

Title: Council Monitoring Report – Q1 2023/24
Report to: Cabinet
Date: 28 September 2023
Report by: Chief Executive
Purpose: To report Council monitoring for Q1 2023/24

RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1) note the latest monitoring position for the Council;
 - 2) note the addition of the new Prudential Indicators information at Appendix 2; and
 - 3) agree to undertake a broader engagement exercise in autumn 2023 to inform RPPR planning for 2024/25 and beyond
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1. Introduction

1.1 This report sets out the Council's position and year-end projections for the Council Plan targets, Revenue Budget, Capital Programme, and Savings Plan, together with Risks at the end of June 2023.

1.2 Broad progress against the Council's four strategic priority outcomes is summarised in paragraph 5 and an overview of finance and performance data is provided in the Corporate Summary at Appendix 1. Strategic risks are reported at Appendix 8.

2. Carry over report for Council Plan 2022/23

2.1 Outturns are now available for the four Council Plan measures for 2022/23, which were carried over from quarter 4. Measures are carried over, when action has been completed but outturn data is not available for reporting at year-end. Outturns for these measures are provided in Appendix 3 Adult Social Care and Health and Appendix 4 Business Services Department. Overall, 70% of targets (38 of the 54 Council Plan measures) for 2022/23 were met or exceeded.

3. Council Plan 2023/24 amendments and variations

3.1 The Council Plan 2023/24 and the Portfolio Plans 2023/24 – 2025/26 have been updated with available 2022/23 outturns and final performance measure targets. All plans are published on the Council's website. The Corporate Summary (Appendix 1) contains a forecast of performance against targets.

3.2 The Strategic Risk Register, Appendix 8, was reviewed and updated to reflect the Council's risk profile. Risk 4 (Health), Risk 6 (Local Economic Growth), Risk 9 (Workforce) and Risk 15 (Climate) have updated risk controls. Risk 19 (Schools and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (ISEND)) has an updated risk definition. Risk 8 (Capital Programme) and Risk 20 (Placements for Children and Young People in Our Care) have updated risk definitions and risk controls. Risk 1 (Roads) has an updated risk control and post mitigation RAG rating.

4 Budget Outturn

4.1 The details of revenue over and underspends in each department are set out in the relevant appendices, and show a total forecast overspend of £16.8m. All departments are forecasting an overspend which reflects the challenging economic environment. The main headlines are:

- Children's Services (CSD) is forecast to be overspent by £15.2m. The main area of projected overspend is in Early Help and Social Care of £16.4m, the largest area of overspend is Looked After Children (£14.2m), the main pressures being External Residential costs of £12.7m due to growth in demand with an additional 26 children and young people requiring residential placements in quarter 1, plus a £1.8m pressure around additional staffing costs in our children's homes.

Also within Early Help and Social Care, the Localities budget is forecast to be £1.6m overspent, £1.0m being on staffing including agency.

The service proposes to address the projected Looked After Children overspend primarily through a series of recommendations by consultants IMPOWER.

The CSD overspend will be mitigated Corporately for 2023/24 as follows:

Mitigation of CSD Overspend	£m
Forecast overspend	(15.2)
Mitigated by:	
General Contingency	4.9
Covid-19 General Funding (balance held Corporately)	5.6
Use of provision for budgetary risks	1.7
Part of TM underspend	3.0
Subtotal Mitigation	15.2

- The projected outturn for Adult Social Care (ASC) is an overspend of £1.0m. This comprises an overspend of £1.9m in the Independent Sector, offset by an underspend of £0.9m in Directly Provided Services with the latter mainly being due to staffing vacancies.
- Communities, Economy and Transport (CET) is forecast to overspend by £0.3m. The largest overspend is in Planning and Environment where additional transport planning applications, appeals and remodelling work has resulted in an increased cost of consultants, and Environmental Advice income from other local authorities has not materialised. This is offset by an underspend in Communities, mostly due to staff vacancies in Trading Standards and additional income from Emergency Planning training.
- Business Services (BSD) is forecasting a small overspend of £0.009m. There is an unachieved savings target of £0.2m relating to the expected move from St Marks House, Eastbourne; following the fire on site, it is unclear whether the savings can be realised in this financial year though further information will be provided in quarter 2 as the situation unfolds. This is offset by underspends across the department.
- The forecast overspend of £0.4m in Governance Services (GS) is mainly due to an increase in the number of deaths being reported to the Coroner and the increase in the number of those deaths that went to post mortem. The rise in post mortems directly increases mortuary, pathology, histology, and toxicology costs. There has also been an increase in post mortem fees in-line with local market rates.
- The ongoing impact of the reported overspend has the potential to increase the Council's budget deficit in 2024/25, which had been assessed at £4m when the Council's State of the County report was published in June. Modelling is currently being undertaken to provide a set of balanced budget scenarios, taking into consideration the local and national position that presents itself as we work towards setting the budget for 2024/25.

4.2 Within Treasury Management (TM), centrally held budgets (CHB) and corporate funding there is an underspend of £11.2m (including the general contingency):

- In CHB there is a forecast underspend of £0.5m for Pensions as a result of the actuarial revaluation; this is offset by an accounting adjustment estimated at £0.3m to reflect the potential risk that increasing outstanding debt levels will not be settled. The General Contingency of £4.9m will be required in full to offset part of the service overspend.
- There is currently an estimated £4.3m underspend on TM, based on an improvement in the current forecasts for our market investment returns and increased cash balances. The anticipated average investment return for the year has increased to 5.49% from the 4.45% assumed when the budget was set, based on the latest forecasts from our external treasury

management advisors. In addition, slippage on the capital programme and an increase in our cash balances has reduced the need to borrow externally in 2023/24.

- There is a planned £1.7m use of the in-year provision made for budgetary risks to cover part of the remaining overspend on service budgets.
- Corporate Funding budgets are underspending by £0.1m as central government announced an increase to the 2023/24 Services Grant allocations above the provisional settlement proposals by distributing unused contingency, resulting in an increased allocation compared to the original budget.

4.3 The Council is still experiencing residual COVID-19 related costs and income losses which are being fully mitigated from general and specific funding; the balance of unringfenced general funding is being used mitigate CSD overspends. The following table shows the use of this funding in 2023/24:

COVID-19 Grants 2023/24 (£m)	Carried forward	Estimated use in-year (including payback*)	Balance to offset CSD overspend	Specific set-aside for LAC in future years	Estimated balance remaining
COVID-19 General Funding	9.1	(1.7)	(5.6)	(1.8)	-
COVID-19 Specific Funding	4.3	(3.5)	-	-	0.8
Total funding	13.4	(5.2)	(5.6)	(1.8)	0.8

*To date the Council has repaid £2.1m of unused grant

4.4 Capital Programme expenditure for the year is projected to be £96.3m against a budget of £104.5m, a net variation of £8.2m. Of the net variation, £4.8m relates to Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) funded projects. Main variations include:

- Bexhill and Hastings Link Road – Project costs remain for post excavation archaeology, landscaping, and remaining compensation. There is a projected overall overspend on the scheme in the region of £2.1m, of which £0.8m is expected to materialise during 2023/24.
- Special Educational Needs Additional Places (Grove Park) – Slippage of £4.4m. A contractor has recently been appointed to progress with feasibility and detailed design works which has resulted in an updated high level programme plan, with the bulk of the works due to commence in 2024/25. In addition, a recent ecologist visit identified key risks that require mitigation plans to be considered which may cause delays to the project plan.
- Hastings Bexhill Movement and Access Programme (LEP funded project) – Slippage of £4.1m. Funder approval from the South East Local Enterprise Partnership is now anticipated in autumn 2023, to be followed by Lead Member sign off, following a requirement to undertake a prioritisation process.

4.5 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy published the revised Treasury and Prudential codes in 2021, which now requires quarterly reporting of performance against forward looking prudential indicators. The performance of the Council's treasury management activity, against benchmarks and the key indicators in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy, as approved by Full Council at its meeting of 7 February 2023, are provided at Appendix 2.

5 Progress against Council Priorities

Driving sustainable economic growth

5.1 The Council has spent £309m with 884 local suppliers over the past 12 months, 66% of our total spend, exceeding our target of 60%. We have continued throughout quarter 1 to work with suppliers to maximise the social value delivered by our contracts. In quarter 1 we achieved benefits that were equal to 19% of our spend, against an annual target of 10% (Appendix 4).

5.2 The Council approved additional funding for highways in July, recognising the deterioration of the network following the last prolonged, wet and cold winter. The additional funding includes an additional one off £2.5m for carriageway patching works, an additional one off £3.1m for drainage works, an additional £5m per year for two years for carriageway repairs, plus a proposed additional £5.1m per year for the capital programme for roads. Additional patching sites have been identified and works instructed using the additional £2.5m. Work has also continued in quarter 1 to replace worn out road signs and to refresh road markings using the one-off funding carried forward from 2022/23. A number of large surfacing schemes have been completed or are underway in Wivelsfield, Uckfield, Hartfield and Hailsham. Preparation works are also underway for the start of the surface dressing programme in quarter 2. 16 road improvement schemes were completed in quarter 1 to improve the condition of the roads. 7,250 potholes were repaired in quarter 1, with 6,500 of these being carriageway potholes; the remainder were primarily footway potholes (Appendix 6).

5.3 The Council is working to build apprenticeships into career progression for staff at all levels, to provide more skills for our employees and address recruitment and retention challenges. The Apprenticeship Team are holding regular information sessions for staff and the level of interest has been encouraging (Appendix 6).

5.4 The Youth Employability Services has been re-commissioned, with the new contract starting on 1 October 2023. The new contract will have an increased focus on those young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training. More targeted and intensive support will be provided for some of our most vulnerable young people (Appendix 5).

5.5 837 people enrolled on Family Learning Programmes in our libraries in quarter 1. Wadhurst library has re-opened after flooding in 2022/23, the team took the opportunity to refurbish the library updating the furniture, fixtures and equipment. Renowned children's author Jacqueline Wilson visited Seaford Library in April 2023 to discuss with children what it's like to be an author and share her new book (Appendix 6).

Keeping vulnerable people safe

5.6 The demand for Children's Social Care and complexity of cases has continued to increase in quarter 1. The rate of children with a Child Protection (CP) plan fell from 64.8 per 10,000 at the end of 2022/23 to 62.1 in quarter 1. However, the rate of Looked After Children (LAC) has increased from 62.3 per 10,000 children at the end of 2022/23 to 63.5 in quarter 1. CP plans remain under review with a range of audits taking place to identify where it's possible to safely reduce the number of plans. Demand for LAC placements has increased alongside a reduction in the number of in-house and agency foster care placements available. This has resulted in more children having to be placed in external residential homes at a much higher cost (Appendix 5).

5.7 The Council and Get Safe Online (GSO) promoted a number of online safety campaigns in quarter 1. These included advice on how someone's online history can potentially be seen by other people, or tracked and held in multiple databases; advice on how to use smart devices safely and securely; and advice on how to support children to enjoy a safe and secure online experience (Appendix 3).

5.8 Trading Standards made 117 positive interventions to protect vulnerable people in quarter 1. 83 of these were support sessions and training, and 34 were direct interventions. National Scams Week took place during quarter 1, which enabled Trading Standards to engage with vulnerable people and try to reduce the likelihood of them falling victim to scammers or becoming repeat victims. 27 of the direct interventions involved fraudulently obtained money being returned to victims (Appendix 6).

Helping people help themselves

5.9 A joint five-year Sussex Shared Delivery Plan was endorsed in June 2023 by the Council and the East Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board. The plan brings together delivery milestones for 2023/24 and a roadmap for years 2 – 5. The delivery milestones cover ongoing priorities for

children and young people and mental health services, as well as new plans that have been shaped by our East Sussex Health and Care Partnership (Appendix 3).

5.10 Two Family Hubs are now open in Hailsham and East Hastings, with further hubs scheduled to open over the summer. Professionals who will offer support from the new hubs include Midwives, Health Visitors and Early Communications Support Workers amongst others. The hubs will give children and parents the chance to socialise and support their children's needs and development (Appendix 5).

5.11 The Public Health 'Healthy Places Team' was highlighted as one of the three best practice case studies across England in a report by the Quality-of-Life Foundation in quarter 1. The report focuses on work done to help embed health in planning decisions through our collaborative relationships with partners (Appendix 3).

5.12 Quarter 1 saw a transition process from the old highways contract to the new contract with BBLP. 17 road safety infrastructure schemes have begun, and are expected to be completed by the end of quarter 2. Seven further schemes have been submitted to our new contractor, Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP), and will be implemented by the end of 2023/24. We delivered 184 'Bikeability' courses to 1,577 individuals at participating schools and the Cycle Centre at Eastbourne Sports Park in quarter 1. We also delivered 60 'Wheels for All' sessions to 704 attendees at the Sports Park (Appendix 6).

5.13 31% of eligible clients were receiving Direct Payments at the end of quarter 1, equating to a total of 1,543 people. The number of people receiving direct payments has increased since the end of 2022/23, however the total number of people receiving care has increased at a much greater rate and this has resulted in a drop in reported performance. Direct Payments are always considered when deciding how to meet an adult's care needs and identified outcomes and are offered as an option where appropriate, although, of course, the person does not have to choose this option (Appendix 3).

Making best use of resources now and for the future

5.14 We have continued work to develop a range of initiatives to help address our significant recruitment and retention challenges as a result of the current labour market conditions and cost of living pressures in quarter 1. Our new employer recruitment brand 'We Choose East Sussex' has continued to progress, with the creation of new content for the Council's job pages (Appendix 4).

5.15 Staff sickness absence decreased by 14.8% in quarter 1, compared to quarter 1 2022/23. The main reason for the decrease is a significant fall in COVID-19 absences. However, mental health absences have increased compared to quarter 1 2022/23, so additional support was put in place in quarter 1, such as extra support being offered to staff when they report a mental health absence; raising awareness of mental health support available through a number of channels; and a men's health campaign in June, which included a film focused on mental wellbeing. GoodShape data indicates that increased mental health absences are occurring across the local authority sector, and our absence rates are within the averages seen in other authorities (Appendix 4).

5.16 A number of energy efficiency projects were completed in quarter 1, including one LED lighting project and two Solar PV schemes. A number of other schemes have started installation. Four heat decarbonisation schemes also began in quarter 1. Although we have made good progress in quarter 1 there are challenges relating to supply chain and capacity in the wider sector that may affect our ability to deliver our target number of schemes for the year. The data on carbon emissions from Council buildings is available a quarter in arrears. The final outturn for 2022/23 shows there has been a 32% reduction in carbon emissions against the 2019/20 baseline year, below the target of 34%. Improved management of buildings to reduce energy usage, and more typical weather compared to the unexpectedly low average minimum temperatures experienced in 2021/22, contributed to the reduction. However, the need to provide ventilation in our buildings as part of COVID-19 safety measures is still adversely affecting our overall reduction. The reduction in emissions resulting from energy efficiency projects completed towards the end of

2022/23 will be realised during 2023/24, which is expected to assist in securing our 2023/24 target of a 43% reduction on baseline year (2019/20) emissions (Appendix 4).

5.17 The Council has continued to work with a range of partners to develop and deliver carbon reduction and climate change adaptation work in quarter 1. We assisted 44 Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to measure their carbon footprint and awarded grants to 21 SMEs to improve energy efficiency and install renewable energy systems, which will reduce their energy bills (Appendix 6).

5.18 As part of our corporate lobbying work during quarter 1 the Leader took the opportunity to meet with Local MPs to discuss the latest priorities for the Council and residents including on local authority funding and highway conditions. The Leader also co-signed a letter, with other county council Leaders in the region, to the Prime Minister. The letter raised the significant under-funding for highways maintenance. It also called for greater oversight of the work of utilities companies on the roads. Further engagement with the Minister for Roads is expected as a result of this correspondence (Appendix 7).

5.19 Council considered the State of the County report in July. The report sets out the uncertainty which continues to define the context within which we are working. The challenging national economic environment continues to impact on residents and the Council. Many of our services are subject to significant national reforms, and there is still increased demand for local services. The report also outlines the broader demographic and policy context which will form the backdrop for planning for 2024/25 and beyond. The financial outlook for the Council remains unclear. We expect a further one-year financial settlement for 2024/25. It is also unlikely there will be any significant national reforms to local government funding before the next general election, which is expected in 2024. In this context, we will need to continue to take proactive action to prepare for the time ahead, to maximise our resilience as an organisation and to best manage growing demand for our services (Appendix 7).

5.20 In the context of ongoing uncertainty and increasing demand for our services, a clear and current understanding of the views and priorities of people who live and work in East Sussex is important to inform our planning for the future through RPPR, and our approach to ensuring best value. As part of ongoing planning for 2024/25 and beyond, it is proposed to undertake a broader engagement exercise this autumn to seek additional feedback directly from local people on priorities and financial choices. This survey, alongside our RPPR engagement with key partners and groups representing local communities, will provide valuable additional insight to inform Cabinet recommendations and Council decisions on our budget and Council Plan in early 2024.

Becky Shaw, Chief Executive

How to read this report

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

- Cover report (includes how to read this report)
- Appendix 1 Corporate Summary
- Appendix 2 Treasury Management Prudential Indicators
- Appendix 3 Adult Social Care and Health – (ASCH)
- Appendix 4 Business Services (Department) – (BSD)
- Appendix 5 Children’s Services (Department) – (CSD)
- Appendix 6 Communities, Economy and Transport – (CET)
- Appendix 7 Governance Services – (GS)
- Appendix 8 Strategic Risk Register

Cover report, Appendix 1 and Appendix 2

The cover report, Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 provide a concise corporate summary of progress against all our Council Plan Targets (full year outturns at quarter 4), Revenue Budget, Savings Targets, Capital Programme and Treasury Management Prudential Indicators.

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

- driving sustainable economic growth;
- keeping vulnerable people safe;
- helping people help themselves; and
- making best use of resources now and for the future.

More information on each of these topics is provided in the relevant departmental appendix referenced in brackets, e.g. (Appendix 3). More detailed performance and finance data is also available in the departmental appendices.

Departmental Appendices 3-7

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

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

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

Strategic Risk Register Appendix 8

Appendix 8 contains commentary explaining mitigating actions for all Strategic Risks.

Council Monitoring Corporate Summary – Q1 2023/24

Council Plan performance targets

Priority	Red	Amber	Green
Driving sustainable economic growth	0	0	25
Keeping vulnerable people safe	0	2	10
Helping people help themselves	1	2	12
Making best use of resources now and for the future	1	1	5
Total	2	5	52

Performance overview Q1 2023/24	Measures off target by department
<p>A pie chart showing the distribution of performance targets for Q1 2023/24. The largest slice is Green, representing 52 measures (88%). The next largest is Amber, representing 5 measures (9%). The smallest is Red, representing 2 measures (3%).</p>	<p>There are 59 measures in the Council Plan. In Q1, 3 departments had measures that were off target.</p> <p>ASCH – 1 Red measure, 2 Amber measures BSD – 1 Red measure, 1 Amber measure CSD – 2 Amber measures</p>

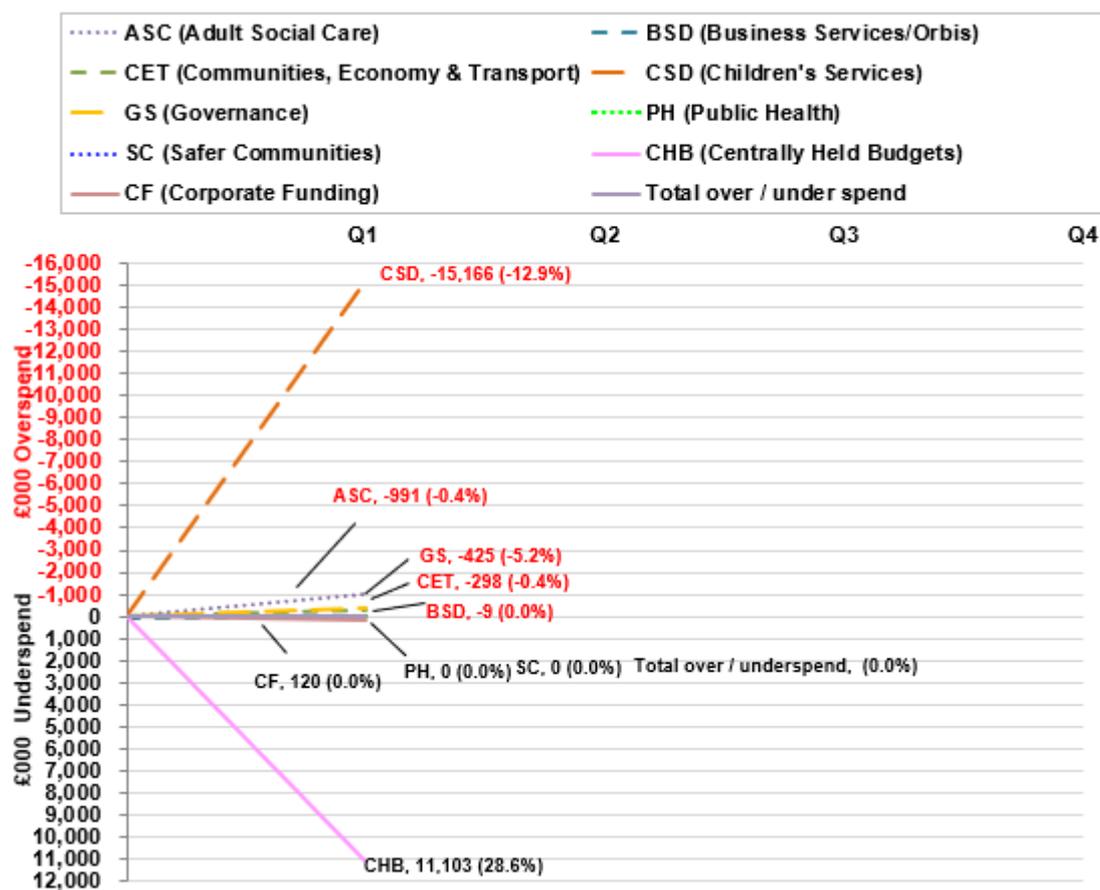
Final Council Plan outturn summary for year ending 2022/23

Four measures were reported as carry overs at the end of Q4 2022/23. Outturns for these measures are now available and the charts below summarise the final year end position for the 54 council plan targets in 2022/23. Where available, performance improvement relative to 2021/22 is summarised under Direction of travel.

2022/23 – Final	Direction of travel since 2021/22
<p>A pie chart showing the final performance for 2022/23. The largest slice is Green, representing 38 measures (70%). The other slice is Red, representing 16 measures (30%).</p>	<p>A pie chart showing the direction of travel since 2021/22. The largest slice is 'Better (or at max)', representing 27 measures (50%). Other slices include 'Worse' (13, 24%), 'NC' (11, 20%), and 'No Change' (3, 6%).</p>

Direction of Travel key:

No Change: \leftrightarrow , Not Comparable: **NC**, Carry Over: **CO**, Worse: \downarrow , Improved (or at maximum): \uparrow

Revenue budget outturn (net £000)**Revenue budget summary (£000) 2023/24****Services:**

Divisions	Planned Gross	Planned Income	Planned Net	Projected Gross	Projected Income	Projected Net	(Over)/ under spend Gross	(Over)/ under spend Income	(Over)/ under spend Net
Adult Social Care	338,049	(105,022)	233,027	355,449	(121,431)	234,018	(17,400)	16,409	(991)
Safer Communities	2,030	(909)	1,121	2,030	(909)	1,121	-	-	-
Public Health	33,777	(33,777)	-	32,857	(32,857)	-	920	(920)	-
Business Services / Orbis	54,704	(26,729)	27,975	54,699	(26,715)	27,984	5	(14)	(9)
Children's Services	401,286	(283,902)	117,384	421,399	(288,849)	132,550	(20,113)	4,947	(15,166)
Communities, Economy & Transport	160,725	(88,403)	72,322	163,386	(90,766)	72,620	(2,661)	2,363	(298)
Governance Services	8,920	(747)	8,173	9,364	(766)	8,598	(444)	19	(425)
Total Services	999,491	(539,489)	460,002	1,039,184	(562,293)	476,891	(39,693)	22,804	(16,889)

Centrally Held Budgets (CHB):

Divisions	Planned Gross	Planned Income	Planned Net	Projected Gross	Projected Income	Projected Net	(Over)/ under spend Gross	(Over)/ under spend Income	(Over)/ under spend Net
Treasury Management	21,630	(7,700)	13,930	21,630	(11,991)	9,639	-	4,291	4,291
Capital Programme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unfunded Pensions	5,279	-	5,279	4,779	-	4,779	500	-	500
General Contingency	4,880	-	4,880	-	-	-	4,880	-	4,880
Provision for Budgetary Risks	4,272	-	4,272	2,561	-	2,561	1,711	-	1,711
Apprenticeship Levy	772	-	772	772	-	772	-	-	-
Levies, Grants and Other	9,808	(70)	9,738	9,808	(70)	9,738	-	-	-
Debt Impairment	-	-	-	279	-	279	(279)	-	(279)
Total Centrally Held Budgets	46,641	(7,770)	38,871	39,829	(12,061)	27,768	6,812	4,291	11,103

Corporate Funding:

Divisions	Planned Gross	Planned Income	Planned Net	Projected Gross	Projected Income	Projected Net	(Over)/ under spend Gross	(Over)/ under spend Income	(Over)/ under spend Net
Business Rates	-	(95,090)	(95,090)	-	(95,090)	(95,090)	-	-	-
Revenue Support Grant	-	(4,076)	(4,076)	-	(4,076)	(4,076)	-	-	-
Service Grant	-	(2,916)	(2,916)	-	(3,036)	(3,036)	-	120	120
Council Tax	-	(351,828)	(351,828)	-	(351,828)	(351,828)	-	-	-
Social Care Grant	-	(44,612)	(44,612)	-	(44,612)	(44,612)	-	-	-
New Homes Bonus	-	(351)	(351)	-	(351)	(351)	-	-	-
Total Corporate Funding	0	(498,873)	(498,873)	0	(498,993)	(498,993)	0	120	120

Divisions	Planned Gross	Planned Income	Planned Net	Projected Gross	Projected Income	Projected Net	(Over)/ under spend Gross	(Over)/ under spend Income	(Over)/ under spend Net
TOTAL	1,046,132	(1,046,132)	0	1,079,013	(1,073,347)	5,666	(32,881)	27,215	(5,666)
Use of Covid-19 General Funding to cover operational overspend	-	-	-	-	(5,666)	(5,666)	-	5,666	5,666
FINAL TOTAL	1,046,132	(1,046,132)	0	1,079,013	(1,079,013)	0	(32,881)	32,881	0

Revenue Savings Summary 2023/24 (£'000)

Service description	Original Target for 2023/24	Target including items c/f from previous year(s)	Achieved in-year	Will be achieved, but in future years	Cannot be achieved
ASC	-	-	-	-	-
BSD / Orbis	869	869	659	210	-
CS	-	-	-	-	-
CET	105	910	105	745	60*
GS	-	-	-	-	-
Total Savings	974	1,779	764	955	60
ASC			-	-	-
BSD / Orbis			-	-	-
CS			-	-	-
CET			-	-	-
GS			-	-	-
Subtotal Permanent Changes ¹			0	0	0
Total Savings & Permanent Changes	974	1,779	764	955	60

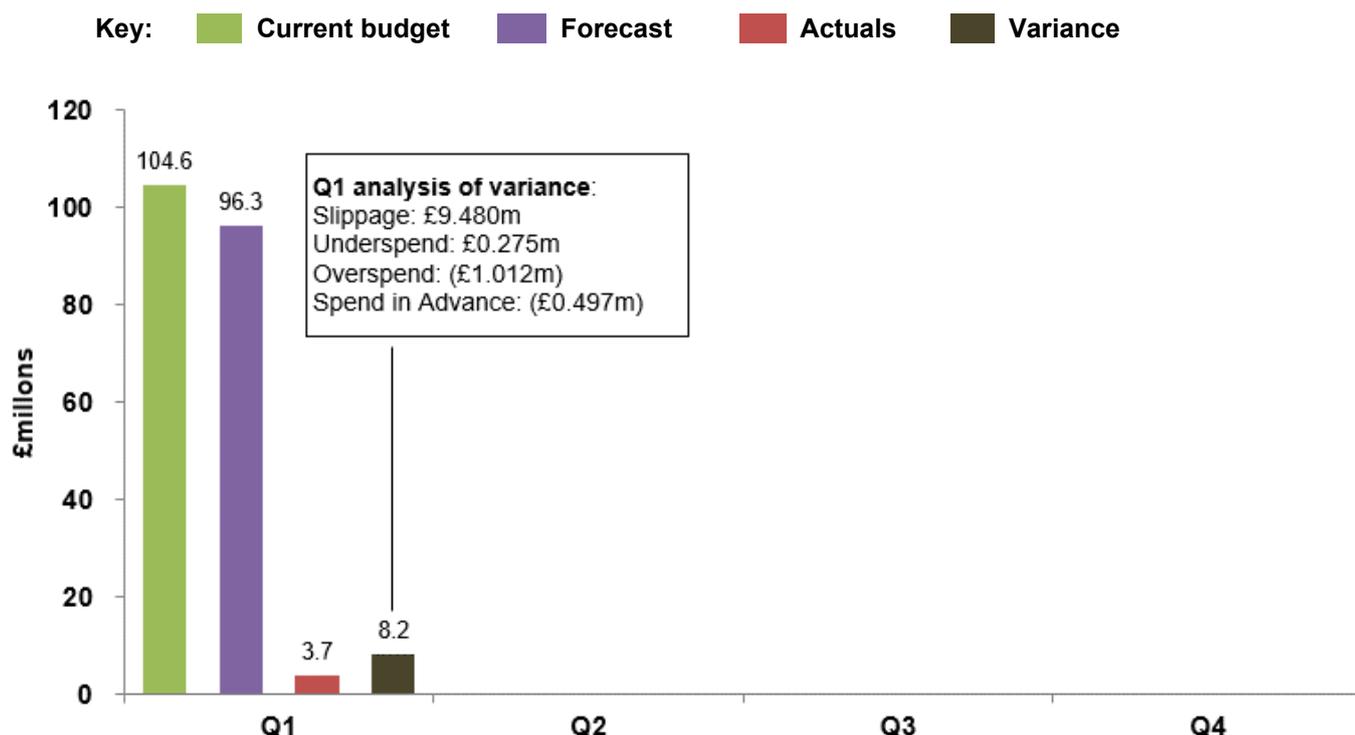
Memo: treatment of savings not achieved in the year (£'000)	Temporary Funding ²	Part of reported variance ³	Total
ASC	-	-	0
BSD / Orbis	-	210	210
CS	-	-	0
CET	745	60	805
GS	-	-	0
Total	745	270	1,015

*The Environmental Services saving will not be achieved and will be addressed as part of RPPR next year.

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

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

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

Capital Programme (gross £ millions) – approved projects**Capital Programme Summary 2023/24 (£'000)**

	Budget Q1	Actual to date Q1*	Projected 2023/24	Variation (Over) / under Q1 budget	Variation analysis: (Over) / under spend	Variation analysis: Slippage to future year	Variation analysis: Spend in advance
Adult Social Care	2,367	-	2,215	152	-	152	-
Business Services	27,430	2,683	23,132	4,298	275	4,422	(399)
Children's Services	1,215	336	1,447	(232)	(232)	-	-
Communities, Economy & Transport	73,540	723	69,512	4,028	(780)	4,906	(98)
Gross Expenditure (Planned Programme)	104,552	3,742	96,306	8,246	(737)	9,480	(497)
Section 106 and CIL	2,548	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Specific Funding	10,596	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Receipts	817	-	-	-	-	-	-
Formula Grants	31,917	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reserves and Revenue Set Aside	20,369	-	-	-	-	-	-
Borrowing	38,305	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding (Planned Programme)	104,552	-	-	-	-	-	-

*The actual to date position includes accruals relating to previous years expenditure, some of which remains unpaid as at Q1, which distorts the actual amounts relating to the current financial year.

Treasury Management

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

The average level of Council funds available for investment purposes during the Q1 was £295.687m. The total amount received in short term interest for Q1 was £3.058m at an average rate of 4.19%, compared to £2.120m at an average rate of 3.31% for Q4 2022/23. The anticipated average investment return for the year has increased to 5.49% from the 4.45% assumed at budget setting, based on the latest forecasts from our external treasury management advisors.

The Bank of England Base Rate was increased twice in Q1 on the 11 May and 22 June to 5.00%. The investment return outlook has improved following market volatility and the potential for increased interest rates in the future, where possible a number of fixed term deposits with banks were placed for periods up to 1 year in Q1 at much improved rates. These investments have been 'laddered' and will mature at different intervals in the next 12 months. This will take advantage of elevated bank rates in future quarters.

In seeking investment opportunities, as defined by the TMS, opportunities have been taken to reinvest in maturing bank deposits that aligns to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In Q1, a total of £20m was reinvested for a duration of six months, maintaining the £30m placed for investment in SDG deposits. We will look to place deals maturing with other local authorities in Q2 if the rates are favourable compared to traditional bank deposits.

No short-term borrowing was required in Q1. The majority of the Council's external debt, totalling £217.910m at Q1, is held as long-term loans. No long-term borrowing was undertaken in Q1, and no further cost-effective opportunities have arisen during Q1 to restructure the existing Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) or wider debt portfolio.

The Treasury Management budget is currently forecasting to underspend by £4.3m. This is based on the position outlined above with regard to balances held and investment returns and slippage on the capital programme reducing the need to borrow externally in 2023/24.

The performance of the Council's treasury management activity, against benchmarks and the key indicators set in the Treasury Management Strategy, as approved by Full Council in its meeting of 7 February 2023, are set out at Appendix 2.

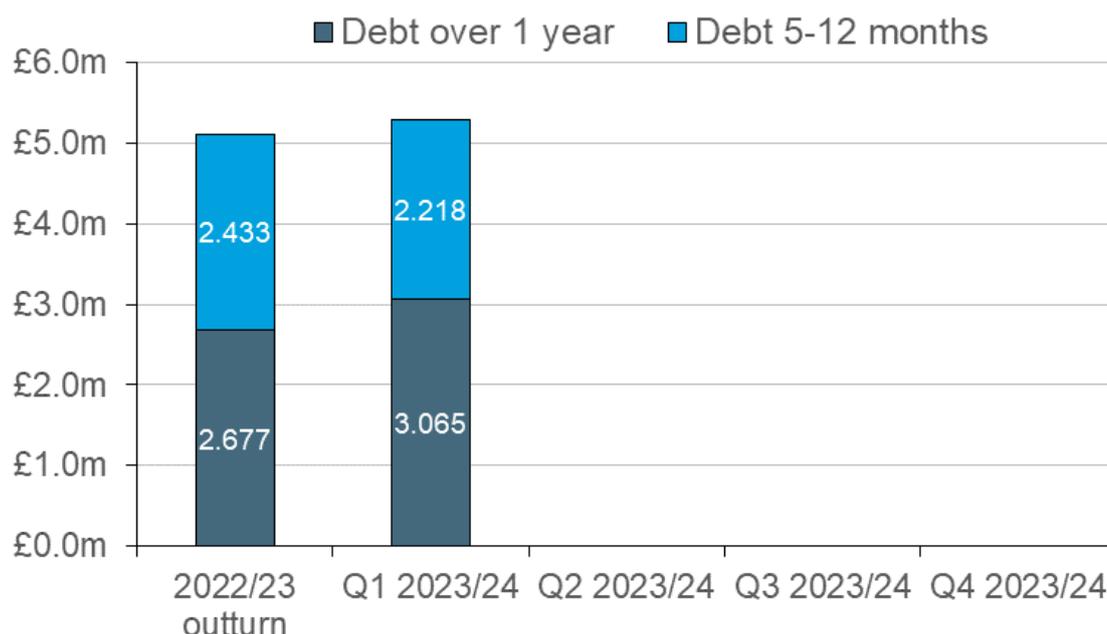
Reserves and Balances 2023/24 (£000)

Reserve / Balance	Balance at 1 Apr 2023	Planned net use at Q1	Forecast net use at Q1	Movement	Estimated balance at 31 Mar 2024
Statutorily ringfenced or held on behalf of others:					
Balances held by schools	20,082	-	-	-	20,082
Public Health	7,812	(1,704)	(1,704)	-	6,108
Other	6,983	(821)	(821)	-	6,162
Subtotal	34,877	(2,525)	(2,525)	-	32,352
Service Reserves:					
Corporate Waste	19,883	(470)	(470)	-	19,413
Capital Programme	13,425	(4,062)	(4,062)	-	9,363
Insurance	7,363	133	133	-	7,496
Adult Social Care	3,099	-	-	-	3,099
Subtotal	43,770	(4,399)	(4,399)	-	39,371
Strategic Reserves:					
Priority / Transformation	17,398	(5,894)	(5,894)	-	11,504
Financial Management	41,880	(9,583)	(9,583) ¹	-	32,297
Subtotal	59,278	(15,477)	(15,477)	-	43,801
Total Reserves	137,925	(22,401)	(22,401)	0	115,524
General Fund	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Total Reserves and Balances	147,925	(22,401)	(22,401)	0	125,524

¹ currently excludes any transfers relating to Q1 variances

Changes to Fees & Charges

There are no changes to fees & charges.

Outstanding debt analysis (£ millions)

The value of debt aged over 5 months at Quarter 1 has increased by £0.173m to £5.283m compared to the 2022/23 outturn position of £5.110m. The majority £4.595m (86.98%) of all debt over 5 months old relates to Adult Social Care (ASC), which has increased by £0.380m

compared to the 2022/23 outturn position of £4.215m. There has been a decrease of £0.207m of debt over 5 months related to income due to other departments.

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

Treasury Management Prudential Indicators – Q1 2023/24

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy published the revised Treasury and Prudential codes in 2021, which now requires quarterly reporting of performance against forward looking prudential indicators. The performance of the Council's treasury management activity, against benchmarks and the key indicators in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy, as approved by Full Council at its meeting of 7 February 2023, are set out below.

Investments

The average investment return over Q1 was 4.19% under-performing the benchmark rate by 15 basis points (0.15 percentage points). This is typical in a rising interest rate environment as a result of the time lag between changes in base rate and investments maturing and being able to re-invest at more favourable rates.

Average Investment Balance Q1 £m	Average Investment return Q1	Average Benchmark Rate*	Difference
295.687	4.19%	4.34%	(0.15%)

*The Benchmark rate used is the Standard Overnight Index Average; a rate administered by the Bank of England based on actual transactions of overnight borrowing by financial institutions.

During Q1 we have monitored the security of the Council's investments, to assess the risk of those investments losing their value. These risks were assessed using the financial standing of the groups invested in, the length of each investment, and the historic default rates. Our investment strategy sets an allowable risk level of 0.050% (i.e. that there is a 99.95% probability that the Council will get its investments back). The actual indicator ranged between 0.005% and 0.007%, reflecting the high proportion of investments held in highly secure and/or very liquid investments.

Investment Risk benchmark	0.050%
Maximum investment risk experienced Q1	0.007%

Borrowing

The table below shows the Council's total external borrowing and average rate at 30 June 2023:

	Balance as at 30 June 2023 £m	Average Rate
PWLB	211.460	4.61%
Market Loans	6.450	4.25%
Total borrowing	217.910	4.60%

The table below shows the Q1 forecast of the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) compared to the estimate within the 2023/24 strategy approved in February 2023. The CFR is expected to give rise to required new borrowing of £75.116m by the end of the year, compared to the original estimate of £83.932m. The strategy currently forecasts that the level of reserves and balances in the medium term allows internal borrowing of up to £50.000m, and therefore it is currently expected that external borrowing of £25.116m may be required to support the capital programme.

Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) (Underlying Borrowing Need)	Original Estimate 2023/24 £m	Revised forecast as at 30 June 2023 £m
Opening CFR	274.367	272.225
Borrowing Need	34.904	28.205
Minimum Revenue Provision	(7.429)	(7.404)
Closing CFR	301.842	293.026
External Borrowing as at 30 June 2023		217.910
Forecast Under-borrowing (if no action taken)		75.116

The table below shows that the Council is operating within the Operational Boundary and Authorised Borrowing Limits set within the Treasury Management strategy and has sufficient headroom to cover the borrowing need arising from the year's capital programme.

Borrowing Limits	Operational Boundary £m	Authorised Borrowing Limit £m
Limit set for 2023/24	376.000	396.000
Less: PFI & Leases	65.000	65.000
Limit for Underlying Borrowing	311.000	331.000
Actual External Borrowing at 30 May	217.910	217.910
Headroom*	93.090	113.090

*Authorised Borrowing headroom cannot be less than zero

The maturity profile of the Authority's borrowing is within the limits set within the strategy.

Maturity Structure of borrowing	Lower Limit set	Upper Limit set	Actual as at 30 June 2024
Under 12 Months	0%	25%	1%
12 months to 2 years	0%	40%	4%
2 years to 5 years	0%	60%	7%
5 years to 10 years	0%	70%	20%
Over 10 years	0%	90%	68%

Adult Social Care and Health – Q1 2023/24

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

Adult Social Care (ASC)

Health and social care integration

The joint 5-year Sussex Shared Delivery Plan (SDP) was endorsed in June 2023 by the Council and the East Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board prior to submission to NHS England and the Sussex NHS Integrated Care Board (ICB) for final approval.

The Shared Delivery Plan will support the delivery of the priorities set out in the *Improving Lives Together* [Sussex Integrated Care Strategy](#) that was agreed in December 2022 and for which the Council is a key statutory partner; and the East Sussex *Healthy Lives, Healthy People 2022 – 2027* [East Sussex Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#).

It brings together delivery milestones for 2023/24 and a roadmap for years 2 – 5, covering:

- the three longer term strategic priorities of the Sussex Integrated Care Strategy, these being a joined-up approach in communities; growing and developing our workforce; and improving the use of digital technology and information
- immediate and continuous improvements across a range of national NHS operational priorities, in order to support ongoing recovery and access to primary care, community health, hospital-based secondary care and mental health services
- delivery of the Health and Wellbeing Strategies and the work of the Place-based partnerships in East Sussex, Brighton & Hove, and West Sussex

The delivery plans for East Sussex cover ongoing priorities for children and young people and mental health services, as well as new plans that have been shaped by our East Sussex Health and Care Partnership. These are designed to increase the strength and pace of our partnership activity in:

- accelerating health outcomes improvement, with a specific focus on cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, mental health (all ages) and frailty/healthy ageing. This will be achieved in 2023/24 through collaborating to make improvements to the way services are accessed, to support prevention and early intervention
- our model for delivering an integrated offer for health, care and wellbeing in communities. This will be progressed through delivering a proof of concept for 'integrated community teams', initially in Hastings. This will build on our original integrated community health and care services target operating model and existing related projects and learning activities in Hastings, for example the Universal Healthcare proposition. In-year milestones will enable the approach to be tested and developed to ensure that primary care, mental health and other services that impact on the wider determinants of health are a part of the model

As part of the national 'Discharge Frontrunners' programme, East Sussex hosted a visit to the Sussex Integrated Care System by NHS England, the Department of Health and Social Care and the national Emergency Care Improvement Support Team (ECIST). The visit explored the reasons, and data, behind patients who do not meet clinical criteria to be in hospitals, and patients who are experiencing long lengths of stay in hospital. In response to the visit recommendations, an offer of further support from ECIST, a shared action plan, and a support request are now being developed. This work includes a focus on referral hubs in East Sussex to improve onward access to care after a spell in hospital, and appropriate placements and care for people with very complex needs and challenging behaviour.

Third Sector support

During Q1, activities have focused on handing over responsibility for the Department for Work and Pensions Household Support Fund programme and support for the Multi Agency Financial Inclusion Steering Group to colleagues in a new Partnership Team.

A new Community Network programme is being established, with oversight from the Partnership Plus Executive Group. The Strategic Partners Group and the five Local Partners Groups are in development and will begin meeting in Q2.

Preparations for the launch of the Tribe Project are underway. This new digital platform will enable organisations across the county to promote volunteer opportunities, recruit new volunteers, and manage existing volunteers. We are working in partnership with Bronze Labs, 3VA, RVA, and HVA to deliver this.

In addition, our voluntary, community or social enterprise partners continue to play a key role in supporting Homes for Ukraine Guests and Hosts.

Homes for Ukraine

As at 5 July 2023, 1,660 guests were living in East Sussex under the Homes for Ukraine scheme at 734 different properties across the county. The majority (84%) of guests matched to hosts in East Sussex have now arrived. Some guests who were staying with hosts in East Sussex have now moved on, a proportion of whom have moved into private sector accommodation or to other areas.

Adults are able to take control of the support they receive

- at the end of Q1, 31% of adults and older people were receiving Direct Payments (**ref i**), equating to a total of 1,543 people. The number of people in receipt of Direct Payments has increased from 1,520 at 31 March 2023, however the total number of people receiving care has increased at a much greater rate and this has resulted in a drop in performance. This measure is a snapshot only, and so can vary significantly. Direct Payments are always considered when deciding how to meet an adult's care needs and identified outcomes and are offered as an option where appropriate, although, of course, the person does not need to choose this option
- the Support With Confidence measure (**ref ii**) is not being reported against in Q1, as we are not currently accepting new applications to the Support with Confidence Scheme, or progressing any applications or renewals, while we consider a report published by the National Direct Payment Forum. A public consultation on the future of the Support with Confidence scheme will be launched in Q2

Adults are supported to find and keep safe and affordable accommodation

2,086 people were supported in Q1 and in addition, the provider, BHT Sussex, continues to support clients and the Homes for Ukraine programme by providing support to both sustain hosting arrangements and to support Ukrainian guests to move into alternative accommodation.

Reabling people to maximise their level of independence

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

- during 2022/23 90.5% of older people discharged from hospital to reablement / rehabilitation services were at home 91 days after their discharge from hospital
- during Q1 no further request was made for ongoing support for 95% of people who received short-term services
- during Q1 70% of Reablement service users discharged from the Joint Community Rehabilitation Service did not require ongoing care

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

Fraud and Scams

During Q1 Get Safe Online (GSO) and the Council have been promoting online safety campaigns to residents. This includes:

- Your Digital Footprint – advice on how your online history can potentially be seen by other people, or tracked and held in multiple databases and the potential ramifications of this
- Your Smart Devices – advice on how to use smart devices safely and securely
- Safeguarding Children – advice to support children to enjoy a safe and secure experience online this summer

The Council and GSO also supported the Eastbourne 999 Festival during Q1, delivering internet safety advice to approximately 14,000 visitors.

Preventing Violent Extremism

During Q1 the Prevent Project Officer delivered 36 Community Safety Awareness sessions to approximately 850 students and staff in colleges, special schools, primary and secondary schools. In addition, we have also provided training to Designated Safeguarding leads and pastoral school staff. All these were Prevent themed and designed to encourage engagement and discussion on preventing violent extremism.

During Q1, following funding from the Preventing Radicalisation Fund, the SEST supported online training to frontline professionals to identify and address signs of online radicalisation. This included a focus on Far Right extremism.

Serious Violence

During Q1, the SEST have supported the implementation of the new Serious Violence Duty. Each district and borough has chosen a geographical location to focus on, conducting a deep dive analysis and community engagement, aiming to prevent people from becoming involved in serious violence, both as victims and perpetrators, and reduce instances of serious violence in these areas.

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

During Q1, the SEST hosted the Sussex Anti-Slavery Network. This is a Pan Sussex Network where information is shared with key agencies. In Q1 there was a focus on Project Kraken, an initiative to raise public awareness of criminal or suspicious activity around our coasts and borders.

Domestic Violence and Abuse, Sexual Violence and Abuse Services

A commissioning strategy has been developed, with commitments on spending the additional new funding (allocated to the Council for delivery of domestic abuse support). The commissioning strategy is informed by a needs assessment refresh completed in Q4 2022/23 and engagement with key leads and will be presented for internal sign off in Q2.

Also, in Q1, the Voices of Lived Experience Board helped to deliver domestic abuse training to Sussex Police and the University of Sussex.

The Safer Communities team carried out a social media campaign to promote World Elder Abuse Awareness Day during Q1, sharing key messages and signposting to services in co-ordination with specialist organisations.

During Q1, a multi-agency evaluation has been conducted of the one year Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) triage pilot. The pilot was designed in collaboration with key

agencies to safely manage some referrals outside the MARAC structure to address volume levels. The evaluation uses both qualitative and quantitative data and will be complete in Q2.

Public Health

Health Checks

As initially reported as part of Q4 2022/23 monitoring, the Health Checks target for 2022/23 (reported a quarter in arrears) has not been achieved. The final outturn for 2022/23 was 29.5% against a target of 35%.

Best practice

The Public Health 'Healthy Places Team' was featured in a [new report](#) by the Quality-of-Life Foundation as one of three best practice case studies from across England. The report looked at how some local authorities in England are creating healthy places through planning despite severe funding restraints, limited capacity and an unsupportive regulatory environment. The case studies demonstrate that delivering places where everyone can hope to enjoy good health requires health-focused policies in planning documents, but also demands strong leadership, cross-sector collaboration and innovative delivery mechanisms. The report also sets out a series of recommendations to help other local authorities create healthy places through planning.

Sexual Health

Public Health, East Sussex NHS Healthcare Trust and Preventx presented 'Closing the digital divide: How do online services reach people at most risk of poor sexual health outcomes?' at the British Association for Sexual Health and HIV 2023 Spring Conference in April. Local data demonstrates that our digital sexual health service is reaching communities that experience poor sexual health outcomes. Both the online and postal sexually transmitted infection self-sampling and condom distribution scheme are reaching residents who are from deprived communities, have different sexual partners and belong to diverse ethnic groups. The feedback was positive with much interest and engagement in the East Sussex work, with many asking, 'why everywhere isn't doing the same?'

Cold Alert

Every year tens of thousands of people across the UK die from conditions that can be linked to exposure to cold weather. To support residents and professionals to take preventative action, the Council operates a Cold Alert Service. Cold Alert is a free service provided by the Sussex Air Quality Partnership (Sussex-air) and funded by East Sussex Public Health. The service is operational between 1 November and 31 March, providing free severe cold weather warnings for individuals with respiratory and cardiovascular conditions, parents of young children, carers and healthcare professionals.

More people signed up to the [East Sussex Cold Alert service](#) last winter than ever before. There are currently 2,591 subscribers (reported a quarter in arrears), an increase of 1,320 individuals subscribing to the service compared to the winter of 2022/23.

£5 million research bid

The Public Health Recovery & Renewal Team led the application process for £5 million of National Institute for Health and Care Research funding to develop and embed research techniques within the community to help identify health priorities and potential solutions. We have passed the first stage and feedback identified our application as strong and clearly written with well-thought-out governance and leadership structures. We were commended for our extensive list of partnerships, including universities, the voluntary and charity sectors, and the support from senior Council staff.

Infection control

Infection control e-learning provided by Public Health was launched in January 2022. This training is free and available to any PA, carer, PA employer, day centres and other community-based

social care providers or volunteers. The e-learning was completed 71 times in Q1, and in total there have been 764 completions since the programme launched.

Revenue Budget Summary

ASC

The net ASC budget of £233.027m includes a 10% inflationary uplift of £25.797m to support the care market across the Independent Sector. This uplift is in addition to £4.546m to fund growth and demographic pressures and £2.707m to fund the costs of pay awards. The costs of the increases are partially funded by £6.635m raised through the 2% ASC Care Precept.

The projected outturn is £234.018m which is a forecast overspend of (£0.991m). This comprises an overspend of (£1.937m) on Independent Sector care provision, offset by an underspend of £0.946m in Directly Provided Services. The overspend on the Independent Sector is due to a combination of factors with the most material being i) increasing complexity of need ii) pressures arising from greater than anticipated demand and demographic growth and iii) increasing levels of bad debt around client contributions which are likely linked to the cost of living crisis. The underspend in Directly Provided Services is due to staffing vacancies and reflects the difficulties for the directorate in recruitment.

In July 2023, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) announced an additional £3.932m for the Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund. This funding was announced after the Quarter 1 monitoring report had been prepared and is not included in the outturn. ASC expect to apply the funding to mitigate the overspend in the remainder of the financial year 2023-24.

Safer Communities

The net budget of £1.121m is forecast to be fully spent in 2023-24.

Public Health

The Public Health (PH) budget of £33.777m comprises the PH grant allocation of £29.803m, the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (ADDER) allocation of £1.350m, a planned draw from reserves of £2.058m for projects and £0.566m drawn to support in-year spending.

PH is forecasting an underspend by £0.920m in 2023-24, comprised of £0.910m slippage on the PH Reserve projects, £0.143m forecast underspend on the general PH programme and a forecast overspend of (£133k) on the Health Visiting programme.

COVID-19 related funding streams

ASC continues to incur expenditure relating to schemes initiated during the national COVID-19 response.

Grant	Funding b/f £'000	Planned Usage £'000	Balance Remaining £'000
Contain Outbreak Management Funding	2,695	2,695	-
CEV Grant (support to CEV individuals)	1,539	800	739
Omicron Support Fund	41	41	-
Total	4,275	3,536	739

Homes for Ukraine

ASC continues to lead on the programme of services to support Ukrainian guests to settle in East Sussex. Total projected expenditure in 2023/24 is £5.443m against expected funding of £11.630m giving a forecast unspent balance of £6.525m. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) have not yet confirmed that this balance may be carried forward to support the programme in future years. In addition, ASC will pass through £2.118m to Districts and Boroughs to fund payments to hosts.

HFU Grant Funding	Funding Confirmed £'000	Further Funding Anticipated £'000	Total Funding £'000	Actual Expenditure £'000	Balance Remaining £'000
Funding for guests	11,630	338	11,968	5,443	6,525
Host Payments	-	2,118	2,118	2,118	-
Total	11,630	2,456	14,086	7,561	6,525

The government are also providing additional funding to ESCC in 2023-24 to provide education and childcare services for children from families arriving from Ukraine under the scheme. The Department for Education (DfE) has allocated funding pro-rata on a per pupil basis for the 3 phases of education - early years, primary and secondary.

Capital Programme Summary

The ASC Capital programme budget is £2.367m for 2023/24. The outturn this year is forecast to be £2.215m with the underspend of £0.152m being due to lower than anticipated modification works.

Performance exceptions (see How to read this report for definition)**Priority – Helping people to help themselves**

Performance measure	Outturn 22/23	Target 23/24	RAG Q1 23/24	RAG Q2 23/24	RAG Q3 23/24	RAG Q4 23/24	Q1 23/24 outturn	Note ref
Proportion of working age adults and older people receiving direct payments	31.9% (1,520 people)	31.5%	A				31.0% (1,543 people)	i
Number of providers registered with Support With Confidence	346	≥2022/23 outturn	A				Target not reported against in Q1	ii

Measures marked carry over at year end 2022/23 – Final Outturn**Priority – Keeping vulnerable people safe**

Performance measure	Outturn 21/22	Target 22/23	RAG Q1 22/23	RAG Q2 22/23	RAG Q3 22/23	RAG Q4 22/23	2022/23 final outturn	Note ref
The % of people affected by domestic violence and abuse who have improved safety/support measures in place upon leaving the service	90% (420/467)	80%	G	G	G	G	91.4% (360/394)	
When they leave the service the % of those affected by rape, sexual violence and abuse who have improved coping strategies	92% (473/514)	88%	G	G	G	G	92.7% (544/ 587)	

Priority – Helping people help themselves

Performance measure	Outturn 21/22	Target 22/23	RAG Q1 22/23	RAG Q2 22/23	RAG Q3 22/23	RAG Q4 22/23	2022/23 final outturn	Note ref
National outcome measure: Achieve independence for older people through rehabilitation / intermediate care	New measure 2022/23	>90%	G	G	G	G	90.5% (801/885)	
Improved targeting of NHS Health Checks	70% of GP practices (35/50) delivering NHS Health Checks	35% uptake rate by eligible patients	G	G	A	R	29.5%	

Savings exceptions 2023/24 (£'000)

Service description	Original Target For 2023/24	Target including items c/f from previous year(s)	Achieved in-year	Will be achieved, but in future years	Cannot be achieved	Note ref
	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Savings	0	0	0	0	0	
			-	-	-	
			-	-	-	
Subtotal Permanent Changes ¹			0	0	0	
Total Savings and Permanent Changes	0	0	0	0	0	

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

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

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

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

Revenue Budget 2023/24 (£'000)**Adult Social Care – Independent Sector:**

Divisions	Planned Gross	Planned Income	Planned Net	Projected Gross	Projected Income	Projected Net	(Over)/ under spend Gross	(Over)/ under spend Income	(Over)/ under spend Net	Note ref
IS - Physical Support, Sensory Support and Support for Memory & Cognition	144,303	(69,611)	74,692	141,372	(75,926)	65,446	2,931	6,315	9,246	
IS - Learning Disability Support	79,044	(5,052)	73,992	89,948	(9,967)	79,981	(10,904)	4,915	(5,989)	
IS - Mental Health Support	22,233	(10,912)	11,321	31,820	(15,305)	16,515	(9,587)	4,393	(5,194)	
Subtotal	245,580	(85,575)	160,005	263,140	(101,198)	161,942	(17,560)	15,623	(1,937)	

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

Divisions	Planned Gross	Planned Income	Planned Net	Projected Gross	Projected Income	Projected Net	(Over)/ under spend Gross	(Over)/ under spend Income	(Over)/ under spend Net	Note ref
Physical Support, Sensory Support and Support for Memory & Cognition	16,456	(4,850)	11,606	15,277	(4,870)	10,407	1,179	20	1,199	
Learning Disability Support	8,255	(592)	7,663	8,062	(592)	7,470	193	-	193	
Mental Health Support	3,221	(3,098)	123	3,221	(3,098)	123	-	-	-	
Substance Misuse Support	477	-	477	476	-	476	1	-	1	
Equipment & Assistive Technology	7,354	(3,782)	3,572	7,589	(3,899)	3,690	(235)	117	(118)	
Other	130	-	130	110	-	110	20	-	20	
Supporting People	6,204	(310)	5,894	6,204	(310)	5,894	-	-	-	
Assessment and Care Management	29,017	(2,203)	26,814	30,653	(2,886)	27,767	(1,636)	683	(953)	
Carers	3,381	(2,679)	702	3,480	(2,779)	701	(99)	100	1	
Management and Support	17,342	(1,735)	15,607	16,430	(1,601)	14,829	912	(134)	778	
Service Strategy	632	(198)	434	807	(198)	609	(175)	-	(175)	
Subtotal	92,469	(19,447)	73,022	92,309	(20,233)	72,076	160	786	946	

APPENDIX 3

Divisions	Planned Gross	Planned Income	Planned Net	Projected Gross	Projected Income	Projected Net	(Over)/ under spend Gross	(Over)/ under spend Income	(Over)/ under spend Net	Note ref
Total Adult Social Care	338,049	(105,022)	233,027	355,449	(121,431)	234,018	(17,400)	16,409	(991)	

Safer Communities:

Divisions	Planned Gross	Planned Income	Planned Net	Projected Gross	Projected Income	Projected Net	(Over)/ under spend Gross	(Over)/ under spend Income	(Over)/ under spend Net	Note ref
Safer Communities	2,030	(909)	1,121	2,030	(909)	1,121	-	-	-	
Total Safer Communities	2,030	(909)	1,121	2,030	(909)	1,121	0	0	0	

Public Health – Core Services:

Divisions	Planned Gross	Planned Income	Planned Net	Projected Gross	Projected Income	Projected Net	(Over)/ under spend Gross	(Over)/ under spend Income	(Over)/ under spend Net	Note ref
Mental Health & Best Start	13,475	-	13,475	11,307	-	11,307	2,168	-	2,168	
Risky Behaviours and Threats to Health	12,153	-	12,153	12,029	-	12,029	124	-	124	
Health Systems	3,549	-	3,549	3,244	-	3,244	305	-	305	
Communities	930	-	930	1,045	-	1,045	(115)	-	(115)	
Central Support	3,212	-	3,212	3,746	-	3,746	(534)	-	(534)	
Recovery & Renewal – Funded by Test & Trace	458	-	458	338	-	338	120	-	120	
Public Health Grant Income	-	(29,803)	(29,803)	-	(29,803)	(29,803)	-	-	-	
ADDER Grant	-	(1,350)	(1,350)	-	(1,350)	(1,350)	-	-	-	
Draw from General Reserves	-	(566)	(566)	-	(423)	(423)	-	(143)	(143)	
Draw from Health Visiting Reserves	-	-	-	-	(133)	(133)	-	133	133	
Project Board Reserves	-	(2,058)	(2,058)	1,148	(1,148)	-	(1,148)	(910)	(2,058)	
Total Public Health	33,777	(33,777)	0	32,857	(32,857)	0	920	(920)	0	

Capital programme 2023/24 (£'000)

Approved project	Budget: total project all years	Projected: total project all years	Budget Q1	Actual to date Q1	Projected 2023/24	Variation (Over) / under Q1 budget	Variation analysis: (Over) / under spend	Variation analysis: Slippage to future year	Variation analysis: Spend in advance	Note ref
Supported Living Projects	6,400	6,400	2,177	-	2,177	-	-	-	-	
Greenacres	2,598	2,598	140	-	-	140	-	140	-	
House Adaptations for People with Disabilities	2,719	2,719	50	-	38	12	-	12	-	
Total ASC Gross	11,717	11,717	2,367	0	2,215	152	0	152	0	

Business Services – Q1 2023/24

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

Key cross cutting programmes

Carbon

Carbon data is reported a quarter in arrears due to the timeline of data availability, so the Q1 outturn is reporting on the emissions outturn for 2022/23 (**ref ii**). A 32% reduction in carbon emissions against the baseline year of 2019/20 was achieved, which is a significant reduction but slightly under target (34% reduction from the baseline year). The year-end data is subject to full reconciliation so is more accurate than previous quarters; this accounts for the difference between the final end of year outturn and the projected outturn from the previous quarter. In absolute terms the shortfall against the target, at 318 tonnes of carbon dioxide, is relatively small, being equivalent to approximately three heat decarbonisation projects and being about 0.1% of the Council's total current scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions. A key factor actively contributing to the reduction is the improved management of buildings to reduce energy usage. The more typical weather compared to the unexpected low average minimum temperatures experienced in 2021/22 was an additional factor in the reduction. However, the need to provide ventilation in our buildings as part of COVID-19 safety measures is still adversely affecting our overall percentage reduction. A programme of carbon reduction measures continues to be delivered in schools and across the corporate estate, in line with our current Climate Action Plan which has recently been revised. The reduction in emissions resulting from energy efficiency projects completed towards the end of 2022/23 will be realised during 2023/24, which will contribute to our 2023/24 target of 43% reduction on baseline year (2019/20) emissions.

Good progress was made in Q1 on the delivery of energy efficiency projects, towards our annual target of completing 23 projects. One LED lighting project was completed at Milton Grange and two Solar PV schemes have been completed at The Keep and the Phoenix Centre. Other Solar PV and LED schemes have commenced installation in Q1. Four heat decarbonisation projects have started on site. These schemes were part-funded by a successful award of over £1m of grant funding from the Phase 3b Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme. There are challenges with supply chain and capacity for Solar PV, LED and also new heating technology/systems with heat decarbonisation in the wider sector which are impacting roll-out and may significantly affect our ability to deliver our target number of schemes (**ref i**).

Some additional business analysis was undertaken in Q1 on the potential “invest to save” Schools’ Solar scheme. Schools have been asked to review proposals and provide quantitative and qualitative feedback.

Further workshops for schools site managers/caretakers took place in Q1 promoting ideas and suggestions about how schools can fully utilise the Department for Education Energy Efficiency Capital funding announced by central government in April 2023. Further workshops are planned for Q3.

Modernising Systems

The Managing Back Office Systems Programme was established to deliver the replacement of the Council's core finance and Human Resources systems. Replacement of these systems will support further developments to increase agile and digital working. The User Acceptance Test phase continued in Q1.

Human Resources and Organisational Development (HROD)

Work has continued on the development of our new employer recruitment brand: ‘We Choose East Sussex’ with the creation and production of new content for the Council's job pages.

The procurement of a new learning management system is well underway, and it is anticipated that the outcome of this process will be known in Q2.

Work has begun on the refresh of the People Strategy covering 2024-2027, with initial engagement sessions, including with the trade unions, taking place during Q1. Applications for the second cohort of our 'Ladder to Leadership' programme also opened during Q1 and work on reviewing a programme of 'masterclasses' for Heads of Service and the development of a leadership development programme for managers graded LMG3 and 4 has begun.

Attendance Management and Wellbeing

The Q1 sickness absence figure for the whole authority (excluding schools) is 1.93 days lost per Full Time Employee (FTE), a fall of 14.8% since last year. The year end estimate for 2023/24 is 8.57 days/FTE, so the target of 9.10 days/FTE is predicted to be met. The predominant reason for the decrease in absence rates is a large fall in COVID-19 related absence compared to the same period last year.

However, mental health absence has increased by 179 days in Q1 compared to the same quarter last year, and by 1,084 days between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023 compared to 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022. Benchmarking data from GoodShape suggests this is a common theme across local authorities and our absence rates are within the average for this. Set against this background, we have increased support to staff by:

- offering employees additional support when they report an absence due to mental health to GoodShape. The aim is to reduce the absence length and the risk of a further mental health absence taking place
- putting in place an additional reminder for the completion of return-to-work discussions when the absence has been due to mental health, as further analysis has indicated that managers are less likely to complete forms for these absences. This reminder email highlights the importance of early completion using nudge theory and signposts managers to further support and guidance
- raising awareness of the mental health support available from our Employee Assistance Programme, Occupational Health and partners 'Able Futures' through a series of interactive staff webinars and individual staff sessions
- running a men's health campaign in June with interactive workshops, toolkits and a dedicated film with a focus on mental wellbeing
- growing our Mental Health First Aid network to continue to pro-actively support staff and promote wellbeing resources within teams

Procurement

Procurement, contract and supplier management activities

The Council has spent £309m with 884 local suppliers over the past 12 months, which equates to 66% of our total spend, compared to a target of 60%. This figure includes our Tier 2 supplier data (i.e., the direct spend with the Council's suppliers that is then sub-contracted by them to a local supplier). The Procurement team continues to promote our contract opportunities to local suppliers, as well as building local supply chain opportunities into our tenders where possible.

Social Value

In Q1, 46 contracts commenced, of which 42 were out of scope of the Social Value Measurement Charter, which quantifies the economic, social and environmental benefits of the procurement, as they accessed an existing pre-approved list of suppliers (Frameworks) with predefined contractual terms. The Council's Public Bus and Driver contracts accounted for 39 of these out of scope contracts. The four in-scope contracts had a total contract value of over £715k and secured over £135k in Social Value commitment, which equates to an outturn of 19% against a target of 10%. The Social Value commitments for Q1 included: career guidance and support for local schools and colleges; sustainability of local green areas; volunteering hours; graduate qualification support; spend with local supply chains and the creation of local jobs.

The Place Scrutiny Committee's report of Procurement: Social Value and Buying Local was agreed at full Council in May 2023. The recommendations included the trial of a new qualitative approach to social value. It will be trialled within Adult Social Care over a 12 month period, with a findings report due in September 2024. The trial will focus on using the Central Government's Social Value Model to explore if a qualitative approach to social value will be more suitable for Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations and how we can focus our social value to align to the Council/and or service priorities.

Procurement is currently working with the Communications Team to advertise the East Sussex Social Value Marketplace. Social media and newsletters are being used to create better engagement on the portal. Our colleagues at the East Sussex Procurement Hub (Wealden District Council) are also helping to raise awareness of the site.

Internal Audit

Through the work of Internal Audit, the Chief Internal Auditor continues to be able to provide assurance over the adequacy and effectiveness of governance, risk management and control for the Council.

Internal Audit have continued to focus on delivery of the Annual Internal Audit Plan. During Q1 we were able to complete 26.5% of the plan to draft report stage against a Q1 target of 22.5%.

All high priority actions agreed with management as part of individual audit reviews are subject to action tracking, whereby we seek written confirmation from services that these have been implemented. It was confirmed that 12/12 (100%) of the high-risk actions due to be implemented on a 12-month rolling basis have been actioned.

Property

Working across the workstreams in the Council's Asset Management Plan 2020-2025, we continue to focus on more efficient use of offices and supporting service transformation. Key outcomes for Q1 include:

- relocating teams from Ocean House to their new Hastings bases at Cavendish House and Muriel Matters House, with ongoing support for teams as they settle in. The move has reduced the Council's carbon footprint for corporate premises in Hastings by 43% (when compared to Ocean House)
- adapting the Eastbourne strategy following the fire at St. Mark's House in June 2023 with staff being relocated to St. Mary's House and other bases. A revised strategy will be finalised in Q2 with a delivery plan in Q3 and Q4
- the appointed external consultant investigating options for County Hall throughout Q1 and additional technical advice will be available in Q2. Work on short term adjustments for County Hall, previously scheduled for early 2023/24, has been postponed to resume in the autumn due to reprioritisation of resources following the fire at St. Mark's House
- progressing the disposal of assets including the marketing of Hindlands, Polegate, and two disposals entering into legal contracts in Q1, including the former Etchingham Primary School
- the Council's Modern Records service vacating Ropemaker Park in Q1 and service provision is now operational at Alder Close and the former Polegate library. The accommodation is smaller than the previous premises and will contribute to lower property operational costs and reduced carbon emissions from this service

Property Strategy (SPACES)

Strategic Property Asset Collaboration in East Sussex (SPACES) is a partnership of public bodies and third sector organisations, which aims to improve the use of public sector assets, creating

efficiencies (such as reducing property costs and releasing capital receipts) and more effective environments to deliver services.

Delivering Net Zero targets is a high priority for SPACES partner organisations, and the SPACES Strategy recognises that the partnership can support this through the management of assets across the public sector estate. In Q1, a group for Facilities Management professionals was established to share best practice on carbon reduction initiatives, and information has been shared about carbon literacy/awareness training. Furthermore, a survey was carried out to understand from partners how collaboration could enhance opportunities to secure external funding for decarbonisation schemes. The actions from the survey, along with other activities will progress during the year.

The 'Health and Wellbeing Hubs' workstream (funded by One Public Estate's Opportunity Development Fund) has progressed in Q1, with Sussex Innovation completing national and local research and engagement. The final report on how to deliver health and wellbeing hubs effectively will be presented to the SPACES Board in Q2. The outputs will support existing health hub projects as well as helping to identify future opportunities across the county.

IT & Digital

During Q1 the Schools ICT service, working with Finance and Procurement colleagues, have sourced replacement Finance and Management Information Systems for schools in East Sussex and Brighton and Hove. This has been an involved process that has factored in the varying needs of schools and our internal stakeholders. Following the award of the contract, work will start to migrate schools from their legacy software, which for many has been in place for 30 years, onto the new platforms.

Migration of services to the new South East Grid (SEG) network on behalf of the Link Consortium has continued in Q1. Hosted by the Council, the network puts in place a mechanism that the Council and other public sector organisations in the South East can use to access higher speed digital infrastructure connections and contribute to the provision of ultra-fast data network connectivity throughout East Sussex. Discussions are underway with other public sector organisations about their use of the Council's framework contract for the provision of high speed digital infrastructure.

During Q1, approval was given by the Lead Member Resources & Climate Change to source a replacement Wi-Fi service when the existing contract and associated licencing for the current Wi-Fi service ends in 2024. Marketing for the procurement of the replacement Wi-Fi service will be through the SEG Network Services Framework.

Procurement activity to replace the core telephony solution paired with a dedicated contact centre solution has continued in Q1. The impending change from landline-based telephony builds on existing technology investment and provides a sustainable solution, reducing carbon footprint (removing handsets and on-premises equipment) and removing building dependency, thereby supporting a reduction in office space.

External Funding

In Q1, the External Funding Team responded to 78 funding enquiries from a range of charities, social enterprises and schools. There are almost 10,500 not for profit subscribers to Funding News (a monthly electronic publication about forthcoming funding opportunities). The team attended 30 meetings to discuss specific needs and quality-checked six funding applications to ensure they had the best chance of success, supporting groups with evidence of need and making the case for funding. Some ongoing support is also being provided to colleagues in Public Health applying for a large-scale grant, to increase their capacity, and wider strategic and cross sector partnership work such as Partnership Plus, Community Resilience, and Creative Health. The team has helped secure £12,639 of external funding so far in 2023/24.

Revenue Budget Summary

The 2023/24 Business Services net revenue budget is £27.975m. There are £0.869m planned savings in BSD this financial year, of which £0.210m are not expected to be achieved (**ref iii**). These unachieved savings are included within the current outturn forecast, which is a net £0.009m overspend. The Property forecast overspend of £0.315m (**ref iv**) includes the unachieved savings target of £0.210m relating to the expected move from St Marks House, Eastbourne. Following the fire on site, it is unclear whether the savings can be realised in this financial year though further information will be provided in Q2 as the situation unfolds.

Capital Programme Summary

The 2023/24 capital budget is £27.430m. The Special Educational Needs spend in advance of £0.234m (**ref v**) relates to increased costs on works at Denton & Meridian schools. These costs can be met through the overall capital programme. The Special Educational Needs - Additional Places slippage of £4.442m (**ref vi**) relates to the Grove Park rationalisation programme. This programme is just getting underway, and the bulk of the works programme will not start until 2024/25. The Core Programme - Schools Basic Need spend in advance of £0.165m (**ref vii**) relates to additional costs for Wadhurst Nursery to ensure the project meets newly updated building regulations and flood risk items identified through planning conditions.

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

Performance measure	Outturn 22/23	Target 23/24	RAG Q1 23/24	RAG Q2 23/24	RAG Q3 23/24	RAG Q4 23/24	Q1 23/24 outturn	Note ref
Progress on implementation of Carbon reduction schemes	11 low energy lighting schemes completed; 8 solar PV schemes completed; 2 decarbonisation of heat schemes implemented	23 energy saving schemes implemented	A				Low Energy Lighting – one completed at Milton Grange. Solar PV – two completed at The Keep and Phoenix Centre. Heat Decarbonisation – four underway and works commenced on site.	i

Council Plan measures marked carry over at year end 2022/23 – Final Outturn**Priority – Making best use of resources now and for the future**

Performance measure	Outturn 21/22	Target 22/23	RAG Q1 22/23	RAG Q2 22/23	RAG Q3 22/23	RAG Q4 22/23	2022/23 final outturn	Note ref
Reduce the amount of CO2 arising from County Council operations	7.4% reduction (comparing emissions to the end of Q4 2021/22 against emissions for the same period in 2020/21)	34% reduction on baseline year (2019/20) emissions (emissions not to exceed 8,206 CO2e)	G	A	A	R	32% reduction on baseline year (2019/20) emissions	ii

Savings exceptions 2023/24 (£'000)

Service description	Original Target For 2023/24	Target including items c/f from previous year(s)	Achieved in-year	Will be achieved, but in future years	Cannot be achieved	Note ref
Planned savings - BSD	869	-	659	210	-	
Planned savings - Orbis	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Savings	869	0	659	210	0	
			-	-	-	
			-	-	-	
Subtotal Permanent Changes ¹			0	0	0	
Total Savings and Permanent Changes	869	0	659	210	0	

Memo: treatment of savings not achieved in the year (£'000)	Temporary Funding ²	Part of reported variance ³	Total	Note Ref
Property	210		210	iii
	-	-	-	
Total	210	0	210	

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

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

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

Revenue Budget 2023/24 (£'000)

Divisions	Planned Gross	Planned Income	Planned Net	Projected Gross	Projected Income	Projected Net	(Over)/under spend Gross	(Over)/under spend Income	(Over)/under spend Net	Note ref
Finance & Bus Admin	11,240	(5,754)	5,486	11,267	(5,798)	5,469	(27)	44	17	
HR & OD	3,179	(1,160)	2,019	3,179	(1,160)	2,019	-	-	-	
IT & Digital	11,554	(3,671)	7,883	11,513	(3,629)	7,884	41	(42)	(1)	
Procurement	-	(100)	(100)	-	(100)	(100)	-	-	-	
Property	25,011	(16,044)	8,967	25,310	(16,028)	9,282	(299)	(16)	(315)	iv
Contribution to Orbis Partnership	3,720	-	3,720	3,430	-	3,430	290	-	290	
Total BSD	54,704	(26,729)	27,975	54,699	(26,715)	27,984	5	(14)	(9)	

Capital programme 2023/24 (£'000)

Approved project	Budget: total project all years	Projected: total project all years	Budget Q1	Actual to date Q1	Projected 2023/24	Variation (Over) / under Q1 budget	Variation analysis: (Over) / under spend	Variation analysis: Slippage to future year	Variation analysis: Spend in advance	Note ref
SALIX Contract	700	700	350	(14)	75	275	275	-	-	
Lansdowne Secure Unit - Phase 2	75	75	65	-	65	-	-	-	-	
Special Educational Needs	3,198	3,198	1,692	84	1,926	(234)	-	-	(234)	v
Special Educational Needs - Additional Places	19,179	19,179	5,422	1	1,000	4,422	-	4,422	-	vi
Special Provision in Secondary Schools - <i>at Priory and Robertsbridge schools</i>	120	120	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Disability Children's Homes	786	786	716	23	716	-	-	-	-	
Westfield Lane (delivered on behalf of CSD)	721	721	53	-	53	-	-	-	-	
Core Programme - Schools Basic Need	98,444	98,444	1,931	26	2,096	(165)	-	-	(165)	vii
Core Programme - Capital Building Improvements Corporate	44,749	44,749	3,509	969	3,509	-	-	-	-	
Core Programme - Capital Building Improvements Schools	42,049	42,049	5,594	433	5,594	-	-	-	-	
Core Programme - IT & Digital Strategy Implementation	72,956	72,956	4,742	1,161	4,742	-	-	-	-	
Core Programme - IT & Digital Strategy Implementation MBOS	13,125	16,625	3,332	-	3,332	-	-	-	-	
IT & Digital Strategy implementation (utilising automation)	24	24	24	-	24	-	-	-	-	
Total BSD Gross	296,126	299,626	27,430	2,683	23,132	4,298	275	4,422	(399)	

Children's Services – Q1 2023/24

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

Education

2 year olds who take up a place with an eligible early years provider

1,520 children aged 2 between 01/04/2020 to 31/03/2021 applied for a funded two year place. Of these 1,251 children were eligible and 989 (78%) accessed a funded place.

Youth Employability contract

The Youth Employability Service (YES) contract has been re-commissioned following a competitive tendering process. The new contract commences on 1 October 2023. The new contract will focus more on those young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). More targeted and intensive support will be provided for some of our most vulnerable young people. The YES contract includes specialist YES advisors for young people:

- with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- who are Electively Home Educated
- who are with the Youth Justice Service
- who are Looked After Children
- who are Care Leavers

YES advisors will be co-locating within the teams supporting these groups of young people where appropriate.

Alternative Provision Directory

We launched an [Alternative Provision Directory](#) in Q1. The Directory contains a list of education providers that offer provision for children and young people at school in East Sussex. Schools can use the Directory to commission providers for children who are struggling to engage with a full time school curriculum. The providers on the Directory have successfully tendered against a service specification and have completed a robust compliance and quality assurance process focusing on safeguarding, health and safety, policies, leadership, and curriculum. Schools are starting to use the Directory to commission provision from September.

Inclusion Projects

To support the development of inclusive practices in mainstream schools for children with SEND we invited groups of schools to apply for funding to pilot new ways of working in their locality. 19 Inclusion Projects were successful and will start delivery in Q2. Across all the projects 164 schools and settings are involved with a total investment of £3.2m from the High Needs Block. The projects focused on:

- improving early identification of SEND
- improving the mainstream offer for children with SEND
- improving parental confidence in the mainstream SEND Offer

Proportion of new Education Health and Care (EHC) Plans issued within 20 weeks

During Q1 88.2% (120 out of 136) of all new EHC Plans issued including exceptions and 88.9% (120 out of 135) excluding exceptions were issued within statutory timescales.

SEND co-production charter

We have agreed a SEND co-production charter across Health, Children's Services, Adult Social Care and the Parent Carer Forum. The charter reinforces our partnership work to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

Early Help and Social Care

Homefield Cottage

Ofsted judged Homefield Cottage Children's Home as Outstanding, in all areas in Q1. Inspectors found that 'Children make exceptional progress due to the high standard of care provided by staff.'

Care Leaver Graduation Lunch

On 14 June a special lunch was held for care leavers graduating from higher education. The care leavers had achieved a range of bachelor's and master's degrees.

Family Hub Launch

We now have two Family Hubs open in Hailsham and east Hastings with further Hubs to open over the summer months. Professionals who will offer support from the new Family Hubs will include:

- Midwives
- Health Visitors
- Early Communications Support Workers
- Early Years Practitioners
- Community Engagement Coordinators
- Early Help Key Workers

Sessions will give children and parents the chance to socialise and support their children's needs and development. There will be particular emphasis on providing Start for Life services specifically aimed at parents of children aged 0-2 to support the transition to parenting, infant feeding, perinatal mental health and the home learning environment.

East Sussex is one of 15 authorities awarded trailblazer status. The trailblazer status focuses on parent/infant relationships and perinatal mental health. Trailblazers will become national leaders for the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme and will make the quickest improvement to services and sharing best practice with all local authorities.

Collaboration against Child Exploitation event

The Safeguarding Adolescents From Exploitation and Risk (SAFER) Family Keywork Service held an event on 7 June 2023 to celebrate the work of the Collaboration Against Child Exploitation (CACE) programme. Through the programme, parents/carers of children who have been / or are being exploited can support each other in a safe and facilitated way. Parents and carers involved say the programme is hugely helpful to them providing a platform where they feel empowered to take an active role in ensuring their children are safe from exploitation. Parents and carers described the ongoing support, upon completion of the CACE seven week educative programme, as invaluable, helping them to feel supported in a non-judgemental way and allowing them to connect with other parents and carers with similar lived experiences.

Youth Investment Funding for Youth Centres

We have been successful in securing more than £7 million in funding through the Government's Youth Investment Fund to significantly improve youth centres in Heathfield and Peacehaven by December 2024. Planning permission has been granted with plans to extend, improve accessibility and increase energy efficiency. Contractors have now been appointed. The funding is part of a £300 million commitment by the Government to transform and level up the out-of-school youth sector in levelling up priority areas.

Get Digital's Young Digital Ambassadors

The first cohort of young Digital Ambassadors for the Get Digital programme have successfully completed their training and co-delivered their first Online Safety and Digital Resilience workshop to foster carers and social work practitioners.

Our young Digital Ambassadors, who include children in care, care leavers and children on the edge of care, play a central role in our programme. This is in addition to our other Digital Ambassadors who are foster carers, supported lodgings providers and social work practitioners. The young Digital Ambassadors:

- keep us current and relevant
- help us develop our training and content for the Digital Hive website where they share their tips and experience about staying safe online

They have created content around cyberbullying, confiscation of tech, how adults can help keep children safe online, avoiding online scams, mental health, exploitation, misogyny, and radicalisation.

Review of modelling and placements

In June, we started an intensive programme with a specialist consultancy, IMPOWER, who are supporting Children's Services in developing ways to make informed estimates on future numbers and trends in relation to children we care for. They are also helping to review how we can improve the number of available placements for children that best meet their needs (including invest to save proposals), and supporting us to evaluate further mitigations to minimise budget pressures across the system, including achieving better value for money from the commissioning of placements.

Rate of Children on a Child Protection (CP) Plan (per 10,000 children)

The rate of children with a CP plan (**ref i**) is 62.1 per 10,000 (662 children). Although this is an improvement on the 2022/23 outturn of 64.8 per 10,000 (691 children), it is just above the 2023/24 target of 62 (661 children). This measure remains under close scrutiny with a range of reviews and audits taking place to identify where it is possible to reduce the number of plans safely. The reviews and audits are focused on plans that have either been in place for 18 months plus or plans which are coming up to their second or third review.

Rate of Looked After Children (LAC) (per 10,000 children)

The rate of LAC (**ref ii**) is 63.5 per 10,000 children (677 children), just above the target of 63.4 (676 children) and an increase on the Q4 2022/23 outturn of 62.3 (664 children). Of the 677 children, 68 are Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children. Delays in care proceedings continue to impact on the number of LAC. Q1 has seen an increase in the rate and number of LAC. It is not clear yet whether this is an isolated surge in demand or a change in the overall trend. This will be carefully monitored as there has been a decrease in the number of in-house and agency foster care placements available, and therefore more children are having to be placed in external residential homes at a much higher cost. In addition, the complexity of needs (including mental health and emotional well being concerns and neurodiversity) for a number of our adolescent children means that additional 'wraparound' support packages are required in order to ensure that children are appropriately safeguarded, this is adding a significant budget pressure to the service.

Participation and strategic partnerships

Helping schools meet their statutory equality duty

We are investing in a two-year project to develop the skills and confidence of schools and colleges on how to meet their statutory equality duty. The programme will support schools and colleges to develop resources and training. Additional funding has been secured to provide the project. The project will be delivered in partnership with Public Health, the NHS and voluntary sector partners.

Social prescribing and positive activity programme

We have secured additional funds from the NHS and Homes for Ukraine to develop social prescribing and positive activity programmes for children with mild to moderate mental health and emotional wellbeing issues. Voluntary sector organisations will deliver the project:

- Imago is leading the pilot project in four primary schools
- Sussex Community Development Association will deliver a wellbeing offer for the eligible children of Ukrainian guests

In addition, Primary Care Networks (PCN) and Foundry PCN children and young people's Social Prescribing programmes have been allocated NHS Health Inequalities funds to pay for positive activities for the children who are part of the programmes. We will evaluate the social prescribing projects to highlight lessons learned for future developments in Sussex.

Revenue Budget Summary

The departments net revenue budget is £117.384m and is projecting an estimated overspend of £15.166m (**ref v**).

The main area of projected overspend is in Early Help and Social Care of £16.424m (**ref iv**). This is being offset by funds held within Central Resources of £1.300m (**ref iii**), this includes £500k of anticipated funding from Public Health and one off in year slippage of £607k from the £1.5m attendance allowance investment.

There was a significant and worrying increase in the number of external residential placements for LAC during Q1; this growth in demand and need for agency wraparound support is projected to remain, contributing £12.7m of budget overspend.

During 2022/23 there were 18 additional children placed in external accommodation. However, in Q1 alone, 26 additional children have required a placement in external accommodation. This equates to an additional £6m of accommodation costs, plus wraparound support costs of £3m. In addition, two clients required secure accommodation, which costs around £750k- £1m per year, and we have lost 14 foster care placements. Overall, there are 21 more children requiring care in Q1 2023/24 than Q4 2022/23. The position includes the use of £4m of COVID-19 funding.

The service is trying to understand the spike in demand. The forecast put forward at this stage is that of maintaining demand as of June with no additional growth in price or demand. The aspiration is to achieve at least that position and potentially reduce the projected overspend total, by reducing use of high-cost external placements and wraparound support, increasing foster carers, stepping young people down and where possible reunifying them with families.

In May the Department engaged the consultancy firm Impower to carry out a detailed review of our strategy for providing high quality, affordable care for looked after children. Impower have worked closely with the service to understand the needs of our looked after children. Using their evidence based "Valuing Care" approach to understanding the needs of children and matching those needs with appropriate provision they have identified potential savings of up to £4m for 2023/24 based on an analysis of a sample from the current cohort of children, by matching needs with the most cost-effective provision. This could increase in future years. Impower have been engaged for a further three-month period to implement and embed the approach they recommend. The aim is to achieve the level of savings estimated to be possible. However, the forecast put forward is one of caution, as the service is experiencing high demand, in common with the national picture and, as reported by the CMA in 2022, the market for care placements nationally is not effective leading to high prices for all councils.

If there continues to be an additional five children per month who must be placed in agency residential care, this will add 45 additional children to the cohort requiring residential care in Q2 – Q4, costing a further £5.6m (£4.1m residential costs £1.5m agency wraparound).

The service has already seen average price increases of 25% in unbudgeted wraparound support and 48% increase in supported accommodation costs. The above additional growth is within the external residential placements with a weekly average cost of £4,111 should this increase by 10% from 1st July the cost would be an additional £16k per child covering 9 months to end March 2024. No additional growth for price increase has been projected at this stage. The impact of work with Impower is being monitored closely.

Early Help and Social Care

Localities is projecting a £1.6m overspend:

£1.0m is due to spend on staff including agency staff. The parent and baby unit is seeing pressure of £194k, intentionally homeless £191k, and no recourse to public funds £330k. The Special Guardianship Orders (SGO) budget has unfunded costs of £245k. This is being offset by underspends against S17 Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities of £300k which saw an increase in budget in 2022/23.

Looked After Children is projecting a £14.2m overspend:

This includes a projected overspend of £1.8m in our children's homes due to additional staffing costs, required mainly in Hazel Lodge (£726k) and Silver Birches (£947k).

LAC management is projecting an overspend due to staffing costs by £143k.

Lansdowne is closed and currently projecting a £826k overspend, £300k of which is due to over invoiced income, the balance being staff and consultant costs, more details are shown below.

LAC is projecting a £1.2m overspend due mainly to an overspend on staffing budgets including Care leavers 18+ (£481k) and care leavers staffing costs (£357k).

Fostering Services is projecting a £466k overspend, mainly due to staff costs of £220k, discretionary payments £80k, reduced income £135k, non-pay £30k. The position includes an 8% increase in allowances paid to foster and kinship carers which was paid above the budgeted 2% to meet in-year national expectations.

The main pressure is External Residential costs of which is projecting an overspend of £12.7m, which is due to growth in demand as described with an additional 26 children and young people requiring residential placements in Q1.

There are projected underspends of £858k on Agency foster carers and £965k on in house foster carers services. This area has seen reduction in care provision by 14 children in Q1, leading to the additional demand in residential provision.

There are also projected underspends in Adoption Services of £324k.

The respite units are projecting an underspend of £747k, with Dorset Road showing £820k underspend but Sorrel Drive projecting an overspend of £230k.

Lansdowne is projecting a £826k overspend:

£300k is due to income correction and £526k with some staff costs remaining here along with premises costs and consultant fees. Staff have been re-deployed into other areas supporting delivery and reducing the need for agency staff.

We are planning to recruit and re mobilise staff from October. A lot of staff are required to open and run a secure unit, which increase as occupancy rates increase. Recruitment is underway and a phased approach has been recommended. Current plans to open would see this overspend increase as staff are taken on and trained whilst occupancy rates are gradually increased to four by the end of the year. This could see overspends increase in 2023/24 by between £400k to £900k on top of the current £826k, but the aim is to cover the initial set up costs through higher pricing in the initial months of operating.

Communication, Planning and Performance

There is a small projected overspend of £22k. The Council's investment in Home to School Transport of £4.0m in 2023/24 has proved to be sufficient to fund the pressure in East Sussex, although the new intake of children in September may differ to that projected. This pressure is being seen across the country.

Central Resources

There is a projected underspend of £1.3m, which includes £500k from the PH "Healthy Child Partnership" to support early intervention costs. The department received £1.5m investment towards improving attendance allowance. In this financial year pending restructure and recruitment there is an in-year underspend of £607k, which has been set against the overspend.

Contribution of £100k from reserves and £93k from Supported Families.

Next steps

The service proposes to address the projected LAC overspend primarily through a series of invest to save interventions as recommended by IMPOWER. If these are successful in-year, which is the aim but will be challenging, the overspend could be reduced by up to £4m. The £1.5m pressure in the Locality part of the service cannot be addressed in this way; opportunities to reduce the additional staffing hours currently required for safe Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) operation will be kept under close review.

As noted, as a contribution to mitigating the projected overall overspend it has been agreed that an additional £500,000 of Public Health grant should be allocated to support delivery of the Integrated Healthy Child Programme in 2023/2024, allowing a reduction in CSD spend on targeted early help.

Capital Programme Summary

The Capital Programme for 2023/24 is a £1.446m projected spend against a budget of £1.215m (ref vi). The additional spend is the Council's contribution towards projects that are funded by the disabled facilities grant managed by the Districts and Boroughs. This will be funded from Capital reserves.

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

Priority – Keeping vulnerable people safe

Performance measure	Outturn 22/23	Target 23/24	RAG Q1 23/24	RAG Q2 23/24	RAG Q3 23/24	RAG Q4 23/24	Q1 23/24 outturn	Note ref
Rate of children with a Child Protection Plan (per 10,000 children)	64.8 (691 children)	62 (661 children)	A				62.1 (662 children)	i
Rate of Looked After Children (per 10,000 children)	62.3 (664 children)	63.4 (676 children)	A				63.5 (677 children)	ii

Savings exceptions 2023/24 (£'000)

Service description	Original Target For 2023/24	Target including items c/f from previous year(s)	Achieved in-year	Will be achieved, but in future years	Cannot be achieved	Note ref
	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Savings	0	0	0	0	0	
			-	-	-	
			-	-	-	
Subtotal Permanent Changes ¹			0	0	0	
Total Savings and Permanent Changes	0	0	0	0	0	

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

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

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

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

Revenue Budget 2023/24 (£'000)

Divisions	Planned Gross	Planned Income	Planned Net	Projected Gross	Projected Income	Projected Net	(Over)/ under spend Gross	(Over)/ under spend Income	(Over)/ under spend Net	Note ref
Central Resources	2,242	(1,332)	910	942	(1,332)	(390)	1,300	-	1,300	iii
Early Help and Social Care	97,484	(16,254)	81,230	113,891	(16,237)	97,654	(16,407)	(17)	(16,424)	iv
Education and ISEND	112,546	(8,177)	104,369	114,490	(10,101)	104,389	(1,944)	1,924	(20)	
Communication, Planning and Performance	31,389	(4,340)	27,049	34,451	(7,380)	27,071	(3,062)	3,040	(22)	
DSG non Schools	-	(96,174)	(96,174)	-	(96,174)	(96,174)	-	-	-	
Schools	157,625	(157,625)	-	157,625	(157,625)	-	-	-	-	
Total CSD	401,286	(283,902)	117,384	421,399	(288,849)	132,550	(20,113)	4,947	(15,166)	v

Capital programme 2023/24 (£'000)

Approved project	Budget: total project all years	Projected: total project all years	Budget Q1	Actual to date Q1	Projected 2023/24	Variation (Over) / under Q1 budget	Variation analysis: (Over) / under spend	Variation analysis: Slippage to future year	Variation analysis: Spend in advance	Note ref
House Adaptations for Disabled Children's Carers	1,090	1,322	50	20	282	(232)	(232)	-	-	
Schools Delegated Capital	29,673	29,673	1,150	316	1,150	-	-	-	-	
Conquest Centre redevelopment	356	356	15	-	15	-	-	-	-	
Youth Investment Fund	193	193	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total CSD	31,312	31,544	1,215	336	1,447	(232)	(232)	0	0	vi

Communities, Economy & Transport – Q1 2023/24

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

Economy and environment

Employability and Skills

The Careers Hub ran Continuous Professional Development training for schools and colleges in June, with over 38 people attending. 104 pupils attended Open Doors visits in Q1, providing young people with experiences of the workplace. 2,354 young people have been on work experience placements in Q1. 205 Industry Champions were supporting schools and colleges at the end of Q1. An engagement event was held in Q1 to provide networking opportunities and celebrate the successes of the Industry Champions in providing opportunities for pupils to connect with employers.

The Employment and Skills team coordinated a Skills Summit on 25 May. The summit brought together businesses, training providers and stakeholders to look at the key priorities of Skills East Sussex. The event focused on skills for the transition to net zero, the impact of automation and Artificial Intelligence on jobs, upskilling the local workforce and inclusive recruitment practices.

The Multiply programme has continued to deliver courses to improve adults' numeracy skills in Q1. An Adult Learning Network has been established, and met in Q1 to discuss the provision of green skills and digital skills locally. A Tutor Encounters session was held on 5 July to upskill teachers in engineering and construction skills. Led by industry figures, teachers were invited to learn about new skills and technology to share at the event.

Apprenticeships

In previous years, staff have primarily undertaken bespoke professional apprenticeships. To maintain the growth of apprenticeships in the Council, and to address challenges in recruitment and retention, we are now aiming for apprenticeships to be built into career progression for staff at all levels. To highlight the opportunities available to staff, the Apprenticeship Team are holding regular information sessions. The level of interest from members of staff has been encouraging, with the highest number of enrolments ever on forthcoming Team Leader and Operations Manager apprenticeship courses which are due to start in Q2.

We are also running sessions for managers, who are facing recruitment challenges or thinking of taking on an apprentice. At the end of Q1 we had over 100 expressions of interest from staff about undertaking an apprenticeship. The Apprenticeship Team now includes a Pre-Employment Co-ordinator, who is promoting Council vacancies throughout the county and working with referral organisations and jobseekers to offer advice and guidance on applying for a role with the Council. Two people that have been offered a role within the Council through this channel, and the team are gaining a better understanding of the barriers people face when seeking a role within the Council.

Cultural investment and recovery

Work has continued in Q1 on the three priority work packages identified by the Sussex Tourism Leadership Group. MeetSussex held a three day 'best of Sussex' familiarisation trip with Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) planners from Europe. MeetSussex also exhibited, as part of the Visit England stand, at IMEX Frankfurt, generating 60 new contacts.

On 14 June 2023, the local authority-led Sussex Visitor Economy Initiative (which includes the Council) and the business-led marketing body Sussex Modern, launched Sussex Wine Tourism: A Plan for Growth. The launch event, at the Houses of Parliament, was attended by Sussex MP's, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the CEO for Visit Britain / Visit England. The plan is

a blueprint for delivering ambitious growth in the Sussex wine sector. It details how the sector could grow from bringing £25m of value to the economy currently, to nearly £300m by 2040, while also creating over 3,600 jobs. The report, associated appendices and delivery guides are available at www.sussexmodern.org.uk/sussexwinetourism

Broadband

The Broadband Project is completing the connections to the final remaining properties identified as part of the scheme. This includes some very complex sites, e.g., Sites of Special Scientific Interest. The project will move to formal contract closure once all targets have been delivered. This is now expected in Q2, due to unforeseen delivery issues and the lack of availability of specialist equipment. The Broadband Team is continuing to engage with Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) on its centrally run Project Gigabit programme. BDUK has put the Gigabit Voucher scheme, including the East Sussex top up, on hold during the procurement process. We are awaiting confirmation of when BDUK will allow communities to apply for vouchers again. We understand that they plan to issue a contract that covers East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton & Hove in Q2. The Broadband Team is continuing to push BDUK for details of how they plan to cover the very hardest to reach properties in the county.

Environment and climate change

Teams in Communities, Economy and Transport (CET) and the Business Services Department (BSD) have worked together with partners to develop and deliver carbon reduction and climate change adaptation work. In Q1 this has included:

- CET and BSD continuing to work together to deliver the actions in the corporate Climate Emergency Plan
- the Climate Emergency Board agreeing to the development of an updated staff travel plan, which will start in Q2
- CET assisting 44 Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to measure their carbon footprint and awarding grants to 21 SMEs to improve energy efficiency and install renewable energy systems, which will reduce their energy bills

Planning

100% of County Matter applications were determined within the statutory determination period in Q1. 100% of County Council development applications were also determined within eight weeks or within an agreed extension of time during Q1.

Highways, transport and waste

Highways improvements and road condition

Following the start of the new highways contract with Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP) on 1 May 2023 over 4,000 safety defects were handed over by Costain and the majority of these have now been completed. A number of large surfacing schemes have been completed or are underway in Wivelsfield, Uckfield, Hartfield and Hailsham. Preparation works are also underway for the start of the surface dressing programme in Q2.

The Council has recently approved additional funding for highways in recognition of the deterioration of the network following the last prolonged, wet and cold winter. The funding includes an additional one off £2.5m for carriageway patching works, an additional one off £3.1m for drainage works, an additional £5m per year for two years for carriageway repairs, plus a proposed additional £5.1m per year for roads in the capital programme. Additional patching sites have been identified and works instructed using the additional £2.5m. Work also continues to replace worn out road signs and to refresh road markings using the one-off funding carried forward from 2022/23.

16 road improvement schemes were completed in Q1 to improve the condition of the roads. 7,250 potholes were repaired in Q1, with 6,500 of these being carriageway potholes; the remainder were primarily footway potholes.

Road safety

Q1 was a transition process with the old highways contract ending, and the new contractor, BBLP, beginning work at the start of May. As a result, Q1 has been a period of mobilisation for BBLP. 17 road safety infrastructure schemes are in progress and expected to be completed by the end of Q2. Seven further schemes have been submitted to BBLP and these will be implemented by the end of 2023/24

We delivered 184 'Bikeability' courses to 1,577 individuals at participating schools and the Cycle Centre at Eastbourne Sports Park during Q1. We have also delivered 60 'Wheels for All' sessions to 704 attendees at the sports park.

Transport and parking

A number of projects have commenced as part of the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) in Q1:

- Digital Demand Responsive Transport services, which offer flexible shared transport, started operating in 10 zones in May
- improvements to conventional bus services will commence in Q2 and run until the end of March 2026
- the second phase of reduced price bus tickets started on 1 April 2023. The second phase included the launch of a £5 multi-operator day ticket (£3.75 for 19 to 29 year olds and £3.20 for under 19s)
- work on improving bus stop infrastructure has commenced with some significant improvements due to be delivered over the summer and autumn. Around a third of all bus stops have QR plates (which provide people with the ability to scan and receive next bus information for that stop) with all bus stops expected to have QR plates by the end of Q2

A review of the parking restrictions in Rother District was carried out in 2022/23. The proposals from the review will be presented to the Planning Committee in Q2. A formal review of parking in Hastings was opened in Q1 and will close in Q2.

Waste

54.3% of household waste was re-used, recycled or composted or used beneficially in 2022/23 (reported a quarter in arrears).

Planned maintenance of the Newhaven Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) took place in Q1. Veolia diverted refuse to other ERFs to avoid sending any waste to landfill during the maintenance period. Recycling of vapes is now being implemented at all East Sussex Household Waste Recycling Sites.

Communities

Trading Standards

142 businesses and individuals received training and advice from Trading Standards in Q1. We received a lot of business requests for advice on food allergens.

Trading Standards also made 117 positive interventions to protect vulnerable people in Q1. 83 of these were as part of support sessions and training delivered to vulnerable groups, while 34 were direct interventions to protect vulnerable people. National Scams Week occurred during Q1, which gave us the opportunity to engage with vulnerable people and try to reduce the likelihood of them falling victim to scammers or becoming repeat victims. 27 of the direct interventions involved fraudulently obtained money being returned to victims.

Rights of Way (RoW) and Countryside Sites

We completed 94% of high priority maintenance work on schedule in Q1. As planned, rangers have concentrated on planned and proactive vegetation clearance in Q1. The relatively dry weather during May and June also enabled us to stay on target with our core bridge work.

Libraries

837 people enrolled on Family Learning Programmes at East Sussex libraries in Q1. 409 of these were in Family Learning, English, Maths and Language programmes, while 428 were in Wider Family Learning programmes. The Family Learning service was inspected by OFSTED in April 2023 and has been rated 'good'. 10 people passed online learning courses, including in IT, English and Maths in our libraries in Q1. In addition to the people who passed courses there were also 34 enrolments during Q1. Libraries also supported 21 enrolments and eight completions of English for Speakers of Other Languages courses during Q1.

Internationally renowned children's author Jacqueline Wilson visited Seaford Library in April 2023. At the fully booked event she talked to children about what it is like to be an author and shared her new book.

Wadhurst library has re-opened after flooding in 2022/23. The team have taken the opportunity to undertake refurbish the library, including updating the furniture, fixtures and equipment.

The Summer Reading Challenge starts in Q2. In preparation for the launch, we delivered 22 promotional assemblies to schools in June. A further 60 assemblies are scheduled to be delivered before the end of the summer term. Additional promotional activity, including a newsletter, online listings and social media posts are also planned.

Revenue Budget Summary

The CET revenue budget is £72.322m and is currently forecast to overspend by £298k. The largest overspend is in Planning and Environment. A significant proportion of the overspend in the Transport Development Control budget can be attributed to the lack of up to date Local Plans in the county, which has led to an increase in speculative planning applications for residential developments, which often have challenging transport issues that need addressing. Consequentially, we have seen a rise in the number of applications that have required specialist input (e.g., transport modelling) and/or have become subject to planning appeals, which are particularly resource intensive and have often required short-term consultancy support (**ref iv**). The underspend in Communities is mostly due to staff vacancies in Trading Standards and additional income from Emergency Planning training (**ref iii**). The Parking saving will not be achieved this year and is covered by a one-year budget increase (**ref i**). The Environmental Services saving will not be achieved and will be addressed next year (**ref ii**).

Capital Programme Summary

The CET capital programme has a gross budget of £73.540m and there was slippage of £4.906m, overspend of £780k, and spend in advance of £98k. The slippage is mostly in the Hasting and Bexhill Movement and Access Package and is due to the requirement to undertake a prioritisation process that requires funder and Lead Member approval. This will mean that progress on the selected schemes will be delayed (**ref vi**). Slippage on the Eastbourne and South Wealden Walking and Cycling Package is mainly due to difficulties with the contractor appointing project managers (**ref vii**). The Bexhill to Hastings Link Road overspend is due to the outstanding archaeology, ecology, and Part 1 compensation claims (**ref v**).

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

Performance measure	Outturn 22/23	Target 23/24	RAG Q1 23/24	RAG Q2 23/24	RAG Q3 23/24	RAG Q4 23/24	Q1 23/24 outturn	Note ref
There are no exceptions								

Savings exceptions 2023/24 (£'000)

Service description	Original Target For 2023/24	Target including items c/f from previous year(s)	Achieved in-year	Will be achieved, but in future years	Cannot be achieved	Note ref
Parking	-	745	-	745	-	i
Libraries	105	105	105	-	-	
Environmental Services	-	60	-	-	60	ii
	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Savings	105	910	105	745	60	
			-	-	-	
			-	-	-	
Subtotal Permanent Changes ¹			0	0	0	
Total Savings and Permanent Changes	105	910	105	745	60	

Memo: treatment of savings not achieved in the year (£'000)	Temporary Funding ²	Part of reported variance ³	Total	Note Ref
Parking	745	-	745	
Environmental Services	-	60	60	
Total	745	60	805	

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

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

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

Revenue Budget 2023/24 (£'000)

Divisions	Planned Gross	Planned Income	Planned Net	Projected Gross	Projected Income	Projected Net	(Over)/ under spend Gross	(Over)/ under spend Income	(Over)/ under spend Net	Note ref
Management and Support	7,704	(4,714)	2,990	7,712	(4,722)	2,990	(8)	8	-	
Customer and Library Services	8,127	(3,795)	4,332	8,092	(3,703)	4,389	35	(92)	(57)	
Communities	4,936	(2,066)	2,870	4,936	(2,189)	2,747	-	123	123	iii
Transport & Operational Services	111,485	(69,498)	41,987	112,996	(70,986)	42,010	(1,511)	1,488	(23)	
Highways	21,037	(3,578)	17,459	21,348	(3,889)	17,459	(311)	311	-	
Economy	3,170	(1,512)	1,658	3,324	(1,666)	1,658	(154)	154	-	
Planning and Environment	4,266	(3,240)	1,026	4,978	(3,611)	1,367	(712)	371	(341)	iv
Total CET	160,725	(88,403)	72,322	163,386	(90,766)	72,620	(2,661)	2,363	(298)	

Capital programme 2023/24 (£'000)

Approved project	Budget: total project all years	Projected: total project all years	Budget Q1	Actual to date Q1	Projected 2023/24	Variation (Over) / under Q1 budget	Variation analysis: (Over) / under spend	Variation analysis: Slippage to future year	Variation analysis: Spend in advance	Note ref
The Keep	1,096	1,096	228	-	228	-	-	-	-	
Peacehaven Library	70	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Libraries	5,139	5,139	508	494	508	-	-	-	-	
Broadband	33,800	33,800	160	(1,132)	160	-	-	-	-	
Bexhill and Hastings Link Road	126,247	128,347	-	104	780	(780)	(780)	-	-	v
BHLR Complementary Measures	1,800	1,800	189	-	189	-	-	-	-	
Economic Intervention Fund	8,884	8,884	175	12	175	-	-	-	-	
Economic Intervention Fund - Loans	3,000	3,000	300	53	200	100	-	100	-	
Stalled Sites Fund	916	916	50	-	25	25	-	25	-	
EDS Upgrading Empty Commercial Properties	500	500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Community Focused Road Safety Interventions	750	750	485	82	485	-	-	-	-	
Climate Emergency Works	9,859	9,859	3,095	172	3,095	-	-	-	-	
Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme	445	445	943	29	943	-	-	-	-	
SALIX Decarbonisation - Ninfield School	145	145	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
SALIX Decarbonisation	369	369	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	
Newhaven Port Access Road	23,271	23,271	86	-	86	-	-	-	-	
Real Time Passenger Information	2,963	2,963	70	4	70	-	-	-	-	
Bus Service Improvement Plan	22,315	22,315	3,245	112	3,245	-	-	-	-	
Replacement Lewes Road Bus Station	100	100	4	(2)	4	-	-	-	-	
PAX Software System	37	37	26	-	26	-	-	-	-	
Hastings and Bexhill Movement & Access Package	9,534	9,534	4,154	(222)	10	4,144	-	4,144	-	vi
Eastbourne/South Wealden Walking & Cycling Package	6,936	6,936	2,064	5	1,427	637	-	637	-	vii

APPENDIX 6

Approved project	Budget: total project all years	Projected: total project all years	Budget Q1	Actual to date Q1	Projected 2023/24	Variation (Over) / under Q1 budget	Variation analysis: (Over) / under spend	Variation analysis: Slippage to future year	Variation analysis: Spend in advance	Note ref
Hailsham/Polegate/Eastbourne Movement & Access Corridor	2,251	2,251	275	194	288	(13)	-	-	(13)	
Eastbourne Town Centre Movement & Access Package A	6,936	6,936	3,296	20	3,296	-	-	-	-	
Other Integrated Transport Schemes	66,753	66,753	3,740	365	3,825	(85)	-	-	(85)	
A22 Corridor Package	1,143	1,143	100	187	100	-	-	-	-	
Community Match Fund	771	771	140	15	140	-	-	-	-	
Exceat Bridge	10,591	10,591	2,320	158	2,320	-	-	-	-	
Queensway Depot Development	1,956	1,956	504	(17)	504	-	-	-	-	
Core Programme - Highways Structural Maintenance	498,675	498,675	35,893	525	35,893	-	-	-	-	
Visibly Better Roads	5,800	5,800	1,293	(356)	1,293	-	-	-	-	
Core Programme - Bridge Assessment Strengthening	38,785	38,785	4,740	(42)	4,740	-	-	-	-	
Core Programme - Street Lighting - Life Expired Equipment	39,561	39,561	4,686	(110)	4,686	-	-	-	-	
Core Programme - Street Lighting - SALIX scheme	2,961	2,961	219	(82)	219	-	-	-	-	
Core- Rights of Way Surface Repairs and Bridge Replacement Programme	10,417	10,417	552	152	552	-	-	-	-	
Total CET Gross (Planned Programme)	944,776	946,876	73,540	723	69,512	4,028	(780)	4,906	(98)	

Governance Services – Q1 2023/24

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

Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)

Council considered the State of the County report in July. The report sets out the uncertainty which continues to define the context within which we are working. The challenging national economic environment continues to impact on residents and the Council. Many of our services are subject to significant national reforms, and there is still increased demand for local services. The report also outlines the broader demographic and policy context which will form the backdrop for planning for 2024/25 and beyond. The financial outlook for the Council remains unclear. We expect a further one-year financial settlement for 2024/25. It is also unlikely there will be any significant national reforms to local government funding before the next general election, which is expected in 2024. In this context, we will need to continue to take action proactively to prepare for the time ahead, to maximise our resilience as an organisation and to best manage growing demand for our services. We have refreshed the Council Plan and Portfolio Plans for 2023/24. The refreshed plans have completed outturns and some changes to the performance measures and targets. The updated plans are available on our website.

Transport for the South East (TfSE)

TfSE have published a Strategic Investment Plan (SIP). The plan was published alongside a summary version, an accompanying press release and social media posts. The plan forecasts a total capital cost of over £45 billion over 27 years and includes nearly 300 interventions that once implemented could generate 21,000 new jobs, £4 billion of extra annual economic growth, 1.4 mega tonnes less CO2 equivalent emitted, 500,000 more rail trips a day, 1.5 million more trips taken by bus, mass transit and ferry, and take roughly 4 million car trips a day off the south east's roads. We have developed thirty factsheets that present the 300 interventions to individual areas. These factsheets are available on the TfSE [website](#).

Following submission of the SIP to government in March 2023, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Richard Holden, wrote to the Chair of the Partnership Board welcoming the publication of the document. The letter also welcomes TfSE's ongoing focus on key government priorities. This letter confirms that Department for Transport officials have been instructed to give due consideration to the plan when advising Ministers on future policy and investment decisions.

Work is now underway on developing a Delivery Action Plan for the SIP, setting out how the interventions and schemes will progress. A 'State of the Region' report will be published later in 2023. The report will set out a baseline position for the region on a number of economic, social and environmental indicators.

The TfSE Partnership Board approved our Business Plan for 2023/24 in March, setting out the work plan for the next 12 months. This work includes the development of an analytical framework, a regional active travel strategy and a refresh of the evidence base for the transport strategy. Work will also start on a Regional Centre of Excellence which will support local transport authorities in the delivery and implementation of their local transport plans.

In June we published our regional Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) Strategy and an accompanying Action Plan. The strategy sets out steps to provide sufficient charging points as drivers switch to the use of electric vehicles. The strategy forecasts that up to 28,500 charge points are needed across the TfSE area by 2030.

We have also commissioned an 'EVCI Locate' tool, a web-based application that aims to support local transport authorities with the future rollout of EV charging infrastructure within their respective areas. We will begin introducing local transport authorities to the tool in Q2.

TfSE have recently commissioned City Science Corporation Ltd to lead the development of a Regional Active Travel Strategy. Work commenced in June 2023 and will conclude in June 2024.

Corporate Lobbying

During Q1, the Leader took opportunities to meet with local MPs. They discussed the latest priorities for the Council and residents including on local authority funding and highway conditions. The Leader also co-signed a letter, with other county council Leaders in the region, to the Prime Minister. The letter raised the significant under-funding for highways maintenance. It also called for greater oversight of the work of utilities companies on the roads. Further engagement with the Minister for Roads is expected as a result of this correspondence.

We continued to draw on broader partnerships and networks to lobby on current priorities. The Leader continues to represent the Council on the County Councils Network Executive as spokesperson for Children's Services. The Chief Executive continues to be involved in national policy development as representative for the South East region on a national grouping of local authority Chief Executives. In Q1 this included discussions with Government officials on the development of the Office for Local Government (Oflog). Other Chief Officers continue to influence service specific national policy developments through national professional associations and networks and responses to specific Government consultations.

Supporting democracy

During Q1 we supported 39 meetings including: one County Council meeting; two Cabinet meetings; 14 Lead Member meetings; 13 Scrutiny Committees and Review Boards and nine other committees and panels. The webcasts of meetings were viewed 1,327 times in Q1. The most viewed meeting was the Council meeting on 9 May 2023, which received 222 views.

In Q1 the Member Training and Development programme continued to deliver a range of courses in support of Members and the roles they hold. Courses delivered included sessions on the fiduciary duties of the Council, the latest 2021 Census results and a practical workshop on getting the most out of Microsoft Outlook. To help make participation as easy as possible for Members, most training sessions continue to be delivered remotely with resources, such as slides from training sessions, being saved to the Councillors' area of the intranet for future reference. The Member Reference Group also met on 28 June and discussed a range of issues including, for example, the outcomes of the Member training survey conducted in Q4 2022/23.

The Council's scrutiny committees continued to progress their active work programmes during Q1, using a variety of approaches to ensure timely scrutiny input on a range of issues. A scrutiny review of procurement and buying local was reported to Cabinet and County Council, with actions agreed in response to recommendations made by the Place Scrutiny Committee. The committee also started work on a scrutiny review of pothole management and continued to provide scrutiny input into the development of the updated Local Transport Plan. Reference Groups of the People Scrutiny Committee reviewed the draft Shared Delivery Plan (SDP) for the Sussex Integrated Care Strategy and considered progress in developing preventative approaches in Children's Services. The committee also progressed two scrutiny reviews which are due to report later in the year. The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee met in June 2023 to consider update reports on the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, hospital handovers and the NHS Sussex Winter Plan.

The Health and Wellbeing Board met on 27 June 2023 to consider a report on the draft SDP for the Sussex Integrated Care Strategy ahead of its submission to NHS England. The Board endorsed the draft SDP and confirmed that it aligned with priorities contained in the East Sussex Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The Board also received reports on the East Sussex Better Care Fund plans for 2023-2025; a Memorandum of Understanding between Public Health and planning authorities in East Sussex; and an update on pharmacy closures in East Sussex.

Q1 also saw the start of the busiest time of year for school admission appeals, when cases relating to the September school intake are heard by Independent Appeal Panels. During Q1, we received 145 appeals, and conducted 19 virtual appeal hearings, six of which took place over multiple days. Of the 145 appeals, six were successful, 39 were dismissed by an Independent

Appeal Panel, a further 64 were either withdrawn by the families or were not needed because a place became available at a preferred school before the hearing, and the remaining 36 are due to be heard during Q2.

Legal Services

During Q1 2023/24, Legal Services assisted Trading Standards to obtain a confiscation order following previous successful convictions against a fraudulent trader for possession for sale of counterfeit tobacco and alcohol. The Service further assisted Trading Standards to secure a successful conviction for fraudulent use of a disabled parking blue badge.

During Q1, the Service advised in relation to 67 Court of Protection cases and 24 matters involving safeguarding vulnerable adults (compared to 61 and 15 in Q4 2022/23) and 79 Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards applications in the Court of Protection (compared to 67 in Q4 2022/23).

In Q1 2023/2024, the Service continued to work closely with Children's Services, providing advice and representation, including in pre-proceedings and court applications for care proceedings. Our priority is to keep children within their family when it is safe to do so, and for public law applications to be a necessary and proportionate response to achieve the best outcome for the child. In Q1 the Service advised in relation to 47 families in pre-proceedings compared to 48 in Q4 2022/23. In Q1 the Service applied for care proceedings in respect of 16 families compared to 14 in Q4 2022/23. At the end of Q1, there were a total of 62 ongoing care proceedings compared to 68 proceedings in Q4 2022/2023. In Q1, the Service concluded 22 care proceedings compared to 18 in Q4 2022/23. In Q1 concluded proceedings took on average 54 weeks per child compared to 53 in Q4 2022/23, However, a number of long running care proceedings which were impacting on this average duration were completed in Q1. In Q1 the Service also advised and represented Children's Services in relation to 30 other matters, including, applications for adoption orders and discharge of care and placement orders, compared to 31 in Q4 2022/23.

During Q1, the Service completed agreements to secure financial contributions to the Council of £256,981, together with the delivery of additions and improvements to the highway network across the county. The Service advised on 41 new property matters in Q1 compared to 38 in Q4 2022/23. In Q1 the Service also advised on 62 new contracts and procurement instructions (compared to 78 in Q4 2022/23). During Q1, the Service assisted Income Recovery in securing the recovery and repayment of debts totalling £115,578.

Coroner Services

During Q1, 571 deaths were reported to the Coroner, averaging 190 deaths per month. Although this is lower than the Q4 2022/23 average monthly figure of 209 reported deaths, the number of deaths reported to the Coroner has steadily increased from a monthly average of 173 in 2021/22. In Q1, 50% of deaths reported went to post mortem compared to 47% of deaths reported in Q4 2022/23 and compared to 42% of deaths reported overall in 2021/22 and 2022/23. Of the 571 deaths reported in Q1, 90 went to inquest compared to 84 in Q4 of 2022/23. In Q1, 57 inquests were closed compared to 115 in Q4 2022/23.

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA)

There were no RIPA applications, reviews or renewals during Q1.

Local Government Ombudsman complaints

The Ombudsman issued 15 decisions in Q1. Six cases were closed before a full investigation for a variety of reasons. These reasons included insufficient evidence of fault, complaints being out of the Ombudsman's jurisdiction, an appropriate remedy had already been applied and because the complaint had not been through our internal complaint processes. Of the nine cases fully investigated, six cases related to Adult Social Care (ASC) and three to Children's Services (CS). Eight of the cases investigated were closed with the complaint partly or fully upheld as follows:

ASC – The client complained that the Council did not provide the support to maintain her garden and support with correspondence as it said it would, which affected her mental and physical health. The Ombudsman found fault with the Council for not providing the support the client needed. However, the Ombudsman could not say for certain the client would have engaged with the support if the Council had provided it, and therefore no injustice was found. There were no formal recommendations. However, the Council has offered to support the client in the future when she is able to engage with this.

ASC – The client complained about the Council's failure to carry out a proper safeguarding enquiry and about neglect she suffered, while living in a supported living unit arranged by the Council. The Ombudsman found the Council to be at fault as the safeguarding enquiry was inadequate, furthermore the Council failed to properly remedy the significant distress and uncertainty suffered by the client and her father. The Council has agreed to apologise in writing to the client and her father and to pay them £1,000 and £250 respectively. The Council also agreed to provide the Ombudsman with a short report, setting out the service improvements that have now taken place as a result of the investigation report completed in February 2022, and on the issues raised in the Ombudsman's decision statement.

ASC – The client's mother complained on behalf of her adult son about the quality of care he received at a care home and the quality of communication relating to safeguarding enquiries. East Sussex County Council commissioned the care and Kent County Council carried out safeguarding enquiries into allegations of abuse and neglect by the home. The Ombudsman found fault in the care provided to the son and poor communication relating to the safeguarding enquiries into the care. Both councils have agreed to take the following actions:

- apologise in writing to the client's mother for the fault
- pay the client's mother £300 (£150 from each council)
- remind relevant staff of the importance of keeping the adult, who is the subject of a safeguarding enquiry, at the centre of the enquiry

In addition, East Sussex Council will:

- pay the son £1,000
- pay the client's mother £500

ASC – The client's daughter complained on behalf of her father about care assessments and financial assessments the Council carried out, specifically that:

- the care assessments were poor and inaccurate
- there were delays in completing a financial assessment
- the Council continued to send invoices and correspondence to the father, despite assuring the client's daughter it would not

The Ombudsman found fault with the Council for failing accurately to complete a care assessment for the father and for continuing to send him invoices. The Ombudsman recommended and the Council has agreed to provide the client's daughter and her father with a written apology for the faults identified and pay them each £100 to recognise the distress caused.

ASC – The client's daughter complained that the Council delayed in assessing her father's needs, and when it did, the assessment did not accurately reflect them. She said the proposed support was not sufficient and the Council failed to put that support in place. She said the failure to provide the support he needed meant his quality of life was significantly affected and she believed it would have hastened his death. The Ombudsman found fault with the Council because there were delays to completing the assessment and because the Council did not share the assessment with the client's daughter. The Ombudsman considered that had it done so, the client's daughter would have challenged some of the statements, in particular the difficulties her father experienced with

the oxygen equipment. The Ombudsman also found fault with the Council because it was unable to arrange any care before the father went into hospital as the 13 agencies it contacted did not have capacity. The Ombudsman recommended and the Council has agreed to apologise and pay the client's daughter £500 within one month of the final decision being issued.

CS – The client's mother complained that the Council failed to provide the Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) provision for her daughter per her Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP); and that her daughter has been unable to access full time nursery provision per her EHCP. The Ombudsman found that Council failed to secure the provision per the EHCP, causing both an injustice. The Ombudsman recommended and the Council has agreed to pay the client's mother £2,075 as a symbolic payment to acknowledge the loss of educational provision that the Council should have secured, and the impact this has had on her daughter. The Council has also agreed to explain what it will do to ensure, where it commissions other organisations to make provision, sufficient processes are in place to reduce the risk of provision not being delivered.

CS – The client's mother complained that the Council did not backdate the award of travel assistance, when her son started at the school he now attends. She says this caused her financial hardship as she had the cost of driving him to school every day. The Ombudsman found fault because, whilst the appeal did result in the Council granting transport, it did not backdate the award and there was no clear explanation of that part of the decision. The Ombudsman recommended and the Council has agreed for the Discretionary Transport Appeal Panel to reconsider whether the award should be backdated.

CS – The client's mother complained that the Council, in deciding her son's application for school transport, failed to follow the guidance and its own policy or to consider the individual circumstances of the case. The Ombudsman found fault because the Council's policy makes clear that the school named in Section I of the EHCP is the nearest suitable school. As only one school was named, the Council should have accepted this was the nearest suitable school. It was unnecessary for the Panel to consider this point again.

The Council's decision to provide a bus and then a train pass for the son was also at fault, because the client's mother had already provided all the necessary information for the Council to decide that her son should be eligible for a taxi. The Council has agreed to pay the client's mother £200 and issue the following guidance to all staff involved with deciding transport applications:

- that when a child has an EHCP naming one school in Section I, the Council should treat it as the nearest suitable school for that child's needs, without any further consideration of the other options
- to ensure they consider all information provided about the child, before reaching a view on the most appropriate transport and not be guided solely by the type of school placement named on an EHCP

Web activity

The main council website had almost 1.5 million page views during Q1, and the intranet had over 1.7 million page views. Customer satisfaction on the website was 68%.

We have a project to move some of the Council's semi-independent websites, known as 'microsites' on to the Council's corporate website infrastructure to reduce costs and improve security and stability. The first of these microsites to be moved into the East Sussex County Council web estate was successfully launched in Q1.

Media and information work

There were 393 media stories about the Council in Q1. The press office issued 28 press releases, generating 98 stories. 89 media enquiries were handled.

Strategic Risk Register – Q1 2023/24

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

Ref	Strategic Risks	Risk Control / Response and Post Mitigation RAG score	RAG
9	<p>WORKFORCE An inability to attract and retain the high calibre staff needed could lead to a reduction in the expertise and capacity required to deliver statutory services to our residents, including to prevent harm to children, young people and vulnerable adults at the required level and standards, impacting on the achievement of the Council's strategic objectives.</p>	<p>In September 2022 Cabinet agreed an investment of £270k across 2022/23 and 2023/24 to put in place a number of strategies to respond to the significant current recruitment and retention challenges. Current work includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further work on the development of an employer brand and updated recruitment materials, such as recruitment videos and social media advertising, to identify the Council as an employer of choice. - Streamlined recruitment processes for identified roles, e.g. removal of application form and replacement with CV and interview as soon as an application is received - Use of market supplements for specific posts. - On-going attendance at events such as careers fairs and shows to maximise our presence with job seekers. - Use of apprenticeships, traineeships, intern arrangements and more flexible work arrangements etc as a way of bringing in new talent to the Council. - Ensuring our workforce policies and approaches support individuals to remain in work, e.g. Wellbeing offer, occupational health, and absence management services. - Ensuring senior management oversight of caseloads, including mitigating actions to address high caseloads, along with the provision of high quality and regular managerial support and supervision of practitioners. - Completion of the workforce specific actions within the Corporate Equality action plan. - Implementation of mental health first aiders in the workplace. We now have a network of over 100 trained individuals. - Launch of a refreshed 'financial wellbeing' resource to support our staff, particularly given the rising cost of living pressures. - Clarity on professional development pathway for profession specific roles. - Pilot of equality and diversity pilot informing recruitment and retention policies tailored to increasing diversity of the workforce. <p>New approaches being developed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Linking in with organisations that support people back into employment to extend our reach into sections of the labour market that are underrepresented or face significant barriers to employment. A new post of 'Pre-Employment Coordinator' has been established to lead on this work and will be recruited to early in the New Year. - Continued delivery of our two leadership development programmes to support our talent management strategies: the 'Ladder to Leadership' programme and 'Head of Service Masterclasses'. - Development of an 'aspiring leaders programme' aimed at our LMG2/3 and 4 managers. - Development of career pathways for 'hard to recruit' posts including greater use of apprenticeships. - Forecasting of workforce 'gaps' and future need to enable bespoke approaches to be designed, e.g. production of workforce development plan by CSD to support the Family Safeguarding initiative. 	Red

Ref	Strategic Risks	Risk Control / Response and Post Mitigation RAG score	RAG
15	<p>CLIMATE</p> <p>Failure to limit global warming to below 1.5°C above pre-industrialisation levels, which requires global net human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide (CO2) to be reduced by about 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching 'net zero' by 2050 at the latest. The predicted impacts of climate change in East Sussex include more frequent and intense flooding, drought, and episodes of extreme heat, as well as impacts from the effects of climate change overseas, such as on food supply. This will lead to an increase in heat-related deaths, particularly amongst the elderly, damage to essential infrastructure, increased cost of food, disruption to supply chains and service provision, and greater coastal erosion.</p>	<p>Climate change mitigation: the science-based target is to reduce scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions by 50% every 5 years. The focus is on buildings, as they made up 79% of carbon emissions in 2020/21. Internal oversight of progress is by the corporate Climate Emergency Board.</p> <p>Climate change adaptation: we work with partners on flood risk management plans and deliver a Heat Alert service during the summer months.</p> <p>In Quarter 1 2023/24:</p> <p>A) Mitigation:</p> <p>1) Carbon Reduction Target: the carbon reduction target for 2022-23 is a 34% reduction compared with the baseline year of 2019-20. Provisional energy usage data for 2022-23 indicates that we may have achieved a 32% reduction against the baseline. Full data analysis will be completed in July and the final position reported to full Council in October.</p> <p>2) Carbon Reduction Schemes: the target for 2023-24 is for the delivery of a further 23 capital schemes. In Q1 a pipeline of 32 schemes was identified, 1 scheme was completed and 2 are nearing completion.</p> <p>B) Adaptation:</p> <p>1) Adaptation Plan: the target for 2023-24 is to produce a climate adaptation plan. An initial draft will be taken to the Climate Emergency Board for consideration in August.</p>	Red
20	<p>PLACEMENTS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR CARE</p> <p>Inability to secure sufficient high quality placements for children in our care, suitable accommodation for care experienced young people and respite provision, leading to significant financial pressure leading to significant financial pressure and poorer outcomes for children/young people.</p>	<p>Effective demand management, robust management of front door, delivery of early help services- implementation of Family Hub programme throughout 23-24, and Level 2 Family Keyworkers (Q3), implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Edge of Care 'Connected Families', Family Safeguarding programmes ('Connected Families in Partnership' launch planned for January 2024), enabling more children to live safely with their families.</p> <p>Further delivery of kinship/Special Guardianship Order placements</p> <p>Capital bid for Sorrel Drive</p> <p>Consultancy project-IMPOWER to determine forecast trajectory and development of evidence-based business case to further improve sufficiency of placements (completion July 23).</p> <p>Fostering Recruitment & Retention Strategy completed</p> <p>Uplift to fostering allowance (for in house carers, Special Guardianship Orders, Kinship carers) approved by the Chief Management Team to help secure sufficient supply of in house foster carers as an alternative to more expensive care packages</p>	Red

Ref	Strategic Risks	Risk Control / Response and Post Mitigation RAG score	RAG
19	<p>SCHOOLS AND INCLUSION, SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (ISEND)</p> <p>For Children with Special Educational Needs. Inability to secure statutory provision due to lack of availability of specialist placement within the county and increasing demand for placements in this sector. This would put the Council at risk of judicial review and/or negative Local Government Ombudsman judgements for failing to meet our duties within the Children and Families Act 2014, with associated financial penalties and reputational damage.</p>	<p>Effective use of forecasting data to pre-empt issues.</p> <p>Work with statutory partners to develop contingency plans.</p> <p>Work with the market to increase provision where needed.</p> <p>Expanding internal interim offer for children.</p>	Red
1	<p>ROADS</p> <p>Extreme weather events over recent years have caused significant damage to many of the county's roads, adding to the backlog of maintenance in the County Council's Asset Plan: and increasing the risk to the Council's ability to stem the rate of deterioration and maintain road condition.</p> <p>The economic impacts of the pandemic and recent events in Ukraine have had some effects on service delivery during this year, particularly with increased costs and shortages of suitable contractors and materials.</p>	<p>While additional funding over the last few years has helped maintain road condition, the latest condition and funding modelling showed the potential for renewed deterioration over the next 10 years, if further investment was not introduced into road maintenance. This reflects the changing climate with more extreme events such as warmer wetter winters, drier summers (drying and shrinking the substructure of roads) punctuated by unseasonal heavy downpours, all now influencing the rate of road deterioration.</p> <p>The wettest November (2022) on record, followed by one of the coldest starts to December and then further heavy rain, have led to a significant increase in the number of potholes appearing on our roads. This has been reflected in a wider deterioration in road surfaces, which will manifest in our Road Condition Indicator (RCI) scores for this year, when survey works are undertaken later in the summer.</p> <p>However, through the Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources process in 2022, the capital budget for road maintenance was increased by £3.1m per year and an additional one-off investment of £5.8m was agreed to be spent on highway maintenance; this has largely been spent now on carriageway patching and footway works, with lining and sign works ongoing. Additional investment was also approved by Cabinet in June for £15.7m to further improve the road condition. £5.6 million from reserves will pay for extra patching and drainage work, and the capital programme will be increased by £5.1 million, with an additional £5 million for the capital programme this year to help with early improvements to provide greater network reliance.</p>	Amber

Ref	Strategic Risks	Risk Control / Response and Post Mitigation RAG score	RAG
18	<p>DATA BREACH</p> <p>A breach of security/confidentiality leading to destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure of, or access to, personal data. This includes breaches that are the result of both accidental and deliberate causes. A personal data breach is a security incident that has affected the confidentiality, integrity or availability of personal data regardless of whether information has been accessed, altered or disclosed via electronic or manual means.</p> <p>Risks to individuals, reputational damage, fines from the Information Commissioner’s Officer (ICO), compensation claims.</p>	<p>Policy and guidance procedures in place to support practice.</p> <p>Data Protection Officer (DPO), Caldicott Guardians and Information Governance Officers monitor breach reporting and put in place mechanisms to minimise recurrence.</p> <p>Staff training to develop awareness.</p> <p>Technical security measures operated by Information Technology and Digital (IT&D), including access control.</p>	Amber
8	<p>CAPITAL PROGRAMME</p> <p>There are risks and uncertainties regarding the capital programme over the current Medium Term Financial Plan period and beyond, which could impact on the ability to deliver the Council’s priorities.</p> <p>The volatile national economic situation has increased uncertainties within the construction industry around supply chain issues and high-cost inflation, which are likely to impact project deliverability and affordability. This has been exacerbated by the invasion of Ukraine by Russia and the resultant global sanctions imposed on Russia.</p> <p>Additionally, there is a risk that, due to the complexity of factors and uncertainties impacting them, the level of government grants and other sources of capital programme funding such as developer contributions could be significantly reduced.</p> <p>A combination of the above risks, alongside a volatile interest rate environment, could significantly increase the cost of borrowing to fund the capital programme, impacting affordability and increasing pressures on the Council’s revenue budget in the medium and long term.</p>	<p>The Council reviews and updates its 20-year Capital Strategy annually as part of the Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) process, which sets the framework in which the capital programme is planned and allows the Council to prioritise investment to support its objectives. The development and delivery of the capital programme is overseen by a Capital Strategic Asset Board (CSAB), which is a cross departmental group, who also hear from Departmental Capital Board/Sub Boards who oversee priority areas.</p> <p>The capital programme includes an element of ‘normal’ level of inflation for ongoing target-based core programmes (as opposed to programmes that have cash limited envelopes). Additionally, a capital risk provision in the form of additional borrowing flexibility is in place to provide the ability to react to emerging risks such as supply chain issues and inflationary pressures. The level of provision is reviewed and approved on an annual basis as part of the RPPR process and is maintained by the CSAB in adherence to financial regulations.</p> <p>The CSAB have oversight of all sources of capital funding, including grants, capital receipts and developer contributions, to ensure that resources are used effectively and to minimise the need to borrow. Funding announcements are actively monitored, and funding targets reviewed to minimise the impact on delivery of the capital programme, ensuring that there is sufficient liquidity to meet funding requirements.</p> <p>The Council’s Treasury Management modelling takes a holistic approach considering a number of variable factors, including the capital programme requirement, availability of cash balances and interest rates impacting borrowing costs and return on investments. The Council’s approved Treasury Management Policy and Strategy has been prepared in the context of the current financial situation and seeks the utilisation of long term cash balances as effectively as possible by investing in longer term instruments and/or using to reduce borrowing costs.</p>	Amber

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4	<p>HEALTH</p> <p>Failure to secure maximum value from partnership working with the National Health Service (NHS). If not achieved, there will be impact on social care, public health and health outcomes and increased social care operational and cost pressures. This would add pressures on the Council's budget and/or risks to other Council objectives, as well as shared system objectives in the context of our Integrated Care System across workforce and patients who are medically ready for discharge (MRD) from hospital or community beds.</p>	<p>The care market has been supported leading to increased availability in homecare to support discharge from hospital to people's own homes, although there are relatively high numbers of clients with complex and challenging needs. The Director Adult Social Care and Health (DASCH) participated in the Sussex Integrated Care (ICS) Board System Discharge Visit on 31 May, alongside Sussex ICS colleagues, as part of the national ICS Discharge Frontrunner programme. The visit took place in Eastbourne District General Hospital and involved representatives from NHS England and the Department of Health and Social Care. The available data for No Criteria to Reside (NCTR) in the acute hospital setting was explored, as one measure of the effectiveness of discharge pathways. A report and recommended actions from the visit are awaited.</p> <p>The draft joint 5-year Sussex Integrated Care Strategy Shared Delivery Plan (SDP) has been developed and was endorsed in June by the East Sussex County Council (ESCC) Leader, Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development, and the Health and Wellbeing Board. The SDP contains milestones that support the delivery of the East Sussex Health and Wellbeing (HWB) Strategy priorities shared by ESCC and NHS for children and young people, mental health and integrated community health, and improvements in care, wellbeing and health outcomes. The SDP also contains milestones to support the pan-Sussex delivery of NHS Operational Plans for 2023/24, including access to primary care, recovery of elective and urgent care, hospital discharge, mental health and health inequalities. The finalised SDP will be presented to the NHS Sussex Integrated Care Board in July and launched as part of NHS 75th Anniversary Celebrations.</p>	Amber
6	<p>LOCAL ECONOMIC GROWTH</p> <p>Failure to deliver local economic growth, and failure to maximise opportunities afforded by Government proposal to allocate Local Growth Funding to South East Local Enterprise Partnership, creating adverse reputational and financial impacts.</p>	<p>East Sussex County Council (ESCC), working with partners, has been successful in securing significant amounts of growth funding totalling £129m, via both the South East and Coast 2 Capital Local Enterprise Partnerships, to deliver a wide range of infrastructure projects in East Sussex. We have worked with partners on complementary economic development programmes supporting businesses to grow, providing skills, creating employment, and improving our places with funds secured from various Government departments including the Levelling Up Fund (LUF), UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), UK Community Renewal Fund, Getting Building Fund, Bus Service Improvement Plan, Local Skills Improvement Plan, Active Travel, Stronger Towns Fund and Future High Street Fund etc.</p> <p>The impacts and effects of Covid 19 led ESCC to officially launch in September 2020 the East Sussex Economy Recovery Plan, called 'East Sussex Reset'. The plan identifies deliverable actions in the short term, alongside more aspirational asks, and has already aligned and secured new monies totalling £220m investment into East Sussex. The County Council is committed to now producing a longer term East Sussex Economic Growth Strategy and significant work will commence on this throughout 2023-24, with the plan to have the strategy approved in 2024.</p> <p>Specifically on the major LUF programme, ESCC submitted a transport package for Exceat Bridge of £8m, while four of the local Borough and District Councils (except Hastings) submitted in June 2021 major capital funding bids under this first round for town centre/regeneration and cultural investment. Outcomes were announced on 27 October 2021, with the following awarded monies: Exceat Bridge (£8m), Eastbourne (£19.8m) and Lewes (£12.6m) all to be delivered by March 2024. The other</p>	Green

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		<p>Borough and Districts were unsuccessful but applied under Round 2 in July 2022, with Rother's £19.2m bid awarded in January 2023.</p> <p>The main prospectus for the UKSPF (the successor to the outgoing EU funding) was released in April 2022 with the award of allocations known to each Borough and District Authority, who are now the responsible accountable bodies for the delivery of the programme. Investment plans were submitted to Government by 1 August 2022. ESCC has made the case with regards to pan East Sussex projects, which can continue to deliver against the main themes of the programmes and the Council's priorities. All 5 bids for circa £1m each over the period April 2022 to March 2025 were approved and allocated their monies in December 2022. In addition, as part of the UKSPF, the Multiply programme was announced in late March 2022 to help adults to improve their numeracy skills up to Level 2. The responsibility for managing this programme from 2022-2025 has been awarded directly to ESCC, with up to £2.5m available. We prepared an investment plan working with partners and submitted this by 30 June 2022 to the Department for Education and our plan has been approved for the full allocation. Contracts have been awarded to providers and delivery is underway.</p> <p>The Government's recent Spring Budget announcements in March 2023 are in part intended to provide a stimulus to growing our businesses, increasing employment opportunities for our residents and improving our economy. The budget indicated the role of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) is proposed to end by April 2024; and that subject to consultation will lead to current LEP powers, responsibilities and functions coming down to local authority level to elected members. At this stage no decision has been made on whether this will come down to County or District/Borough level or a combination of both, and what functions would be undertaken. We have responded to the consultation and will continue to work with SELEP and partners on this matter to make transitional arrangements as required. The Government also announced the rollout of new Levelling Up Partnerships to improve place-based regeneration and address the biggest barriers to levelling up in the 20 areas most in need over the period 2023-2025. This included Hastings and Rother, enabling these areas to bid for a share of the new £400m funds.</p>	