

Appendix A - DIRECTORATE COMMENTARY

Social Care Health and Housing

1. The directorate outturn forecast is under budget by £4.460M (gross) and under budget by £1.804M (net).
2. The tables 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
Disabled Facilities Grants Scheme	2,380	2,400	20	0	20
Empty Homes	302	218	(84)	92	8
Renewal Assistance	281	281	0	0	0
Additional Gypsy and Traveller Sites	1,575	50	(1,525)	1,525	0
MANOP Care Home Reprovision	2,000	1,000	(1,000)	1,000	0
MANOP Non-HRA Extra Care Schemes	50	50	0	0	0
NHS Campus Closure	638	121	(517)	517	0
Adult Social Care ICT Projects	280	0	(280)	280	0
Review of Accommodation/Day Support, "New Approaches to Outcome"	1,906	0	(1,906)	1,806	(100)
Care Homes internal works	0	100	100	0	100
Better Care Fund Capital Grant	0	732	732	0	732
Total	9,412	4,952	(4,460)	5,220	760
% of Budget		52.6%			

SCHH Full Year Net Budget and Forecast					
Scheme Categories	Net Budget	Net Forecast	Variance	Deferred Spend	Over / (Under) spend
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Disabled Facilities Grants Scheme	1,712	1,712	0	0	0
Empty Homes	292	200	(92)	92	0
Renewal Assistance	181	181	0	0	0
Additional Gypsy and Traveller Sites	675	50	(625)	625	0
MANOP Care Home Reprovision	2,000	1,000	(1,000)	1,000	0
MANOP Non-HRA Extra Care Schemes	50	50	0	0	0
NHS Campus Closure	143	0	(143)	143	0
Adult Social Care ICT Projects	68	0	(68)	68	0
Review of Accommodation/Day Support, "New Approaches to Outcome"	(124)	0	124	(124)	0
Care Homes internal works	0	0	0	0	0
Better Care Fund Capital Grant	0	0	124	0	0
Total	4,997	3,193	(1,804)	1,804	0
% of Budget		63.9%			

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.

The number and type of adaptations to Q3 2016/17 compared to Q3 2015/16 is below:

4.

Type of adaptation	Total Q3 2015/16	Total Q3 2016/17
Level access shower/wet room	91	115
Straight stair lift	21	29
Curved stair lift	18	28
Toilet alterations	39	48
Access ramps	22	27
Dropped kerb and hard standing	6	7
Wheelchair/step lift	2	3
Through floor lift	1	2
Major extension	8	12
Kitchen alterations	4	11
Access alterations (doors etc)	40	54
Heating improvements	1	3
Garage conversions/minor additions	4	5
Safety repairs/improvements	5	5
Other	18	23
Total	280	372

5. Requests for Occupational Therapist (OT) Assessments provide an indication of demand. In the year to date there have been 404 referral requests (715 to December 2015/16). At the end of December the waiting list decreased to 51 from 150 at the end of November. The extent to which these convert into DFG referrals will be closely monitored.

6. In terms of OT referral to Housing to make adaptations, there have been 235 year to date, an average of 26 per month, compared with 254 referrals at an average of 28 per month for the same period in 2015/16. As a result £1.610M of grant payments have been made to date. If this rate continues for the rest of the year this would result in a total of 313 referrals. See table below.

OT Referrals at December**2016****Previous years**

2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
367	606	508	533	437	343	329

Current Year**2016/17**

Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
35	21	41	17	27	30	15	24	25

Referrals YTD 235**Referrals FYF** 313**Referrals Average** 26

7. Expenditure on **Empty Homes** relates to Empty Dwelling Management Orders (EDMOs) and Empty Homes Loans. A number of Empty Homes loans are being considered for long term empty homes. Empty Homes Loan assistance is an alternative for owners of empty homes willing to work with the Council. There are 8 Empty Homes Loan cases at enquiry stage and 10 approved and in progress. There is one major scheme in Dunstable that might provide several units of accommodation.
8. Work has completed on one property in Houghton Regis at a cost of £0.048M. Work is in progress on one property in Leighton Buzzard. If the final EDMO is approved the total cost is expected to be around £0.100M.
9. Most **Renewals Assistance** is provided as Loan Assistance. The repayment of Loan Assistance is on change of ownership of the property that has been improved with such assistance.

For the year to date, repayment is £0.088M allowing the Council to progress some of the cases being held on the waiting list. The net renewals budget of £0.181M includes slippage from 2015/16 of £0.031M. Current forecasts suggest an outturn on budget.

10. **Gypsy & Travellers** - A full planning application for Biggleswade South was determined and approved at the 29 June 2016 Development Management Committee meeting.

The decision was referred to DCLG and final notification of granting of planning permission was received on 20 July 2016. This approval will provide for a new Gypsy and Traveller site at Biggleswade South (12 pitches). This will be part funded by the General Fund and Housing Community Agency financial contributions.

11. The proposed scheme was subject to a judicial review submission made by a local resident in August 2016. However, the claim has been rejected by a Judge

at a pre-application stage and will not now be heard in the High Court. Revised design changes to the site are currently being reviewed by the planning officer and will be subject to a Non Material Amendment application. The current forecast assumes that only contract preparation work will occur in this financial year, to leave a net spend of circa £0.050M, with a net balance of £0.625M to be deferred to 2017/18.

12. The **MANOP** programme includes strategic acquisitions to develop the care home market and facilitate the provision of new modern residential homes for older people and of extra care schemes. A site in Leighton Buzzard for care home re-provision was acquired in October 2016. The remaining budget was to support the acquisition of a site in the Ivel valley locality but likely to need to be moved into the 2017/18 financial year.
13. The **NHS Campus Closure programme** has one potential remaining project for Central Bedfordshire. This is subject to the release of capital receipts by NHS Estates/PropCo to ensure that the Campus Closure Programme remains 100% externally funded. In the current financial year, final schemes costs has been incurred in respect of a Bedford Borough scheme. Slippage of £0.143M is reported on the remaining budget.
14. The **Adult Social Care ICT project** will support the procurement of a new Adult Social Care case management system. A business case is being developed by the Directorate and soft market testing took place in November 2016 before a structured approach is taken to the replacement the current system. Accordingly the Adult Social Care ICT budget is proposed to slip into 2017/18
15. The **Review of Accommodation/Day Support project** relates to the Older People's Care Homes Re-provision project and any capital equipment and maintenance requirements for the seven older people's homes transferred to local authority management in August 2014. The current forecast includes £0.100M relating to the fabric and furniture within the homes, capital enhancements, repairs to extend the useful life of boilers and lifts.
16. **Single Capital Pot.** Additional capital grant of £0.732M has been provided in 2016/17 through the DFG route to allow authorities to invest in broader strategic capital projects allied to the Better Care Fund (BCF) plan. Capital Grant for BCF of £0.482M has also been carried forward from 2015/16. Further work to determine the use of this funding will take place through the BCF Programme Delivery Team. At this point it is expected to be spent in 2016/17.

Children's Services

17. The directorate outturn forecast is above budget by £3.104M (gross) and above budget by £2.929M (net).
18. The forecast expenditure outturn position for 2016/17 is £24.8M, £3.1M above the budgeted Capital Programme. The forecast income remains at £20M requiring a net contribution of £4.6M, £2.9M above planned Council contributions for 2016/17. The increased contribution is as a result of the annual review of projects within the New School Places programme.

19. All but three projects within Children's Services; New School Places, Schools Access and Temporary Accommodation, are funded wholly by grant receipts that have no expenditure deadline.
20. 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
New School Places	18,601	18,285	(316)	0	(316)
Schools Capital Maintenance	2,000	2,268	268	0	268
Schools Devolved Formula Capital	450	450	0	0	0
Special Schools Provision	0	2,402	2,402	0	2,402
Temporary Accommodation	400	400	0	0	0
Schools Access Initiative	200	200	0	0	0
LPSA & LAA Grant payout	0	750	750	0	750
Total	21,651	24,755	3,104	0	3,104
% of Budget		114.3%			

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	1,054	3,983	2,929	0	2,929
Schools Capital Maintenance	0	0	0	0	0
Schools Devolved Formula Capital	0	0	0	0	0
Special Schools Provision	0	(0)	(0)	0	(0)
Temporary Accommodation	400	400	0	0	0
Schools Access Initiative	200	200	0	0	0
LPSA & LAA Grant payout	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1,654	4,583	2,929	0	2,929
% of Budget		277.1%			

21. **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.

22. The rolling five year programme is dynamic with perpetual changes in forecasts of income and expenditure across financial years including those arising from variances in S106 totals and trigger points and in the timing and therefore cost profile of many projects.

23. In February 2016 the Council approved the programme for 2016/17 to 2019/20 with gross expenditure of:
- £18.2M (£0.7M net) in 2016/17
 - £25M (net nil) in 2017/18
 - £17.2M (net nil) in 2018/19
 - £15M (£3.4M net) in 2019/20.
24. S106 has contributed significantly to the programme as one source of income in the past. However, S106 income will fall short of the MTFP target by £1.1M. This is due to a combination of factors that include the removal of contributions below £10k due to changes in the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) regulations, the removal of a number of planning permissions that have now expired and most significantly a number of large developments that have been delayed, or have disputes over S106 contributions.
- Given the volatility in forecasts of S106 income the School Organisation Team will now meet each quarter with the Regeneration team to review the forecast.
25. The revised forecast for the NSP programme for 2016/17 is gross expenditure of:
- £18.3M (£4M net) in 2016/17
 - £10M (net nil) in 2017/18
 - £12.6M (net nil) 2018/19
 - £37.5M (£15.2M net) in 2019/20.
26. The 2016/17 NSP programme includes expenditure on 20 separate capital projects, most of which span more than a single financial year.
27. These projects include the provision of 1,695 new lower school places, 720 new middle school places and 1,000 new upper school places as expansions to existing schools or new school sites. These places have been commissioned to serve the communities of Leighton Linlade, Fairfield, Stotfold, Arlesey, Ampthill, Flitwick, Marston, Cranfield, Biggleswade, Barton and Silsoe.
28. Key points to take account of are that in 2017/18 the programme will be holding an in year unallocated balance of £15M and in 2018/19 it will be £15.5M. This could be utilised to offset the Council's borrowing requirements in those years. The DfE will not announce its allocation of Basic Need for 2019/20 until February 2017 at the earliest so the forecast net contribution in that year may be revised.

Schools Capital Maintenance

29. This rolling programme is externally funded by DfE grant but does require schools to contribute to the cost of works, as set out in a formula contained within the Central Bedfordshire Council's Scheme for Financing Schools. These contributions are invoiced once planned works are complete. The initial indications are that income from schools contributions will be circa £0.180M in

2016/17.

30. In February 2016 the DfE announced the 2016/17 allocation of school condition funding to the Council for strategic capital maintenance of its school buildings. The allocation for 2016/17 is £1.994M. In addition to the grant, £0.268M unallocated funds from 2015/16 are to be utilised, making a total confirmed forecast spend budget of £2.27M for the 2016/17 Schools Capital Maintenance Programme.
31. The schools capital maintenance programme for 2016/17 is funding projects including kitchen ventilation and gas safety improvements; roof repairs, boiler and heating replacement; emergency lighting, fire alarms, window replacements and renewal of electrical distribution boards. The 2016/17 Programme is also funding identified works at Leighton Middle School in collaboration with the new schools places programme.
32. The results of the Councils schools condition surveys in 2015 and the multi year indicative allocation of the DfE grant have enabled a three year programme of works to be developed, improving the ability to prioritise and communicate those priorities to schools for their own asset management planning.

To date, all original projects are complete on site except one which is programmed for completion by end March 2017. One project has been postponed as a result of a feasibility study and another postponed due to the school's refusal to contribute and allow access to carry out the works – the issues have now been resolved. Replacement projects have been identified, approved and programmed for completion by end of February 2017.

33. **SEND Capital Programme (Special Schools Provision)**

The Council's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Capital Programme has been approved by Executive.

In 2016/17 this will be funding projects at Toddington St Georges Lower School and Parkfields Middle School to provide new spaces for children with hearing impairments. It is also funding the expansion of Oak Bank special school in Leighton Buzzard and also providing a new Autistic Spectrum Condition provision at Ardley Hill Academy in Dunstable.

34. The Secretary of State approved the application to capitalise the final underspend in the 2015/16 High Needs block of £0.784M in order to provide funding to expand the Academy of Central Bedfordshire on its Stotfold site and Ivel Valley Special School's primary phase, on its secondary site in Biggleswade. The forecast spend for 2016/17 is £2.4M.

Community Services

35. The directorate forecast outturn is below budget by £20.564M (gross) and below budget by £7.754M (net).

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	18,773	13,218	(5,555)	5,556	1
Environmental Services	15,591	9,827	(5,764)	5,815	51
Libraries	0	0	0	0	0
Leisure	1,781	1,856	75	88	163
Transport	54,057	44,737	(9,320)	11,957	2,637
Total	90,202	69,638	(20,564)	23,416	2,852
% of Budget					77.2%

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	17,850	12,294	(5,556)	5,556	0
Environmental Services	13,622	8,574	(5,048)	5,048	(0)
Libraries	0	0	0	0	0
Leisure	(1,290)	1,234	2,524	(2,524)	0
Transport	30,265	30,591	326	6,081	6,407
Total	60,447	52,693	(7,754)	14,161	6,407
% of Budget					87.2%

Assets

36. The major projects are;

- 2016/17 Corporate Property Rolling Programme (£2.135M)
- Thorn Turn Infrastructure (£2.000M)
- Stratton Park Phase 5 Infrastructure (£3.012M)
- Enhancement work for disposals (£0.972M)
- Strategic Acquisitions (£0.200M)
- Energy Efficiencies (£0.300M)
- Farm Compliance (£0.302M)
- Westbury Phase 2 Industrial Units (0.175M)

37. Due to the delay in approval of the Accommodation strategy there is a deferral of (£0.212M) on the Corporate Rolling Programme. The business case for the roofing works at Westbury (£0.175M) is still being refined so costs have been slipped. Similarly, various options for the Working Smarter programme are being assessed causing a delay of (£0.250M) for the Working Smarter project.

There has been a delay in the Thorn Turn waste project due to the re-design of the drainage works. Consequently this has had an impact on the delivery of the infrastructure works and (£0.919M) has been slipped to next financial year.

Environmental Services

38. Environmental Services are forecasting a £5.048M underspend, this is proposed to be slipped into the next financial year as follows:

- 39. Thorn Turn Waste park is proposing slippage of £4.763M which is due to delays in the scheme going forward. This is as a result of undertaking a value engineering exercise to reduce the cost of the scheme.
- 40. CCTV is forecasting a variance of £0.137M which is proposed to be slipped as the project is not expected to start this year. A report on the future of CCTV is going to Sustainable communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee in March 2017 and the Executive in April 2017 setting out the options and a recommendation for development of CCTV.
- 41. Houghton Hall Park (£0.086M), Sundon Landfill (£0.050M) and Integrated Environmental Management System (£0.012M) are all proposing to be slipped into the next financial year.

Major Achievements - Environmental Services (updated quarterly)

- 42. Sundon Landfill Restoration – Haul road removal completed with land surrendered to land owner. Final trimming of levels and creation of footpaths and tracks completed. Site seeded with growth becoming established. Tidying up of infrastructure and ditches ongoing. Maintenance undertaken on phase 1-4 landscaped areas. Working through the final snagging with the soil importation contractor.
- 43. Waste & Recycling Containers, provision of replacement Bins & Containers – Successful procurement and provision of 100 x 120 litre, 704 x 140 litre, 4,932 x 240 litre, 1,032 x 360 litre, 16 x 660 litre, 131 x 1100 litre, 1960 x 23 litre food caddies, 2,592 x 7 litre food caddies, 60 x dog waste, 50 x plastic street litter bins, 20 x metal street litter bins, 34 x dual recycle/litter bins.
- 44. Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) Redevelopment – During financial year 2016/17, the second refurbished HWRC at Ampthill has been completed. The third and final site at Leighton Buzzard is nearing completion and is due to re-open to public at the end of January 2017. All three sites are now split level, with increased customer parking, safety and bin availability which is expected to deal with rising demand and improve our recycling rates.
- 45. Houghton Hall Park – Phase one of the landscape restoration works has been completed. This includes the kitchen garden (walls, raised beds, fruit trees and working area), formal garden (paths, circular beds, box hedging, ornamental planting), estate fencing and new accessible paths around the park with new bins and benches. Phase two will take place in Feb/March 2017 with parkland tree planting and installation of new kitchen garden fencing and gates. Work has commenced on the construction of the Visitor Centre following the award of contract at the end of September 2016.

Leisure

- 46. Leisure is forecasting a £2.524M variance over budget, this is due to the external funding of 3.037M for the old Flitwick leisure centre now not expected until the next financial year and £0.517M of proposed slippage against Dunstable leisure centre due to reprofiling of the project as construction is not expected to start until summer 2017.

Major Achievements – Leisure (updated quarterly)

47. Library & Leisure Centre Renewal Dunstable – the planning application was submitted, a Building contractor has been appointed, work is continuing on the second stage of tender.
48. Leisure Strategy – The Shefford play area equipment was replaced following arson attack. Supply and installation of a hammer/throwing cage for Sandy Athletics.
49. Countryside Sites – The commissioned partnership to deliver ‘Green Wheel’ identified projects have successfully been completed. Partners have secured match funding approval for contribution towards the kitchen extension at Rushmere Country Park and works will commence in January. Tree safety works at various sites are underway to ensure works are completed before we reach the bird nesting season end of February.

Transport

50. Transport is forecasting to be £0.326M overspent. This is due to an overspend of £6.407M and £6.081M of net expenditure being slipped to the next financial year.
 - Woodside Link are forecasting £8.453M over budget variance of which formal approval to bring forward 2017/18 budget is being sought. Of the remaining £5.453M, £3.702M is external funding which will not be received along originally expected timescales and £1.751M expenditure overspend. This is a result of additional works being required on site.
 - Luton and Dunstable Busway is forecasting slippage of £3.645M into 2017/18. A board meeting is due in February 2017 which is when final figures for the project should be known.
 - North Depot is forecasting to slip £4.894M as completion of the site purchase and therefore work on the site is not expected until April 2017.
 - Stratton Street Railway Bridge is forecasting a £0.836M overspend which was approved in a report to Executive in October 2016.
 - New Highways Contract Mobilisation is forecasting an overspend of £0.301M, this is the residual payment to the highways contractor to cover an interim depot solution. The overspend will be partially offset by an £0.150M underspend in Highways Fixed Cost Services. Work is continuing to mitigate the remaining overspend.
 - Tree backlog works (conditions surveys, location plotting) are now forecasting slippage of £0.460M into the next financial year. This is due to a vacancy in the post that undertakes the work which is in the process of being addressed.
 - Fixed Cost services are forecasting an underspend of £0.150M as a

result of fewer hours being booked. This underspend is being used to offset the overspend within the New Highways Contract Mobilisation.

Major Achievements – Transport (updated quarterly)

51. Woodside Link – The scheme is in the final phase of delivery; earthworks, the majority of surfacing operations and street lights are all completed. The scheme is on track for opening in March 2017.
52. Structural Maintenance – 38 carriageway resurfacing schemes have been completed covering 37.5 kms and 7 footway resurfacing schemes completed covering 1.97 kms.
53. Stratton Railway Bridge – The bridge deck has been replaced and the bridge is open to traffic. Temporary barriers remain in place as the final work required on the parapets has yet to be completed.
54. Luton and Dunstable Busway – While the scheme has been up and running since September 2013 work has continued on settling the final account, land and compensation claims (valid for 7 years after opening) along with busway land transfer to CBC (areas within CBC). This work is progressing well with expectations that a substantial part of this will be accomplished this financial year.
55. A421-M1 Junction 13 – Milton Keynes Magna Park – A detailed design has been commissioned and is underway, modelling and the businesses cases for DfT are underway with submission expected in spring 2017. Planning applications and land negotiations are also on-going.
56. Southern Highways Depot (Thorn Turn) – Earthworks and groundworks phases are complete, all building foundations are in place and the steel frames are in the process of being assembled. Payments made to UKPN have enabled works to complete which ensure the site is ready to receive power and the connection to the national grid. The main office building, is of modular construction and being assembled on site. The surfacing of internal roads and parking areas has also begun. We remain on programme for handover in July 2017.
57. Northern Highways Depot (Sandy) – Designs have been agreed and an application for planning permission will be submitted in February. Land purchase is agreed but is subject to planning permission. The construction phase of the project is now set for August 2017 with completion and hand over in April 2018.

Regeneration & Business Support

58. The directorate forecast outturn is under budget by £2.922M (gross) and under budget by £1.837M (net).
59. The table below highlights the areas of spend :

Regeneration & Business Full Year Gross Budget and Forecast					
Scheme Categories	Gross Budget	Gross Forecast	Variance	Deferred Spend	Over / (Under) spend
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Strategic Infrastructure	3,079	954	(2,125)	1,685	(440)
Other	3,734	2,937	(797)	797	(0)
Total	6,813	3,891	(2,922)	2,482	(440)
% of Budget	57.1%				

Regeneration & Business Full Year Net Budget and Forecast					
Scheme Categories	Net Budget	Net Forecast	Variance	Deferred Spend	Over / (Under) spend
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Strategic Infrastructure	2,102	854	(1,248)	957	(291)
Other	2,005	1,416	(589)	589	(0)
Total	4,107	2,270	(1,837)	1,546	(291)
% of Budget	55.3%				

60. The net underspend relates to the Development Site Promotion project (£0.140M) and Leighton Buzzard Transport Interchange (£0.150M) which are proposed to slip into 2017/18.
61. Within Strategic Infrastructure, the net slippage of relates to the Flitwick station area car park £1.050M where options for delivering a commercial and residential scheme are currently being developed; the Flitwick transport interchange £0.200M which is being developed alongside the Station Area Car Park. Dunstable High Street Regeneration is forecasting an overspend of £0.450M for the new signage on Dunstable High street with £0.250M of external funding that will not be received until 2017/18. This is proposed to be slipped to 2017/18 and a negative slippage of £0.2M is also proposed in order to reduce spend next year.
62. Within Other, the net slippage of £589K mainly relates to the current broadband scheme of £0.288M, which has now completed but in accordance with the contract the money is being slipped for future schemes broadband. Market Towns are slipping £0.321M due to delays in the programs.

Major Achievements Strategic Infrastructure (updated Quarterly)

63. Cranfield Technology Park Acceleration – Negotiations to acquire two pieces of land in Cranfield to enable highway improvements to be carried out are progressing well with one site agreed and with Legal Services.
64. Market Towns Regeneration Fund (MTRF) - A total of 7 bids from Ampthill, Dunstable, Flitwick, Leighton Linlade, Sandy and Shefford town councils are progressing in the MTRF programme. Business Cases were approved in October 2016, enabling the Grant Agreements to be distributed to the Town Centres (TC's) for signing. All TC's returned their signed documents, and these

have been sealed by LGSS. Now that the Grant Agreements are in place, TC's will be encouraged to quickly start delivering their outputs. Dunstable TC had started their programme of works at risk to keep to programme timescales, their architectural lighting scheme is in place. Timescales have not currently been raised as a issue for the other TC's, however many are only now beginning their programme of activities but confidence is high for commencing their works in January 2017 now legal documents are in place.

65. High Street Improvement Schemes (HSIS) – Round One on 1st September 2017 achieved 14 shopfront Expression of Interest (EOI) applications approved by the TC panels. These businesses are currently going through the full application process supported by our appointed architect. The Round two deadline was on 1st November 2016, with 16 EOI applications received. Panels were held, and 6 were approved to go to Full Application.

There is a further date for applying of Friday 1st February 2017 (round three) and 1st May 2017 (round four). Our architect is creating designs which will enable the project to gain true costings for the works proposed. We expect the Full Application scoring panels to be completed in January 2017. This scoring panel will ensure that the business is committed to the project, from a monitoring perspective and financially. The tender for the HSIS building contractor is planned to be appointed by end February 2017, with a view for the contract to start 1st April 17 until March 18. Once appointed, they will work with the architect, who will project manage this design and build contract for the shop fits. The first shop front will start April 2017.

66. East West Rail (EWR) is now one of the Governments national transport priorities. The National Infrastructure Commission Interim Report and Autumn Statement announced £100M towards the 'accelerated' delivery of the Western Section. Network Rail will be looking to provide further clarity over the timetable for delivery of EWR in February 2017. The Detail Business Case has been submitted and is going through the approval process with survey, design and legal works on Ridgmont Interchange works due to start in early 2017.
67. Dunstable High Street Regeneration – the project will deliver physical appearance infrastructure only in order to make the High St more attractive for community use, examples being – replacement street lighting, gateway treatment including planting, on street parking and associated carriageway narrowing, pedestrian guardrail removal, provision for cyclists. Works must commence shortly after the opening of the A5-M1 link and complete by March 2018

Public engagement commenced with a report being published in January/February. The engagement was warmly welcomed within Dunstable and in general the wishes of the community reflect the authorities ambitions. The exercise did make it clear that there is a continued need for public engagement and a plan is being drafted to reflect this.

Major Achievements Other (updated Quarterly)

68. Broadband – The second BDUK project is delivering to spend and outputs profiles with over 2,000 additional premises already supported to receive superfast broadband. Take up of services also continues to rise, at 38% of

eligible premises. This is considered best in class.

The subsidised satellite broadband service which ensures that all premises are able to receive speeds of at least 2 Mega Bits per second continues, although take up of this is low, as it is nationally.

Identified efficiencies through project one will be reinvested to support over 1500 additional premises to receive services across the partnership area (with over 600 in Central Bedfordshire).

Following the securing of an additional £3.48M from the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership and Broadband Delivery UK, a state aid public consultation has been launched to identify eligible investment areas, as part of the Council's policy for full superfast broadband coverage.

69. Dunstable Town Centre Regeneration Phase 2 – The final Dorchester Close property was acquired on 22nd June 2016 and the complete Dorchester Close land and premises is now in the control of CBC.

Chief Executives Team

70. There are three major projects which are Digitisation (£2.0M), ICT Strategic Investment (£1.695M) & IT Infrastructure Rolling Programme (£0.828M). All are forecasting to achieve budget.

Chief Executive's 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	4,523	4,523	0	0	0
Total	4,523	4,523	0	0	0
% of Budget		100.0%			