



PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2023

10.30 am COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, LEWES

MEMBERSHIP - Councillor 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 David Tutt

A G E N D A

1. Minutes of the previous meeting (*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) 2024/2025 (*Pages 15 - 16*)
Report by the Chief Executive.
6. Food Waste & Environment Act 2021 - Verbal update
Verbal update from the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport / Justin Foster, Waste Team Manager.
7. Electric Vehicle Charging - Verbal Update
Verbal update from the Director of Communities Economy and Transport / Ian Glover, Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Project Manager.
8. Work programme (*Pages 17 - 42*)
9. Any other items previously notified under agenda item 4

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18 September 2023

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PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Place Scrutiny Committee held at Council Chamber, County Hall, Lewes on 14 July 2023.

PRESENT Councillors Matthew Beaver (Chair) Councillors Julia Hilton (Vice Chair), Ian Hollidge, Johanna Howell, Philip Lunn, Steve Murphy, Paul Redstone, Stephen Shing and David Tutt

LEAD MEMBERS Councillors Claire Dowling

ALSO PRESENT Rupert Clubb, Director of Communities, Economy and Transport
Ros Parker, Chief Operating Officer
Ian Gutsell, Chief Finance Officer
Karl Taylor, Assistant Director Operations
Andrew Le Gresley, Team Manager - Rights of Way & Countryside
Nick Skelton, Assistant Director Communities
Samantha McManus, Team Manager Library and Information Service

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1.1 The Committee RESOLVED to agree the minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2023 as a correct record.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Chris Collier, Alan Hay and Eleanor Kirby-Green (Councillor Johanna Howell substituting). Apologies were also received from Philip Baker and James Harris.

3. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

3.1 Councillor Julia Hilton declared a personal non prejudicial interest under item 5 Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources when discussing solar PV projects for schools, as she is a Director of a community energy co-operative. Councillor Matthew Beaver declared a personal non prejudicial interest under item 6 as he is the Chair of the Combe Valley (Pebsham) Country Park Board. Councillor David Tutt declared a personal non prejudicial interest under item 8 Work Programme as he is a member of the Southern Water consumer challenge group.

4. URGENT ITEMS

4.1 There were none.

5. RECONCILING POLICY, PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES (RPPR) 2024/2025

5.1 The Chief Finance Officer introduced the report which is the start of the Committee's work on the Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) process and sets out how that Committee can contribute to the process. The report contains the State of the County report which provides an overview of the current operating environment for the Council. The Committee is invited to identify any areas of interest for inclusion in the work programme or further information for presentation at subsequent meetings. The Committee is also recommended to establish an RPPR Board which will submit comments on behalf of the Committee to Cabinet on the budget for 2024/25.

5.2 The Committee made a number of comments and asked questions based on the report which are summarised below.

5.3 Emergency Active Travel Fund – The Committee commented on the £0.6 million underspend in the capital programme and asked whether 'shovel ready' projects could be developed including those linked to Rights of Way, to ensure future funding is fully spent. The Director of Communities, Economy and Transport (CET) responded that the delivery of projects under the Emergency Active Travel Fund were challenging due to the funding conditions and very tight timescales. The funding is being used to support the safe routes to school project, which also supports Active Travel. In future it will be important to build consensus on planned projects in advance of funding becoming available.

Hastings Bexhill Movement Access Programme

5.4 The Committee noted the slippage on the delivery of this package of schemes with £1 million being spent. As such, cost inflation pressures present a risk to delivery and the Committee asked what could be done to speed up the delivery of the schemes. The Director of CET acknowledged that inflation risk is a challenge to project delivery. Schemes can take time to deliver as some are controversial and require consultation before they can be delivered. Delays have also been experienced in the design and feasibility stages. The new highways maintenance contractor, Balfour Beatty Living Partnerships, has a new designer for schemes who is reviewing the current projects to see if they can be speeded up. Also, reducing the number of projects would improve delivery. The challenge is having the revenue funding to develop projects and a pipeline of projects is slowly being built within existing capacity.

Home to School Transport

5.5 The Committee noted current overspend and planned investment in home to school transport and asked if more information could be provided about the nature of this expenditure. The Director of CET explained that the demand for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) home to school transport had increased expenditure. Work has been undertaken to optimise routes and share vehicles and chaperones where possible, but there are a number of individuals where it is not possible to share a vehicle due to their needs. The Chief Finance Officer clarified that £4 million out of the £8.9 million planned investment is for Home to School Transport. The Director of CET offered to provide more detail on the planned investment after the meeting.

Climate Emergency Works

5.6 The Committee asked about the re-profiling of the budget and the use of retentions. The Director of CET clarified that the retentions are the contractual payment of sums of money that are retained until the end of an agreed defects period for the projects, which then become due for payment at a later date.

School Decarbonisation Projects

5.7 The Committee asked when the council is likely to see the savings in energy use and carbon emissions from these projects. The Director of CET agreed to provide further information on the energy and carbon emission savings made by the heat decarbonisation and solar PV projects in schools.

Disposal of Key Assets

5.8 The Committee asked if the Property Team had enough resources to support this area of work. The Chief Operating Officer outlined that the work on asset disposal is challenging due to the limits on staff resources, especially recruiting qualified surveyors. The work in this area has been rigorously prioritized within the resources available, but it would be possible to do more if the team had more staff.

5.9 The Committee commented that it would like cover the following items as part of the RPPR work:

- How the Council's property portfolio can help fund front line services and in particular maximising opportunities from County Hall to use it in a different way or dispose of it as it is used less intensively than before Covid. The Chief Operating Officer responded that County Hall is one of the assets that the Team is looking at, along with other assets, in order to declare assets as surplus and either dispose of them for a capital receipt or use them in alternative ways where utilisation levels are low. For example, staff were moved out of Ocean House in Hastings to offices in Cavendish House and Murial Matters House with a 39% smaller office space footprint.
- Road safety and Killed and Seriously Injured collisions (KSIs). Over the years the Council has worked hard to reduce the number of KSIs on the County's roads, but they remain stubbornly high. The Committee, through the RPPR Board, should look at the safety measures the Council has brought in to identify those that have had the greatest reduction in KSIs for the money spent.
- Looking at the economic impact that changes to the transport network can bring to our communities in terms of economic development benefits.
- KPI's on smoking and whether together with the People Scrutiny Committee, place setting can help reduce smoking e.g. the difference between Eastbourne and Hastings in the number of people smoking where twice as many people smoke in Hastings compared with Eastbourne.

- Air quality, in particular fine particulates such as the PM2.5, and the differences in air quality in different parts of the County to look at what the Council may be able to learn from those areas with lower levels of air pollution to reduce contaminate levels where they are high.
- Performance targets. The Committee noted that there are good examples of where the Council is exceeding targets and asked whether more ambitious, stretch targets could be set in some areas.
- Road safety. There appeared to be a reduction in the deliverability of road safety schemes and the Committee would like to explore how the Council could rectify this.
- There appeared to be a drop in employability between 16 and 17 year olds and it would be good to have more information on why there is a drop.
- Installation of solar PV in schools. Some Committee members commented that there are a number of solar energy co-operatives in East Sussex that could help with this. So rather than market testing, could the Council not simply proceed with installing solar PV in schools.
- Contact Centre solutions. The Committee asked for assurance that contact centres are not being out-sourced and that there will be alternative options for members of the community who are not online to contact the Council.

State of the County report.

5.10 The Committee commented that the housing affordability statistic might be mis-leading as East Sussex has a relatively elderly population who may own their own homes, and asked if there is a better ratio we could use (e.g. income and affordability for first time buyers might be more meaningful). The report also states that Lewes, Rother, and Wealden have net negative land use emissions. Could this be explained and clarified as to whether the balancing out of emissions is permanent or transitory. The report also mentions the use of coal and oil, but the Committee doubted whether coal is used very much in East Sussex. The Director of CET responded that he would pass on the comments to the data analysts who produce the report.

Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)

5.11 It was clarified that the estimate of the budget deficit of around £40 million in 2025/26 has been updated to include another year in the MTFP (which covers the next three financial years). So the forecast deficit would rise to around £55.5 million in 2026/27, not taking into account the funding the Council may receive for Adult Social Care (ASC) which was a two year settlement. If ASC funding were to continue at the same level, then the forecast deficit would reduce by £28.2 million. The forecasts aim to set out the range of the possible deficit, without knowing in detail the future funding settlements. The forecast deficit is a continuing deficit unless funding levels change, or it is possible to achieve a balanced budget.

5.12 The Committee RESOLVED to:

- 1) Note the information within the 2022/23 end of year Council monitoring report and State of the County 2023 report relevant to the remit of the Committee;
- 2) Agreed the areas of interest for scrutiny as outlined in paragraph 5.9 above for consideration in the committee's future work programme, future RPPR reports or meetings and at the Committee's autumn away day; and
- 3) Establish a RPPR scrutiny board to consider the developing Portfolio Plans and financial plans and to submit scrutiny's final comments on them to Cabinet in January 2024

6. RIGHTS OF WAY AND COUNTRYSIDE TEAM - UPDATE REPORT

6.1 The Team Manager, Rights of Way & Countryside, introduced the report and gave a short presentation on the services provided by the Rights of Way (RoW) and Countryside Team. The Committee discussed the contents of the presentation and report. A summary of the comments and questions raised by the Committee is given below.

Footpath Diversions

6.2 The Committee asked about footpath diversions for major developments and what powers existed to ensure paths are reinstated. The Team Manager, Rights of Way & Countryside responded that footpath diversions for developments under the Town and Countryside Planning Act should be part of the planning process and are processed by planning authorities, in consultation with the RoW Team. Developers do have the right to apply to temporarily close footpaths for 6-18 months, but if they do not reopen them the Team can serve a notice and taken enforcement action as well as the Planning Authority being able act if the developer breaches planning conditions.

Stile replacement and footpath accessibility

6.3 The Committee asked about the criteria for replacing stiles on footpaths with gates to improve accessibility and wheelchair accessible routes. The Team Manager, Rights of Way & Countryside outlined that the Team had undertaken a mapping exercise to see where it would be possible to reduce the number of stiles and where they are a danger to use. The Team also responds to requests to remove stiles. Work to replace stiles has mainly been on village edge routes and not so much on urban routes where they are less of an issue.

6.4 The Team does develop and promote wheelchair accessible routes when external funding is available. This work tends to be with the South Downs National Park Authority and the District and Borough councils. The Team does not have maps of wheelchair accessible routes but would like to look at developing this if there is external funding available.

6.5 The Committee asked if the Council can encourage landowners to replace stiles with gates. The Team Manager, Rights of Way & Countryside responded that existing stiles and gates are authorised structures, and it can take time to persuade landowners to change the stiles they are responsible for. If landowners do not want to change stiles to gates, the RoW Team cannot compel them to replace stiles. The Team is replacing stiles with gates as part of an externally funded project with the High Weald AONB. The project is replacing around 10% of stiles in particular areas of the High Weald.

6.6 It was clarified that if stiles and gates are not repaired or replaced when they are damaged or not fit for purpose, the process is to send a letter to the landowner first requesting that they take action. After 28 days the Team will contact the landowner if no action has been taken and can then serve a notice. Once a notice has been served, if no action has been taken within 28 days, the Team can take enforcement action to remedy the problem and recharge costs to the landowner.

Volunteers

6.7 The Committee asked about the work the Team does to support volunteers and work with groups such as the Ramblers and Sustrans. The Team Manager, Rights of Way & Countryside responded that working with volunteers effectively requires adequate support and the Team has one Volunteer Officer when there used to be three. The Team does work with the Ramblers from time to time and with Parish Councils but has limited capacity. He added that he would provide feedback to the Volunteer Officer on approaching Parish Councils about volunteer work.

6.8 The Team would be happy to work with Sustrans and the Ramblers to open up less used paths which have encroaching vegetation. However, the Team does have limited capacity to work with volunteers. If brambles or encroaching vegetation needs to be cleared it can be reported to the Team and they can programme works.

Income, Resources and the impact of inflation

6.9 The Committee asked where the income comes from that the Team is able to generate. The Team Manager, Rights of Way & Countryside outlined that most of the income of around £100,000 comes from property searches and the Team is able to charge landowners for footpath diversion work which can be around £2,500 for each diversion. There are also depositions to protect land from a right of way being created.

6.10 The Committee noted the effect of inflation on budgets and asked what level of funding would be needed to counter the impact of inflation on the amount of work that could be undertaken. The Committee also asked what difference an extra full-time post would have on the Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) backlog. The Team Manager, Rights of Way & Countryside responded that he could provide a figure to catch up with the effect of inflation after the meeting and would speak to the Team about the resources needed for DMMOs. Having more resources would definitely help and this is also a national issue.

Cattle and farm tracks

6.11 The Committee noted that there have been issues with cattle in fields with footpaths that run through them and the cattle injuring people. The Committee asked how the RoW Team deal with these issues. The Team Manager, Rights of Way & Countryside responded that the responsibility for dealing with incidents lies with the farmer and the Heath and Safety Executive. There are around 2-3 significant incidents per year. Once an incident is reported to the Team, the Teams' main duty is to gather all the relevant information from the farmer and the person affected. The Team do write to farmers where an incident has been reported to them.

6.12 The Committee asked what proportion of footpaths follow farm tracks. The Team Manager, Rights of Way & Countryside estimated that around 10% of Rights of Way are shared with farm tracks and other private access routes. This can sometimes cause conflict between the different users.

Definitive Map

6.13 The Committee asked if the Team had information on the widths of Rights of Way and whether encroachment into the width of paths is a problem. The Team Manager, Rights of Way & Countryside outlined that the widths of Rights of Way should be recorded in the Definitive Map Statement. If not, the Team can look at historical or site information to determine the width of a footpath or other RoW. The Team can investigate encroachment from landowners, but it would need to meet the test of 'significant' encroachment for action to be taken.

Projects and External Funding

6.14 The Committee asked if the Team had a list of projects ready to be taken forward when funding becomes available, for example, Active Travel funding. The Team Manager, Rights of Way & Countryside responded that since 2010 the team have been surveying the whole network and have a list of works that they would like to undertake such as surfacing work and work on bridges. For surfacing work, if the Team uses Section 106 Planning Agreement, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) or Active Travel funding and if the work is on private land, the landowners' permission is still required. If Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) or Active Travel projects coincide with routes the Team would like to upgrade, this can work well, and the Team can take projects forward.

King Charles III – South-East England Coast Path

6.15 The Committee asked if additional funding is available for the work on the new national trail. The Team Manager, Rights of Way & Countryside confirmed that Natural England fully fund the implementation and management of the King Charles III South-East England Coast Path and the project officer hosted as part of the Team. There have been no major issues with landowners concerning the new national trail and any objections would be dealt with by the Secretary of State.

Vegetation Management and Disposal

6.16 The Committee asked if the team are able to remove encroaching vegetation and whether its is possible to remove arisings from site as leaving them in situ is not popular with residents, particularly in urban areas. The Team Manager, Rights of Way & Countryside acknowledged that vegetation disposal is an issue due to the cost and not having a disposal site. The Team tries to dispose of cleared vegetation on site if possible as this is the most cost-effective solution. Keeping a path unobstructed by side vegetation is the landowner's responsibility. Surface vegetation is the County Council's responsibility. The Team have access to Land Registry information, so they are able to identify landowners if necessary. If there are multiple reports of encroaching vegetation blocking a path, then the Teams can prioritise this for clearance work.

6.17 The Committee asked if there was any conflict between those people who wanted to leave vegetation to thrive for nature conservation purposes and those who wanted to have it cut back. The Team Manager, Rights of Way & Countryside responded the Team had not had many issues with this and they do try to leave a wildlife strip or verge. Many of the rangers have an ecological background and do bear in mind nature conservation requirements when carrying out their work.

Tourism and Active Travel

6.18 The Committee asked how the Council promotes Rights of Way (RoW) in the Tourism offer and where there might be value for money in looking at RoW as part of Active Travel work. The Team Manager, Rights of Way & Countryside acknowledged that most of the Team's focus is on maintenance, enforcement work and nature conservation work. Work on the new coastal path has more emphasis on tourism and there may be an opportunity to promote the circular walks that are already online more widely.

6.19 Work on the LCWIP may allow RoW schemes, which have the potential to provide more value for the money, compared with highways schemes which tend to be more expensive. It was clarified that it can be difficult and a long process to change the status of a footpath to allow its use for cycling (e.g. by upgrading to a bridleway) and the Team has limited staff capacity to do this type of work. This is mainly due to needing landowner permission to upgrade paths. The Team would need more staff and money to undertake Active Travel projects, but there is an opportunity to build a business case to look at how the RoW Team can contribute to Active Travel.

Links to Planning and Infrastructure contributions (Section 106, CIL)

6.20 The Committee asked if there are links to planning authorities for funding RoW work and the potential impacts on existing Rights of Way by developers. The Team Manager, Rights of Way & Countryside outlined that the planning authorities will flag up any impacts on existing RoW network from new developments and the Teams are consulted on 200-400 planning applications a year. For new developments this is mostly concerning the status of existing RoW rather than new routes within the development. More often Section 106 and CIL funding is used to link the development to existing routes or upgrade existing routes. It was clarified that ESCC maintains the portion of the Cuckoo trail which it owns, which is around one third of the trail, and Wealden District Council maintains the other two thirds.

6.21 The Committee RESOLVED to note the activities undertaken by the Rights of Way & Countryside Team and be aware of current work, challenges, and future priorities for the service.

7. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LIBRARIES STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING STRATEGY 2022/23 - 2027/28

7.1 The Team Manager, Library and Information Service introduced the report and provided an update on the implementation of the Libraries Strategic Commissioning Strategy. The Strategy was last updated in December 2021 and took into account the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic. Libraries are strongly placed to support communities and are working to drive up the number of library visits post pandemic. The Service has renewed the computers and network provision in libraries and has enhanced access to digital services. The Service is also working with Adult Social Care to support refugee groups. Future challenges include staffing, building costs, inflation, and anti- social behaviour in libraries.

7.2 The Committee commented on the report and asked a number of questions which are summarised below.

Antisocial Behaviour

7.3 The Committee noted the number of antisocial behaviour incidents and asked what measures were being taken to combat this. The Team Manager, Library and Information Service outlined that the Service does have strong mechanisms and appropriate staff training in place to deal with antisocial behaviour. There are library byelaws in force and the Team works closely with other partners such as the Police to deal with this issue. Some libraries have CCTV and there is an incident reporting system to monitor the situation and identify any patterns.

Income Generation

7.4 The Committee asked about the income generation opportunities in libraries, such as having coffee concessions, and the potential commercial opportunities from historic images and documents. The Team Manager, Library and Information Service responded that income is generated from the shared use and leasing out of spaces within library buildings. The Service does have a range of goods for sale in libraries such as greeting cards and recognises the interest in historic documents. The Team is reviewing the goods for sale and will look at the commercial opportunities from historic documents. A coffee concession was trialled at the Seaford library but this was not commercially viable. There is strong competition from other local coffee outlets making concessions difficult, but this will be kept under review in the light of any changing needs.

7.5 The Assistant Director Communities added that around £300,000 a year is generated from renting out space within libraries to services such as Parking, Public Health and the NHS. This provides income but also other benefits such as additional staff. The Assistant Director Communities commented that he did not think it was possible to obtain more income from parking, such as from the sale of parking permits.

Use of Libraries for public consultation and other services

7.6 The Committee asked whether it would be possible to use libraries for public consultations and other services such as the One You health service as a way of attracting people into libraries. The Team Manager, Library and Information Service outlined that the One You health service is offered by a range of partners and is in line with the priority outcome to promote health and wellbeing in the Libraries Strategic Commissioning Strategy. Libraries do currently provide access to public consultation documents and facilities for looking at consultations online.

Targeted Work with Deprived Communities and on Digital Exclusion

7.7 The Committee asked if the Service collects information on the number of people from deprived communities attending events and activities and the effectiveness of these programmes. The Committee also asked if the Service had a way of measuring the benefits from the digital exclusion work.

7.8 The Team Manager, Library and Information Service responded that the Library Service does target deprived communities and schools in deprived areas as part of its outreach work. For example, library staff promoted the Summer Reading Challenge at 74 school assemblies which resulted in participation rates exceeding pre-Covid levels due to the proactive outreach and strong communications that were undertaken. A data driven approach is taken to targeting services, which enables parents to take up free activities when looking for activities for their children.

7.9 The digital exclusion work includes the IT for You programme delivered by volunteers. The Library Service has over 300 volunteers supporting programmes across the service. The support provided is tailored to the needs of groups and individuals, with volunteer co-ordinators working with partners to understand what support is needed. There is some emerging research on the benefits of this work from the Libraries Connected research that is undertaken nationally. The Service is committed to understanding how effective their work is in this area.

Voluntary Community Libraries

7.10 The Committee asked what ongoing support is available for voluntary community libraries, such as with book stock and other types of support. The Team Manager, Library and Information Service outlined that the community run libraries were provided with book stock and furniture when they were first established. There is also a disposal process in which stock and furniture is offered to community run libraries.

Extended Access to Services

7.11 The Committee noted the work of the Home Library Service which delivers books to the door for those people who are unable to visit a library. The Team Manager, Library and Information Service commented that the Home Library Services is reliant on volunteers and has made over 700 visits and deliveries to people's homes and care homes over the last year. The Service has also extended the book reservations facility, which is free to use.

7.12 The Committee RESOLVED to:

- 1) Endorse the progress that has been made to deliver the Libraries Strategic Commissioning Strategy 2022/23 – 2027/28 as set out in the report; and
- 2) Note the current service priorities and challenges.

8. WORK PROGRAMME

8.1 The Committee discussed the recent water supply problems in the north of the County where South East Water is responsible for the water supply. It was suggested that the Committee request South East Water attend a future meeting of the Committee to explain what actions they are taking to resolve the water supply issues experienced by East Sussex residents and businesses. The Committee also considered that it would be beneficial to invite Southern Water, who supply some parts of the County, to answer similar questions about water supply resilience and long term water supply plans.

8.2 The Director of CET commented that it might be helpful for the Committee to think about the sort of questions they would wish to put to the water supply companies about long term water supply and demand, and the short term solutions that can be put in place to resolve the water supply issues that have been experienced. The Committee noted that some of the long term planning is based on the assumption that individual water consumption would reduce from 150 litres per person per day, to 100 litres per person per day which might be unrealistic.

8.3 The Committee agreed to request that South East Water and Southern Water attend a future Committee meeting to respond to questions about the water supply issues and longer term water supply planning for East Sussex.

8.4 The Committee discussed a range of topics that they would like to reflect and include within the work programme. These included the following topics and issues:

- A recent internal audit of the corporate Climate Emergency Action Plan had an outcome of 'Partial Assurance'. The Committee requested that the Climate Emergency working group see this report.
- Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) 2022 Assurance Deep Dive report. The Committee agreed that the Chair and Vice Chair would write to DLUHC to ask when the report would be available.
- Waste and Minerals Plan review. The Committee asked what stage the work to review the Waste and Minerals Plan had reached and whether there was an opportunity for the Committee to feed into this piece of work. For example, is there a presumption within the Plan that the use of recycled materials will be maximised.
- Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP). The Committee asked if it would be possible to have a report on the new Flexibus service, including an evaluation of the use and success of the service.
- Killed and Seriously Injured (KSI) road collisions. The Committee asked if it could have an update report on the effectiveness of the interventions that had been put in place to try and reduce the number of KSI incidents on the County's roads, and have an outline of the measures that other local authorities had put in place to tackle this issue.
- Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points. The Committee asked for a progress report on the plans for the installation of a public EV charging point network in East Sussex.

Local Transport Plan (LTP) Reference Group - update

8.5 Councillor Paul Redstone, Chair of the LTP Reference Group gave an update on the work of the Group. The Reference Group has been working with officers and representatives from the consultants, Steer, on the development stages of the LTP. This has included the work with other stakeholders who have been contributing to the development process. The Reference Group's work has included commenting on the drivers, transport scenarios and potential interventions within the LTP, and inputting into the Vision and Strategy for the LTP. The next step is for the draft LTP to go out to public consultation, with the final version being presented to Cabinet and then Full Council for approval.

8.6 The Committee RESOLVED to

- 1) Agree the agenda items for the future Committee meetings, including items listed in the updated work programme in appendix 1 of the report;
- 2) Amend the work programme in line with paragraphs 5.12, 8.3 and 8.4 above;
- 3) Note the upcoming items on East Sussex County Council's (ESCC) Forward Plan in appendix 2 of the report;

- 4) Note the Climate Emergency Action Plan Working Group will be reconvened; and
- 5) Confirm the membership of the Economic Growth Strategy Reference Group as outlined in paragraph 2.4 of the report.

The meeting ended at 12.53 pm.

Councillor Matthew Beaver (Chair)

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Report to:	Place Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	26 September 2023
By:	Chief Executive
Title:	Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)
Purpose:	To provide an opportunity for the committee to prepare for further input to the Council's business and financial planning process, RPPR, during the autumn and winter.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The committee is recommended to identify any further work or information needed to support scrutiny's contribution to the RPPR planning process, for consideration at future meetings.

1. Background

1.1 In July the committee considered the year end Council monitoring report for 2022/23 and the 2023 State of the County report, focusing on the areas within the committee's remit. Taken together, these reports began to set out the context for planning for 2024/25 and beyond through the Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) process. Members were able to consider significant challenges and developments affecting services and ensure that the committee's work programme included key areas for further scrutiny.

1.2 Through the autumn the committee has the opportunity to continue to provide input to the planning process. This will include consideration of the RPPR update report to Cabinet in November and review of draft 2024/25 portfolio plans and the latest information on the financial context at the committee's RPPR Board in December. The committee's wider work programme continues to include more detailed scrutiny of specific topics which will bring further insight to the committee's contribution to RPPR.

1.3 This report provides an update on the planning process, including scrutiny engagement, and an opportunity for the committee identify any additional information or scrutiny work required to support the committee's ongoing contribution, for consideration at future meetings.

2. Supporting information

2.1 The State of the County report set out our latest assessment of the evidence base and the developing policy and financial outlook which will inform planning for 2024/25 and beyond. The ongoing uncertainty in the planning context was outlined, including the challenging economic conditions and the evolving national policy agenda. Within this uncertain national environment, the report set out that we continue to experience increased demand for services locally, arising from demographic changes and increased need.

2.2 Over the summer, the challenging context for local government has persisted, with some national media coverage of the financial and service pressures facing councils, particularly in demand-led services such as children's and adult social care and special educational needs and disability (SEND). The Quarter 1 Council Monitoring report, to be considered by Cabinet on 28 September and Council in October, is expected to provide some initial indications of how national and local conditions are impacting on East Sussex County Council (ESCC) in year.

2.3 Government has made a number of announcements impacting councils, and ESCC specifically, over the summer, including on the future of Local Enterprise Partnerships, planning reforms, migration and asylum (including Royal Assent for the Illegal Migration Act), SEND reform pilots and Adult Social Care market sustainability and winter planning. An overview of key policy developments will be included in the RPPR update report to Cabinet in November and factored into planning through RPPR as usual. The King's Speech, scheduled for 7 November, will provide details of the Government's planned legislative agenda in the lead up to the next general election, expected at some point in 2024.

2.4 In terms of local government funding, the Autumn Budget Statement, scheduled for 22 November, may provide some indication of the outlook but the detail is expected to come in the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement, anticipated in December or early January. A further one year financial settlement is anticipated for 2024/25, with any significant national reforms to local government funding unlikely before the general election.

2.5 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 the uncertain environment, supporting planning for 2024/25 and beyond and maintaining focus on our priority outcomes.

3. Scrutiny engagement in RPPR planning

3.1 This committee's input to the RPPR process is ongoing, both through specific RPPR reports to each meeting and through more detailed scrutiny of specific issues through the wider work programme.

3.2 Following on from consideration in **July** of the 2023 State of the County report and 2022/23 year end monitoring report, the **September** meeting provides a further opportunity to consider the key issues for services which will impact on planning for 2024/25 and any further information required by scrutiny to inform the committee's input to the RPPR process at sessions later in the autumn and winter.

3.3 The **November** committee meeting will provide an opportunity to review the latest update to Cabinet on planning for 2024/25, including the latest financial position.

3.4 The committee's **RPPR Board** will then meet in December 2023 to agree detailed comments and any recommendations on the budget and emerging updated portfolio plans to be put to Cabinet on behalf of the committee in January 2024.

3.5 The **March 2024** meeting will enable the committee to review the process and its 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.

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

4. Conclusion and reason for recommendations

4.1 To support its ongoing input to the RPPR process, the Committee is recommended to identify any further work or information it requires for consideration at future meetings.

BECKY SHAW
Chief Executive

Contact Officer: Martin Jenks, Senior Scrutiny Advisor
Telephone: 01273 481327
Email: martin.jenks@eastsussex.gov.uk

Report to:	Place Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	26 September 2023
By:	Assistant Chief Executive
Title:	Place Scrutiny Committee future work programme
Purpose:	To review and agree items for the Place Scrutiny Committee's future work programme and receive updates on previous work.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Place Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- 1) Review the 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;**
 - 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; and**
 - 4) Note the updates from the Review Board, Working Group and Reference Groups contained in section 3 of the report.**
-

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 will review the items contained in the current work programme and discuss the future agenda items and other scrutiny work of the Committee in more detail at the Committee's Away Day, that will take place at the conclusion of the committee meeting. A copy of the current work programme is contained in appendix 1 of the report for consideration by the Committee.

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, including items contained the Council's Forward Plan of decisions. This can include any topics or issues identified through the Committee's work on the Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) process discussed earlier in the agenda.

3. Forward Plan

3.1 A copy of the Council's Forward Plan of executive decisions for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 December 2023 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. Scrutiny review board, working group and reference group updates

Scrutiny Review of Pothole Management

4.1 The Review Board, which is comprised of Councillors Matthew Beaver, Julia Hilton, Ian Hollidge (Chair), Eleanor Kirby-Green and Philip Lunn, has met on five occasions since the date of the last Place Scrutiny Committee meeting. The Board has been undertaking evidence gathering for the review and has met with Balfour Beatty Living Partnerships (BBLP), who is the new Highways maintenance contractor, to examine their approach to defect reporting, pothole/defect repairs, quality assurance and innovation in operating the contract. The Review Board has also looked at the Council's policies and procedures for defects/pothole repairs; the asset management approach and targets for road condition; and the planned investment in highways maintenance. The Board plans to submit its report to the Place Scrutiny Committee for approval at the meeting scheduled to be held on 23 November 2023.

Climate Emergency Action Plan – Working Group

4.2 The Climate Emergency Action Plan Working Group, which is comprised of Councillors Julia Hilton, Ian Hollidge, Paul Redstone (Chair) and David Tutt reconvened and met on two occasions to consider and provide scrutiny input into the development of a draft carbon offset framework for the Council (which will form part of the corporate climate emergency action plan) and a draft updated corporate Environment Policy. The Working Group made detailed comments on both the draft carbon offset framework and the draft updated corporate Environment Policy. The comments made by the Working Group have been incorporated into the draft versions of these documents, which will be considered by the Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change for approval.

Local Transport Plan (LTP) Reference Group

4.3 The LTP Reference Group, which is comprised of Councillors Matthew Beaver, Chris Collier, Julia Hilton, Ian Hollidge, Philip Lunn, Paul Redstone (Chair), Stephen Shing and David Tutt, has met on two occasions since the last Committee meeting. The Reference Group has continued to provide scrutiny input into the development stages of the Local Transport Plan. This has involved stakeholder engagement work on the vision, key objectives, packages of interventions and the structure and content of the draft LTP document. The Reference Group has been informed that the draft LTP statutory guidance which was due to be published by the Department for Transport has been delayed, which may have implications for the project timetable. The Reference Group will meet again later in the year to consider the draft LTP document prior to the public consultation stage commencing.

East Sussex Economic Growth Strategy - Reference Group

4.4 The Economic Growth Strategy Reference Group, which is comprised of Councillors Chris Collier, Julia Hilton, Ian Hollidge, Paul Redstone and David Tutt, has been established to provide scrutiny input into the development of an Economic Growth Strategy for East Sussex. The Reference Group is planning to hold an initial meeting in late September or early October (date to be confirmed).

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

5.1 The Place Scrutiny Committee is recommended to consider the 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 and note the updates from the Review Board, Working Group and Reference Groups.

PHILIP BAKER
Assistant Chief Executive

Contact Officer: Martin Jenks, Senior Scrutiny Adviser

Tel. No. 01273 481327

Email: martin.jenks@eastsussex.gov.uk

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.

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Place Scrutiny Committee – Work Programme

Current Scrutiny Reviews		
Title of Review	Detail	Proposed Completion Date
Scrutiny Review of Pothole Management	A scrutiny review of Pothole Management which will focus on the Council's approach to repairing potholes and other highway defects which may affect vulnerable road users. The aim of the review is to examine what more can be done to tackle the issue of potholes in roads, which has been a focus of concerns expressed by residents. The Review Board will be comprised of Councillors Matthew Beaver, Julia Hilton, Ian Hollidge (Chair), Eleanor Kirby-Green and Philip Lunn.	November 2023
Initial Scoping Reviews		
Subject area for initial scoping	Detail	Proposed Dates
To be agreed.		
List of Suggested Potential Future Scrutiny Review or Reference Group Topics		
Suggested Topic	Detail	
Climate Change	The Committee has agreed to consider a scoping a review 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.	

Scrutiny Reference and Working Groups		
Reference Group Title	Subject Area	Meetings Dates
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. It is taking part in a series of workshops on the development of the LTP4.	7 September 2023. Further dates to be agreed as required.
East Sussex Economic Growth Strategy	The Committee has agreed to form a reference group to provide scrutiny input into the development of the Strategy in response to the Committee's request to have scrutiny involvement in the development process for economic development projects, which will be guided by the Strategy. The membership of the reference group and terms of reference is to be agreed.	Initially Sept/Oct 2023 and then during 2023 and early 2024.
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
Place Scrutiny Committee – Away Day.	The Place Scrutiny Committee annual work planning Away Day will review the work programme, discuss potential items for inclusion in the future work programme and agree priorities for the coming year. The Away Day will also include a 'short bite' training session on a topic or an area of scrutiny practice e.g. questioning skills.	26 September 2023 at the conclusion of the Place Scrutiny Committee meeting.

Future Committee Agenda Items		Author/Witnesses
26 September 2023		
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"> • Reports for future meetings • Scrutiny reviews and potential scrutiny reviews • Items from the Forward Plan 	Senior Scrutiny Adviser
23 November 2023		
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
Southern Water, combined sewer discharges and spills	An update report on Southern Water's work to reduce the use of storm water discharges and spills, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an update on the timescales for any East Sussex trials; • an update on the progress of investment to tackle the use of storm overflows and improve infrastructure with details of location, costs and timescales, including the Local Area Regional Plan; and • details of any improvements Southern Water have made in communications with the public on the issues involved, as the Committee agreed that this was not currently good enough. • 	Representatives from Southern Water, the Environment Agency and Ofwat
Scrutiny Review of Pothole Management	To consider and agree the report of the Review Board on the Scrutiny Review of Pothole Management	Chair of the Review Board / Senior Scrutiny Advisor
Scrutiny Review of Road Markings	To receive an 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
SPACES Programme and Community Asset Transfer (CAT) policy	To receive an update report on the work of the SPACES programme, including its successes and future focus, and a report back on the updated Community Asset Transfer (CAT) policy.	Assistant Director Property / Chief Operating Officer

Work Programme	To consider items for inclusion in the Committee's work programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports for future meetings • Scrutiny reviews and potential scrutiny reviews • Items from the Forward Plan 	Senior Scrutiny Adviser
12 March 2024		
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
Scrutiny Review of Procurement: Social Value and Buying Local	To receive an update report on the implementation of the recommendations from the Scrutiny Review of Procurement: Social Value and Buying Local.	Chief Operating Officer / Director of Procurement / Head of Policy and Modernisation, Orbis Procurement
Environment Act, Food Waste	To receive an update report on the implications of the Environment Act for ESCC of the requirement to put in place a food waste collection service.	Assistant Director Operations/Waste Team Manager
Work Programme	To consider items for inclusion in the Committee's work programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports for future meetings • Scrutiny reviews and potential scrutiny reviews • Items from the Forward Plan 	Senior Scrutiny Adviser
12 July 2024		
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)	To commence the Committee's involvement with the RPPR process for 2025/26 by reviewing the information in the Quarter 4, end of financial year (2023/24) 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"> • Reports for future meetings • Scrutiny reviews and potential scrutiny reviews • Items from the Forward Plan 	Senior Scrutiny Adviser
23 September 2024		
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)	To continue the Committee's work on the RPPR process for 2025/26, by reviewing Portfolio Plans and service based information.	Chief Executive / Senior Scrutiny Adviser

Scrutiny Review of Procurement: Social Value and Buying Local	To receive the second update report on the implementation of the recommendations from the Scrutiny Review of Procurement: Social Value and Buying Local.	Chief Operating Officer / Director of Procurement / Head of Policy and Modernisation, Orbis Procurement
Work Programme	To consider items for inclusion in the Committee's work programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports for future meetings • Scrutiny reviews and potential scrutiny reviews • Items from the Forward Plan 	Senior Scrutiny Adviser
28 November 2024		
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 2025/26.	Chief Executive / Senior Scrutiny Adviser
Work Programme	To consider items for inclusion in the Committee's work programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports for future meetings • Scrutiny reviews and potential scrutiny reviews • Items from the Forward Plan 	Senior Scrutiny Adviser
20 March 2025		
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
Work Programme	To consider items for inclusion in the Committee's work programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports for future meetings • Scrutiny reviews and potential scrutiny reviews • Items from the Forward Plan 	Senior Scrutiny Adviser
Future Items – to be scheduled		Witnesses
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

Queensway Gateway Project	A report on the Queensway Gateway project, covering the current position regarding delivery of this project.	Director of Communities Economy and Transport / Assistant Director Economy / Head of Economic Development, Skills and Infrastructure.
Water Supply Issues and Future Demand Planning	To receive a report from South East Water on the actions they are taking to resolve the recent water supply issues in the north of the County and to hear from South East Water and Southern Water about their longer terms plans for supplying water to East Sussex residents and businesses.	Representatives from South East Water and Southern Water.
Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) Flexi-Bus Service	The Committee requested a report on the new Flexi-Bus service, including an evaluation of the use and success of the service.	Director of Communities Economy and Transport / Assistant Director Operations
Killed and Seriously Injured (KSI) Road Collisions	The Committee requested an update report on the effectiveness of the interventions that have been put in place to try and reduce the number of KSI collisions on the County's roads, and have an outline of the measures that other local authorities have put in place to tackle this issue.	Director of Communities Economy and Transport / Assistant Director Communities

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 27
- 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 Stuart McKeown at County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, BN7 1UE, or telephone 01273 481583 or send an e-mail to stuart.mckeown@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 2023 TO 31 December 2023

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

Vacancy – 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
11 Sep 2023	Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability	Holy Cross CE Primary School To update the Lead Member following the consultation on the proposed closure of Holy Cross CE Primary School and to seek approval for next steps.	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Gary Langford 01273 481758
11 Sep 2023	Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability	Household Support Fund Round 4 Approval of the proposed use of the Household Support Fund Round 4 for the period 1 October – 31 March 2024 for the spend on children and families. A report is also being considered by the Lead Member	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Jessica Stubbings 01323 463537

		for Adult Social Care and Health for the spend of this fund on adults.				
Between 12 Sep 2023 and 30 Sep 2023	Chief Operating Officer	Approve the disposal of Beacongate and The Gables, Crowborough Consideration of the offers received from marketing of both assets and selecting a preferred purchaser to support best value in accordance with s123 of the Local Government Act 1972. These assets were formerly used for the delivery of Adult Social Care Services.	P KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Rebecca Lewis 07955 312371
15 Sep 2023 Page 29	Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health	Household Support Fund Round 4 (HSF4) Approval of the proposed use of the Household Support Fund Round 4 for the period (1 October – 31 March 2024) for the spend allocations managed by Adult Social care and Health (ASC&H) which include District and Borough allocations, Voluntary and Community Social Enterprise organisations (VCSE) allocations, allocations to Warmer Homes and allocations to Food Banks/Food Partnerships. A report is also being considered by the Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability (EISEND) for the spend of the Household Support Fund on children and families.	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Paul Bolton 01273 336353

18 Sep 2023	Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change	<p>East Sussex County Council 2022/2023 Modern Slavery Statement</p> <p>To provide a progress update of East Sussex County Council's Modern Slavery Statement to the Lead Member and to seek his signature of approval. The 2022/2023 statement relates to the steps taken by the Council during the financial year 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 to mitigate risks of modern slavery within its supply chains. Performance indicators are being developed as detailed in the statement and will be used to report on 2023/2024 activity.</p>			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Akilah Jardine 07815 473201
25 Sep 2023 Page 30	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	<p>East Sussex County Council Community Match Scheme</p> <p>To seek approval from the Lead Member for Transport and Environment for the implementation of updated guidance and criteria for the Community Match Scheme.</p>			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Ruby Brittle 01273 337496
25 Sep 2023	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	<p>Revision of Joint Parking Boards</p> <p>To authorise setting up one Joint Parking Board for all four areas of Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE). We currently hold separate joint parking board in two areas, Lewes District and Hastings Borough with two meetings each year. We propose the new meeting will include Eastbourne Borough and following the introduced of CPE in 2020 Rother District.</p>			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Daniel Clarke 01323 464057

25 Sep 2023	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	<p>Petition to 'introduce a lorry route network similar to the one in West Sussex, so that HGVs are redirected away from narrow local roads in our villages'</p> <p>To consider whether the existing approach to freight movements in East Sussex, as set out in LTP3, needs updating and to consider HGV movements through Ringmer in order to respond to the petition calling on the County Council to introduce a lorry route network similar to the one in West Sussex.</p>	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	<p>Lisa Simmonds, Tessa Sweet-Escott 0345 6080190, 0345 6080190</p>
25 Sep 2023	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	<p>Eastbourne Town Centre Movement and Access Package Phase 2b & Victoria Place Levelling Up Fund (Seaside Road to Grand Parade) Public Consultation Results</p> <p>To approve the East Sussex County Council response and report on the Eastbourne Town Centre Movement and Access Package Phase 2b public consultation, moving to complete the detailed design and construction of the Victoria Place section of the Terminus Road scheme.</p>	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	<p>Isobel Kellett 07513 833903</p>
28 Sep 2023	Cabinet	<p>Scrutiny Review of Equality and Inclusion in ASCH</p> <p>To consider and comment on the report of the People Scrutiny Committee and agree the response to the recommendations of the review.</p>			Report, other documents may also be submitted	<p>Rachel Sweeney 07561 267461</p>

28 Sep 2023	Cabinet	<p>East Sussex, Brighton & Hove and the South Downs NPA Waste and Minerals Plan Review</p> <p>To recommend to Full Council that; the modifications proposed to the Submission version of the Waste and Minerals Plan Review are published for statutory public consultation. These modifications are deemed necessary in order for the Plan to be found 'sound' and are in response to feedback received from the Planning Inspectorate following the Public Examination into the Plan in November 2022.</p>	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Ed Sheath 01273 481632
28 Sep 2023 Page 32	Cabinet	<p>Report on the County Council's progress in becoming a carbon neutral council</p> <p>The agreed Notice of Motion covering ESCC's declaration of a climate emergency committed the County Council to: report annually on its progress towards the target of achieving carbon neutrality from its activities as soon as possible and in any event by 2050.</p>			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Andy Arnold 01273 481606
28 Sep 2023	Cabinet	<p>Council Monitoring Quarter 1</p> <p>To consider the Council Monitoring report for the first quarter of the financial year 2023/24 as part of the Council's Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) budget monitoring process.</p>			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Victoria Beard 07894 708914

28 Sep 2023	Cabinet	Corporate Peer Challenge To consider the report and recommendations of the County Council Corporate Peer Challenge undertaken by the Local Government Association.			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Claire Lee 07523 930526
28 Sep 2023	Cabinet	The Conservators of Ashdown Forest - 2022/23 Outturn Approval is required to agree the funding of the operational deficit on the Core Budget, as per the Ashdown Forest Act.			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Jill Fisher 01273 482542
September 2023 Page 33	Director of Adult Social Care and Health	Re-commission of the Direct Payments Support Service (DPSS) For the Director of Adult Social Care and Health to action the implementation of the re-commission of the Direct Payments Support Service (DPSS) including the award of the contract to the successful bidder, following Lead Member approval at the meeting which took place on 15 May 2023 .	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Caroline Moyes 01273 336546
September 2023	Director of Communities, Economy and Transport	Hastings Public Realm and Green Connections Consultation and Preliminary Design To consider direct award of the Consultation, Preliminary Design and relevant surveys for the Hastings Public Realm and Green Connections project to Arup. Arup worked on previous design work for this project, led and managed by Hastings Borough Council. This project has £9.834m of funding from Hastings Town	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Ellie McDaniel 01273 335464

		Deal and £400k from the Local Growth Fund. This commission is valued at £700k.				
3 Oct 2023	Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health	<p>East Sussex Carers Centre - contract extension</p> <p>The contract for the East Sussex Carers Centre is currently held by Care for the Carers as our Strategic Partner delivering a range of services to carers in East Sussex.</p> <p>The current contract value is £3,291M over a term of 5.5 years. The service was procured in 2019, starting on 01/10/2019 with an option to extend for a further two years from April 2025.</p> <p>The first 5.5 years of the contract end on 31/04/2025 and, after review, it is proposed that the current contract is extended for a further two years until 31 March 2027. This will enable the successful partnership work between the Council, Care for the Carers and the NHS to continue and develop and allow time for the additional services to be fully implemented and reviewed.</p> <p>Future recommissioning options will be explored before a decision to tender the contract is made.</p>	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Tamsin Peart 07881 282732

16 Oct 2023	Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability	Admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools 2025-26- permission to consult Permission is sought to consult on the proposed admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools in East Sussex for the 2025-26 school year. The School Admissions Code requires a consultation period of at least six weeks between October and January. Following this, the Lead Member will need to determine the admission arrangements at the meeting in February 2024 in line with the requirements of the School Admissions Code.	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Jo Miles <i>01273 481911</i>
16 Oct 2023	Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability	Revision of Home to School Transport policies The Lead Member is asked to approve the revised Home to School Transport policies, which, while in essence unchanged, have been re-formatted to contain additional information in line with the Department for Education (DfE) guidance published in June 2023.	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Jo Miles, Alison Mills <i>01273 481911, 07701 020788</i>
17 Oct 2023	Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change	Sidley Depot Site, Bexhill - Disposal of Freehold The site is currently vacant and surplus to operational requirements. We are seeking Lead Member approval to formally declare the site to be surplus, and to approve the disposal of the site. We then ask that the Chief Operating Officer be delegated authority to agree detailed terms with the	P KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Rebecca Lewis <i>07955 312371</i>

		preferred purchaser.				
24 Oct 2023	Director of Adult Social Care and Health	<p>Approval of award of contract - Integrated Health and Wellbeing Service</p> <p>Following a tender process to commission an Integrated Health and Wellbeing Service, approval of award of contract is to be sought from the Director of Adult Social Care and Health.</p> <p>The Integrated Health and Wellbeing Service provides evidence-based support to enable people across East Sussex to make changes to their lifestyle to improve their health. Such changes include supporting residents to eat well, manage their weight, move more, quit smoking and drink less alcohol.</p>	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Nicola Blake 01273 335060
October 2023	Chief Operating Officer	<p>Award of contract for Salary Sacrifice Lease Car scheme (Electric Vehicles)</p> <p>East Sussex County Council wants to introduce a Salary Sacrifice Lease Car scheme for electric vehicles. This will allow employees to access electric vehicles at a saving compared to conventional purchase. This will help employees to access greener transport and will therefore support the Council's climate emergency plans. It will also provide an attractive staff benefit, helping to aid recruitment and retention. The scheme will be run as a managed service by a private provider, in order to facilitate employee access to a range of</p>	P KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Nicholas Earley 01273 335061

		good quality vehicles which represent good value for money. The managed service will also ensure the council is compliant with all relevant HMRC legislation, and that the administrative burden for the authority is minimal.				
October 2023 Page 37	Chief Operating Officer	<p>Telephony Services contract award Contract award (jointly with Brighton and Hove City Council, and Surrey County Council) of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Call Plan (the main telephone service) • A replacement Contact Centre telephony solution (including licences) • Implementation services (specialist knowledge and expertise) • Microsoft Teams telephony licences (enabling the dial pad and unified comms experience to be added to the existing Teams interface). <p>Decision, as delegated at the 31 March 2023 meeting of the Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change.</p>	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Matt Scott 07552 286752
October 2023	Chief Operating Officer	<p>Former Hindslands Playing Fields, Eastbourne Road, Polegate - Disposal of Freehold Disposal of the Former Hindslands Playing Fields, Eastbourne Road, Polegate by agreement of the final heads of terms for the sale of the two parcels of land as delegated by the r Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change in May 2023.</p>	P KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Rebecca Lewis 07955 312371

<p>October 2023</p>	<p>Chief Operating Officer</p>	<p>Award of main contract for the extension of Robertsbridge Community College Special Educational Needs (SEN) facilities East Sussex County Council Children's Services propose to expand the current Special Educational Needs (SEN) facilities to accommodate an additional 12 full-time equivalent (FTE) pupils with Specific Learning Difficulties. This decision is to appoint a contractor for the building extension. The contractor will be appointed following the Council's Procurement and Tendering process under a Joint Contracts Tribunal (JCT) traditional contract.</p>	<p>P KD</p>		<p>Report, other documents may also be submitted</p>	<p>Nigel Brown 07394 410630</p>
<p>October 2023</p>	<p>Chief Operating Officer</p>	<p>Award of Pre-Contract Services Agreement (PSCA) for the ESCC youth centres for The Joff, Peacehaven and Heathfield Youth Centre, Heathfield to appoint a contractor This is for pre contract services to enable a tender package to be prepared for works to The Joff Youth Centre, Peacehaven and Heathfield Youth Centre. The works will increase the number of regular positive activities and clubs available to young people aged 11 to 19 (up to 25 for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) in the areas.</p>	<p>KD</p>		<p>Report, other documents may also be submitted</p>	<p>Nigel Brown 07394 410630</p>

7 Nov 2023	Cabinet	Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) update - 2024/25 next steps and Medium Term Financial Plan To consider an update on the reconciling policy, performance and resources process for 2024/25, the next steps and the medium term financial plan	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Victoria Beard 07894 708914
20 Nov 2023	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	Review of fees and charges for East Sussex County Council's statutory planning consultee roles The Council's Flood Risk Management and Transport Development Control teams perform statutory planning consultee roles, meaning that they have a legal obligation to respond to relevant planning application consultations. To improve the quality of applications that are received, a pre-application advice service is offered, which is a paid-for service. A review of the charges that are applied for this service has been undertaken and new charges are proposed together with an approach to lessening the burden/financial cost to the Council when it comes to providing flood risk/drainage advice to applicants to resolve matters associated with the development proposals.	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Ed Sheath 01273 481632
21 Nov 2023	Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health	Re commission of the Adult Drug and Alcohol Treatment Service The current contract to deliver drug and alcohol treatment in East Sussex ends in March 2025. The process to re-commission these services is a lengthy one in order to	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Caz Kearton-Evans 07879 117579

		ensure we are able to identify a service which meets the needs of the East Sussex residents that use it, meets the outcomes set out by Central Government and provides value for money. The tendering section of the recommissioning process will begin in May 2024 with the new contract scheduled to begin in April 2025.				
28 Nov 2023	Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change	To approve the granting of a new Lease to the Trustees of the West Hills & District Community Centre The current Lease dated 12 March 2008 expires 11 March 2023 and it is proposed that ESCC grant the Trustees a new Lease for a period of 25 years which will allow the Trustees to be able to seek grant funding.	P KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Joanne Johnston, Zoe Tweed 01273 336621, 07701 021868
November 2023	Chief Operating Officer	Hye House Farm, Crowhurst - Disposal of Freehold Hye House Farm, Crowhurst – Disposal of Freehold. The Chief Operating Officer will review the offers received for the different Lots following the marketing of the site as approved by the Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change in June 2023.	P KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Rebecca Lewis 07955 312371
11 Dec 2023	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	Community Match - Etchingam The introduction of a 40mph speed limit between the eastern end of Etchingam and Hurst Green. The introduction of a 40mph speed limit between the western end of Etchingam and Burwash.			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Victoria Rojanachotikul 03456 080193

<p>11 Dec 2023</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 41</p>	<p>Lead Member for Transport and Environment</p>	<p>Response to Defra consultations on implementing Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010</p> <p>Under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, East Sussex County Council became the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for the county. The LLFA role includes a statutory consultee to major planning applications. Parts of the Flood and Water Management Act have never been implemented and this includes Schedule 3, which will introduce additional duties and burdens to the County Council, including the statutory role of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Approval Body and Adopting Authority. The Government has recently indicated its intention to implement Schedule 3 and is due to consult on a series of documents in Autumn 2023, which will set out how Schedule 3 will work in practice, as well as setting out matters such as proposed transitional arrangements and any new burdens monies. The report to the Lead Member will set out the County Councils proposed response to this consultation.</p>			<p>Report, other documents may also be submitted</p>	<p>Ed Sheath 01273 481632</p>
<p>15 Dec 2023</p>	<p>Director of Adult Social Care and Health</p>	<p>Sexual Health Services Procurement Approve the award of the Specialist Sexual Health Contract that has been subject to competitive tender in line with the Lead Members decision to delegate the decision to the Director of Adult Social Care & Health on 20 April 2023.</p>	<p>KD</p>		<p>Report, other documents may also be submitted</p>	<p>Tony Proom 01273 335252</p>

