

Appendix A - DIRECTORATE COMMENTARY

Social Care Health and Housing

1. The directorate outturn forecast is under gross budget by £1.9M and under net budget by £0M.
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	2,453	2,453	0	0	0
Empty Homes	210	210	0	0	0
Renewal Assistance	386	386	0	0	0
Additional Gypsy and Traveller Sites	1,575	1,575	0	0	0
MANOP Care Home Reprovision	1,026	1,026	0	0	0
MANOP Non-HRA Extra Care Schemes	2,550	2,550	0	0	0
NHS Campus Closure	517	0	(517)	517	0
Adult Social Care ICT Projects	280	280	0	0	0
Review of Accommodation/Day Support, "New Approaches to Outcome"	1,906	477	(1,429)	1,429	0
Better Care Fund Capital Grant	0	0	0	0	0
Total	10,903	8,957	(1,946)	1,946	0

% of Budget

82.2%

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	1,785	1,785	0	0	0
Empty Homes	200	200	0	0	0
Renewal Assistance	286	286	0	0	0
Additional Gypsy and Traveller Sites	675	675	0	0	0
MANOP Care Home Reprovision	1,026	1,026	0	0	0
MANOP Non-HRA Extra Care Schemes	2,550	2,550	0	0	0
NHS Campus Closure	143	0	(143)	143	0
Adult Social Care ICT Projects	68	68	0	0	0
Social Care Single Capital Pot	0	0	0	0	0
Review of Accommodation/Day Support, "New Approaches to Outcome"	(124)	0	124	(124)	0
Better Care Fund Capital Grant	0	0	0	0	0
Total	6,609	6,590	(19)	19	0

% of Budget

99.7%

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 are reported quarterly and have been for quarter 1. The table below provides details for 2017/18 compared to 2016/17. There was an decrease in the number of adaptations completed.

Type of adaptation	Total Q1 16/17	Total Q1 17/18
Level access shower/wet room	44	12
Straight stair lift	8	2
Curved stair lift	7	6
Toilet alterations	12	8
Access ramps	8	4
Dropped kerb and hard standing	0	0
Wheelchair/step lift	1	0
Through floor lift	3	2
Major extension	4	0
Kitchen alterations	3	1
Access alterations (doors etc)	16	7
Heating improvements	2	1
Garage conversions/minor additions	2	1
Safety repairs/improvements	4	0
Other	8	7
Total	122	51

4. There have been 64 referrals to Housing in the year to date, an average of 21 per month, compared with 97 referrals at an average of 32 per month for the same period in 2016/17. As a result £0.350M 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 256 referrals.
5. Requests for OT Assessments provide a further indication of demand. In the year to date there have been 177 referral requests (167 to June 2016/17). At the end of June the waiting list increased to 113 from 66 at the end of May. The extent to which these convert into DFG referrals will be closely monitored.
6. Having regard to all matters considered above, net expenditure is forecast to outturn on budget at £1.785M (net). Income is mainly from the Better Care Fund. In the current year funding is significantly higher than anticipated, at £1.445M; the Council is receiving national guidance on how to use this funding differently alongside DFGs. The additional income (£0.861M) has been transferred to the Better Care Fund Capital project. Having regard for demographic changes and the ageing population, the main way to reduce the need for DFGs is through the delivery of accessible homes (in all housing tenures) through future development.
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 30 Empty Homes Loan cases at enquiry stage and 10 approved and in progress.

8. Work is in progress on one EDMO property in Leighton Buzzard where the EDMO has been approved and the total cost is expected to be in excess of £0.140M (£0.117M spent in 2016/17), including costs to be incurred in relation to structural repairs. There is action to progress one further EDMO at this stage but the level of interest for loan assistance from owners of various properties in Dunstable Town centre far exceeds current budget. Reserve of a further £0.2M is likely to be needed in 2017/18 but this will be confirmed if these projects progress. The Empty Homes Programme is forecast to outturn on budget of £0.2M unless these new projects progress to an extent that reserve is required.
9. A full planning application for a new **Gypsy and Traveller site** was approved at the June 2016 Planning 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.
10. The proposal for additional funding following the tendering process was put forward to Executive in June 2017 and has been approved for an additional £0.195M of funding. The current net Gypsy and Traveller site forecasts suggest an outturn on budget at £0.87M.
11. The **MANOP** programme includes strategic acquisitions to develop the care home market and facilitate the provision of new modern residential homes for older people. It also includes capital grants to housing providers to develop extra care schemes. The current budget includes slippage of £1M to support the acquisition of a site in the Ivel Valley locality (Sorrell Way for which the planning application is currently being considered) and preparatory work on the West Mid Beds extra care scheme. Additional scheme budget this year of £2.5M is for the West Mid Beds non-HRA Extra Care scheme which is no longer likely to be part of the re-development of the Houghton Lodge site. The MANOP Programme is currently forecast on budget.
12. The capital aspects of the **MANOP** programme includes strategic land acquisitions or allocations to facilitate the provision of new modern residential homes for older people and the development of new extra care schemes. Expenditure generally relates to the cost of land acquisition or the foregoing of capital receipts for land disposal plus the associated fees as the current approach is that third part organisations will bear the cost of actually delivering the homes and schemes.
13. In respect of care home reprovision the current budget includes slippage of £1m to support the acquisition of a site West Mid Beds to facilitate the replacement of capacity in the Ferndale Older Persons Home (OPH) and a smaller amount in respect of Westlands where a replacement site was acquired in 2016 but where further expenditure will be required to bring this site forward in 2017. Expenditure on the Non-HRA Extra Care Schemes planned for 2017/18 includes slippage of £50k in respect of professional fees in bringing forward a scheme for Ivel Valley (Sorrel Way, Biggleswade) where a planning application is currently being considered. A further £2.5M is allocated in respect of a scheme for West Mid Beds and the feasibility work is under way in respect of two site options with a decision on the preferred option in late Q2 / early Q3 of 2017/18. Some expenditure will be needed to complete this work and it is envisaged that a full

business case would follow once a preferred option had been agreed. The MANOP Programme is currently forecast on budget

14. The **Review of Accommodation/Day Support** project includes provision for capital costs arising from the Adult Social Care Transformation Programme as well as funding for fabric and furniture within the residential homes for older people, capital enhancements to those homes and repairs to extend the useful life of boilers and lifts. The budget for this project has been re-profiled to align with the Transformation Programme.
15. Additional capital grant of £0.861M has been provided in 2017/18 through the DFG route to allow authorities to invest in broader strategic capital projects allied to the **Better Care Fund (BCF)** plan. There are also brought forward capital grants of £1.1M with the same purpose. Further work to determine the use of this funding will take place through the BCF Programme Delivery Team including the development of a business case

Children's Services

16. The directorate outturn forecast is above budget by £3.9M (gross) and on budget (net). The increased expenditure is funded wholly by grant and S106 receipts and as a result of the annual review of projects within the New School Places programme.
17. All but two projects within Children's Services Schools Access and Temporary Accommodation are funded wholly by grant receipts that have no expenditure deadline.
18. 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	10,094	13,859	3,765	0	3,765
Schools Capital Maintenance	2,000	2,160	160	0	160
Schools Devolved Formula Capital	450	450	0	0	0
Temporary Accommodation	360	360	0	0	0
Schools Access Initiative	180	180	0	0	0
Total	13,084	17,009	3,925	0	3,925
% of Budget		130.0%			
	0	0	0	0	0

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	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary Accommodation	360	360	0	0	0
Schools Access Initiative	180	180	0	0	0
Total	540	540	0	0	0
% of Budget		100.0%			

New School Places (NSP)

19. 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.
20. 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.
21. In March 2017 the Council approved the programme for 2017/18 to 2020/21 with gross expenditure of:
 - £10M (net nil) in 2017/18
 - £12.5M (net nil) in 2018/19
 - £37.5M (£15M net) in 2019/20
 - £11M (net nil) in 2020/21
22. The forecasts on income and expenditure across 2017/18 to 2020/21 that were provided to inform the MTFP were taken from a snapshot of the programme's expenditure and income profile as at September 2016.

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.
23. The revised forecast for the NSP programme for 2017/18 is gross expenditure of:
 - £13.9M (net nil) in 2017/18
 - £3.0M (net nil) in 2018/19
 - £8.0M (net nil) 2019/20
 - £12.0M (net nil) in 2020/21.
24. The 2017/18 NSP programme includes expenditure on 16 separate capital projects, most of which span more than a single financial year.
25. These projects include the provision of 1,500 new lower school places, 720 new middle school places and 285 new upper school places as expansions to existing schools or new school sites. These places have been commissioned to serve the communities of Ampthill, Fairfield, Flitwick, Biggleswade, Barton, Cranfield, Henlow, Leighton Linlade, Marston, Shefford, Silsoe and Stotfold.
26. 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 where possible, 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

27. This rolling programme is externally funded by a Department for Education (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 contributions agreed to date indicate that income from schools contributions will be circa £0.2M in 2017/18.
28. In April 2017 the DfE announced the 2017/18 allocation of school condition funding to the Council for strategic capital maintenance of its school buildings. The allocation for 2017/18 is £2M. In addition to the grant, £0.2M unallocated funds from 2016/17 are to be utilised, making a total budget of £2.2M for the 2017/18 Schools Capital Maintenance Programme.
29. The schools capital maintenance programme for 2017/18 is funding projects including kitchen ventilation; roof repairs; boiler and heating replacement; lighting; fire alarms and renewal of electrical distribution boards.
30. 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.

Community Services

31. The directorate forecast outturn is below budget by £4.8M (gross) and above budget by £0.2M (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	17,551	15,373	(2,178)	2,490	312
Environmental Services	4,895	1,811	(3,084)	0	(3,084)
Leisure	7,008	7,023	15	0	15
Transport	33,830	34,250	420	2,897	3,317
IT	3,500	3,500	0	0	0
Total	66,784	61,957	(4,827)	5,387	560
% of Budget		92.8%			

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	17,551	15,373	(2,178)	2,490	312
Environmental Services	4,400	1,316	(3,084)	0	(3,084)
Libraries	0	0	0	0	0
Leisure	2,947	5,983	3,036	(3,037)	(1)
Transport	13,972	16,412	2,440	521	2,961
IT	3,500	3,500	0	0	0
Total	42,370	42,584	214	(26)	188
% of Budget		100.5%			

Assets

32. The major projects are;

- CBC Built Asset Programme (£2.705M),
- Thorn Turn Infrastructure (£0.901M),
- Enhancement work for disposals (£0.641M),
- Strategic Acquisitions (£8.151M),
- Energy Efficiency Improvement (0.378M),
- Farm Compliance (£0.563M),
- Westbury Phase 2 Industrial Units (£0.800M),
- Biggleswade Property Regeneration (£1.000M),
- Working Smarter (£0.318M)
- the new Crematorium (£2.000M)

33. The net forecast position for Assets is £15.373M. There is slippage of £1.550M for the crematorium where various options are being assessed and it is unlikely that it will be on site this financial year. Similarly there is a deferral of £0.940M for the Biggleswade Property Regeneration where feasibility options are likely to commence in the final quarter. Also, there is a forecast overspend of £0.311M on Stratton scheme due to a payment to Highways England for the A1 Biggleswade junction improvements.

Environmental Services

34. Environmental Services are forecasting a £3.084M underspend. This is due to Thorn Turn Waste park forecasting below budget by £3.1M, which offsets the above budget forecasts in the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) scheme and the Highways south depot scheme. A virement of £3.102M (gross and net) is requested from the Thorn Turn Waste park scheme to the Highways South Depot scheme.

Key Achievements to date:

35. Sundon Landfill Restoration – Final snagging with soil importation contractor completed. Planting of trees and shrubs completed on final phases. Installation

of fencing on western side of railway undertaken by Network Rail and gates installed across haul road bridge to the site

36. Waste & Recycling Containers, provision of replacement Bins & Containers – Successful procurement and provision of 90 x 140 litre, 2,760 x 240 litre, 288 x 360 litre, 2 x 660 litre, 16 x 1100 litre, 4,200 x 23 litre food caddies, 25 x plastic street litter bins, 20 x metal street litter bins, 30 x dual recycle/litter bins.

37. Houghton Hall Park – the new visitor centre is progressing well. Works completed included internal and external walls, roof construction, first fix electrics and commencement of the curtain walling (window) installation. The capital build works are on track for completion in Q2 2017

Leisure

38. Leisure is forecasting a £3.037M variance over budget, this is due to delays in receiving the external funding of £3.036M for the old Flitwick leisure centre, which is now not expected until 2018/19. The delay is due to the appointment of consultants to carry out an options appraisal in order to increase care provision on the site . There is a forecast overspend of £0.100M against Houghton Hall Park with outdoor access showing a £0.100M underspend for which a virement is to be processed.

39. Key Achievements to date:

40. Library & Leisure Centre Renewal Dunstable – Wates Construction Ltd have officially been appointed. The building has closed and the site enabling phase of works has commenced. Planning Application and pre-commencement conditions have been discharged. This project is on track.

41. Leisure Strategy – Delivery with Stakeholders – The Sandy Athletics Track has been successfully resurfaced and the project completed. The track now meets the International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) specification requirements.

Leisure Strategy – Stock Condition – Final works successfully completed to Houghton Regis Leisure Centre male & female changing areas and The Grove Theatre including the installation of a semi-sprung floor, door adjustment and decoration in the conference room to provide greater accessibility for a wider range of activities. Both projects were in preparation of the Dunstable Leisure Centre closure.

Transport

42. Transport is forecasting a £2.44M net variance over budget. This is due to an forecast above budget of £3M on the Highways South Depot scheme, for which a virement is proposed, and £0.521M of net expenditure being slipped to the next financial year. The slippage of £0.521M relates to two projects: £0.442M for the North Depot where work will continue until 2018/19 and £0.079M for the A421-M1 scheme. The A421-M1 junction will be reviewed

once the DfT business case is submitted in August.

Key Achievements to date:

43. A421-M1 Junction 13 – Milton Keynes Magna Park – A421-M1/J13, Milton Keynes, Magna Park – Work on the transport model to inform the Full Transport Business Case has been progressed and is programmed, subject to a tendered price and the acquisition of land, to be submitted to DfT by 29th September 2017. The detailed design has been completed by Jacobs and has been used as the basis for tender which is being undertaken via the Eastern Highways Alliance Framework. The tender documents went out on Friday 30th June and will be returned for consideration by 29th August 2017. Negotiations for the land within CBC required for the project is almost concluded and the Option Agreement and Heads of Terms have been agreed with the land owners. Negotiations for the land within Milton Keynes Council required for the project is complex and proving more difficult. However, progress is being made and is programmed to be concluded before the end of September. This work is being funded by DfT who have awarded Section 31 Grant for financial year 2017/18 of £0.5M.

44. Street Lighting – The Column Replacement Programme Phase 2 for Dunstable of 110 columns has been handed over. Column replacement for Ampthill has been handed over. Work orders have been placed for the replacement of damaged street lights in 20 locations.

45. Structural Maintenance -3 carriageway resurfacing schemes have been completed covering 0.8 km's.

46. Highways Flooding & Drainage -Design and investigation work orders have been placed for 10 schemes (of which one is now completed and awaiting contractor's commercial team to agree costs). A limited amount of construction work has been completed on site as part of the ongoing Russell Drive scheme.

47. Highways Bridge Assessment and Maintenance Mill Farm Culvert – Construction was completed at the end of April on Mill Farm Culvert and construction is estimated to be completed on Broughton Road Culvert by the end of June.

IT

48. There are three major projects which are

- Digitisation (budget £2.0M)
- ICT Strategic Investment (budget £1.0M)
- IT Infrastructure Rolling Programme (budget £0.5M)

49. The full year forecast is currently on budget. There is not expected to be any overspends against the full year budget of £3.5M. There is also currently no proposed deferred budget to future years.

50. There is a year to date (YTD) underspend in IT Capital of £0.2M. Against a budget of £0.6M there has been £0.4M expenditure to date.

Regeneration & Business Support

51. The directorate forecast outturn is under gross budget by £4.1M and under net budget by £3.4M. Of this £3.38M is proposed to slip to 2018/19 and £0.02M is forecast underspend.

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	9,779	5,738	(4,041)	4,020	(21)
Other	9,990	9,903	(87)	87	0
Total	19,769	15,641	(4,128)	4,107	(21)
% of Budget		79.1%			

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	5,804	2,763	(3,041)	3,020	(20)
Other	3,846	3,483	(363)	363	0
Total	9,650	6,246	(3,404)	3,383	(20)
% of Budget		64.7%			

52. The gross forecast below budget in Strategic Infrastructure primarily relates to the M1-A6 Phase 1 and 2 scheme where £3.0M(net) deferred spend is forecast, as the business case is yet to be submitted and signed off by the Department for Transport. Costs for this year are only expected to be for the design.
53. The Local Broadband Infrastructure scheme has now completed but has underspent by £0.3M (net) and in accordance with the contractual terms any underspend will be slipped to future projects or repaid to BDUK, this is therefore forecast as deferred spend.
54. The underspend of £0.02M relates to the Dunstable A5/M1 Link Road Strategic Infrastructure scheme where there is no anticipated spend this year.