

REPORT OF THE CABINET

The Cabinet met on 18 July and 19 September 2017. Attendance:-

Councillor Glazier (Chair) (2)

Councillors Bennett (2), Bentley (2), Elkin (2), Maynard (2), Simmons (1), Standley (2) and Tidy (2)

1. Council Monitoring – Quarter One 2017/18

1.1 The Cabinet has considered a report on performance against the Council Plan, Revenue Budget, Capital Programme, Savings Plan and risks for Quarter 1 2017/18. Broad progress against the Council's four strategic priority outcomes is summarised below and an overview of performance and finance data is provided in the Corporate Summary at Appendix 1. Strategic risks are reported at Appendix 7 and a detailed report for each department is provided in Appendices 2 to 6.

Carry over report for 2015/16 Council Plan

1.2 Three measures were carried over from quarter 4 reporting on the 2016/17 Council Plan. Measures are carried over when action has been completed but the outturn data was not available for reporting at the year-end. Outturns for the three measures are:

- NHS Health Checks: % of the eligible population offered an NHS Health Check. Final outturn red, 17.3% (target 20%); however 2016/17 was the fourth year of a five year cycle, and with 82% of eligible people offered a Health Check at the end of 2016/17 we are currently on course to offer a Health Check to 100% of eligible people by the end of the five year period (end of 2017/18)
- Smoking Cessation: Number of persons attending East Sussex NHS Stop Smoking Services who quit smoking four weeks after setting a quit date. Final outturn red, 1,433 (target 2,102). The number of people quitting smoking was impacted on by lower than expected demand and performance of stop smoking services, despite recovery plans being agreed. The contract with the specialist stop smoking service provider has now ended and a new integrated lifestyle service commenced in August 2017, consequently the ability to influence the provider during the notice period was limited
- Access to Genito-Urinary Medicine clinics: % of first attendances seen within 2 working days. Final outturn green, 96.2% (target 95%)

Further information on the NHS Health Checks and Smoking Cessation targets which weren't met at the end of 2016/17 can be found in Appendix 2.

Overview of 2017/18 Council Plan

1.3 Following year-end the Council Plan and Portfolio Plans 2017/18 – 2019/20 have been refreshed with completed outturns and some changes to the performance measures and targets. The updated plans are available on our website.

1.4 At quarter 1, the projected year-end overspend within service departments is £3.0m. Services are working on strategies and actions to reduce or mitigate this overspend. The main areas of overspend are:-

- £2.2m in Children's Services mainly due to the increases in packages for young people with complex needs within Early Help and Social Care. The department is working to contain this pressure, but it is increasing, in addition to those ISEND related pressures currently included for future years in the Medium Term Financial Plan. The department is also currently confirming which budgets would be pooled and/or integrated under the Accountable Care Organisation, and considering whether there are any associated risks.

- £1.1m overspend in Adult Social Care mainly due to a continued pressure on the independent sector, reflecting increases in the number, complexity and cost of care packages. There continue to be a number of significant unknowns that could impact on the financial position, including the impact of the transitional year of health and social care integration, and Strategic Investment Plan, within East Sussex Better Together and the recently announced Local System Review of social care and health in East Sussex, which will be carried out by the Care Quality Commission this autumn.

1.5 There are budget pressures across all departments, within Communities, Economy and Transport; Business Services; and Governance; these are being successfully contained and there is a small underspend of £0.3m being reported across these services.

1.6 The quarter 1 position is a significant improvement when compared to the projected year-end overspend of £12.9m within service departments at quarter 1 2016/17. This is reflective of the work undertaken as part of the RPPR process in autumn 2016 to address the underlying demand pressures affecting both Adult Social Care and Children's Services, and the extra investment made in both services in the 2017/18 Budget, however, the pressures are more significant than anticipated which has resulted in the service overspend detailed at 1.4.

1.7 Work is ongoing to reduce or mitigate the overspend, however, the general contingency provision of £3.4m is available. Current forecasts indicate £3m of the general contingency will be used to reduce the projected overspend. Should the position remain unchanged there will therefore be a general contingency surplus of £0.4m, noting the significant risk and uncertainty outlined in 1.4 above in relation to current service projections.

1.8 The quarter 1 capital programme is monitored against the revised programme submitted to the Council as part of State of the County in June. The forecast expenditure for the year is projected at £95.4m against a current budget of £99.7m, a variation of £4.3m. The variation comprises £4.4m slippage offset by a net overspend of £0.1m.

1.9 The slippage comprises:-

- £1.5m on Terminus Road where further delays have been identified as a result of the necessary redesign of the bus routes.
- £1.2m on Queensway Depot due to delays in finding a suitable site.
- £0.7m in Adult Social Care mainly the result of lower than anticipated demand for house adaptations and older peoples service improvements.
- £0.5m in Business Services mainly the result of lower than anticipated uptake on SALIX loans and for delays to property Agile Works.
- £0.3m on Exceat Bridge, following confirmation of the additional allocation of the National Productivity Investment Fund the Council has been able to enhance the project for the construction of a new two lane bridge.
- £0.2m in Children's Services the result of lower than anticipated demand for house adaptations for disabled children's carer's homes.

1.10 The over and underspend comprises:-

- £0.7m overspend on Hastings library. This is due to unforeseen issues with the front façade.
- £0.5m underspend on EDS Incubation Units. This is following a reduction in the number of planned units.
- £0.1m underspends in Communities, Economy and Transport reflecting the finalisation of a couple of projects slightly below budget.

It is proposed that the net overspend of £0.1m is funded from the £11.3m Capital Risk provision.

1.11 The Strategic Risk Register, Appendix 7, has been reviewed and updated to reflect the Council's risk profile. Risk 11 (Apprenticeship levy) and Risk 12 (Cyber attack) have been

updated and also have updated risk control responses. Risk 1 (Roads), Risk 4 (Health), Risk 5 (Reconciling Policy, Performance & Resources), Risk 6 (Local Economic Growth), Risk 9 (Workforce) and Risk 10 (Recruitment) all have updated risk control responses. No existing risks have been removed and all risk scores, both pre and post mitigation, remain unchanged.

Progress against Council Priorities

Driving economic growth

1.12 3,810 additional premises are now able to be connected to superfast broadband as part of our second contract of works to expand access across the county. 87% of premises in the implementation area are able to receive speeds of 24mbps or above (Appendix 5).

1.13 Trading Standards held 13 workshops, offering advice and training to 240 delegates in quarter 1. Workshops included a Scam Victim Awareness event, to educate people about scams, and Support with Confidence Business Training, for applicants who want to become members of the Support with Confidence scheme (Appendix 5).

1.14 14 carriageway asset improvement schemes were completed in quarter 1, investing almost £3.3m to improve the condition of the county's roads (Appendix 5).

1.15 There were 80 online training courses completed in our libraries in quarter 1, offering people help with topics such as IT, maths, English, and help to get online and use the internet (Appendix 5).

1.16 The new Social Value Measurement Charter was launched in quarter 1, resulting in two contracts being awarded with quantified economic, social and environmental benefits. The benefits include work experience opportunities, volunteer work with families with disabled children, and workshops for isolated parent carers (Appendix 3).

1.17 In 2013 76% of all East Sussex private, voluntary and independent nurseries, pre-schools and childminders were rated 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted. After work by the Early Years Improvement Team this has risen to 96% against a national average of 93%, placing East Sussex as one of the top local authorities in the South East (Appendix 4).

Keeping vulnerable people safe

1.18 There was a reduction in the monthly average bed days lost due to delayed transfers from hospital care due to local NHS from 3,119 in quarter 4 of 2016/17 to 2,861 in quarter 1 2017/18. Key reasons for delays continue to be capacity of intermediate care, residential/nursing placements and homecare. A range of measures to manage delays are being taken forward across health and social care, including a focus on hospital assessments by Mental Health teams to reduce hospital delays for mental health clients and increasing support and assistance to families looking for placements which can account for around 20% of the weekly average delays (Appendix 2).

1.19 The rate of children with a Child Protection Plan is 51.1 per 10,000 children, against a target of 42.9. Possible reasons for the increases include: improved Early Help Services identifying more families in need of services; improved practices on neglect and child sexual exploitation identifying more children; and plans remaining open for longer (Appendix 4).

Helping people help themselves

1.20 During quarter 1, 1,601 adults were supported by STEPS, which helps people to remain independent and stay in their own home. This included 1,245 people helped with housing support, 293 supported through the Navigator service, and 63 supported through the Gateway Services (Appendix 2).

1.21 The Support with Confidence scheme now has 177 members, there were eight approvals for new members in quarter 1 (Appendix 2).

1.22 Integrated Support Workers have been recruited in quarter 1 to support hospital admission avoidance and increase timely hospital discharge as part of East Sussex Better Together. The newly recruited staff are being trained and deployed, while recruitment to the remaining posts is ongoing (Appendix 2).

Making best use of resources

1.23 Brighton & Hove City Council formally joined the Orbis partnership as the final founding partner on 25 May 2017. Expanding the partnership allows for further shared efficiencies and provides a wider skills and knowledge base for all organisations (Appendix 3).

1.24 The Council has been recredited as compliant with the Government's Information Governance standards, achieving a score of 77% against the minimum standard of 70%. The standard ensures that our data is protected and also secure when shared with partners (Appendix 3).

1.25 There has been a 5% reduction in CO² emissions in quarter 1 when compared to the same quarter in 2016/17. Schools are showing a 4.5% reduction, while non-schools are showing a 5.6% reduction. A number of programmes are being offered and explored to further increase schools reductions in CO² emissions (Appendix 3).

2. Ashdown Forest Trust Fund

2.1 The Cabinet has considered a report by the Chief Operating Officer regarding the Ashdown Forest Trust's Income and Expenditure Account for 2016/17 and Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2017. The Ashdown Forest Trust, a registered charity, was set out by a declaration of Trust in 1988. East Sussex County Council is the trustee and agrees grants made to the Ashdown Forest Conservators, from the Ashdown Forest Trust Fund.

2.2 Subsequent to the 2015/16 accounts being approved, the Independent Examination process has now been completed in accordance with Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. The Examiner's report does not identify any issues that require any further action by the Council as the trustees.

2.3 The Trust's Income and Expenditure Account shows an annual deficit in 2016/17 of £2,596 due to additional 'one-off' legal costs incurred because of an increase in the volume of Wayleaves granted during the year.

2.4 The main source of income to the Trust relates to the rent from Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club at £70,000 per annum. A new lease was signed with the Club in 2014.

2.5 The majority of the expenditure relates to the £65,100 annual grant paid to the Ashdown Forest Conservators. The accumulative General Reserve totalled £157,266 at 31 March 2017.

2.6 A formal annual report and statement of accounts will be compiled in accordance with the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practice by the 31 January 2018, once the Independent Examiner's report has been received and will be submitted to the Charity Commission.

19 September 2017

KEITH GLAZIER
(Chair)