

Committee:	Cabinet
Date:	28 January 2020
Title of Report:	Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)
By:	Chief Executive
Purpose of Report:	To ask Cabinet to approve the draft Council Plan, Council Tax levels, Revenue Budget and Capital Programme for recommendation to the County Council

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1. recommend the County Council to:**
 - i) Approve in principle the draft Council Plan at Appendix 1 and authorise the Chief Executive to finalise the Plan in consultation with the relevant Lead Members;**
 - ii) Increase Council Tax by 1.99%;**
 - iii) Increase the Adult Social Care precept by 2%;**
 - iv) Issue precepts to be paid by Borough and District Councils in accordance with the agreed schedule of instalments at Appendix 6;**
 - v) Approve the net Revenue Budget estimate of £403.4m for 2020/21 set out in Appendix 2 (MTFP) and Appendix 3 (Budget Summary) and authorise the Chief Operating Officer, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer, Leader and Deputy Leader, to make adjustments to the presentation of the Budget Summary to reflect the final settlement and final budget decisions;**
 - vi) Approve the Capital Strategy and Programme at Appendix 9;**
 - vii) Note the MTFP forecast for 2020/21 to 2022/23, set out in Appendix 2;**
 - viii) Note the comments of the Chief Finance Officer on budget risks and robustness, as set out in Appendix 7;**
 - ix) Note the comments from engagement exercises set out in Appendix 8; and**
 - x) Note the schedule of fees and charges that have increased above inflation at Appendix 10.**
- 2. agree that Chief Officers consult, where appropriate, on the savings proposals set out in Appendix 4.**

1. Introduction

1.1 The services the Council provides are crucial to the residents of the county, particularly those who are most vulnerable. The Council has set out its priority outcomes for the county and the core set of services and infrastructure which residents and businesses most need from the Council to ensure those needs are met and its priorities are delivered. This has been done against a background of diminishing resources and increased demand over the last 10 years.

1.2 The Council has been able to do this by having a realistic and challenging business and budget planning process which links resources to priorities and which ensures members have the demographic trends and performance information to enable them to monitor progress. Our Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) process matches available resources with our delivery plans for our priority outcomes. It has enabled us to give relative protection to activity that delivers our priority objectives most effectively. The RPPR process has been applied across all services in the development of the Council Plan

(Appendix 1) supported by the Budget (Appendix 3), MTFP (Appendix 2) and Capital Programme (Appendix 9) set out in this report.

1.3 Robust and innovative management and strong partnerships means we have transformed the way the Council works and made savings of £134m between 2010 and 2020. We have done everything possible to make the most of the money available. We have a joint back office function with Surrey County Council and Brighton & Hove City Council; we have implemented outstanding arrangements in Children's Services which have helped us to avoid the level of rise in the number of children being taken into care that has been seen elsewhere in the country; and we have put in place some excellent services to support health and social care integration. A joint venture with Costain provides the county with an effective Highways maintenance and management programme; the Waste PFI partnership with Brighton & Hove City Council continues to drive efficiencies and improve recycling, while the Council's commitment, alongside 16 local transport authorities and five local enterprise partnerships, to the Transport for the South East initiative will help to shape and improve all aspects of transport and travel in the region in the coming years. The next year will see the County Council entering into a ground breaking partnership with West Sussex County Council which we anticipate will bring benefits to both councils, enabling us to share mutual learning and improvement. There are many areas where we have shared interests and opportunities including working with the local NHS, police and other partners, lobbying government, economic and transport development, adapting to climate change and managing markets for social care. The partnership will make us stronger in all these areas.

1.4 Our lobbying of Government has met with success and the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement saw some acknowledgement of the issues that local government faces, particularly in relation to social care. The additional funding announced, together with our prudent planning has put us in a position where members can consider options for investment of unallocated resources in areas where it will lead to a reduction in future spending and to delay some of the savings considered by Cabinet and County Council in February 2019.

1.5 The Capital Programme provides only minimum basic need provision, including essential budgets for school places and highways infrastructure.

1.6 This report sets out:

- changes to the national context since the report to Cabinet on 12 November 2019;
- the draft Council Plan 2020/21 and updated MTFP;
- updated Q2 performance;
- proposals for the 2020/21 revenue budget, taking account of changes in the financial picture since November and based on an increase in Council Tax of 1.99% and an Adult Social Care precept by 2%;
- the savings planned for the next two years and options for use of unallocated funding;
- the Capital Programme update and the rationale on which it has been developed; and
- feedback from engagement exercises and equalities impacts.

2. National Context

2.1 Since the last report to Cabinet in November the General Election saw the Conservative Party returned with an increased majority. Its manifesto had the following provisions in relation to the County Council's functions:

Social care

- Build cross-party consensus on a solution to social care funding, with talks to begin within first 100 days;
- Solution to include condition that nobody needing care should be forced to sell their home to pay for it;
- £1 billion additional funding in each year of the next Parliament.

Schools and child care

- Extra £4.3 billion in real-terms for schools by 2023/24, with funding increases to be legislated within first 100 days;
- At least £5,000 a year for each secondary school pupil and at least £4,000 for each primary school pupil;
- £1 billion fund for child care, including before and after school and during holidays.

Transport

- Invest £100 billion of additional infrastructure spending, including roads, rail and flood defences;
- Create £4.2 billion fund for new bus and metro rail links in cities outside London;
- Launch pothole-filling programme.

Devolution

- Publish an English Devolution white paper.

2.2 The notes to accompany the post General Election Queen's speech indicated that an additional £1bn for Social Care will continue to be allocated for the lifetime of this Parliament. This has been included in the MTFP. It provides a grant of £10.2m for the Council in 2020/21. The detail of how this funding is distributed may change after 2020/21, but will provide some relief for the Council. In addition, the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement saw a roll into the Social Care Grant of adult social care winter pressures of £2.6m, previous Social Care Grant of £4.4m and SEND High Needs Block additional funding of £5.8m. The proposal that Councils can raise an additional 2% precept for Social Care is being consulted on as part of the provisional settlement. This funding has been included in our planning assumptions in accordance with the steer from Cabinet in November.

2.3 The Government has indicated that it wishes to start cross-party talks to find a sustainable solution for funding social care early in the new-year. Whilst the additional funding which the Government has made available is very welcome and will allow Members to make some choices about unallocated funding for the next year, it is imperative that a long term solution for social care funding is agreed before this funding runs out. The Council will continue, with its partners, to press the case for urgent action on sustainable funding for local services including social care.

2.4 The Government has also announced that a white paper on English Devolution would be published in the Spring with more mayors and powers for "functional economic areas".

2.5 The Government's main priority for the next year will be to get the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement Bill through Parliament and for the UK to negotiate a trade deal before the transition arrangements expire at the end of 2020. Becky Shaw has been acting as a regional lead to ensure all councils in the South East have consistent information from Government about the impact of Brexit for their functions, local residents and businesses. Over the next year we will continue to fulfil this role and to pass on intelligence about the impact of Brexit on residents as any issues arise.

3. Council Plan

3.1 The draft Council Plan is attached at Appendix 1. The Council Plan continues to be built on the Council's four overarching priority outcomes: driving sustainable economic growth; keeping vulnerable people safe; helping people help themselves; and making best use of resources. Making best use of resources is the priority test through which any activity must pass. The remaining three priority outcomes guide our activities, direct our resources and are reflected in our Council Plan activities and targets.

3.2 The Council Plan contains the targets and milestones used to judge our performance. The Cabinet and County Council actively consider performance during the year and may decide to adjust targets to reflect any changed circumstances. The Council Plan takes account

of the resources available so in some areas this means maintaining performance at current levels rather than seeking improvement. Defining clearly the outcomes we wish to achieve and monitoring our success in delivering these outcomes for the county's residents, communities and businesses is critical. We also keep track of a wide range of key data about East Sussex and related to our priority outcomes. These help us to assess our impact more fully and respond appropriately when we need to do so. Key data will be monitored annually as part of the State of the County report.

3.3 A new delivery outcome has been added to the making the best use of resources priority to reflect the Council's ambition in relation to Climate Change. Overarching targets will be added to the outcome "East Sussex County Council activities are carbon neutral as soon as possible and in any event by 2050" in the Resources Portfolio to ensure we work as one Council towards the aim of reducing our carbon footprint. Targets in relation to individual service activity will be included in the appropriate Portfolio Plans. This may include lobbying for legislative change or funding from central Government where changes in national policy and practice are needed to achieve the target.

3.4 The Council Plan is still a work in progress until final budget allocations are made and firm targets can be set. It will be published in April 2020 and refreshed in July when final performance outturn figures for 2019/20 are available. Authorisation is sought for the Chief Executive to make final changes pre and post publication in consultation with Lead Members, as appropriate.

4. Progress with Council Plan & Budget 2019/20 since Quarter 2 (Q2)

4.1 Between April and October 2019 there were an average of 46.6 Delayed Transfers of Care (DTC) from hospital care per day, against a target of 39.8 or less. This is an improvement from 85.3 (down 45%) compared to the same period in 2017 (the baseline). The average of 46.6 DTCs are broken down as follows:

- An average 8.1 DTC per day due to Council social services, against a target of 11.5 or less. An improvement from 33.1 (down 76%) from the same period in 2017
- An average 37.5 DTC per day due to local NHS, against a target of 24.4 or less. An improvement from 49.6 in the same period in 2017 (down 24%).
- An average 1.0 DTC per day jointly attributable to Council social services and local NHS.

4.2 Although the targets of 39.8 for all DTC and 24.4 for NHS DTC are not being achieved, implementation of a number of actions across the county has led to a significant reduction from the 2017 baseline. This includes Discharge to Assess beds, designed to avoid unnecessary admissions to acute hospitals and, where an admission is necessary, ensure that people are discharged as soon as is safe and practical back to their own homes, or as close to home as possible.

4.3 83% of Health Hub Referrals were handled within the correct time scales across all priorities, against a target of 90%, between April and August 2019. The shortfall in performance is due to a deficit of nurses within the Health Hub. This is being remedied and staffing is expected to be at normal levels by the end of the financial year. Performance in August improved to 85%, but, due to lower performance in the first half of the year, it is not anticipated currently that the target will be achieved by year-end.

4.4 There is minimal change to the projected Q2 revenue budget forecast service overspend of £6.1m. The general contingency of £3.6m will offset the deficit after applying underspends from Treasury Management, other centrally held budgets and Business Rates. Therefore there is currently an estimated break even position, subject to further Government announcements and final service review; any minor surplus or deficit will be managed through reserves.

5. Revenue Budget 2020/21

5.1 MTFP reported to Cabinet in November has been updated as set out below.

	Ref	Estimate (£m)			
		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Total
Cabinet 12 November 2019 DEFICIT/(SURPLUS)		(1.105)	23.176	10.468	32.539
Savings 2020/21-2021/22	A	(5.208)	(1.972)		(7.180)
DEFICIT/(SURPLUS) - after savings		(6.313)	21.204	10.468	25.359
Pressures added to / (removed from) the MTFP					
CSD: Core Service Offer: reprofile Family Key Worker element of Early Help savings	A	0.981	(0.981)		0.000
CSD: Looked After Children - update to model	B	0.300			0.300
CSD: Disabled access regulations for buses/coaches	C	0.012	0.043	0.098	0.153
CSD: Residential homes - staffing	C	0.549			0.549
BSD: IT&D licences	C	0.123	0.025		0.148
CET: Climate change staff resource	C	0.055			0.055
CET: Waste housing growth	C	(0.066)	0.023	0.038	(0.005)
CET: waste contract inflation	C	(0.382)	(0.118)	(0.078)	(0.578)
GOV: Coroners - post mortems / pathology	C	0.033			0.033
Investment of Unallocated Funding					
Revenue schemes	D	2.453	(0.746)	(1.707)	0.000
Temporary mitigation of savings	A/D	0.686	(0.298)	(0.388)	0.000
Capital schemes	D	1.242	(1.242)		0.000
Second-year funding of schemes above	D	2.095	(2.095)		0.000
Spending Round Funding					
SEND High Needs Block Additional funding (one-off)	E		(0.814)	(1.324)	(2.138)
Revenue Support Grant adjustment	F	0.013	(0.005)	(0.006)	0.002
Social Care Grant (share of £1bn over life of the Parliament, plus £4.4m grant rolled in from previous years)	G		(14.630)		(14.630)
Normal Updates					
Council Tax (reductions in projected growth from Districts & Boroughs) / Collection Fund	H	1.271	(0.072)	0.040	1.239
Inflation & Pay Award updates	F	(0.196)	(0.288)	(0.247)	(0.731)
Business Rates adjustment	F	(0.248)	(0.004)	(0.005)	(0.257)
Business Rates Pooling - arrangements confirmed by MHCLG	I	(1.452)	1.452		0.000
Treasury Management (capital impact)	J	0.000	0.000	1.000	1.000
General Contingency	K	0.150	(0.010)	(0.010)	0.130
Pensions	L	(1.300)			(1.300)
Levies	M	(0.006)	(0.001)		(0.007)
DEFICIT/(SURPLUS) AFTER UPDATES TO THE MTFP		(0.000)	1.443	7.879	9.322

5.2 The changes to the MTFP shown above are as follows:

A Savings

The latest saving proposals are set out in Appendix 4. Changes have been made to reflect that the Early Help Family Key Worker savings of £0.981m will not be taken in 2019/20 and 2020/21. Changes have also been made for the investment of unallocated funding to reprofile savings for Safeguarding, Library Services and Trading Standards (see paragraph 7 below).

	2020/21 £m	2021/22 £m	Total £m	2022/23 £m
Communities, Economy & Transport	1.362	0.629	1.991	0.388
Children's Services	0.770	1.835	2.605	
Adult Social Care	0.248		0.248	
Business Services / Orbis	1.161	0.787	1.948	
Total Departments	3.541	3.251	6.792	0.388

B Looked After Children (LAC) - The structural pressure within Children's Services relating to LAC has been updated to reflect the latest modelled projections.

C Pressures - A number of new pressures have been included in the MTFP and the amount included for pressures in relation to waste has been reduced. The net pressures total £0.355m.

D Investment of Unallocated Funding – Cabinet and Scrutiny Committees considered potential use of available unallocated funding (Appendix 5) and provision for its use as set out in paragraph 7 below has now been included in the MTFP and budget.

E SEND High Needs Block additional funding - Funding of £700m nationally for SEND has been distributed as part of the high needs block, giving an additional £5.8m to the Council. Profiled use of this is included in the MTFP.

F Inflation adjustments - relevant items have been adjusted for RPI and CPI published at September 2019.

G Social Care Grant –The Government has indicated that councils will receive an additional £1 billion for adults and children's social care in every year of this Parliament. The Council's share of this is £10.2m a year which has been included as permanent funding during the MTFP period. This new funding along with the £4.4m Social Care Support Grant, which was first provided in 2019/20, have been merged together to form the Social Care Grant. The MTFP also assumes the continuation of this funding, although the specific allocation methodology is still to be confirmed.

H Council Tax - Issues with tax base calculations provided by Districts and Boroughs have resulted in reduced council tax income for the Council. The Council is working with Districts and Boroughs to put measures in place to improve forecasting, monitoring and debt recovery in the future. The resulting deficit on the Collection Fund represents a cash flow issue between 2020/21 and 2021/22, and will be managed through reserves so as not to impact on Council Tax or longer term reserve balances.

I Business Rates – The MHCLG has confirmed that East Sussex Councils will revert to pre-pilot pooling arrangements for 2020/21. Proceeds of pooling have been estimated using published information from Districts and Boroughs Councils.

As is normal practice, any variations in Business Rates will be managed in-year, as Districts and Boroughs are not required to submit final Business Rates until the 31st January (any deficit will be managed through reserves).

J Treasury Management - The change in 2022/23 reflects the revenue impact of increased capital borrowing required to fund the new Capital Strategy set out in Appendix 9.

K General Contingency - The general contingency is currently set at 1% of net budget less treasury management, and has been updated to reflect changes in the MTFP since November Cabinet.

L Pensions – preliminary figures have been included for the outcome of the triennial actuarial review.

M Levies - Confirmation of the Council's Sussex Inshore Fisheries Levy has now been received.

5.3 The MTFP does not yet include the likely impacts of:

- Final position for the Pensions Fund triennial valuation, preliminary figures have been included as stated at L;
- Confirmation of Final Finance Settlement;
- Final pay award currently budgeted at 2.5%; and
- The final position for the Collection Fund and Business Rates.

5.4 Whilst the Council has received some very welcome additional funding from the Government; it still needs to make savings of £9.3m, in addition to the £7.2m already identified as potential areas for savings, by 2022/23 in order to achieve a balanced budget. The Reserves and Robustness Statement is set out in Appendix 7.

6. Engagement Feedback and Future Consultation

6.1 The views of the Scrutiny Committees including their priorities for use of unallocated funding as a result of the additional funding made available by the Government is set out in Appendix 8. The views of partners are also included in the Appendix.

6.2 The outcomes of engagements events with representatives of young people, Trades Unions and business ratepayers will be made available to members once the meetings have been held.

7. Investment of unallocated funding and savings

7.1 Cabinet and Scrutiny Committees considered potential use of any available unallocated funding in November and December as set out in Appendix 5, based on projected funding announced in the Government's September 2019 Spending Round. The MTFP has been updated in the light of the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement and post-General Election Queen's Speech. This left £6.6m funding in 2020/21, once the savings proposed in February 2019 have been made, which had not been allocated to services.

7.2 Chief Officers have considered the use of this funding in the light of the views of the principles agreed by Cabinet, the views of the Scrutiny Committees and local partners and the changing national landscape. The budget and MTFP appended to this report allocates provision in the relevant service heads for the following:

- i) Deferral of savings
- Children's Services Safeguarding savings [£586,000]
 - Part of Libraries savings [£288,000]
 - Trading Standards savings deferred by two years [£200,000] – although this was not included in the options put forward in November, the agreement of the Brexit Withdrawal Bill by the House of Commons and the negotiations of new trading arrangements over the course of the year will mean that businesses may need support in moving to a new regulatory framework and could mean additional responsibilities for council Trading Standards services in future. It would therefore be prudent to keep the capacity we have, which is already small, until the implications of Brexit and new trading arrangements are clear.
- ii) Investment in projects to reduce future demand:
- ASC/CS Accommodation and Floating Support [£1.560m]
 - CS No Wrong Door [£2.250m]
 - CS Family Group Conferencing expansion [£350,000]

These projects are intended to produce savings in the longer term for the Council and it is recommended therefore that Cabinet agree provision of funding for the projects for the next two years, with the expectation that they are self-funding thereafter.

iii) Capital

It is recommended that Cabinet agree a revenue contribution to Capital to cover:

- Remodelling of Disability Children's Homes [£242,000]
- Investment of £1m in Highways for dropped kerbs, lining and patching

7.3 If agreed as the basis of the budget plans, the decisions about progressing these projects will be made in line with the delegations set out in the County Council's constitution.

7.4 In relation to the remaining proposed projects considered by the Scrutiny Committees, provision may be made for them within the Transformation Reserve, following business cases identifying benefits, in line with the County Council's constitution.

8. 2021/22 & 2022/23 and beyond

8.1 The budget is balanced in 2020/21, but has a forecast deficit of £9.3m by 2022/23, after savings have been made. The Council has a robust planning process and sufficient reserves, and will continue to work towards a balanced position in 2021/22, taking account of the impacts of the Fair Funding Review and the Business Rates Review which are expected to inform budget setting in 2021/22. There may also be a further Spending Review in 2020.

9. Council Tax requirement

9.1 Cabinet agreed in November that budget planning should be on the basis that Council Tax is increased by 1.99% and that the Council applies the 2% Adult Social Care precept proposed by the Government. It therefore proposed that the County Council be asked to consider increasing Council Tax in 2020/21 by 3.99%. If agreed, the proposed band D charge for 2019/20 would therefore be:

Changes in Council Tax	Council Tax Annual	Council Tax Weekly
Band D 2019/20	£1,434.78	£27.59
Council Tax increase*	£28.62	£0.55
Adult Social Care precept*	£28.62	£0.55
Indicative Band D 2020/21*	£1,492.02	£28.69

* Council Tax is rounded to allow all bands to be calculated in whole pounds and pence.

9.2 The formal precept notice for issue to the Borough and District Councils will follow for formal recommendation to County Council. This will be subject to change following the final

settlement and final figures on Council Tax base and collection fund from Borough and District Councils at the end of January. The draft precept calculation and dates are at Appendix 6.

10. Capital Programme

10.1 The current approved programme has now been updated to include the Quarter 2 position and other approved variations and updates. This is in line with revisions to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accounting Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (December 2017), and work has been ongoing with service departments to develop further the 20 year Capital Strategy and a supporting 10 year planned programme to 2029/2030.

10.2 The areas of targeted core need have been developed and included:

- Schools Places (early years, primary, secondary and special);
- Highways Structural Maintenance; Bridge Strengthening; Street Lighting; Rights of Way and Bridge Replacement Programme;
- Property Building Maintenance (schools and corporate);
- IT&D;
- Economic Intervention;
- Adults' and Children's House Adaptations Programme; and
- Libraries.

10.3 It is proposed that a core programme of £662m be set from 2019/20 to 2029/30 and will require £260m borrowing over the MTFP period. An update to the capital programme is at Appendix 9 with the full proposed programme detailed at Appendix 3.

11. Robustness and Reserves

11.1 The State of the County report gave an estimated total reserves balance of £73.8m. Since then there have been some updates and, moving the estimates on a year, balance at 31 March 2024 is now £77.8m of which only £26.6m relates to strategic reserves. The current reserves position is shown below.

	At State of the County July 2019	Full Council February 2020
	Estimated Balance at 31.03.23 £m	Estimated Balance at 31.03.24 £m
Earmarked Reserves:		
Held on behalf of others or statutorily ringfenced		
Named Service Reserves		
Waste Reserve	8.6	9.7
Capital Programme Reserve	0.0	5.8
Insurance Reserve	4.8	5.4
Subtotal named service reserves	13.4	20.9
Strategic Reserves		
Financial Management	24.7	22.5
Priority Outcomes and Transformation	4.4	4.1
Subtotal strategic reserves	29.1	26.6
Total Earmarked Reserves	63.8	67.8
General Fund Balance	10.0	10.0
TOTAL RESERVES	73.8	77.8

11.2 The level of reserves held by the Council is considered appropriate. It is becoming increasingly important to hold sufficient reserves for the future given the continued financial uncertainty. It continues to be essential to, wherever possible, transfer resources to the Financial Management reserve. Details of the reserves held and the Chief Finance Officer Statement on Reserves and Budget Robustness is set out in Appendix 7.

12. Equalities

12.1 A high level Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) of the revenue savings proposals has been undertaken and is set out in Appendix 4. Further EqIAs will be undertaken where appropriate when individual proposals are being considered. EqIAs have been undertaken of the proposed Capital spending. These are summarised in Appendix 9. In considering the proposals in this report, Cabinet Members are required to have 'due regard' to the objectives set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (the Public Sector Equality Duty). EqIAs are carried out to identify any adverse impacts that may arise as a result of proposals for those with protected characteristics and to identify appropriate mitigations. The full version of relevant completed EqIAs have been placed in the Members' and Cabinet Rooms and are available on the Cabinet pages of the County Council's website. They can be inspected upon request at County Hall. Members must read the full version of the EqIAs and take their findings into consideration when determining these proposals.

12.2 Whilst the Cabinet is being asked to recommend, and subsequently the County Council asked to agree the Revenue Budget and Capital Programme, the budget decision does not constitute final approval of what policies would be or what sums of money will be saved or spent under the service proposals. The recommendations in the report do not commit the Council to implement any specific saving or spending proposal. When the Executive come to make specific decisions on budget reductions or expenditure, where necessary, focussed consultations and the full equalities implications of doing one thing rather than another will be considered in appropriate detail. If it is considered necessary, in light of equalities or other considerations, it will be open to those taking the decisions to spend more on one activity and less on another within the overall resources available to the Council.

13. Fees & Charges

13.1 The Chief Finance Officer is delegated to approve all fees and charges and to report to Cabinet and County Council those set at a level above inflation; a reasonable inflation level with regard to CPI and RPI being 2.5%. Appendix 10 shows a schedule of the fees and charges that have increased by more than 2.5% at Q3 as part of the budget setting process.

14. Conclusion

14.1 Prudent planning by the Council has led to the Council being able to make investment in services next year of £6.6m once savings of have been made. Whilst the additional funding by the Government in Social Care is welcome, it does not make up for the amount of funding lost over the last 10 years and neither will it be sufficient to prevent savings needing to be made in other areas in future to fund pressures from the rising demand for and cost of social care. The Council will continue to press the case for East Sussex to receive a fair share of the funding available from Government and for it to urgently address the need for it to put in place sustainable funding for local services, in particular social care.

BECKY SHAW
Chief Executive