget.

#### **I Highways Contract Re-procurement**

This is the subject of a separate paper.

#### **J Services Growth & Demography**

CET (included at G) and Children's Services Department (CSD) have provided updates for growth and demography. The table below shows these increases along with pressures already included in the MTFP approved at February 2022. CSD Sustainability and ASC reform will be managed separately. With the exception of the unknown future cohort regarding Looked After Children (LAC), there are no further pressures identified.

		<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2024/25</b>
		<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
Children's Services Growth & Demography – increase and added year		0.265	0.404	0.808
Communities, Environment & Transport Growth & Demography – Waste added year		-	-	0.358
<b>In current MTFP:</b>				
Adult Social Care Growth & Demography		3.413	3.917	-
Children's Services Growth & Demography		1.495	0.569	-
Communities, Environment & Transport Growth & Demography - Waste		0.251	0.303	-
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>5.424</b>	<b>5.193</b>	<b>1.166</b>

With regard LAC, any pressures arising will be managed in year through monitoring and agreed pressures added to the MTFP through the next RPPR process.

#### **K CSD Sustainability**

CSD has produced a sustainability plan to improve outcomes for children while reducing costs to the council, primarily through the implementation of the nationally trialled Family Safeguarding model which is also in line with the recommendations of the recently published Independent Review of Children's Social Care.

## **L Treasury Management**

The additional year of 2025/26 shows the budget estimated to support the borrowing required to fund the approved Capital Programme and Strategy. In addition, due to increased returns on investment, the increase anticipated to be required in 2023/24 has been delayed.

## **M Pay Award - added year and uplift**

An estimate of the additional year of 2025/26 has been included, as well as the impact of the final 2022/23 pay award offer (to include local managerial grades (LMG)) plus provision for 4% 2023/24 and 3% in all years thereafter.

## **N Levies Increase**

The figures are reflective of the latest estimates of the Flood & Coastal Protection Levy, Sussex Inshore Fisheries Levy and New Responsibilities Funding.

## **O General Contingency**

This is calculated at an agreed formula of 1% of net budget less treasury management. The figures reflect the addition of 2025/26 and impacts of other changes.

## **P Pressures Protocol**

As is normal practice a number of bids were presented to Corporate Management Team (CMT) in line with the pressures protocol. The following proposals are now included in the MTFP:-

### **Energy Price Increases**

It remains difficult to know at this point what the actual financial impact will be but ahead of the Council's current pre-bought basket ending in April 2023. It considered prudent to make a provision of £1.3m in the MTFP. For 2023/24 this will be held and managed centrally and reported as part of normal monitoring. The announcement of Government support for public sector organisations with their energy costs over winter 2022/23 currently only covers the next six months and its specific impact is not yet fully understood, therefore this bid remains prudent.

### **Modernising Back Office Systems (MBOS)**

Work is being undertaken to update estimates for the post go-live cost of the new system. In accordance with the Reserves and Budget Robustness Statement approved in February 2022, the Financial Management Reserve includes provision for investment in the authority's core financial system, however any additional recurring costs will need to be updated in the MTFP and subject to a pressure bid.

**The following updates will be presented for local decision should they continue:**

## **Q Proceeds of National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) Pooling**

Proceeds of pooling have been updated using published information from D&Bs. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has invited authorities to indicate preferred pooling arrangements by 22 September 2022, for 2023/24. Noting that at this stage, this invitation is being extended for administrative purposes only. Policy decisions around business rates pooling will be confirmed by ministers at a future date. This will also be a county wide decision.

## **R Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)**

The triannual valuation of the pension fund is underway. The continuing need for the 2023/24 uplift will be known later in the year.

## **For Information: Not Included in the MTFP**

### **Impact of Adult Social Care Reform Estimate (£m)**

	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>Total</b>
Market Impact: Fair Cost of Care	11.332	12.863	9.643	33.837
Extension to Means Test: Over 65	20.079	21.284	1.241	42.604
Extension to Means Test: Under 65	1.643	1.741	0.102	3.486
Implementation and Additional Assessment	5.966	1.108	0.062	7.137
Cap on Care Costs	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>39.020</b>	<b>36.996</b>	<b>11.047</b>	<b>87.064</b>
Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care (MSFCC) Grant	(4.718)	-	-	(4.718)
Funding - Extension to Means Test: Over 65	(5.240)	(5.240)	-	(10.480)
Funding - Extension to Means Test: Under 65	(2.509)	(2.509)	-	(5.018)
Funding - Implementation and Additional Assessment MID RANGE	(5.980)	(0.179)	(0.185)	(6.344)
<b>Total ASC Reform Funding</b>	<b>(18.447)</b>	<b>(7.928)</b>	<b>(0.185)</b>	<b>(26.560)</b>
<b>Net Pressure</b>	<b>20.573</b>	<b>29.068</b>	<b>10.862</b>	<b>60.504</b>

Whilst the Spending Review 2021 and Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement saw some recognition of the pressures on local government in the form of an increase in grant funding and funds to deliver reforms to Adult Social Care, this represented a holding position for a single year, with plans for significant reform to the way local government funding is allocated from 2023/24 onwards, leaving much uncertainty about our future financial position.

In 2022/23 local authorities have been provided with a **Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Grant** raised from the 1% National Insurance Health and Social Care levy. This Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund is allocated to support authorities prepare for paying a fair rate of care and is therefore assumed as a net nil impact. Future years estimates have been based on a share of anticipated national funding available.

The £3.1m raised from the additional 1% ASC Precept in 2022/23 has been set aside to cover any new burdens in excess of the funding available. The grant will be allocated directly to ASC; any unused grant will be transferred to the proposed new ASC Reform Reserve.

The table below shows the impact of all the above. National reforms to ASC do not address current core pressures and may also not be enough to deliver the Government's expectations of local government's enhanced role. It is therefore anticipated at this stage that the increasing cost pressures as a result of new burdens associated to ASC will be funded from additional grants made available from central government, although it is unclear at this stage to the level or mechanism for this.

**Annex 1 – MTFP**

<b>Medium Term Financial Plan</b>	<b>2022/23 Approved Budget £million</b>	<b>2023/24 Estimate £million</b>	<b>2024/25 Estimate £million</b>	<b>2025/26 Estimate £million</b>
<b>TAXATION &amp; GOVERNMENT FUNDING</b>		(453.231)	(472.087)	(484.432)
Council Tax	(325.290)	(6.577)	(9.888)	(12.540)
Adult Social Care Precept	(7.840)	(3.284)	(3.409)	
Business Rates (Inclusive of BR Pooling in 2022/23)	(86.749)	(4.325)	(3.329)	(1.659)
Social Care Grant	(23.674)			
Services Grant	(5.175)	(1.926)	7.101	
Funding reform - net impact	0.000	0.000	(10.067)	(2.476)
Revenue Support Grant	(3.687)	(0.099)	3.786	
Local Council Tax Support Grant 2021/22		(2.114)	2.114	
Local Tax Income Guarantee for 2020/21		(0.459)	0.459	
New Homes Bonus	(0.816)	(0.072)	0.888	
<b>TOTAL TAXATION &amp; GOVERNMENT FUNDING</b>	<b>(453.231)</b>	<b>(472.087)</b>	<b>(484.432)</b>	<b>(501.107)</b>
<b>SERVICE PLAN</b>				
Service Expenditure	392.195	396.461	431.558	447.701
<b>Inflation</b>				
Contractual inflation (contract specific)	1.747	6.943	0.820	0.984
Normal inflation for contracts	13.664	18.664	11.250	12.048
<b>Adult Social Care</b>				
Improved Better Care Fund	(21.776)			
Growth & Demography		3.413	3.917	
Future demand modelling net of attrition (Covid-related)		1.133	(0.365)	
Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care (MSFCC) Fund	(1.745)			
MSFCC Fund Pressures	1.745			
MFSCC - Support for New Burdens (from precept)	3.149	(3.149)		
Pressures approved via protocol				
Voluntary Sector, Community Hubs, Shielded Group	(0.440)	0.440		
<b>Children's Services</b>				
Dedicated Schools Grant	0.422			
Growth & Demography (G&D)	4.091	1.760	0.973	0.808
Disabled Access Regulations for Buses/Coaches	0.098			
Home to School Transport	0.523			
Looked After Children Placements Covid-related	1.393	(0.872)	(0.347)	(1.758)
Covid Grant Funding for Looked After Children Placements	(1.393)	0.077	(0.442)	1.758
Pressures approved via protocol	(0.124)	(0.124)	0.124	
SEND High Needs Block Additional funding	(2.138)			
Social Worker Pay	1.493			
Financial Sustainability ex. G&D and Covid LAC		8.122	(0.398)	(1.600)
<b>Communities, Environment &amp; Transport</b>				
Waste PFI Efficiencies	(0.100)	(0.100)		
Waste Housing Growth	0.150	0.251	0.303	0.358
Pressures approved via protocol	0.265	0.015		
Support to Economic Development	0.025	(0.055)		
<b>Business Services</b>				
Pressures approved via protocol	0.411	(0.074)	(0.078)	
Modernising Back Office Systems (MBOS)			0.386	
<b>Savings</b>				

<b>Medium Term Financial Plan</b>	<b>2022/23 Approved Budget £million</b>	<b>2023/24 Estimate £million</b>	<b>2024/25 Estimate £million</b>	<b>2025/26 Estimate £million</b>
Temporary mitigations to savings	(0.388)	(0.100)		
Removal of CSD Safeguarding Savings	0.854			
Removal of CET Trading Standards Saving	0.100	0.100		
Removal of Early Help Saving	0.893			
Savings Slippage	1.347	(1.347)		
<b>NET SERVICE EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>396.461</b>	<b>431.558</b>	<b>447.701</b>	<b>460.299</b>
Corporate Expenditure		56.770	58.073	63.936
Treasury Management	19.930	0.000	0.100	2.400
New Homes Bonus to Capital Programme	0.816	(0.816)		
General Contingency	4.330	0.190	0.120	0.150
Contingency for Potential Pay Award	5.691	12.996	5.565	5.732
National Insurance 1.25% Increase	1.514	0.030	0.031	0.032
Contract inflation and collection fund risk	4.755	(4.050)	0.015	0.017
Provision for Energy Price Increase		1.300		
Pensions	8.023	1.800	0.020	0.000
Apprenticeship Levy	0.600			
Levies & Grants	0.952	0.012	0.012	0.012
One off investment opportunities (held in Financial Management reserve)	5.175	(5.175)		
Future Risks: CSD/SEND/ASC and Funding Reform/COVID legacy (held in Financial Management reserve)	4.984	(4.984)		
<b>TOTAL CORPORATE EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>56.770</b>	<b>58.073</b>	<b>63.936</b>	<b>72.279</b>
<b>TOTAL PLANNED EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>453.231</b>	<b>489.631</b>	<b>511.637</b>	<b>532.578</b>
<b>CUMULATIVE DEFICIT/(SURPLUS)</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>17.544</b>	<b>27.205</b>	<b>31.471</b>
<b>ANNUAL DEFICIT/(SURPLUS)</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>17.544</b>	<b>9.661</b>	<b>4.266</b>

## Appendix 2 - Capital Programme Update

### 1 Background

1.1 As part of the Reconciling Policy Performance and Resources (RPPR) process the Capital Strategy and programme are reviewed annually to ensure that they support the Council's responsibilities and departmental service strategies. To manage investment to a sustainable level, the Capital Strategy focuses on the delivery of targeted basic need to support the council in the delivery of services as efficiently as possible, rather than rationing through prioritisation. This is in recognition that there are conflicting priorities but that a level of investment is needed across the council in order to deliver the council's services and react to changes in technology, economy and the environment. Basic need for the purpose of strategic capital planning is provided below: -

- Place: ensuring we can deliver services by planning for future need.
- Asset Condition: maintaining our assets to an agreed level.
- ICT Strategy: ensure that our ICT is fit for purpose for delivering modern council services in a digital era and protecting data.
- Climate Change: tackling climate change has become part of ESCC core business, investment is required for the achievement of carbon neutrality.

1.2 At Full Council in February 2022 the target led basic need capital strategy of 20 years, supported by a 10-year planned capital programme was approved. The approved programme was further updated at State of the County in July 2022 to reflect the 2021/22 outturn, project and programme reprofiles and approved variations, revising the gross programme to £676.0m to 2031/32. For planning purposes, the first 3 years of the programme, to 2024/25 are considered approved. Whilst the remaining years are indicative to represent the longer term planning for capital investment.

### 2 Variations to the Current Approved Programme

2.1 The programme has been updated for approved variations since the State of the County in July 2022. These are summarised in the table below.

Table 1 - Capital Programme (gross) movements (£m)	Approved MTFP Programme			MTFP +1 Year	2026/27 to 2031/32	Total
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26		
Approved programme at State of the County 2022	95.588	82.720	83.761	76.649	337.329	676.047
Approved Variations (see 2.2)	(1.360)	2.307	3.990	0.231	-	5.168
<b>Total Revised Programme</b>	<b>94.228</b>	<b>85.027</b>	<b>87.751</b>	<b>76.880</b>	<b>337.329</b>	<b>681.215</b>

2.2 The approved variations to the programme relate to schemes totalling gross £5.168m (the profiling of which is currently under review) as follows:

- **Schools Delegated Capital Programme:** An increase to the programme of £0.656m to reflect latest schools plans for capital investment in year to be funded from specific grant and schools contributions.
- **Learning Disability Supporting Living Scheme:** A report to Adult Social Care Lead Member in March 2022 proposed capital investment of £6.421m to redevelop services for adults with learning disabilities at a number of properties, which will be funded from within existing Adult Social Care revenue budget and ringfenced grant funding, which has been held in anticipation of eligible social care transformational investment.

- **Getting Building Fund - Riding Sunbeams (LEP Funded Project):** A reduction of £2.477m where the project has not met some pre-conditions originally set and funding has therefore been removed and withdrawn from the capital programme following approval of the SELEP Accountability Board.
- **Disability Children's Homes (Sorrel Drive):** As approved as part of the Q1 monitoring to Cabinet, design work has identified that an increased scope would deliver additional benefits including future cost avoidance relating to alternative provision. The revised cost has increased by £0.568m, of which £0.261m has been identified within Children's Services revenue budgets, and £0.307m from increased capital programme borrowing. This addition to the capital programme is recommended in accordance with the Capital Strategy via business case, demonstrating value for money when considering the cost of alternative provision and its potential ongoing impact on revenue budgets.

### 3 Conclusion and Next Steps

- 3.1 Work will be progressed as part of the RPPR process to extend the programme by a further year to maintain a 10-year planning horizon together with a review of programme profiles across years. The annual review of the Capital Strategy will also be completed to ensure continued links into, and in support of, the Council's other strategies.
- 3.2 A £7.5m risk provision was approved in February 2022 to mitigate against capital programme risks, representing circa 2% of the programme over the MTFP period. This risk provision is a permission to borrow for emerging risks and is managed through ensuring Treasury Management capacity rather than representing funds that are within the Council's accounts. There are several risks and uncertainties regarding the programme to 2025/26 and beyond which have necessitated holding a risk provision. Including increased uncertainties that exist within the construction industry in terms of supply chain issues and high-cost inflation which are likely to impact the delivery of schemes within the current budget. The capital programme includes an element of 'normal' inflation for ongoing, target-based, core programmes (as opposed to programmes that have cash limited envelopes) such as Highways at 3% annually, with any increases above this level that cannot be managed within the agreed budget, to be supported by the risk provision.
- 3.3 Any unmanageable risks which have a financial impact are required to be reported to Capital and Strategic Asset Board to be considered as part of the broader RPPR process. This will be done on a case by case basis, and in the context of the wider programme, and the fiscal and economic national position. As part of the RPPR process the adequacy of the risk provision will also be assessed.
- 3.4 Ahead of further announcements there are no updates to the overall funding position currently. As part of the RPPR process capital funding will be reviewed, and this will include estimates of developer contributions (Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy), capital receipts and any updates to formula grants following government announcements.
- 3.5 Annex 1 provides the capital programme updated for variations noted at section 2.

## Annex A – Detailed Capital Programme

Capital Programme (gross) (£m)	MTFP Programme			MTFP +1 Year	2026/27 to 2031/32	Total
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26		
<b>Adult Social Care:</b>						
House Adaptations	0.050	0.050	0.050	-	-	<b>0.150</b>
Learning Disability Support Living Scheme	0.200	2.000	3.990	0.231	-	<b>6.421</b>
Greenacres	0.144	-	-	-	-	<b>0.144</b>
<b>Adult Social Care Total</b>	<b>0.394</b>	<b>2.050</b>	<b>4.040</b>	<b>0.231</b>	-	<b>6.715</b>
<b>Business Services:</b>						
Salix Contract	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.350	2.100	<b>3.500</b>
Lansdowne Secure Unit – Phase 2	0.075	-	-	-	-	<b>0.075</b>
Special Educational Needs	1.600	1.589	-	-	-	<b>3.189</b>
Special Educational Needs – Grove Park / Beacon	2.579	5.000	6.000	5.000	0.600	<b>19.179</b>
Special Provision in Secondary Schools	0.120	-	-	-	-	<b>0.120</b>
Disability Children's Homes	0.479	0.307	-	-	-	<b>0.786</b>
Westfield Land	0.721	-	-	-	-	<b>0.721</b>
Schools Basic Need	5.337	5.517	15.853	23.747	47.990	<b>98.444</b>
Capital Building Improvements (Schools)	5.179	4.182	4.182	4.182	25.092	<b>42.817</b>
Capital Building Improvements (Corporate)	3.439	4.520	4.520	4.520	27.120	<b>44.119</b>
IT & Digital Strategy Implementation	5.786	13.057	4.928	3.900	44.725	<b>72.396</b>
IT & Digital Strategy Implementation - MBOS	6.451	-	-	-	-	<b>6.451</b>
IT & Digital Strategy Implementation - Utilising Automation	0.024	-	-	-	-	<b>0.024</b>
<b>Business Services Total</b>	<b>32.140</b>	<b>34.522</b>	<b>35.833</b>	<b>41.699</b>	<b>147.627</b>	<b>291.821</b>
<b>Children's Services</b>						
House Adaptations	0.050	0.050	0.050	-	-	<b>0.150</b>
School Delegated Capital	1.385	1.150	1.150	-	-	<b>3.685</b>
Conquest Centre Redevelopment	0.015	-	-	-	-	<b>0.015</b>
<b>Children's Services Total</b>	<b>1.450</b>	<b>1.200</b>	<b>1.200</b>	-	-	<b>3.850</b>
<b>Communities, Economy &amp; Transport:</b>						
Broadband	0.911	2.757	2.757	-	-	<b>6.425</b>
Salix Solar Panels	0.077	-	-	-	-	<b>0.077</b>
Climate Emergency Works	2.090	1.516	5.922	-	-	<b>9.528</b>
Flood & Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme	0.250	-	-	-	-	<b>0.250</b>
Bexhill and Hastings Link Road	0.318	-	-	-	-	<b>0.318</b>
Bexhill and Hastings Link Road – Complementary Measures	0.167	0.060	-	-	-	<b>0.227</b>
Economic Intervention Fund – Grants	0.282	0.435	0.300	0.300	0.754	<b>2.071</b>
Economic Intervention Fund – Loans	0.497	0.500	0.500	0.473	-	<b>1.970</b>

Stalled Sites	0.055	0.120	0.104	-	-	<b>0.279</b>
Upgrading Empty Commercial Properties	-	0.007	-	-	-	<b>0.007</b>
Community Match Fund	0.100	0.380	-	-	-	<b>0.480</b>
Community Road Safety Interventions	0.250	0.250	0.250	-	-	<b>0.750</b>
Newhaven Port Access Road	0.189	0.020	0.776	-	-	<b>0.985</b>
Real Time Passenger Information	0.074	0.078	0.060	0.061		<b>0.273</b>
Queensway Depot Development	0.175	0.466	-	-	-	<b>0.641</b>
Hailsham HWRS	0.164	-	-	-	-	<b>0.164</b>
The Keep	0.132	0.096	0.026	-	0.823	<b>1.077</b>
Other Integrated Transport Schemes	3.144	5.440	5.209	4.024	17.843	<b>35.660</b>
Integrated Transport Schemes – A22 Corridor	0.200	-	-	-	-	<b>0.200</b>
Exceat Bridge Replacement	2.176	3.733	2.509	-	-	<b>8.418</b>
Emergency Active Travel Fund – Tranche 2	0.756	-	-	-	-	<b>0.756</b>
Libraries Basic Need	0.497	0.789	0.449	0.449	1.796	<b>3.980</b>
Peacehaven Library Refurbishment and Conversion	0.028	-	-	-	-	<b>0.028</b>
Libraries Targeted Support	0.211	-	-	-	-	<b>0.211</b>
Highways Structural Maintenance	21.186	21.147	21.688	22.246	146.158	<b>232.425</b>
Bridge Assessment Strengthening	3.022	3.708	1.775	3.025	12.494	<b>24.024</b>
Street Lighting and Traffic Signals	3.723	3.792	3.839	3.888	6.702	<b>21.944</b>
Street Lighting and Traffic Signals – Salix Scheme	0.650	-	-	-	-	<b>0.650</b>
Visually Better Roads	5.609	-	-	-	-	<b>5.609</b>
Rights of Way Surface Repairs and Bridges	0.565	0.565	0.514	0.484	3.132	<b>5.260</b>
<b>Communities, Economy &amp; Transport (LEP Funded Schemes):</b>						
Eastbourne Town Centre Phase 2	3.241	-	-	-	-	<b>3.241</b>
Eastbourne/South Wealden Walking & Cycling Package	2.351	-	-	-	-	<b>2.351</b>
Hailsham/Polegate/Eastbourne Movement & Access Corridor	0.550	0.409	-	-	-	<b>0.959</b>
Hastings & Bexhill Movement & Access Package	4.089	0.987	-	-	-	<b>5.076</b>
Skills for Rural Businesses Post-Brexit	0.915	-	-	-	-	<b>0.915</b>
Getting Building Fund – UTC Maritime and Sustainable Technology Hub	1.300	-	-	-	-	<b>1.300</b>
Getting Building Fund – Food Street	0.100	-	-	-	-	<b>0.100</b>
Getting Building Fund – Seven Sisters	0.200	-	-	-	-	<b>0.200</b>
<b>Communities, Economy &amp; Transport Total</b>	<b>60.244</b>	<b>47.255</b>	<b>46.678</b>	<b>34.950</b>	<b>189.702</b>	<b>378.829</b>
<b>Total Programme</b>	<b>94.228</b>	<b>85.027</b>	<b>87.751</b>	<b>76.880</b>	<b>337.329</b>	<b>681.215</b>

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Place Scrutiny Committee</b>
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>30 September 2022</b>
<b>By:</b>	<b>Director of Communities, Economy and Transport</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Project development to support economic growth and regeneration activity in East Sussex.</b>
<b>Purpose:</b>	<b>To set out the principles and processes applied to project development, selection, governance, management and the ongoing development of a pipeline of project proposals within the Economic Development, Skills and Infrastructure service.</b>

---

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- (1) Note the reports contents on the principles and processes applied to project development, selection, governance, management and development of pipeline projects;**
  - (2) Consider the proposal for the Place Scrutiny Committee to receive information on the various externally funded economic growth programmes subsequent to the benefits realisation stage of the programme; and**
  - (3) Note the technical expertise established within the Economic Development, Skills and Infrastructure service which underpins the process for pipeline development and securing external funding enabling the County Council to maximise external investment into the county.**
- 

## **1 Background Information**

1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Place Scrutiny Committee with an overview of how economic development projects in the Economic Development, Skills and Infrastructure service, which sits within the Communities, Economy and Transport (CET) directorate, are developed and selected for available funding streams. The report explains what governance practices and processes are put in place to manage, monitor, and measure those outcomes and successes to help inform future activity. In addition, Place Scrutiny Committee have asked how the County Council could develop a pipeline of projects ready for when any new funding becomes available.

1.2. Given the array of projects and programmes covered over many years within this service, this report will mainly focus on examples of how larger major capital investment projects are selected and monitored - many of which having secured external funding through the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP). The report will also touch on recent revenue-based community renewal projects which the County Council monitors on behalf of the Government Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).

1.3. Over the last ten years East Sussex County Council has been successful in securing in the region of £130m of external capital funding investment from the SELEP. This major investment clearly demonstrates the positive steps taken to consistently meet the Council's two key core priorities of driving sustainable economic growth in East Sussex and making best use of resources now and in the future. Moreover, this has met collective strategic priorities agreed through the County Council's Local Transport Plan (2011 – 2026), the East Sussex Growth Strategy (2014-2020) and more recently the East Sussex Economy Recovery Plan (2020-2022) having successfully implemented programmes and projects with partners that have directly improved local communities and places, skills and the economy in East Sussex.

1.4. Securing just this level of investment would not be possible, were it not for the way in which the County Council identifies, develops, selects, governs and manages economic development projects and programmes. The service benefits from highly knowledgeable, experienced, and skilled technical experts with a proven performance record in developing and delivering business support and economic development, infrastructure, culture, tourism and skills projects and programmes in East Sussex. Through this technical expertise the service has not only been able to consistently maximise strategic partnerships to support investment, but also maintain a level of governance oversight and accountability throughout each project/programme lifecycle, to ensure that core outputs are being delivered and the impacts/outcomes of projects and programmes are being realised once they complete.

1.5. Since 2014 the County Council has also played a pivotal role as the Local Accountable Body (LAB) within the East Sussex area, providing support to the SELEP's Federated structure with Team East Sussex (TES) acting as the de facto local economic growth board for East Sussex. The County Council's role has been to secure and oversee the management and delivery of the funding from various SELEP funded growth programmes, such as the Local Growth Fund (LGF), Growing Places Fund (GPF) and Getting Building Fund (GBF).

1.6. The County Council also develops and continuously improves its own internal governance practices and processes when overseeing open funding calls and monitoring of the East Sussex SELEP funded projects and programmes. The remaining sections of this report provide some examples of what those practices and processes look like, the improvements that have been made to strengthen these measures, leading to the resulting benefits, outcomes, and successes that have occurred when pursuing new external funding streams. In addition, the report explains how the County Council develops a pipeline of projects ready for when any new funding becomes available.

## **2 Supporting Information**

### ***Project Identification, governance, monitoring and evaluation***

2.1 The County Council's role is limited when it comes to evaluating and approving business cases for the various SELEP capital funded projects, due to the decision-making being undertaken by the SELEP Accountability Board. However, once a funding call is launched the Council undertakes several key activities to develop and select projects and ensure governance remains in line with the SELEP Local Assurance Framework, including:

- Supporting Team East Sussex (TES), the de facto local growth board for the county and federated area board of SELEP, to publicise the open funding call on the Council's website, via multiple Council communication channels, through TES and TES subgroups (Business East Sussex, Culture East Sussex, Developers East Sussex, Environment East Sussex, Skills East Sussex), and other public and private partner channels to encourage all project applicants and partners to come forward and apply;
- carrying out local level engagement with scheme promoters and undertaking a 'sifting' of Expressions of Interest to evaluate if applicants meet the initial funding criteria;
- supporting the SELEP Independent Technical Evaluator (ITE) in their review of business cases by undertaking additional financial due diligence and assurance checks on project applicants, carried out by the County Council's Finance/Treasury officers and signed off by the County Council's Chief Finance/Section 151 Officer;
- appointing independent consultants where necessary to determine how each project application meets the technical and strategic objectives and importantly the criteria set for each funding stream by SELEP's Strategic Board or mandated by central Government (an example of the criteria which was used for assessing applications for the LGF Round 3 funding is set out on the SELEP Website, under Table 2 Eligibility Criteria and Table 3 Assessment Criteria: Open call for LGF 3B projects - The South East Local Enterprise Partnership [www.southeastlep.com](http://www.southeastlep.com) );
- providing County Council officer technical expertise, including from those who are programme/project management trained with associated qualifications gained through the County Council's in-house Project Management training as well as external accreditation, to help inform any initial project prioritisation, ensuring local strategic priorities are being considered.

2.2 Once the projects have been approved for funding by the SELEP Accountability Board, East Sussex County Council as the LAB enters a back-to-back contractual arrangement to manage the funds. This means the Council enters into one Service Level Agreement (SLA) with SELEP to receive the funds for the specific programme, and then into a further contract agreement, containing equivalent provisions to the SLA Agreement, with the project delivery partner. The decision making and approval for entering into both the SLA and the subsequent contract agreements are taken to the County Council's Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development (LM SMED) to determine.

2.3 The back-to-back contract agreement schedules include among others the financial profile, milestones and the outputs/impacts and outcomes committed to in the approved project business case. As a result of the decision making by the LM SMED delegated authority to enter into each projects legal loan/grant contract agreements between the County Council and the scheme promoter(s) is given to the Director of CET and the Chief Finance Officer/Section151 Officer.

2.4 County Council officers then carry out regular progress and performance monitoring of each SELEP funded project across the different funded programmes, collating and retaining monitoring forms, claim forms/invoices, attending regular project progress meetings and returning that information to SELEP for inclusion in update board reports, as well as providing a quarterly report and 'dashboard summary' of all the SELEP funded projects to TES at its quarterly meetings. Records of the minutes and papers are all published online - [Meetings & Minutes - The South East Local Enterprise Partnership \(southeastlep.com\)](https://southeastlep.com)

2.5 This detailed reporting schedule ensures that risks can be managed and that the terms of the back-to-back contract agreement are being adhered to. It also gives County Council officers the ability to draw on the clauses contained in the grant agreement when appropriate and provide early support to project deliverers who may be experiencing risks and issues such as delays, by guiding them through the different processes available, such as submitting SELEP project change requests (PCR).

2.6 As stated in 2.2 and 2.3 above, ensuring that there are robust governance processes in place to monitor the effective delivery of economic growth funded projects is vital. Increasingly we are seeing external funding providers and UK Government departments wanting local authorities to provide more evidence of clear governance systems in place, prior to awarding funding, and throughout programme delivery itself. Equally we are required to provide evidence that projects have delivered on all their intended benefits and outcomes once the project has completed.

2.7 In April 2021, the County Council was designated as a Lead Authority for the UK Community Renewal Fund (UKCRF), a £220m UK Government revenue-based funding programme designed to help local areas prepare for the introduction of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. UK Government reserved the right to check the bid submission process followed by the designated authorities and so the County Council utilised its Internal Audit function from the outset to establish a record that our Lead Authority roles/responsibilities were administered appropriately. This practice of establishing robust governance arrangements and applying lessons learnt across new and existing programmes has proven valuable and evidenced by the assurances given to DLUHC officials who have determined that East Sussex County Council does not need to be selected for external auditing on the UKCRF programme as we have demonstrated our governance processes.

2.8 Similarly, as the County Council will be liable for any expenditure that the UK Government determines to be ineligible for UKCRF until the programme concludes in January 2023, initial financial appraisals were carried during the application stage to ensure that project sponsors had the financial standing and sufficient capacity to deliver their proposed project. All organisations passed the financial tests, but several additional conditions were applied to projects once the back-to-back grant contract agreements were introduced, to further mitigate any risks to the County Council.

2.9 It is these proactive measures, in addition to the existing governance structures in place to oversee new external funding streams, which enables the County Council to respond robustly and transparently for requests for any information made by funding providers, the public, SELEP or UK Government.

2.10 Furthermore, to provide as much information about funded and economic development projects as possible, County Council officers ensure that key information regarding each SELEP external funding programme is presented to the TES board via quarterly updates. Information regarding all externally funded projects and programmes is also provided within the County Council's Plan and Portfolio Plan, State of the County Report and to the Lead Member for Economy and to the Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development as required.

### ***Partnership working and pipeline development***

2.11 In addition to overseeing existing funding programmes, the County Council must continue to ensure that it is positioned with a strong pipeline of projects ready to come forward for external funding when it becomes available. Working with our existing partners and networks as stated above, we have already developed project pipelines and delivered activities to support the economy of East Sussex. Although routinely bound to the terms of each external funding assessment criteria as they are set out, County Council officers across the service make sure that we stay aligned to emerging policies and strategies being developed at a national level, whilst also ensuring we deliver against the County Council's strategic priorities to continuously advance a pipeline of investments that will support our local economy within the resources we have available.

2.12 This approach has already been successfully demonstrated through both the East Sussex Growth Strategy (2014-2020) and more recently the TES Economy Recovery Plan (2020-2022) (please see the full report presented to recent [Place Scrutiny meeting 18 July 2022](#)). As such by working in close partnership with District and Borough authorities, Higher and Further Education institutions, we have been able to collectively secure additional investment from the Levelling Up Fund, Stronger Towns Fund, Future High Streets, Bus Service Improvement Plan, Emergency Active Travel, Culture Recovery Fund, European Social fund, European Regional Development Fund, and various Business Support programmes. It has also proven highly successful in working together with partners to support skills and employment in the County through directing funds such as the Adult Education Budget, and the forthcoming National Training Budget and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund investment plans.

2.13 Looking ahead and with many of our existing SELEP funded programmes due to complete in the coming years, it will be important to assess the impacts these projects have had within East Sussex. The Place Scrutiny Committee would be well placed to review information on the various externally funded economic growth programmes subsequent to the benefits realisation stage of the programme completing.

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

3.1 East Sussex County Council has a demonstrable track record of securing major capital investment in East Sussex through external funding providers such as the South East Local Enterprise Partnership. The County Council officers within the Economic Development, Skills and Infrastructure service have been adept at maximising strategic partnerships to support investment, overseeing the development and delivery of complex projects and programmes, while also sustaining and continuously improving approaches to governance practices, to ensure the benefits and outcomes across the programmes are delivered in East Sussex.

3.2 Working with a diverse range of partners, project pipelines have been developed and delivered to support the economy of East Sussex which has successfully secured in the region of £130m of major capital investment from SELEP alone over the last ten years. The County Council is ideally placed to continue developing and implementing robust processes to maintain accountability and effectively measure the outcomes and successes that will help inform future activity.

3.3 The Place Scrutiny Committee is therefore asked to note the reports contents on project development, selection, governance, management and development of pipeline projects; consider the proposal for the Place Scrutiny Committee to review information on the various externally funded economic growth programmes subsequent to the completion of the benefits realisation stage of the programme; and note the technical expertise established within the Economic Development, Skills and Infrastructure service which underpins the process for pipeline development and securing external funding, enabling the County Council to maximise external investment into the county.

**RUPERT CLUBB****Director of Communities, Economy and Transport**

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**LOCAL MEMBERS**

All

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

[East Sussex Growth Strategy 2014-20 \(PDF\)](#)

[East Sussex Economy Recovery Plan \(webpage\)](#)

[SELEP Assurance Framework \(PDF\)](#)

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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Place Scrutiny Committee</b>
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>30 September 2022</b>
<b>By:</b>	<b>Assistant Chief Executive</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Place Scrutiny Committee future work programme</b>
<b>Purpose:</b>	<b>To review and agree items for the Place Scrutiny Committee's future work programme and receive updates on previous work.</b>

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:** The Place Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

**1) Review and agree agenda items for the future Committee meetings, including items listed in the updated work programme in appendix 1;**

**2) Review and agree topics for Scrutiny Reviews to be included in the Committee's future work programme; and**

**3) Review upcoming items on East Sussex County Council's (ESCC) Forward Plan in appendix 2 to identify any issues that may require more detailed scrutiny.**

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## **1. Background**

1.1 The work programme is an important tool in ensuring the correct focus and best use of the Committee's time in scrutinising topics that are of importance to the residents of East Sussex, and the efficient and effective working of the Council. It also provides clarity for those who may be requested to give evidence to the Committee on the issues under review, and the questions the Committee requires answers to.

1.2. Discussion of the work programme provides the Committee with the opportunity to examine topics that it may be of value to scrutinise, and to decide whether further scoping work is required. This provides a basis for deciding the best way of scrutinising a topic, the timescale, and who from the Committee will be involved in carrying out the review work. If there are a number of topics for review, the Committee can determine the priority of the work within the resources available to the Committee.

## **2. Work programme and future scrutiny reviews**

2.1 The Committee held its annual working programming Away Day on 6 September 2022 to review the items in the current work programme and discuss the future agenda items and other scrutiny work of the Committee. At the Away Day the committee members proposed a number of changes to the work programme and an updated work programme is contained in appendix 1 of the report for agreement by the Committee. The main additions to the work programme are reports on the following topics:

- Community Asset Transfers and Asset Use – an initial report to understand the current policies and processes for declaring assets surplus and offering them for community use through Community Asset Transfers (CAT). The suggested timescale for the report is March 2023.
- Library & Information Service – An update report to outline the current service provision, progress against the Strategy, current challenges and priorities and any future developments for the Service. Timescale to be agreed.
- Environment Act, Food Waste – A report on the implications of the Environment Act for ESCC of the requirement to put in place a food waste collection service. The report to cover the implications for ESCC as the waste disposal authority and a presentation on the

position and plans to deal with this requirement, including the models or facilities required to process the food waste and the opportunity for local composting/processing. Timescale to be agreed.

- Electricity Grid Capacity – A report on the capacity and constraints of the electricity grid in East Sussex to accommodate Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure and other developments such as solar farms and new housing developments. Timescale to be agreed, dependent on agreement with potential witnesses UK Power Networks/electricity distributors.

2.2 The Committee is also asked to consider whether there are any potential topics for future scrutiny reviews, or agenda items for future meetings, that should be included in the work programme. This can include any topics or issues identified through the Committee's work on the Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) process.

Updates from Reference Groups and Working Groups

2.3 The Committee will receive verbal updates from the Chairs of the various reference groups and working groups that have met since the last Committee meeting. The groups are:

- Highways Contract Re-Procurement Reference Group
- LTP4 Reference Group
- Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) Working Group

2.4 The Committee is asked to note that the date of the Place Scrutiny Committee RPPR Board meeting will be Thursday 22 December 2022 at 2.00pm and will be held remotely via Teams. All Place Scrutiny Committee members are invited to attend.

### **3. Forward Plan**

3.1 A copy of the Council's Forward Plan of executive decisions for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 December 2022 is included in appendix 2. The Committee is requested to review the forthcoming items on the Forward Plan to identify any issues that may require scrutiny work. The Forward Plan is revised and published on a monthly basis, and Committee members should regularly review the Forward Plan.

### **4. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

4.1 The Place Scrutiny Committee is recommended to agree the updated work programme contained in appendix 1 and agree any further agenda items or topics for scrutiny reviews to be included in the future work programme. The Committee is also recommended to review the Council's Forward Plan of decisions to identify any issues that may require more detailed scrutiny.

**PHILIP BAKER**  
**Assistant Chief Executive**

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### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None.

## Place Scrutiny Committee – Work Programme

Current Scrutiny Reviews		
Title of Review	Detail	Proposed Completion Date
Scrutiny Review of Procurement	A scrutiny review of Procurement which will focus on the Council's approach to Social Value measurement and buying local initiatives as part of procurement activity across the Council. The review is considering how Social Value can help achieve the Council's objectives including reducing carbon emissions and other climate change measures.	November 2022
Initial Scoping Reviews		
Subject area for initial scoping	Detail	Proposed Dates
Highways Maintenance	The Committee has agreed to form a scoping board to explore the topic of highways maintenance. The scoping board will examine previous scrutiny work in this area and review highways maintenance policies.	October 2022
Climate Change	The Committee has agreed to establishing a scoping board to examine the Council's countywide work on climate change, which could look at countywide actions and how the Council works with other organisations (e.g. District and Borough councils) on this issue.	October/November 2022
List of Suggested Potential Future Scrutiny Review or Reference Group Topics		
Suggested Topic	Detail	
Economic Development.	The Committee has expressed an interest in the Economic Development work of the Council and has requested two reports. One to examine the Team East Sussex Economy Recovery Plan discussed at the July meeting and another to explore how Economic Development Projects are selected and	

	developed. Following consideration of the reports the Committee may identify further scrutiny work in this area.	
Scrutiny Reference Groups		
Reference Group Title	Subject Area	Meetings Dates
Highways Contract Re-procurement	The Committee has re-formed the reference group to work alongside Officers on the next stages of the Highway Services Re-Procurement Project (HSRP). The reference group has received updates on the implementation of the procurement strategy.	Ongoing to May 2023
Local Transport Plan (LTP4) – Reference Group	The Committee has formed a Reference Group to work alongside officers on the development of the revised Local Transport Plan (LTP 4) focussing on sustainable transport issues.	1 Feb 2022 and then throughout 2022/23.
Climate Emergency Action Plan - update	The Council’s corporate Climate Emergency Action Plan was developed to cover the initial period 2020–2022. The Committee formed a working group to work with Officers on an updated Action Plan and has held 3 meetings to date. Further meetings are planned for October.	July – October 2022
Reports for Information		
Subject	Detail	Proposed Date
Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Points.	The Committee agreed to request a briefing on plans to develop and implement EV charging infrastructure in East Sussex.	To be agreed
Training and Development		
Title of Training/Briefing	Detail	Proposed Date
To be agreed.		

Future Committee Agenda Items		Author
<b>24 November 2022</b>		
Southern Water - sewage discharges	The Committee has requested an item on Southern Water's discharge of sewage into water courses and the sea in East Sussex, following a number of pollution incidents. The item will examine what action Southern Water is taking to reduce discharges and pollution incidents, and will seek a views from representatives from the Environment Agency and Ofwat who are the regulators.	Southern Water, Environment Agency, Ofwat
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)	The Committee will examine any additional information requested at the September meeting and consider any updated RPPR information for 2023/24.	Chief Executive / Senior Scrutiny Adviser
Scrutiny Review of Procurement	To consider and approve the report of the Review Board on the Scrutiny Review of Procurement: Social Value and Buying Local.	Chair of the Review Board / Senior Scrutiny Adviser
Work Programme	To consider items for inclusion in the Committee's work programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports for future meetings</li> <li>• Scrutiny reviews and potential scrutiny reviews</li> <li>• Items from the Forward Plan</li> </ul>	Senior Scrutiny Adviser
<b>28 March 2023</b>		
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)	The Committee will review its input into the RPPR budget setting process, and the impact of any recommendations or comments made by the Committee.	Chief Executive / Senior Scrutiny Adviser
Community Asset Transfers and Asset Use	An initial report to understand the current policies and processes for declaring assets surplus and offering them for community use through Community Asset Transfers (CAT).	Chief Operating Officer/Assistant Director, Property
Scrutiny Review of Road Markings	To receive the second update report on the implementation of the recommendations from the Scrutiny Review of Road Markings, including details of the work undertaken with additional expenditure in this area of work.	Assistant Director, Operations
Work Programme	To consider items for inclusion in the Committee's work programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports for future meetings</li> <li>• Scrutiny reviews and potential scrutiny reviews</li> <li>• Items from the Forward Plan</li> </ul>	Senior Scrutiny Adviser

<b>14 July 2023</b>		
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)	To commence the Committee's involvement with the RPPR process for 2024/25 by reviewing the information in the Quarter 4, end of financial year (2022/23) Council Monitoring report and the State of the County report.	Chief Executive / Senior Scrutiny Adviser
Work Programme	To consider items for inclusion in the Committee's work programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports for future meetings</li> <li>• Scrutiny reviews and potential scrutiny reviews</li> <li>• Items from the Forward Plan</li> </ul>	Senior Scrutiny Adviser
<b>26 September 2023</b>		
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)	To continue the Committee's work on the RPPR process for 2024/25, by reviewing Portfolio Plans and service based information.	Chief Executive / Senior Scrutiny Adviser
Work Programme	To consider items for inclusion in the Committee's work programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports for future meetings</li> <li>• Scrutiny reviews and potential scrutiny reviews</li> <li>• Items from the Forward Plan</li> </ul>	Senior Scrutiny Adviser
<b>23 November 2023</b>		
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)	The Committee will examine any additional information requested at the September meeting and consider any updated RPPR information for 2024/25.	Chief Executive / Senior Scrutiny Adviser
Work Programme	To consider items for inclusion in the Committee's work programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports for future meetings</li> <li>• Scrutiny reviews and potential scrutiny reviews</li> <li>• Items from the Forward Plan</li> </ul>	Senior Scrutiny Adviser
<b>Future Items – to be scheduled</b>		<b>Witnesses</b>
Library & Information Service	An update report to outline the current service provision, progress against the Strategy, current challenges and priorities and any future developments for the Service.	Assistant Director Communities/ Head of Customer, Library and Registration Services

Environment Act, Food Waste	A report on the implications of the Environment Act for ESCC of the requirement to put in place a food waste collection service. The report to cover the implications for ESCC as the waste disposal authority and a presentation on the position and plans to deal with this requirement, including the models or facilities required to process the food waste and the opportunity for local composting/processing.	Assistant Director Operations/Head of Transport and Operational Services/Waste Team Manager
Electricity Grid Capacity	A report on the capacity and constraints of the electricity grid in East Sussex to accommodate Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure and other developments such as solar farms and new housing developments. Timescale to be agreed, dependent on agreement with potential witnesses UK Power Networks/electricity distributors.	UK Power Networks

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## EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL'S FORWARD PLAN

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

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

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

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

- Page 55
- the name of the individual or body that is to make the decision and the date of the meeting or relevant time period for an officer decision
  - the title of the report and decision to be considered
  - groups that will be consulted prior to the decision being taken
  - a list of documents that will be considered when making the decision
  - the name and telephone number of the contact officer for each item.

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

Meetings of the Cabinet/individual members are open to the public (with the exception of discussion regarding reports which contain exempt/confidential information). Copies of agenda and reports for meetings are available on the website in advance of meetings. Key decisions taken by officers will not be taken at a meeting – documents listed can be made available on request to the contact officer, with the exception of those which contain exempt/confidential information.

For further details on the time of meetings and general information about the Plan please contact Andy Cottell at County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, BN7 1UE, or telephone 01273 481955 or send an e-mail to [andy.cottell@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:andy.cottell@eastsussex.gov.uk). For further detailed information regarding specific issues to be considered by the Cabinet, individual Member or officer please contact the named contact officer for the item concerned.

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

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

# **FORWARD PLAN – EXECUTIVE DECISIONS (including Key Decisions) –1 September 2022 TO 31 December 2022**

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

Cabinet membership:

Councillor Keith Glazier - Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development  
Councillor Nick Bennett – Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change  
Councillor Rupert Simmons – Lead Member for Economy  
Councillor Claire Dowling – Lead Member for Transport and Environment  
Councillor Carl Maynard – Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health  
Councillor Bob Bowdler – Lead Member for Children and Families  
Councillor Bob Standley – Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability

Date for Decision	Decision Taker	Decision/Key Issue	Decision to be taken wholly or partly in private (P) or Key Decision (KD)	Consultation	List of Documents to be submitted to decision maker	Contact Officer
6 Sep 2022	Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health	Homes for Ukraine Move On Support Programme The Homes for Ukraine (HfU) scheme has enabled nearly 1600 Ukrainian adults and children to apply for visas based on matching with 665 sponsors in East Sussex, as of 27 <sup>th</sup> July 2022. The Lead Member is asked to approve allocation of £1,380,325 of the Homes for Ukraine grant to provide a Move On Support Programme, to enable and support planned move on and reduce the risk of homelessness.	<b>KD</b>		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Mark Hendriks -

		The Lead Member is asked to note that this work will include strategic alignment of the Homes for Ukraine programme with broader work across housing and social care partners to improve access to affordable housing in a way that promotes fairness and equity.				
6 Sep 2022  Page 57	Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health	<p>Fuel support payment to independent sector Home Care providers</p> <p>Considering the sustained rise in the cost of fuel and wider inflationary pressures facing Home Care providers in East Sussex, Lead Member is asked to approve a one-off payment to independent sector Home Care provider care workers.</p> <p>The proposed payment is £150 per worker, and will be in acknowledgement of the significant increase in fuel costs.</p> <p>The level of payment aligns with a separate proposal being presented to the September Governance Committee, seeking their agreement to the payment of a one-off lump sum of £150 gross, to employee's designated as a contracted car user on the single status grades.</p> <p>If agreed, funding for the Home Care payment will be made from one-off Adult Social Care reserves.</p> <p>In the region of 3,000 vulnerable adults receive home care commissioned by the Adult Social Care and Health Department in East Sussex. Home Care is an essential service which enables people to remain living in their own homes.</p>			Report, other documents may also be submitted	<p>Samantha Williams</p> <p>01273 482115</p>

		There are over 2,200 care workers employed by independent sector home care providers in East Sussex who provide personal care across the county, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Car use is essential for care workers given the level of home care provision and rural nature of many areas within East Sussex.				
20 Sep 2022	Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change	Consider approval of an ex gratia payment	<b>P</b>		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Kathy Marriott <i>01273 481274</i>
20 Sep 2022 Page 58	Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change	Approval of Social Value Policy To approve the new Social Value Policy, which will embed the ESCC approach to social value into the culture of the council. It will help council officers to be clear of their roles and responsibilities in this regard.			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Rosalie McPhrazier <i>01273 481275</i>
20 Sep 2022	Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change	New Lease - Forest Row Sports Ground Shalesbrook Lane, RH18 5LS Grant of 21 year lease to Forest Row Sports Ground Association to allow continuance of use of sports ground land for team games, tennis etc and to allow continued use of Memorial Pavilion building.			Report, other documents may also be submitted	John Tripp <i>01273 336999</i>
20 Sep 2022	Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change	Renewal Lease - Performing Arts Centre Mountfield Rd Lewes Renewal of lease with East Sussex College of rooms in the Performing Arts Centre for 20 years and underletting some parts back to the College to facilitate use by the music			Report, other documents may also be submitted	John Tripp <i>01273 336999</i>

		services, also on a similar lease for 20 years.				
20 Sep 2022	Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change	Heathfield Leisure Centre Public Consultation Outcome To note the outcome of the Heathfield Leisure Centre public consultation which concludes on 8 August 2022. To agree next steps for the future operation of Heathfield Leisure Centre. The Council own the freehold of this asset.	<b>P</b> <b>KD</b>		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Pauline Young <i>01273 481180</i>
20 Sep 2022  Page 59	Lead Member for Economy	Agreement for ESCC to be a partner in a Create Growth Programme (Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport/DCMS) partnership bid Approval to be a partner in a bid led by Kent County Council (KCC) for the Create Growth Programme (CGP), delivered by the Government Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). Agreement to enter into partnership / grant agreement with lead authority KCC. Agreement to commission and procure services as described in the bid and delegated authority to the Director of CET for all the above.	<b>P</b> <b>KD</b>		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Sally Staples <i>01273 481871</i>
26 Sep 2022	Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability	Household Support Fund (CSD) Decision as to the scheme the Council will implement to distribute the extension of the Household Support Grant which was announced on 26 May 2022.	<b>KD</b>		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Jessica Stubbings <i>01323 463537</i>

26 Sep 2022	Lead Member for Children and Families	Independent Fostering Agency placements recommissioning The decision being sought is to approve the next steps to ensure an approved provider list is in place for 1/4/23 when the current framework expires.	<b>KD</b>		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Sally Carnie 01323 747197
26 Sep 2022	Lead Member for Children and Families	Children's Services Supported Accommodation Framework contract extensions The decision being sought is to approve 9 month extensions for 2x Call-Off Contracts under the Children's Services Supported Accommodation Framework to sustain continuity of provision until a new Children's Supported Accommodation Approved List is launched in 2022.	<b>KD</b>		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Peter Lister -
28 Sep 2022	Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health	Household Support Fund (ASCH) Decision as to the scheme the Council will implement to distribute the extension of the Household Support Fund grant which was announced on 26 May 2022.	<b>KD</b>		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Paul Rideout 01273 482911
28 Sep 2022	Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health	Procurement of online sexual health services To approve the procurement of the online sexual health service for East Sussex residents.	<b>KD</b>		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Tony Proom 01273 335252
28 Sep 2022	Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health	To retender our Integrated Lifestyle Service Our Integrated Health and Wellbeing Service has been in place since August 2017. As a result of an agreed extension,	<b>KD</b>		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Peter Aston 01273 337207

Page 61		<p>the contract will end on 7th August 2023.</p> <p>The service provides tailored behaviour change support to individuals who would like to make a change to one or more of their health-related behaviours – Stopping smoking, managing weight, improving diet and nutrition, reducing alcohol intake and increasing physical activity.</p> <p>We would like to retender the service for five years and six months (to bring it in line with financial years), with the option to extend the contract for a further two years.</p> <p>The new service will focus on supporting people living in areas where the need for health and wellbeing support is highest and where health inequalities are having a significant impact on the local population.</p> <p>For the new contract to commence on the 8th August 2023, we will need to begin the procurement process on 24th October 2022.</p>				
28 Sep 2022	Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health	<p>Direct Payments Support Service DPSS Provision</p> <p>To approve the retender of the direct payments support services, that actively shape the market to support quality, choice, market resilience and enabling, person-centred care.</p> <p>To approve the recommendation to delegate contract award to the Director of</p>	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Mark Stainton <i>01273 481238</i>

		ASC&H.				
29 Sep 2022	Cabinet	Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources - update To consider an update on the reconciling policy, performance and resources process for 2023/24, the next steps and the medium term financial plan			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Claire Lee 01273 335517
29 Sep 2022	Cabinet	Council Monitoring Quarter One 2022/23 To consider the Council Monitoring report for the first quarter of 2022/23 as part of the Council's Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources monitoring process			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Victoria Beard -
29 Sep 2022	Cabinet	Highway Services Reprourement Project To consider the tender evaluation report of Highway Service Reprourement Project to consider the award of the contract	<b>P</b> <b>KD</b>		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Phil McCorry 01273 335993
29 Sep 2022	Cabinet	Community Hubs vision and next steps To share the results of the engagement undertaken with partners to establish a collaborative vision for Community Hubs in East Sussex, and agree the suggested next steps to respond to the recommendations.	<b>KD</b>		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Vicky Smith 01273 482036
29 Sep 2022	Cabinet	Transport for the South East - Draft Strategic Investment Plan To consider the proposed response to the Transport for the South East's formal consultation on their Draft Strategic Investment Plan			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Jon Wheeler 01273 482212

29 Sep 2022	Cabinet	Annual Progress Report on East Sussex County Council's Climate Emergency Plan To consider the annual report on the Council's progress to becoming carbon neutral			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Andy Arnold 01273 481606
September 2022  Page 63	Director of Adult Social Care and Health	Contract Extension Instituting an allowed 2year extension to an incumbent provider's contract. The extension will commence on 1st April 2023 and expire on the 31st March 2025. This to enable the continued delivery of ESCC Independent Mental Health Advocacy (IMHA) and Care Act Advocacy statutory duty.	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Nigel Blake-Hussey 01273 335115
11 Oct 2022	Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change	Orbis Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Policy Approval of the draft policy.			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Andy Arnold 01273 481606
11 Oct 2022	Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change	Ringmer Swimming Pool - outcome of the Public Consultation To analyse the results of the public consultation and to agree the next steps for Ringmer Swimming Pool. The Consultation concludes on 15 August 2022.	P KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Nigel Brown 07394 410630
11 Oct 2022	Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change	Disposal of Freehold land at Southview Close Crowborough To declare surplus and to authorise the disposal of Council freehold land and buildings at Southview Close, Crowborough	P		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Nigel Brown 07394 410630

		prior to marketing. The decision on detailed terms of disposal will be delegated to the Chief Operating Officer.				
11 Oct 2022	Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change	To Declare Surplus and Dispose of Beacon Gate and The Gables To declare surplus and disposal of the freehold of Beacon Gate and The Gables; two former homes for adults with learning disabilities in Crowborough.	<b>P</b>		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Sophie Mantle <i>01273 336843</i>
11 Oct 2022	Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change	Provision of support for the Coroner's Service for the East Sussex Area	<b>P</b> <b>KD</b>		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Rachel Doran <i>01273 481292</i>
17 Oct 2022	Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability	Admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools in East Sussex 2024-25 To seek agreement to consult on the 2024-25 arrangements for admissions to schools for which ESCC is the admission authority. The outcome of the consultation will be reported back to the Lead Member at the February 2023 meeting for a decision as to what the admission arrangements for 2024-25 will be.	<b>KD</b>		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Jo Miles <i>01273 481911</i>
17 Oct 2022	Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability	East Sussex School Organisation Plan 2022-2026 To seek Lead Member approval to publish the East Sussex School Organisation Plan, covering the period 2022 to 2026. The purpose of the School Organisation Plan is to understand the projected demand			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Gary Langford <i>01273 481758</i>

		for school places in the future and to set out where we think we will need to commission additional places or re-organise existing provision to meet demand.				
17 Oct 2022	Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability	Proposal to lower school age range at Wivelsfield Community Primary School To consider whether to lower the age range at Wivelsfield Community Primary School to enable the governing body to provide early years provision on the school site.			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Jane Spice <i>01323 747425</i>
24 Oct 2022 Page 65	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	Petition for pedestrian crossing outside Cavendish School - Eldon Road, Eastbourne A petition was submitted to the County Council on 12 July 2022 and needs to be considered by Lead Member for Transport & Environment.			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Victoria Bartholomew <i>01424 724284</i>
24 Oct 2022	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	Ersham Road/South Road/Diplocks Way roundabout - consultation outcomes and next steps To consider responses to the stakeholder and public consultation exercises on the proposed introduction of a four arm roundabout at the Ersham Road/South Road/Diplocks Way junction in Hailsham and seek approval to progress the scheme to design and construction.	<b>KD</b>		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Jon Wheeler <i>01273 482212</i>

24 Oct 2022	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	Petition Make Eastbourne's Compton Place Road safe for schoolchildren Petition for increased safety measures – Compton Place Road, Eastbourne. A petition was submitted to the County Council on 10 May 2022 and needs to be considered by Lead Member for Transport & Environment.			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Victoria Bartholomew <i>01424 724284</i>
8 Nov 2022	Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change	Declare surplus and dispose of freehold land and buildings at former Etchingham Primary School, Etchingham The Council hold the freehold of land and buildings at the former Etchingham Primary School. The Council seeks to declare the property surplus to Council requirements and dispose for a capital receipt by public auction with a reserve price to be set before the auction date.	<b>P</b>		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Nigel Brown <i>07394 410630</i>
8 Nov 2022	Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change	To approve an acquisition of freehold property under Blight Notice served under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990	<b>P</b> <b>KD</b>		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Zoe Tweed <i>07701 021868</i>
8 Nov 2022	Cabinet	Annual Report of Looked After Children's Services To consider the annual report of the Looked After Children's Service			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Sally Carnie <i>01323 747194</i>
8 Nov 2022	Cabinet	Conservators of Ashdown Forest - Medium Term Financial Plan To consider the Conservators of Ashdown Forest Strategy and Medium Term Financial Plan	<b>KD</b>		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Ian Gutsell <i>01273 481399</i>

8 Nov 2022	Cabinet	Gatwick Airport Development Consent Order for the Northern Runway Proposal To consider the County Council's approach for responding to Gatwick Airport Limited's Development Consent Order for their Northern Runway Project'	<b>KD</b>		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Jon Wheeler 01273 482212
21 Nov 2022	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	Petition to urgently improve safety measures at the junction of the A267 with the B2102 at Cross in Hand To consider the petition asking that the County Council urgently improves safety measures to help save the lives of drivers and pedestrians at the junction of the A267 with the B2102 at Cross in Hand following a pedestrian fatality on 22 March 2022 on the A267 to the east of the B2102 junction.			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Helen Clee 0345 6080193
21 Nov 2022	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	East Sussex County Council Household Waste Recycling Sites - waste acceptance policy relating to use of vans and cash payments for non-household waste Following the Covid-19 shutdown of the HWRS network in 2020, sites reopened with slightly amended changes to access arrangements for vans and how Non-Household Waste deposits can be charged for. In order to improve the throughput at sites, Vans were (and continue to be) restricted to 3 days per weeks and electronic only payment was introduced for non-household waste in order to reduce contact between residents and site staff.			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Anthony Pope 01273 481657

		Lead Member is asked to consider these two aspects of HWRS usage and consider if they would like to revert to the pre-Covid-19 shutdown policies or adopt the new policies.				
21 Nov 2022	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	<p>East Sussex Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme</p> <p>In July 2021, Lead Member for Transport and Environment approved the draft Enhanced Partnership (EP) Plan and Schemes. After further development of the EP Plan and Scheme the EP Plan and Scheme will enter into the statutory process on 22 September to allow them to be made. The paper will seek approval of the Lead Member of the final version of the EP.</p>	<b>KD</b>	<p>There is a statutory 28-day bus operator objection period for the EP plan and scheme, followed by a 28 day consultation with key stakeholders. Key stakeholders include operators of local services, users of local services, other local authorities, the traffic commissioner, the chief officer of police, the Passengers' Council, and the Competition and Markets Authority.</p>	Report, other documents may also be submitted	<p>Craig Lamberton</p> <p>01273 337525</p>
21 Nov 2022	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	<p>Community Match Schemes 2022/23</p> <p>To authorise expenditure (£50,000 maximum match funding per scheme) on a programme of Community Match schemes</p>	<b>KD</b>		Report, other documents may also be submitted	<p>Nicholas Mitchell</p> <p>01273 336627</p>

		in 2022/23 as a contribution towards schemes across East Sussex with community groups contributing the remaining half of the cost of scheme design & construction.				
23 Nov 2022	Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development	LEP Funded Capital Programme Financial Statement - Confirmed Spend for 2021/22 and Forecast for 2022/23 Lead Member will be asked to: Note the final spend for 2021/22 for the Local Growth Fund, Getting Building Fund and Growing Places programmes and the amount of funds re-profiled into the East Sussex County Council Capital Programme. Agree the confirmed scheme spend profiles for the Local Growth Fund, Getting Building Fund and Growing Places programmes for the 2022/23 financial year.			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Alex Colbran <i>07729 108123</i>
23 Nov 2022	Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development	Getting Building Fund - Grant Agreements Lead Member will be asked to: Approve East Sussex County Council entering into grant agreements to transfer funding secured from SELEP to East Sussex projects, subject to SELEP's prioritisation of East Sussex schemes within its Getting Building Fund reserve pipeline programme at its meeting on 21 October 2022.			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Alex Colbran <i>07729 108123</i>
28 Nov 2022	Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs	Retender of the Youth Employability Service contract (Advice and Guidance) Seeking Lead Member approval to commence re-tendering the Youth	<b>KD</b>		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Caroline McKiddie <i>01323 463729</i>

	and Disability	Employability Service contract (Advice and Guidance) which provides support to vulnerable young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) or at risk for becoming NEET. Current contract end date 31.08.23, procurement work to commence November 2022.				
November 2022  Page 70	Director of Adult Social Care and Health	Contract Extension Instituting an allowed 2year extension to an incumbent provider's contract. The extension will commence on 1st July 2023 and expire on the 30th June 2025. This to enable the continued delivery of ESCC element of the Pan-Sussex contract for Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy (IMCA) statutory duty.	<b>KD</b>		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Nigel Blake-Hussey  01273 335115
13 Dec 2022	Cabinet	Treasury Management Annual Report 2021/22 and mid-year report 2022/23 To consider a report on the review of Treasury Management performance for 2021/22 and the outturn for the first six months of 2022/23, including the economic factors affecting performance, the Prudential Indicators and compliance with the limits set within the Treasury Management Strategy.	<b>KD</b>		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Ian Gutsell  01273 481399
13 Dec 2022	Cabinet	Treasury Management Stewardship 2021/22 To consider a review of the Council's performance on treasury management for the year 2021/22 and the mid year review			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Ian Gutsell  01273 481399

		for 2022/23				
19 Dec 2022	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	East Sussex County Council's Alternative Weed Maintenance Techniques Trials 2022 Information presented on the outcome of the alternative techniques to using Glyphosate weed killer for weed control on the highway including opt-out volunteer service, reactive service and Foam spray. Decision to be taken on future weed maintenance techniques and whether the trials should be rolled on for 2023.	<b>KD</b>		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Dale Poore -
19 Dec 2022 Page 71	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	Rural Verges as Wildlife Corridors - Trial of Early Season Reduction in Rural Grass Cutting Decision to be taken on any permanent amendments to the rural grass cutting policy, following this year's trial. The trial reduced the grass cutting service of rural verges in 12 areas to only one full cut in the Autumn. This change meant that Highways would not cut rural verges (except for visibility) at a time when flowering is often at its peak and it is the most beneficial time for pollinators.	<b>KD</b>		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Dale Poore -

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