

Appendix A - DIRECTORATE COMMENTARY

Social Care Health and Housing

1. The full year forecast is below gross budget by £4.1M 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.

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	440	(1,117)	1,117	0
Review of Accommodation/Day Support, "New Approaches to Outcome"	2,030	150	(1,880)	1,880	0
Empty Homes	300	310	10	0	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	3,650	(4,124)	3,924	(200)
% of Budget		47.0%			

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	290	(292)	292	0
Empty Homes	300	300	0	0	0
Renewal Assistance	100	200	100	0	100
Disabled Facilities Grants Scheme	1,962	1,300	(662)	0	(662)
Total	2,944	2,090	(854)	292	(562)
% of Budget		71.0%			

2. **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 requirement of the seven older people's home which transferred back to the Authority in August 2014. A business case is being developed in relation to this project. The current forecast relates to fabric and furniture within the homes, capital enhancements, repairs to extend the useful life of boilers and lifts.
3. **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.

4.

Type of adaptation	Total Q2 14/15	Total Q2 15/16	CBC tenants	Others
Level access shower/wet room	58	63	7	56
Straight stair lift	22	15	3	12
Curved stair lift	12	13		13
Toilet alterations	14	28	4	24
Access ramps	14	16	3	13
Dropped kerb and hard standing	1	2		2
Wheelchair/step lift	3	2	1	1
Through floor lift	1	1		1
Major extension	4	8		8
Kitchen alterations	4	2		2
Access alterations (doors etc.)	24	28	2	26
Garage conversions/minor additions		3	1	2
Safety repairs/improvements		5	1	4
Other	12	10	1	9
Total	169	196	23	173

5. 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.
6. 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

7. 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.
8. The forecast expenditure outturn for 2015/16 is £29.8M, £1.5M 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. 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	25,578	(2,573)	0	(2,573)
Temporary Accommodation	400	400	0	0	0
Schools Capital Maintenance	2,100	2,790	690	0	690
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
Total	31,311	29,808	(1,503)	0	(1,503)
% of Budget		95.2%			

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%			

9. 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.

10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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.

14. The outcome of this exercise now forecasts a revised NSP programme 2015/16 to 2018/19 with gross expenditure of £25.7M (nil net) in 2015/16, £17M (£1.4M net) in 2016/17, £37.7M (3.7M net) in 2017/18 and £29M (£17M net) in 2018/19.
15. 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.
16. On the basis of the Education Funding Agency's current methodology and our current growth forecasts the Council could expect to receive an allocation of Basic Need Grant in 2018/19 of £17M, which is £11M more than is currently assumed within the programme. If we were to receive this increase the net cost of the programme in that year would reduce to £6M on current pupil forecasts. It is difficult to predict this with any certainty as the total Basic Need grant budget held nationally may not be of the same scale as this year, the allocation methodology may not stay the same and many other Local Authorities continue to face significant demand for places.
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 £64.2M, below budget by £26.2M. The major elements of the forecast underspend are Dunstable Leisure and Libraries scheme, South Depot on Household Waste Recycling Centres redevelopment.

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	6,347	(2,510)	2,510	0
Environmental Services	15,535	6,353	(9,182)	9,239	57
Libraries	148	148	0	0	0
Leisure	11,957	10,359	(1,598)	1,861	263
Transport	53,899	40,979	(12,920)	13,425	505
Total	90,396	64,186	(26,210)	27,035	825
% of Budget		71.0%			

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	6,047	(2,510)	2,510	0
Environmental Services	14,278	6,033	(8,245)	8,245	0
Libraries	148	148	0	0	0
Leisure	10,637	9,039	(1,598)	1,861	263
Transport	26,376	19,860	(6,516)	6,279	(237)
Total	59,996	41,127	(18,869)	18,895	26
% of Budget		68.5%			

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 release by Spring/ Summer 2016. The preliminary design has been completed and land negotiations are underway.
- (b) **A1 South Roundabout – Biggleswade** - The A1 roundabout is complete and open to traffic.
- (c) **Highways Structural Maintenance and Lighting** – 21 carriageway resurfacing schemes completed covering 10.695 kms out of a target of 25.9 kms and 12 footway resurfacing schemes completed covering 5.91 kms out of a target of 8.4 kms. 129 lighting columns replaced out of a target of 696 and 1,077 lanterns replaced out of a target of 3,710
- (d) **Integrated Transport** - 29 schemes have been completed including rural match funded schemes. 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** – Work is progressing according to programme with site clearance and topsoil stripping ongoing. Earthworks and excavations for structural features have begun.
- (f) **Digital Speed Cameras** – Poynters Road , Dunstable and A505 schemes commissioned and live, awaiting police sign off prior to enforcement commencing.

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 deafening liner) , 12 x 660 litre, 343 x 140 litre, 510 x 360 litres , 3888 x 240 litre containers.
- (c) **Thorn Turn** - Thorn Turn is a Waste Park comprising a new Household Waste Recycling Centre, a Waste Transfer station and a re-sale Shop, co-located with a Highways depot. The majority of costs in the first half of this year are associated with completion of Developed Design, public consultation, completion of planning application, surveys & reports, appointment of a construction contractor and design work on adjacent highways.
- (d) **HWRC Re-Development** – All 4 of CBCs HWRC are to undergo major change. Existing sites at Ampthill, Biggleswade and Leighton Buzzard are to be re-developed and the Dunstable site will be closed and replaced by a new facility at Thorn Turn. Work has commenced at the Biggleswade site with completion expected in January, after which the construction contractor will move to Ampthill.
- (e) **Virement** - The waste enhancement scheme is now split into separate elements of Household Waste Recycling Centres Redevelopment and Thorn Turn Waste Park. A virement was approved as part of the month 3 monitoring, however a further virement is required. This is necessary as ground condition surveys and planning requirements made it necessary to alter the design. The virement for which approval is sought by Executive is :

HWRC Redevelopment	(3,360)
Thorn Turn Waste Park	101
Depot - South	2,500
Depot and salt barn - North	1,029
TOTAL	0

22. Countryside and Access

Activity completed so far includes:

- (a) **Transport Schemes** – Rights of Way have overseen the ordering and completion in Quarter 2 of bridge replacements on footpaths in Billington, Dunton and Totternhoe, the surface improvements along bridleways in Harlington and Silsoe, as well as footpaths in Maulden and Stotfold, together with design work for the bank repairs to a lakeside footpath in Marston Moretaine.
- (b) **Leisure and Culture Schemes** – Tender specification and construction drawings have been produced for the Stage 2 Delivery phase of the Parks for People project. The inclusion of additional environmental elements required by Heritage Lottery Fund are being finalised prior to going out to tender for the works. Restoration works are now complete and the Garden is open to the public. A new equipment compound will be constructed during the winter.
- (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** The old barn has been demolished at Flitton Moor in preparation for the new barn build in October 2015. Works to remove diseased horse chestnuts and replace with small leaf limes from the main drive will take place from October 2015.

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 learner pool has been constructed and is being tested, and the main pool construction is also complete. Masonry, rendering and painting is ongoing.
- (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.
- (c) **Stock Condition** – Work was carried out to Saxon Pool Leisure Centre with a main extract fan installed, and work on the Building Management System installation at Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre.

Assets

24. The current net 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 of £6.047M. 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. We therefore expect £2.510M of costs to be incurred in future financial years.

Regeneration & Business Support

26. The budget for Regeneration is £3.54M the forecast is a gross overspend of £1.7M and a net overspend of £0.3M (funded by CBC) due to acceleration of the Local Broadband Infrastructure project. The project will not overspend in total , but the timing of expenditure has been amended.

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	4,073	2,174	(2,174)	0
Land Drainage Work (Non Highways)	60	60	0	0	0
Flitwick Land Purchase Further land assembly for the Town Centre Regeneration Scheme.	81	82	1	0	1
Dunstable Town Centre Regeneration Phase 2	489	489	0	0	0
Historic Building Grant Aid Scheme	8	0	(8)	8	0
Cranfield Technology Park Acceleration	298	289	(9)	0	(9)
Total	3,540	5,223	1,683	(1,691)	(8)
% of Budget		147.5%			

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	802	802	(802)	0
Land Drainage Work (Non Highways)	60	60	0	0	0
Flitwick Land Purchase Further land assembly for the Town Centre Regeneration Scheme.	81	82	1	0	1
Dunstable Town Centre Regeneration Phase 2	489	489	0	0	0
Historic Building Grant Aid Scheme	8	0	(8)	8	0
Cranfield Technology Park Acceleration	(2)	0	2	0	2
Total	1,341	1,663	322	(319)	3
% of Budget	124.0%				

Broadband

27. The Superfast Broadband Project continues to deliver to plan and plans are being developed to accelerate deployment and extend coverage further.
28. 6,781 premises were connected in the last quarter. Overall, 13,131 homes and business out of 15,500 premises have been connected. This is 85% of the Council's target, with 52 cabinets having gone live. The Council also manages the project for a wider partnership covering Milton Keynes and Bedford. For the wider project a total of 29,752 premises haven been connected.
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.

Improvement & Corporate Services

30. The gross and net budget for ICS is £6.2M. The forecast is to achieve budget. 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	5,643	0	0	0
Other	515	515	0	0	0
Total	6,158	6,158	0	0	0
% of Budget	100.0%				
(Note gross and Net are the same as all internally funded)					

Information Technology

- 31 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.
- 32 Of the £5.643M budget in IT all of it is expected to be used in 2015/16. At this stage it is not anticipated that any spend will need to be deferred into future financial years. There is a year to date (YTD) underspend in IT Capital of £0.359M. This is mainly due to a number of key projects not having started yet.

33 Other ICS Projects

- 34 The current net capital programme for Other Corporate Resources projects is £0.515M. The major project is Office Rationalisation (£0.5M) with a number of smaller projects totalling £15K. These schemes are forecast to achieve budget.

35 Corporate Resources

- 36 There is one scheme within Corporate Resources with a budget of £45K. Civica Revenue Module, which is forecast to be spent in 2015/16.

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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	45	0	0	0
Total	45	45	0	0	0
% of Budget	100.0%				
(Note gross and Net are the same as all internally funded)					

Capital Receipts

The overall budget for Capital receipts is £13.101M. The current forecast is £3M.

The year to date position is £286K. The sale of Plot C at Stratton Business Park, £185K, has completed. The downturn is mainly due to two major receipts. Due to a delay in agreeing terms with various parties the receipts of £4.666M for Stratton Park have been deferred to future years. Also Bedford Borough have advised that due to planning issues it is unlikely that we will receive the £4.800M in this financial year for Bell Farm and County Hall as part of the disaggregation agreement.

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.