

Appendix A - DIRECTORATE COMMENTARY

Social Care Health and Housing

1. The directorate provisional outturn is under budget by £5.154M (gross) and under budget by £1.965M (net).
2. The tables below highlights the areas of spend :

SCHH Full Year Gross Budget and Outturn					
Scheme Categories	Gross Budget	Gross Forecast	Variance	Deferred Spend	Over / (Under) spend
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Disabled Facilities Grants Scheme	2,380	2,436	56	63	119
Empty Homes	302	331	29	0	29
Renewal Assistance	281	210	(71)	86	15
Additional Gypsy and Traveller Sites	1,575	38	(1,537)	1,575	38
MANOP Care Home Reprovision	2,000	974	(1,026)	1,026	0
MANOP Non-HRA Extra Care Schemes	50	0	(50)	50	0
NHS Campus Closure	638	121	(517)	374	(143)
Adult Social Care ICT Projects	280	0	(280)	280	0
Social Care Single Capital Pot	0	0	0	0	0
Review of Accommodation/Day Support, "New Approaches to Outcome"	1,906	0	(1,906)	2,030	124
Care Homes internal works	0	36	36	0	36
Better Care Fund Capital Grant	0	112	112	0	112
Total	9,412	4,258	(5,154)	5,484	330
% of Budget		45.2%			

SCHH Full Year Net Budget and Outturn					
Scheme Categories	Net Budget	Net Forecast	Variance	Deferred Spend	Over / (Under) spend
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Disabled Facilities Grants Scheme	1,712	1,649	(63)	63	(0)
Empty Homes	292	315	23	0	23
Renewal Assistance	181	95	(86)	86	(0)
Additional Gypsy and Traveller Sites	675	0	(675)	675	0
MANOP Care Home Reprovision	2,000	974	(1,026)	1,026	0
MANOP Non-HRA Extra Care Schemes	50	0	(50)	50	0
NHS Campus Closure	143	0	(143)	0	(143)
Adult Social Care ICT Projects	68	0	(68)	68	0
Social Care Single Capital Pot	0	0	0	0	0
Review of Accommodation/Day Support, "New Approaches to Outcome"	(124)	0	124	0	124
Care Homes internal works	0	0	0	0	0
Better Care Fund Capital Grant	0	0	124	0	0
Total	4,997	3,032	(1,965)	1,968	3
% of Budget		60.7%			

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 for 2016/17 compared to 2015/16 is below:

4.

Type of adaptation	Total 15/16	Total 16/17
Level access shower/wet room	115	140
Straight stair lift	29	27
Curved stair lift	28	26
Toilet alterations	48	57
Access ramps	27	34
Dropped kerb and hard standing	7	0
Wheelchair/step lift	3	5
Through floor lift	2	6
Major extension	12	17
Kitchen alterations	11	10
Access alterations (doors etc)	54	43
Heating improvements	3	5
Garage conversions/minor additions	5	6
Safety repairs/improvements	5	6
Other	23	26
Total	372	408

5. There were 309 referrals to Housing in 2016/17, with an average of 25.8 per month, compared with 329 referrals at an average of 27.4 per month for the same period in 2015/16. As a result £2.436M of grant payments (including fees) were made, offset by an increase in grant income and client contributions resulting in a net positive variance of £0.064M.

6. There were 574 requests for Occupational Therapist Assessments in 2016/17 (833 in 2015/16). At the end of March the waiting list increased to 96 from 76 at the end of February. The extent to which these convert into DFG referrals will be closely monitored.

Expenditure on **Empty Homes** relates to Empty Dwelling Management Orders

7. (EDMOs) and Empty Homes Loans. During the year 6 loan cases were completed, compared to 7 completions in 2015/16. 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. At the end of the year there were 17 Empty Homes Loan cases at enquiry stage and 11 approved and in progress. There is one major scheme in Dunstable that might provide several units of accommodation.
8. Work has completed on one EDMO property in Houghton Regis at a cost of £0.048M. Work is in progress on one property in Leighton Buzzard where the EDMO has been approved and the total cost is expected to be £0.140M, including costs to be incurred in relation to structural repairs.
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.

The net Renewals budget of £0.181M includes slippage from 2015/16 of £0.031M. The provisional outturn is £0.095M, with a proposed slippage of £0.086M as a result of higher levels of income received to go towards works in progress that were not complete this financial year.

10. A full planning application for a new **Gypsy and Traveller site** was approved at the June 2016 Development Management Committee meeting; the decision was referred to DCLG and final notification of granting of planning permission was received in July 2016. This approval will provide for a new site at Biggleswade South (12 pitches). This will be part funded by the General Fund and Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) financial contributions. The tender submissions are scheduled to be considered by the Executive Committee on 20th June 2017.
11. The proposed scheme was subject to a judicial review submission made by a local resident in August 2016. However, the claim has been reviewed 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. There is no spend for this financial year, with slippage of £0.675M proposed for 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 is now proposed to be slipped 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 have been incurred in respect of a Bedford Borough scheme.
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. There was no spend in 2016/17 and so the budget is proposed to be slipped into 2017/18.
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. It is ring-fenced for the BCF.

Children's Services

17. Children's Services annual capital expenditure budget approved by Council for 2016/17 is £21.25M. The income budget is £20M, a net expenditure budget of £1.25M.
18. The provisional expenditure outturn position for 2016/17 is £25.0M, £3.3M above the budgeted capital programme. The income outturn is £21.0M requiring a net contribution of £4.0M, above the net budget by £2.3M. 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 Outturn					
Scheme Categories	Gross Budget	Gross Forecast	Variance	Deferred Spend	Over / (Under) spend
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
New School Places	18,601	17,102	(1,499)	0	(1,499)
Schools Capital Maintenance	2,000	2,236	236	0	236
Schools Devolved Formula Capital	450	2,025	1,575	0	1,575
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	628	628	0	628
Total	21,651	24,994	3,343	0	3,343
% of Budget		115.4%			

Children's Services Full Year Net Budget and Outturn					
Scheme Categories	Net Budget	Net Forecast	Variance	Deferred Spend	Over / (Under) spend
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
New School Places	1,054	3,374	2,320	0	2,320
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	3,974	2,320	0	2,320
% of Budget			240.2%		

21. New School Places (NSP)

New Schools Places is over budget by £2.3M (net).

S106 income has contributed significantly to the programme as one source of income in the past. However, S106 income fell short of the MTFP target by £1.1M. This is due to a combination of factors that including 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. This will continue in 2017/18.

In addition there was a targeted reduction in the cost of building schools though value engineering techniques which was not delivered in 2016/17.

22. 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.
23. The rolling five year programme is dynamic with regular 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.
24. 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.

25. The provisional gross expenditure outturn for 2016/17 is £17.1M and income £13.8M. There are a combination of reasons for this:

- Due to triggers not being met by the developers - the amount of S106 expected to be drawn down in 2016/17 for the Redborne Upper (Amphill) expansion project was reduced by £340K
- Estimated costs for the Biggleswade Academy Phase 2 and St Andrew's Lower (Biggleswade) Phase 2 projects were confirmed, resulting in the re-profiling of spend
- Negotiated reduced final accounts for the Russell Lower (Amphill) and Leedon Lower (Leighton Buzzard) expansion projects resulted in the overall expenditure in 2016/17 being reduced.
- Non completion of making good of defects by the contractor resulted in the retention payment continuing to be withheld for the Roecroft Lower (Stotfold) expansion project.
- Expenditure for the Clipstone Brook Lower (Leighton Buzzard), Leedon Lower, Cranfield CofE Academy and Leighton Middle projects all came in under the expenditure profile.

Progress on the Leighton Middle expansion project slipped due to delays and issues on site and with the contractor. This resulted in lower monthly valuation payments being made for works completed with £0.290M of expenditure proposed to slip to 2017/18.

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, Amphill, Flitwick, Marston, Cranfield, Biggleswade, Barton and Silsoe.

28. On 18 August 2014 Executive approved the sale of the former Silsoe Lower school site to be reinvested into the New Schools Programme. It should be noted that the expected income for the disposal of land for the site at Silsoe Lower in 2016/17 has an anticipated value of £1.0M. The disposal of the site is subject to approval from the DfE which is yet to be received; the site is unable to be marketed until consent has been given. It has now been confirmed that the funds will not be received until 2017/18.

29. All of the Council's New School Places are commissioned from Ofsted Good and Outstanding schools and academies. All of these new places have been provided local to the area of demographic demand, ensuring a sense of

community belonging, supporting community use and promoting sustainable modes of transport. The addition of these new places as expansions to existing schools ensures their financial and therefore educational viability. All have been briefed and designed by Council officers and school leaders to provide teaching and non teaching school facilities that are recommended by DfE guidance and complement good and outstanding teaching.

Schools Capital Maintenance

30. 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 provisional gross expenditure outturn for 2016/17 is £2.24M, funded in part by school contributions of £0.180M and the balance Schools Capital Maintenance Grant
31. The schools capital maintenance programme for 2016/17 funded 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 funded identified maintenance 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 five year programme of works to be developed, improving the ability to prioritise and communicate those priorities to schools for their own asset management planning.

33. SEND Capital Programme (Special Schools Provision)

The allocation to Schools is for use on capital condition / improvement works on their buildings in line with the priorities in their School Improvement Plan. The schools have three years to spend the grant.

Community Services

34. The directorate provisional outturn is below budget by £27.839M (gross) and below budget by £15.327M (net).
35. The table below highlights the areas of spend.

Community Services Full Year Gross Budget and Outturn					
Scheme Categories	Gross Budget	Gross Forecast	Variance	Deferred Spend	Over / (Under) spend
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Assets	18,773	9,358	(9,415)	10,715	1,300
Environmental Services	15,591	10,668	(4,923)	4,980	57
Libraries	0	0	0	0	0
Leisure	1,781	1,453	(328)	518	190
Transport	54,057	40,883	(13,174)	15,467	2,293
Total	90,202	62,363	(27,839)	31,680	3,841
% of Budget			69.1%		

Community Services Full Year Net Budget and Outturn					
Scheme Categories	Net Budget	Net Forecast	Variance	Deferred Spend	Over / (Under) spend
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Assets	17,850	7,834	(10,016)	10,715	699
Environmental Services	13,622	9,849	(3,773)	3,773	0
Libraries	0	0	0	0	0
Leisure	(1,290)	804	2,094	(2,094)	0
Transport	30,265	26,632	(3,633)	5,365	1,732
Total	60,447	45,120	(15,327)	17,759	2,432

% of Budget

74.6%

Assets

36. The major projects are;

- 2016/17 Corporate Property Rolling Programme (£2.160M)
- Thorn Turn Infrastructure (£2.000M)
- Stratton Park Phase 5 Infrastructure (£3.012M)
- Enhancement work for disposals (£0.972M)
- Strategic Acquisitions (£8.200M)
- Energy Efficiencies (£0.286M)
- Farm Compliance (£0.302M)
- Westbury Phase 2 Industrial Units (0.175M)

The year end outturn position for Assets is £7.835M, a net underspend of £10.016M .

There is proposed slippage of

- £8.150M on Strategic Acquisitions where there has been limited opportunity to acquire a suitable sites
- £0.151M for Salt Barn due to the need to re-tender to take account of revised planning conditions.
- 0.928M on Thorn Turn due to the delay on the infrastructure works on site
- 0.705M on Corporate Property Rolling Programme, of which £0.400M is due to a delay on the works at Priory House landing extension and carpark which were awaiting the outcome of the Accommodation strategy.
- £0.078M on energy efficiency due to modifications in the contractor design and planning issues for carbon reduction works at Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre.
- £0.293M on the Farms Programme where there have been issues at sites including drainage at Moor Farm.
- £0.175M on Westbury Industrial Units where scope of works are being further evaluated.
- £0.318M on Working Smarter where options are being assessed

37. Due to a number of design changes and issues during construction there is a net overspend of £0.700M on the Stratton Infrastructure works and formal approval from Executive is sought for the overspend (see recommendations). There will be a planned capital receipt will offset this overspend.

Environmental Services

38. Environmental Services has a £3.773M net underspend, this has been requested to be slipped into the next financial year.
39. Thorn Turn Waste park is requesting slippage of £3.271M which is due a revised design delaying the project following value engineering. There have also been delays by UK Power Networks, Affinity Water and Ringway Jacobs which have hindered progress on site.
40. CCTV requesting slippage of £0.137M as the project did not start this year. A report on the future of CCTV went to Executive in April 2017 and it was agreed that the Council invest in a new multi-functional CCTV control room, and the proposed slippage is to be utilised as part of this.
41. Houghton Hall Park is requesting slippage of £0.262M as construction of the visitor centre was delayed due to Heritage Lottery Fund approvals taking longer than expected.

Major Achievements – Environmental Services

42. Sundon Landfill Restoration – The road haul road removal has been completed with land surrendered to land owner. Final trimming of levels and creation of footpaths and tracks completed. Site seeding completed and growth becoming established. Maintenance undertaken on phase 1-4 (of 6) landscaped areas. Final snagging with the soil importation contractor and tidying up of infrastructure and ditches ongoing.
43. Waste & Recycling Containers, provision of replacement Bins & Containers – Successful procurement and provision of over 18,000 containers and bins (100 x 120 litre, 808 x 140 litre, 7,800 x 240 litre, 1,682 x 360 litre kerbside recycling, green waste and residual bins; 28 x 660 litre and 169 x 1100 litre recycling and residual bins for flats and bring sites; 1,728 x kerbside glass boxes; 3,360 x 23 litre food caddies and 2,592 x 7 litre kitchen caddies; 90 x dog waste bins, 80 x plastic street litter bins, 40 x metal street litter bins and 58 x dual recycle/litter bins; 1 x 100 litre, 5 x Ashmount Bins.)
44. Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) Redevelopment – The refurbishment of the HWRC at Leighton Buzzard was done and the work at Ampthill completed. Along with Biggleswade they are now split level, with increased customer parking, safety and bin availability which is expected to deal with rising demand and improve recycling rates. The Final Account is due to be agreed during May 2017 and it is expected that the figure will be within budget.
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. Parkland tree and shrub planting together with additional hedge planting in the formal garden took place in March 2017. Work is progressing well on the new visitor centre with a planned completion date of the end of August 2017

46. Rights of Way – Expenditure has resulted in 10 replacement bridges of culverts, 40 metres bank revetment at Shefford, 1700 metres of surface improvement in Clifton, Marston, Meppershall, Studham and Whipsnade parishes and work on 127 structures of varying kinds.

Leisure

47. Leisure has a £2.094M net variance over budget, this is due to the external funding of £ 3.037M for the old Flitwick Leisure Centre site which will not be received until the next financial year. There was a small amount of spend at Flitwick but this has been covered by underspends on other leisure projects.
48. There is also a request of £0.943M of slippage into 2017/18 for the following:
Dunstable Leisure Centre - Slippage of £0.562M due to reprofiling of the project.

Leisure strategy – delivery with stakeholders - Slippage of £0.125M due to the work at Sandy Athletics track where work started in March but completion and sign off by the quantity surveyor took place in April (new financial year).

Leisure Centre Stock condition Slippage of £0.163M as start of work was delayed on Houghton Regis Leisure Centre, Grove Theatre and the changing rooms at Sandy Athletics all of which are due to complete early in the next financial year.

Outdoor Access and Countryside Works Slippage of £0.093M as the work to relocate the cabin at Rushmere Country Park is now scheduled for the next financial year.

Major Achievements – Leisure (updated quarterly)

49. Library & Leisure Centre Renewal Dunstable.

The public consultation, surveys and site investigations have been completed and work on the designs for the interior and exterior and appointment of contractor have progressed. This project is on track with contractor due to start in June with planned completion in winter 2018/19.
50. Leisure Strategy.

The contractor has been appointed for work at Sandy Athletics Track to supply and install a new throwing cage. Other work at the site including work on the track areas, pathways and landing pit have been completed. New play equipment was also provided for Shefford play area following an arson attack
51. Leisure – Stock Condition

In preparation for the closure of the Dunstable Leisure Centre work has been done at Houghton Regis Leisure Centre, Grove Theatre and spend on additional equipment.

At Houghton Regis the works include refurbishment of the dry side changing area, showers and toilets. Work is in progress on refurbishment of the small sports hall and will be completed in May 2017.

At Grove Theatre equipment has been installed in the conference and refurbishment of green rooms and a dressing room has been completed. Work on the conference room is due to be completed in May. New Technogym equipment has been purchased for Houghton Regis, Tiddenfoot, Saxon and Flitwick Leisure Centres in preparation for anticipated additional use.

At Creasey Park work is in progress on an extension of the kitchen to deliver more food/capacity. The foundation works and the steel frame work is complete along with the block work. Work has now started on the internals and it is hoped to be completed in late April/early May 2017.

52. Flitwick Leisure Centre.

Final adjustments were added to the new Flitwick Leisure Centre following opening of the new facility and included blinds to the reception and pool area, and acoustic panels to the café area.

53. Outdoor Access & Countryside Works

Work at Southern Meadows, Leighton Buzzard work has started on the installation of connecting footpath and replacement bridge. The commissioned partnership to deliver 'Green Wheel' identified projects have delivered elements of the 'Action Plans' and prepared a further plan for consultation. Partners have secured external match funding contribution towards a kitchen extension at Rushmere Country Park where works will be completed early in the new financial year. Tree safety, fencing and path safety sites at various sites have been completed.

Transport

54. Transport is showing a £3.633M net variance under budget. This is due to an overspend of £2.569M and £6.202M of net expenditure proposed to slip to the next financial year.
55. Woodside Link has an in year over budget variance of £8.009M. Of this £4.6M relates to accelerated spend as a result of additional works being required on site and £3.4M of external funding which will be received later than originally expected. The overspend in 2016/17 is therefore timing and the overall the project is still expected to be delivered within the total budget over the life of the Medium Term Financial Plan.
56. Luton and Dunstable Busway has a £3.549M under budget variance. Of this

£2.5M relates to slippage into 2017/18, the remaining £1.049M is an in year underspend as anticipated final figures have come in lower than previously expected.

57. North Depot has requested to slip £5.052M due to delays on the land sale, changes to requirements and value engineering processes to try to bring the project within budget have led to the start on site being postponed. Works were originally intended to be completed within 2016/17 but will not now take place until 2017/18.
58. Stratton Street Railway Bridge has a £0.717M overspend which was approved by Council at its November 2016 meeting.
59. New Highways Contract Mobilisation has an overspend of £0.219M, this is the residual payment to Ringway Jacobs (RJ) to cover the interim depot solution. The overspend has been offset by underspend in Highways Fixed Cost Services and Planned Maintenance.
60. Fixed Cost services has underspent by £0.113M as a result of fewer hours than expected being charged to capital. This is being used to offset the overspend within the New Highways Contract Mobilisation.
61. Fleet Replacement Programme has an in year overspend of £0.105M this is expenditure being brought forward from the new financial year to enable the purchase of vehicles to reduce maintenance costs and time off the road as soon as it was possible
62. South Depot is requesting slippage of £0.928M which is due to a revised design delaying the project following value engineering. There have also been delays by UKPN, Affinity Water and Ringway Jacobs which have hindered progress on site (Same issue as Thorn Turn)..
63. Walking routes to schools is requesting slippage of £0.461M to the new financial year due to delay in decision as to what to do following assessments of the routes.
64. Other Schemes In addition to the projects above Highways are also requesting slippage of gross budgets £2.246M on the following major projects due to delays.
 - o Tree Backlog £0.454M
 - o Structural Maintenance £0.678M
 - o Highways Flooding & Drainage £0.159M

Major Achievements – Transport

65. Woodside Link

The scheme is substantially completed and opened to traffic 14th April 2017.

66. Structural Maintenance

41 carriageway resurfacing schemes have been completed covering 38.345 kms and 9 footway resurfacing schemes completed covering 3.284 kms.

67. Stratton Railway Bridge

The bridge deck has been replaced and the bridge is open to traffic. Some temporary barriers remain in place as the final work required on the top of the piers will be completed in summer 2017.

68. Highways Flooding & Drainage

1 scheme has been completed on site and 6 have been investigated.

69. Integrated Transport – The design of 70 schemes has been commenced including Rural and Parish Match Funded scheme, safety scheme, public transport improvements, safer routes to school, active travel and parking. 6 of these have been constructed including Arseley Commuter Parking Improvements.

70. Street Lighting

220 columns have been erected.

71. Highways Bridge Assessment and Maintenance

The reconstruction of Church Bridge and Mill Farm Bridge have been completed. 2 structures have been designed.

72. Highways Planned Maintenance

£0.563M has been spent on carriageway and footway patching, drainage investigation of flooding issues and other category 2 defects.

73. Fleet Replacement Programme

17 vehicles and 2 diggers have been purchased . 1 x Mitsubishi L200 Double Cab 4 Life Manual; 2 x Nissan Note 1.2 Engine Acenta Premium; 2 x Ford Eco Sport; 5 x Vauxhall Corsa 5 dr Hatch SRI 1.4I(75PS) Ecoflex 5 speed; 1 x Vauxhall Vivaro Panel Van Sportive 2700 L1H1 1.6 CDTI 120PS 6 Speed; 1 x Skoda Yeti Outdoor TDI 110PS 4x4; 10 x T16 Coachbuilds; 5 x Sprinters; 2 x 360 diggers (for HWRC use). All of the above are either on the road or will be on the road week commencing 10th April 2017. There are a further 5 coachbuilds on order for September 2017 delivery.

74. Safer Walking Routes

Assessment of 15 routes have been undertaken - 11 available with no work, 1 available with work and 3 not available.

75. 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. This work is progressing well with expectations that a substantial part of this has been accomplished this financial year and a significant part of the budget has been released as the final costs are due to come in lower than budgeted for.

76. A421-M1 Junction 13 – Milton Keynes Magna Park

Commissioned AECOM to produce The Transport Business Case (required to secure funding from DfT), including reviewing drafts of Strategic, Financial, Commercial & Management Cases, and producing the modelling and Economic Case. The Full Transport Business Case (consisting of all the above elements) is substantially complete and in line with DfT requirements for submission in August 2017.

Commissioned Ringway Jacobs to review preliminary design and provide fee proposal for detailed design. Detailed design substantially complete including: Inter Discipline Design Check (IDC) Highways finalising the revised layout with attenuation/drainage pond 3 to the north of A421 and west of Cranfield Road (within Milton Keynes Council - MKC).

Highways issued Design Fix3 information to other disciplines. All disciplines progressing their design, Utilities status sent to CBC, Safety Audit Response sent to CBC and RJ Pavement typical details sent to CBC and MKC for comments.

Environmental reports sent to CBC and MKC for comments. Held initial meeting with Eastern Highways Alliance contractors (six) and started preparing for procurement process. Commissioned LGSS Law to secure land via negotiation – Heads of Terms agreed for Options agreed with land owner/s. CBC Executive approval for up to £3M funding contribution to the project and agreement to proceed with a Compulsory Purchase Order. MKC Cabinet approval for up to £3m funding contribution. Produced draft Communications Plan.

Provided regular reports to: DfT – Local Growth Fund (LGF) Portfolio Schemes – Quarterly Monitoring Returns. SEMLEP LGF programme management board CBC Place Programme Highlight reports, Monthly Project Board with CBC / MKC /SEMLEP.

77. Southern Highways Depot (Thorn Turn)

The earthworks ,groundworks and the drainage and foul sewer phases are complete and the ongoing discharge of planning conditions. All drainage and foul sewer works are complete with the exception of the final connection to the existing foul sewer main.

All building foundations are in place and the steel frames are well under way with the cladding commencing. The Salt Barn is complete. The main office building is of modular construction and assembly is complete with the internal fit-out presently under way. UKPN works have been delayed awaiting meters for final connection and this could well affect the programme.

The surfacing of internal roads and parking areas is also well under way. Many of the sites features are now clearly visible. We are still hoping to handover in July 2017, although we are experiencing severe delays from Affinity Water despite our constant chasing and this may now jeopardise our completion on time. During 2016/17, £0.039M has been spent on staff costs, £6.6M on construction and utilities and £0.134M on Design and planning services.

78. Northern Highways Depot (Sandy)

Designs have been agreed and an application for planning permission was submitted in February 2017. 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

79. The directorate provisional outturn is under budget by £4.622M (gross) and under budget by £3.114M (net).

80. The table below highlights the areas of spend :

Regeneration & Business Full Year Gross Budget and Outturn					
Scheme Categories	Gross Budget	Gross Forecast	Variance	Deferred Spend	Over / (Under) spend
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Strategic Infrastructure	3,079	221	(2,858)	2,719	(139)
Other	3,734	1,970	(1,764)	1,700	(64)
Total	6,813	2,191	(4,622)	4,419	(203)
% of Budget		32.2%			

Regeneration & Business Full Year Net Budget and Outturn					
Scheme Categories	Net Budget	Net Forecast	Variance	Deferred Spend	Over / (Under) spend
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Strategic Infrastructure	2,102	213	(1,889)	1,743	(145)
Other	2,005	780	(1,225)	1,142	(13)
Total	4,107	993	(3,114)	2,885	(158)
% of Budget		24.2%			

81. Development Site Promotion project is below budget by £0.140M as this scheme is no longer going ahead.
82. Land Drainage Work – Flood Defence shows a variance of £0.069M which is both an underspend of (£0.051M) where projects are delayed and will be met by future years budgets and (£0.018M) which is to be slipped into the new year for the highways work on Amphill Road, Shefford.
83. Digitalising Aerial Photographs shows a variance of £0.069M which is both an underspend of £0.014M as the project will come in less than the original budget and proposed slippage of £0.055M which is the amount which is needed to complete the project in the new financial year.
84. Flitwick Station Area Car Park is requesting slippage of £1.055M where options for delivering a commercial and residential scheme are currently being developed alongside the Flitwick Transport Interchange which is also requesting slippage of £0.200M the paper for these was taken to the Executive in April where it was agreed that £0.060M would be released from the balance of 2016/17 capital budget to support the development of a business case and a further report should be provided to the Executive in Autumn 2017.
85. Market Towns Programme is requesting slippage of £0.745M due to delays in commencing delivery of activity and a scheme coming in lower than expected.
86. Local Broadband Infrastructure this broadband scheme has now completed but has underspent by £0.288M which is showing as slippage due to the contractual terms stating that any underspends will be slipped to future projects or repaid to BDUK.
87. Biggleswade Transport Interchange is requesting slippage of £0.262M and Leighton Buzzard Transport Interchange is requesting slippage of £0.177M

Major Achievements

88. Dunstable Town Centre Regeneration Phase 2

The acquisitions of the freehold Dorchester Close properties has been completed, opening . Completed feasibilities studies in producing options for a leisure-led regeneration project around the Quadrant Shopping Centre, including Dorchester Close.
89. 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.

90. Broadband

The broadband project continues to deliver to plan and be rated as Green by BDUK. Through the BDUK 2 project 1,174 premises have been supported to receive superfast broadband services in Central Bedfordshire, bringing superfast coverage to over 91%. This builds on 16,700 premises supported through project 1. The Council is the lead authority in the wider Central Superfast Partnership, and in total 5,300 premises have been supported over the partnership. Take up of broadband services continues to be considered as best in class, at 42%.

As part of the Council's and BDUK's obligation to ensure all premises have access to broadband infrastructure capable of delivering at least a basic service of 2 megabits per second, a subsidised Better Broadband service is in operation. This will support the costs for installation of equipment, take up of this continues to be extremely low, as is the case nationally, However the scheme will run until December 2017 and does provide an option of support for those with the slowest broadband speeds.

91. Market Towns Regeneration Fund (MTRF)

A total of 7 bids from Ampthill, Dunstable, Flitwick, Leighton Linlade, Sandy and Shefford Town Councils (TC's) are progressing in the MTRF programme. After some delays in 2016/17, all the TC's have been pushed to quickly to start organising and delivering their outputs throughout 2017/18.

Dunstable TC is on target and has started installing their projects; Architectural lighting scheme, North Priory Gate refurb, Splash Park contractor appointed (opening in June 2017), purchase of street cleansing machine, Priory House Feasibility Study completed.

Sandy TC continues to progress strongly with the Story In Stone mosaic trail, with all materials purchased and three mosaics being completed for display in June 2017.

Ampthill, Potton and Leighton Linlade are re profiling their projects to start in summer, for completion in March 2018. Flitwick, Shefford, and Sandy town centre public realm projects are in the design phase, but these are dependant on the Ringway Jacobs timetable of scheduled work to achieve completion before winter.

92. High Street Improvement Scheme (HSIS)

After three rounds of Expression of Interest, 37 businesses are currently going through the full application process. There is a further date for applying for the last round Monday 1st May 2017 (round four). Designs are being created which will enable the project to gain true costings for the works proposed. Full

Application scoring panels with the relevant Town Councils have been held. This scoring panel will ensure that the business is committed to the project. The tender for the HSIS building contractor will be appointed by 31st May. 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 August 2017.

93. East West Rail (EWR)

EWR is now one of the Govt. national transport priorities. The National Infrastructure Commission Interim Report and Autumn Statement announced £100M towards the 'accelerated' delivery of East West Rail.

However, there is still uncertainty over timescales and delivery of the wider project that is providing uncertainty over the programme of delivery for the Ridgmont Station Interchange enhancement project. Recommendations have been sent to the Secretary of State for Transport to suggest way forward on 'accelerated delivery' of EWR - including Central Section.

Work on station (node) selection for Central Section ongoing through 2017 (next meeting May 2017). Network Rail's proposed public consultation on Western Section (due to be May-June 2017) has been delayed due to General Election purdah. This may have a knock-on effect on delivery programme. Local Growth Fund (LGF) bid for Ridgmont Station was not successful. However, DfT are being pressed for contributions towards Ridgmont - through 'Works in Kind' arrangements. The Detail Business Case will have to be revised to reflect the lack of LGF funding. Submitting pre-application (outline planning consent) for Ridgmont Station in April 2017.

94. Strategic Infrastructure Schemes

CBC have already secured £11M and £21.75M towards the estimated £60M cost of the scheme through the Local Growth Fund (Round 2 and 3 respectively).

Ongoing investigation of Air Quality issues in Ampthill.

Ringway Jacobs have been commissioned to undertake investigative measures for mitigation at junctions along the A507. The route study will be progressed during the 2017/18 period.

95. Dunstable High Street

Ringway Jacobs (RJ) commissioned to undertake a micro simulation model of the Dunstable crossroads with a view to demonstrating the feasibility and impact of changing the existing traffic management signals. Design work is now underway. A full work programme has been requested from RJ. Topographical surveys of the area have been undertaken and the modelling work for the junction is underway.

Highways England (HE) are committed to the project and have pledged up to £1.5M to the project with certain caveats, these being;

- It is for physical appearance infrastructure only in order to make the High Street 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 be completed by March 2018
- Design, choice of materials etc is to be the responsibility of CBC.

CBC have not as yet had confirmation from HE as to payment provision. HE are not in agreement with the CBC proposed timescales for delivery of infrastructure works, Ringway Jacobs are in contact with HE to assess what is feasible to deliver in terms of their objectives and feasible timescales.

Public engagement commenced with a report to be published shortly. The engagement was warmly welcomed within Dunstable and in general the wishes of the community reflect the authority's 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.

A Communications plan has been drafted following the workshop to determine the wider programme of works in the Dunstable area, a timescale of the summarised projects has been made public, further communication will take place prior to Phase 1 works starting.

£0.4M of the CBC budget is being allocated to required signing works which will reflect in the design. This work is included as Phase 1 of the works and also comprises of the de-cluttering works, agreement has been attained from Dunstable TC so as to not adversely affect the In-Bloom festival and dependent upon the de-trunking timescales it is anticipated physical works will begin on site in June – July 2017.

Phase 1 – a plan is in place to determine what street furniture and railings can be removed, including a road safety assessment. This is prior to any removal of street furniture and before the final recommendations is brought to the Project Board

Chief Executives Team

96. The budget for IT covers Digitisation, ICT Strategic Investment & IT Infrastructure Rolling Programmes. The overall provisional outturn is above budget by £0.329M with no proposed slippage to 2017/18. This overspend is partly due to the upgrade of IT infrastructure to meet PSN compliance and investments to support mobile working.

Chief Executive's Full Year Gross Budget and Outturn					
Scheme Categories	Gross/Net Budget	Gross/Net Forecast	Variance	Deferred Spend	Over / (Under) spend
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Information Assets	4,523	4,852	329	0	329
Total	4,523	4,852	329	0	329

% of Budget 107.3%

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