

Appendix A - DIRECTORATE COMMENTARY

Social Care Health and Housing

- The full year forecast is below gross budget by £4.3M and the net position is below budget by £0.9M. The gross spend budget, below, primarily relates to the Additional Gypsy and Traveller sites, NHS Campus Closure and Disabled Facilities Grants Scheme projects. Of the net forecast underspend of £0.867M, it is proposed to slip £0.292M into 2016/17 in respect of the Gypsy and Traveller sites, £0.060M in respect of the Empty Homes programme and to declare the rest - £0.515M - as a genuine underspend against the Housing General Fund rolling programmes.

The table below highlights the areas of spend :

SCHH Full Year Gross Budget and Forecast					
Scheme Categories	Gross Budget	Gross Forecast	Variance	Deferred Spend	Over / (Under) spend
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Additional Gypsy and Traveller Sites	1,557	340	(1,217)	1,117	(100)
Review of Accommodation/Day Support, "New Approaches to Outcome"	2,030	150	(1,880)	1,880	0
Empty Homes	300	250	(50)	60	10
Renewal Assistance	150	275	125	0	125
Disabled Facilities Grants Scheme	2,750	2,400	(350)	0	(350)
NHS Campus Closure	698	60	(638)	638	0
Social Care Single Capital Pot	0	15	15	0	15
Adult Social Care ICT Projects	289	0	(289)	289	0
Total	7,774	3,490	(4,285)	3,984	(301)
% of Budget		44.9%			

SCHH Full Year Net Budget and Forecast					
Scheme Categories	Net Budget	Net Forecast	Variance	Deferred Spend	Over / (Under) spend
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Additional Gypsy and Traveller Sites	582	190	(392)	292	(100)
Empty Homes	300	240	(60)	60	0
Renewal Assistance	100	190	90	0	90
Disabled Facilities Grants Scheme	1,962	1,457	(505)	0	(505)
Total	2,944	2,077	(867)	352	(515)
% of Budget		70.5%			

- The Review of Accommodation/Day Support project**
 This project relates to the Older People's Care Homes Re-provision project, and expenditure relates to capital maintenance requirements of the seven older people's homes which transferred back to the Authority in August 2014. A business case is outstanding in relation to this project. The current forecast relates to fabric and furniture within the homes, capital enhancements and repairs to extend the useful life of boilers and lifts.

3. **Additional Gypsy & Traveller Sites**

Pre-application planning advice has been received for two new Gypsy and Traveller sites at Dunton (12 pitches) and Potton (11 Pitches). A full planning application for both sites is scheduled to be made in 2016. It was originally anticipated that work on the additional 11 pitches at Potton would commence in this financial year, but that is now unlikely to occur so it is proposed that the forecast net underspend of £0.292M is deferred to 2016/17.

4. **Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG)**

The grants provided to residents through the DFG programme assist some of the poorer and most vulnerable members of the community. Without these grants in many cases the properties involved would be unsuitable for the needs of the occupiers who may then be unable to remain in their own homes. This also reduces pressure on health service resources and residential care, as without these improvements more residents would require emergency or longer term care solutions. Income from client contributions is anticipated to be higher than budgeted, which results in the forecast net underspend of £0.505M. Work in progress is valued at £2.3M some of which will be completed in 2015/16, much of which will roll forward in to 2016/17.

5.

Type of adaptation	Total Q3 14/15	Total Q3 15/16	CBC tenants	Others
Level access shower/wet room	101	91	10	81
Straight stair lift	29	21	4	17
Curved stair lift	16	18		
Toilet alterations	29	39	6	33
Access ramps	21	22	3	19
Dropped kerb and hard standing	2	6		
Wheelchair/step lift	5	2	1	1
Through floor lift	4	1		1
Major extension	9	8		8
Kitchen alterations	5	4	1	3
Access alterations (doors etc.)	31	40	3	37
Heating Improvements		1		1
Garage conversions/minor additions		4	1	3
Safety repairs/improvements		5	1	4
Other	19	18	2	16
Total	275	280	32	248

6.

The **NHS Campus Closure programme** has one potential remaining project for Central Bedfordshire. This is subject to the release of capital receipts by Propco (NHS). No business case exists as yet for this scheme which will be 100% externally funded.

7. The Adult Social Care IT project comprises a number of schemes. The next phase of developments of the Social Care system – AIS – has been agreed and implementation details are under discussion with the software provider

Children's Services

8. Children's Services annual capital expenditure budget for 2015/16 is £31.3M. The income budget is £28.6M, a net expenditure budget of £2.7M.
9. The forecast expenditure outturn for 2015/16 is £29M, £2.4M below the approved 2015/16 Children's Services gross capital budget, mainly due to the annual review of projects within the New School Places programme reducing forecast spend by £4.6M. This is offset by additional forecast spend on projects fully funded by grant income; Local Public Service Agreement Grant (LPSA) & Local Area Agreement Grant (LAA) £200K, Two year old entitlement grant £180K, Special School provisions £1.2M and the School Capital Maintenance programme £620K. The Council contribution of £2.1M to the New School Places programme is no longer required for 2015/16. All but two projects within Children's Services, Schools Access and Temporary Accommodation, are funded wholly by grant receipts that have no expenditure deadline.

The table below highlights the areas of spend :

Children's Services Full Year Gross Budget and Forecast					
Scheme Categories	Gross Budget	Gross Forecast	Variance	Deferred Spend	Over / (Under) spend
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Schools Devolved Formula Capital	460	460	0	0	0
New School Places	28,151	23,571	(4,580)	0	(4,580)
Temporary Accommodation	400	400	0	0	0
Schools Capital Maintenance	2,100	2,720	620	0	620
Schools Access Initiative	200	200	0	0	0
LPSA & LAA Grant payout	0	200	200	0	200
2 year old entitlement grant	0	180	180	0	180
Special School Provision	0	1,200	1,200	0	1,200
Total	31,311	28,931	(2,380)	0	(2,380)
% of Budget		92.4%			

Children's Services Full Year Net Budget and Forecast					
Scheme Categories	Net Budget	Net Forecast	Variance	Deferred Spend	Over / (Under) spend
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
New School Places	2,110	0	(2,110)	0	(2,110)
Temporary Accommodation	400	400	0	0	0
Schools Access Initiative	200	200	0	0	0
Total	2,710	600	(2,110)	0	(2,110)
% of Budget		22.1%			

10. **New School Places (NSP)**

This programme provides the capital investment to deliver new school places required by population growth in areas of limited surplus capacity within our schools. The Council's School Organisation Plan is the evidence base that supports the commissioning of these new school places over a rolling five year period. The programme is funded by a combination of sources including Department for Education basic need grant, developer contributions and Council borrowings and capital receipts.

11. In February 2015 the Council approved the programme 2015/16 to 2018/19 with gross expenditure of £28.2M (£2.1M net) in 2015/16, £25.4M (£7.3M net) in 2016/17, £35.3M (18.3M net) in 2017/18 and £18M (£11.8M net) in 2018/19.
12. In February 2015 the DfE announced the Basic Need allocation for 2017/18 of £21M which had previously been anticipated to be at levels similar to 2015/16 (£6.2M). This reduced the Council's forecast deficit/net cost of the approved programme to in 2017/18 to £3.5M.
13. Total Basic Need grant provided to our immediate Local Authority neighbours for the period 2011-18 is £44M for Luton BC and £22.5M for Bedford BC, whereas Central Bedfordshire will receive £68.4M.
14. The Council's School Organisation Plan has now been subject to its annual review and the New School Places Programme has likewise been reviewed to reflect the changes in demographic forecasts from the previous year.
15. The outcome of this exercise now forecasts a revised NSP programme for 2015/16 with gross expenditure of £23.6M (nil net) in 15/16. This figure is a £2M reduction on the October forecast for 2015/16. This is a result of a significant delay in the project to expand Stratton Academy, originally forecast at the beginning of the financial year to achieve £4M expenditure by year end. The Academy has worked with its procured contractor and project management team to redefine an affordable design and has now started on site. As a result the value of works forecast to be delivered on site by year end is now reduced to £2M.
16. The DfE allocation of basic need for 2018/19 will not be known earlier than February 2016 and the net cost of the programme for that year is expected to reduce significantly.
17. The 2015/16 NSP programme includes expenditure on 19 separate capital projects, most of which span more than a single financial year. These projects include the provision of 1,425 new lower school places on new school sites, 975 new lower school places as expansions to existing schools on their current sites, 480 new middle school places on new school sites, 480 middle school places as expansions to existing schools and 700 new upper school places as expansions to existing schools.

Community Services

18. The Community Services Capital Programme in 2015/16 is made up of 81 schemes which include large groupings of projects that relate to Environmental services, Libraries, Leisure, Transport and Assets. The gross budget for Community Services now includes Assets and is £90.4M.
19. The forecast outturn is £55.5M, below budget by £34.9M. The major elements of the forecast underspend are A421 Junction 13, Luton & Dunstable Busway, Stratton Park Phase 5 Infrastructure, South Depot, Thorn Turn Waste Park, Depot and Salt Barn North, Dunstable Leisure and Libraries scheme and retiming of spend for Woodside Link. The forecast for a number of Leisure & Countryside Access projects has been reduced due to a reduction in capitalised salaries.

The table below highlights the areas of spend :

Community Services Full Year Gross Budget and Forecast					
Scheme Categories	Gross Budget	Gross Forecast	Variance	Deferred Spend	Over / (Under) spend
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Assets	8,857	6,092	(2,765)	2,860	95
Environmental Services	12,006	4,568	(7,438)	7,462	24
Libraries	148	148	0	0	0
Leisure	11,957	11,144	(813)	1,587	774
Transport	57,428	33,527	(23,901)	24,168	267
Total	90,396	55,479	(34,917)	36,077	1,160
% of Budget		61.4%			

Community Services Full Year Net Budget and Forecast					
Scheme Categories	Net Budget	Net Forecast	Variance	Deferred Spend	Over / (Under) spend
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Assets	8,557	5,697	(2,860)	2,860	0
Environmental Services	10,749	4,281	(6,468)	6,468	(0)
Libraries	148	148	0	0	0
Leisure	10,637	9,059	(1,578)	1,587	9
Transport	29,905	12,536	(17,369)	16,915	(454)
Total	59,996	31,721	(28,275)	27,830	(445)
% of Budget		52.9%			

Highways and Transport

20. Activity completed so far includes:

- (a) **A421 M1 Junction 13- Milton Keynes Magna Park** – Milton Keynes Council and Central Bedfordshire Council are working jointly on the A421 project to dual the section of A421 between the new Eagle Farm Roundabout to M1/J13. It is anticipated the business case will be submitted to the Department of Transport early in 2016 with the next round of funding hopefully being released by Spring/ Summer 2016. The preliminary design has been completed and land negotiations are underway. The present forecast is to spend the secured £1M grant in this financial year, it is anticipated that the remaining grant and expenditure will be deferred to 2016-17.
- (b) **A1 South Roundabout – Biggleswade** - The A1 roundabout is complete and opened to traffic in 2014. The expenditure incurred in this financial year relates to design work and retention payments.
- (c) **Highways Structural Maintenance and Lighting** – 59 carriageway resurfacing schemes completed covering 26 kms out of a target of 25.9 kms and 26 footway resurfacing schemes completed covering 13.1 kms out of a target of 8.4 kms. 260 lighting columns have been replaced out of a target of 696 and 2,900 lanterns replaced out of a target of 3,710
- (d) **Integrated Transport** - 43 schemes have been completed including rural match funded schemes and a further 12 designed. Completed schemes include traffic calming measures in Clifton, 20mph scheme in Flitwick and Westoning, Road humps in Billington and Biggleswade to Langford cycle route.
- (e) **Woodside Link** – Timing of the expenditure has altered due to the adverse weather conditions, which has been mitigated by revising the programme of works and use of granular fill. The Sandringham Drive sheet pile retaining wall has been installed and other structures are in advanced stages. UKPN and National Grid have completed removal of the redundant overhead power cables, pylons and bases which has freed up the southern end of the site. The scheme is still on target to hit the September 2016 completion date.
- (f) **Digital Speed Cameras** – Poynters Road, Dunstable, and A505 schemes commissioned and have been live since October 2015. There have been over 3,000 offences recorded to date.
- (g) **Southern Highways Depot (Thorn Turn)** – Design changes to accommodate the new Highways Operating contractor have been achieved. Alternative suppliers for the Modular Office building for the Highways team have also been sourced and are expected to deliver a 10% saving on the building purchase.

- (h) **Northern Highways Depot (Sandy)** - To date, activities on this project have been associated with defining requirements, understanding the site constraints in terms of planning and land purchase. A concept design has been circulated to the client for approval. The extent of required surveys has been established and a desktop study undertaken to establish the capacity within the local utility network to accept additional sites. Concept design shows that all the customer requirements can be accommodated within the land parcel available. The design requires development to ensure it can be achieved within budget available.
- (i) **Local Sustainable Transport Fund** - This funding is being used for the Luton – Dunstable busway corridor enhancements. Contractors are currently on site to deliver a programme that will see improved access to the busway corridor at key points such as Sainsbury's in Dunstable and Stanton Road. Additional bus stops are also being provided, including one at Jeans Way in Dunstable together with over 2km of resurfacing. This work is programmed to be completed by March 2016.
- (j) **East West Rail – Western Section** – Network Rail are currently working through the planning stage of the project. There is funding for the current phase of development , with an expected delivery during Control Period 6 2019 - 2025

21. **Waste**

Activity completed so far includes:

- (a) **Sundon Landfill Restoration** – The final phase of soil importation is almost completed; landscaping of phases one and two is also almost completed; remediation of an area of slippage has commenced and meetings with the land agent have taken place in preparation for the removal of the main haul road from the site.
- (b) **Waste & Recycling Containers (Rolling Programme)** – Successful procurement and purchase of 55 plastic litter bins, 40 metal litter bins, 20 x dog bins, 38 x 1100 litre (15 with sound reducing deafening liner), 12 x 660 litre, 343 x 140 litre, 518 x 360 litres, 3888 x 240 litre containers.
- (c) **Thorn Turn Waste Park** - Capital spend to date has delivered design for construction issue drawings and specifications for all elements. Significant Survey work has been undertaken due to the Planning application requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment. Planning has also been approved and the pre-commencement conditions gradually discharged. Work has started on the Access road and capacity within the local utility network confirmed. Forecast cost includes the additional design fees for Value Engineering Changes, the first phase of the Earthworks package and advance payment to UKPN for supply of services within the site.

- (d) **HWRC Re-Development** – Capital spend to date has largely been on design and construction. Biggleswade site is almost complete, all structural works and perimeter roads are in place. Electrical and telecommunications supply installed and fencing erected. The project team have achieved the discharge of all operational conditions associated with the planning notice, amended design to comply with Environment Agency requirements and improved access to the brook for the Internal Drainage Board, whilst maintaining site security to protect against unwanted encampments in adjacent areas. The site is expected to be handed over to the operational contractor in the first week of February with works to Ampthill following shortly afterwards, allowing for a short gap whilst Amey remove equipment from the site. Forecast costs to the end of the financial year assume minimal delay between Biggleswade site completion and works starting on Ampthill.

22. **Countryside and Access**

Activity completed so far includes:

- (a) **Transport Schemes** – There have been 20 new or replacement footpaths and bridleways across the authority, over 500 metres of surface improvements along a byway in Aspley Guise, bridleway in Henlow and footpath in Shefford, together with a new flight of steps in Sundon.
- (b) **Swiss Garden** – Restoration works are now complete and the Garden is open to the public. A new equipment compound will be constructed during the winter to which a contribution has been made.
- (c) **Outdoor Access and Greenspace Improvement Projects** – achievements include surfacing improvements on Route 51 (National Cycle Route) and Holywell Lane Cranfield. Additional improvements have been made to the steel railings on Sandy Bridleway 8, new sculptures have been installed at Rushmere Country Park and surfacing improvements have taken place on the Dunstable Downs Multi User route.
- (d) **Countryside Schemes** - A new barn has been constructed at Flitton Moor by The Friends of Flitton Moor which includes a contribution from the Council. Works to remove diseased horse chestnuts from the main drive at Rushmere County Park and replace with small leaf limes have taken place.
- (e) **Houghton Hall Park** - A project manager has been appointed and tenders have been issued for the Houghton Hall Park landscape and visitor centre.

23.

Leisure

Activity completed so far includes:

- (a) Flitwick Leisure Centre** – The project is progressing well and on programme. The front car park and the entrance area blockwork have completed. The main part of the roof is complete and the perimeter flat roofing is well underway. The services have been installed in the hall changing area. The learner pool has been constructed and is being tested, and the main pool construction is also complete. Masonry, rendering and painting is ongoing. Work has commenced on external column fins and the roof plant area. Internally the changing areas with underfloor heating on ground floor and screeding on first floor, corridor tiling and second fix carpentry has been completed. The steelwork for the disabled hoist has been installed and plastering is almost complete. Plant room installations progressing well. External fencing and landscaping is near completion. The climbing wall installation has commenced. The squash courts and sports hall are complete. Internal glazing to viewing screens is near completion. The snagging process is underway.
- (b) Library and Leisure Centre - Dunstable** – The project has had an asbestos refurbishment survey carried out as part of the feasibility study, with no major issues raised. This allows the next stage of the programme to progress. The project management company has now been appointed and work on surveys, options and designs are ongoing.

Please refer to separate agenda item for further update on Dunstable Leisure centre
- (c) Stock Condition** – Work was carried out to; Saxon Leisure Centre with a main extractor fan installed, the Building Management System (BMS) at Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre and a new lighting desk was installed at The Grove Theatre.

Assets

24.

The gross capital programme for Assets is £8.857M. The major Projects are 2015/16 Corporate Property Rolling Programme (£2M), Stratton Park Phase 5 Infrastructure (£2M), Stratton Park Phase 4 Access (£0.91M), Ivel Medical Centre including slippage (£0.975M), Enhancement work for disposals (£0.750M), Strategic Acquisitions (£0.5M), Health & Safety Rolling programme (£0.4M) and Energy Efficiencies (£0.388M).

25.

The forecast outturn position for Assets is currently expected to be £6.092M. There has been a delay in agreeing terms with the various owners & potential purchasers of Stratton Park as a result of unexpected delays in commencing infrastructure works. This has impacted the planning application and infrastructure works. It is therefore expected that £2.510M of costs to be deferred to 2016/17. There has also been slippage of £0.35M due to a delay in acquiring strategic sites and replacement farmland.

Regeneration & Business Support

26. The budget for Regeneration is £3.54M the forecast is a gross overspend of £0.3M and a net underspend of £0.4M (funded by CBC) due to acceleration of the Local Broadband Infrastructure project and deferred spend on the Market Towns Programme and Dunstable Town Centre Regeneration.

The table below highlights the areas of spend :

Regeneration & Business Support Full Year Gross Budget and Forecast					
Scheme Categories	Gross Budget	Gross Forecast	Variance	Deferred Spend	Over / (Under) spend
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Market Towns Programme	435	35	(400)	400	0
Development site promotion	75	0	(75)	75	0
Flood defence strategy schemes	195	195	0	0	0
Local Broadband Infrastructure	1,899	3,145	1,246	(1,246)	0
Land Drainage Work (Non Highways)	60	55	(5)	0	(5)
Flitwick Land Purchase Further land assembly for the Town Centre Regeneration Scheme.	81	82	1	0	1
Dunstable Town Centre Regeneration Phase 2	489	30	(459)	454	(5)
Historic Building Grant Aid Scheme	8	0	(8)	8	0
Cranfield Technology Park Acceleration	298	300	2	0	2
Total	3,540	3,842	302	(309)	(7)
% of Budget	108.5%				

Regeneration & Business Support Full Year Net Budget and Forecast					
Scheme Categories	Net Budget	Net Forecast	Variance	Deferred Spend	Over / (Under) spend
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Market Towns Programme	435	35	(400)	400	0
Development site promotion	75	0	(75)	75	0
Flood defence strategy schemes	195	195	0	0	0
Local Broadband Infrastructure	0	526	526	(526)	0
Land Drainage Work (Non Highways)	60	55	(5)	0	(5)
Flitwick Land Purchase Further land assembly for the Town Centre Regeneration Scheme.	81	82	1	0	1
Dunstable Town Centre Regeneration Phase 2	489	30	(459)	454	(5)
Historic Building Grant Aid Scheme	8	0	(8)	8	0
Cranfield Technology Park Acceleration	(2)	0	2	0	2
Total	1,341	923	(418)	411	(7)
% of Budget	68.8%				

Broadband

27. The Superfast Broadband Project continues to deliver to plan and plans are being developed to accelerate deployment and extend coverage further.
28. For the year to December 14,600 premises have been supported to receive superfast broadband. This brings superfast coverage to over 87% of the Council's target. Additionally, a subsidised satellite broadband service has been launched, enabling all premises to receive a minimum service of at least 2 megabit per second.
29. BDUK (The Government's broadband delivery arm) have rated the Central Superfast Project as 'Green', meaning the project is meeting all its contracted targets and has again passed the value for money analysis by BDUK. In addition, the Central Superfast project is also currently achieving 19.68% take up of services which is considered 'Best in Class' for the size and age of the project.

Market Towns Programme

30. The development and launch of the Fund was rescheduled to take place following the May 2015 election .It was launched in the autumn with an extended deadline for bids to be submitted. This was in response to requests from Town Councils for a longer bid development time. The deadline for bids is 29 February 2016 with development of the projects anticipated to start from April 2016 onwards.

Improvement & Corporate Services

31. The gross and net budget for ICS is £6.2M. The forecast is £4.9M, below budget by £1.2M.

The table below highlights the areas of spend :

Improvement & Corporate Services Full Year Gross Budget and Forecast					
Scheme Categories	Gross/Net Budget	Gross/Net Forecast	Variance	Deferred Spend	Over / (Under) spend
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Information Assets	5,643	4,663	(980)	980	(1,960)
Other	515	280	(235)	235	(470)
Total	6,158	4,943	(1,215)	1,215	(2,430)

% of Budget

80.3%

(Note gross and Net are the same as all internally funded)

Information Technology

32. The current net capital programme for IT is £5.643M. There are a number of major projects which include Customer First Phase 2: Care Act implementation (£1.067M), 2015/16 ICT Strategic Investment (£1.0M), Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) Rollout (£0.5M), Applications Architecture Phase 3 (£0.5M), Public Services Network (PSN) Phase 3 (£0.5M) & IT Infrastructure Rolling Programme 2015/16 (£0.5M). There are other smaller projects totalling £1.576M.
- 33.

- 34 The full year forecast for IT is a spend of £4.663M. There is currently proposed deferred spend of £0.98M. There is a year to date (YTD) overspend in IT Capital of £0.033M.

Other ICS Projects

- 35 The current gross capital programme for Other Improvement & Corporate Services projects is £0.515M. The major project is Office Rationalisation (£0.5M) with a number of smaller projects totalling £15K. The forecast outturn position is currently expected to be £0.280M, £0.235M is expected to be deferred into 2016/17.

Corporate Resources

There is one scheme within Corporate Resources with a budget of £45K, Civica Revenue Module. This has been identified as an underspend due to the planned upgrade to the Civica system being fulfilled by a revenue solution.

Corporate Resources Full Year Gross Budget and Forecast					
Scheme Categories	Gross/Net Budget	Gross/Net Forecast	Variance	Deferred Spend	Over / (Under) spend
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Civica Revenue Module	45	0	(45)	0	(45)
Total	45	0	(45)	0	(45)

% of Budget

0.0%

(Note gross and Net are the same as all internally funded)

Capital Receipts

36. The overall budget for Capital receipts is £13.101M. The current forecast is £3M.
37. The year to date position is £286K. The adverse position is mainly due to two major receipts. Due to delays in agreeing terms with two existing occupiers and CBC putting in primary infrastructure the receipts of £4.666M for Stratton Park are expected to be received in future years. In addition, due to planning issues it is unlikely the £4.8M from Bedford Borough for Bell Farm and County Hall as part of the disaggregation agreement will be received in this financial year.
38. The Assets Team continue to review the estate for any additional opportunities for the sale of any plots, house, underutilised/redundant buildings and covenant releases. There is continued focus on the larger strategic projects in order to build a pipeline for the future. Following the reduction in forecasted capital receipts the Assets team are now looking at sites that could be suitable for a sale at auction in order to achieve some quick receipts.